In mid-April, nationally recognized speaker and educator Elizabeth Power, M.Ed., led classes for Hale Kipa built from the Risking Connection curriculum, which “teaches a relational framework and skills for working with survivors of traumatic experiences. The focus is on relationship as healing, and on self-care for service providers.” Dozens of Hale Kipa staff took part in hands-on activities, discussions and skill-building sessions.

We will be exploring Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) in this edition of Transitions, featuring articles by Nazo Shamal, Psy.D., L.C.S.W., and our CEO Punky Pletan-Cross. It is a topic that has received widespread attention recently, with in-depth 60 Minutes coverage by Oprah Winfrey in March, as well as several articles in Psychology Today.

What Does Trauma-Informed Care Mean?
Trauma-informed care can be viewed as a person-centered approach that is sensitive to clients who have suffered from traumatic experiences. Some who experience traumatic events may be able to move on without negative effects, however others may have difficulty managing social, emotional, physical and mental well-being. There are five primary principles of trauma-informed care. / More from Nazo Shamal
Punky's Reflections: TIC and Focusing on the Whole Person

The field of human services has been evolving over most of my career, although that change may not be quite as rapid as it is in the technology industry where change takes place at the speed of light. However, in human services there has been a significant evolution of our understanding of the various behaviors that Hale Kipa frequently sees particularly as an adolescent serving organization, as well as the reasons for the behaviors. One of the “aha” moments for me came a number of years ago when I began to understand in a very much clearer way what trauma is and why it really matters. / More

Five Q's with Hale Kipa Board Member Lanson K. Kupau

Lanson K. Kupau has served on Hale Kipa’s Board of Directors for 2 years. His nearly three-decade legal career spans private practice and public service. Notably, Lanson served as a judge in Hawaii’s First Circuit District Court on Oahu from 2011-2017, where he presided over Family Court matters, as well as Truancy Court and Juvenile Drug Court. / More

Hale Kipa Board Welcomes Katie Bennett

Hale Kipa recently welcomed Katherine Bennett, JD, MSW, to its Board of Directors. Katie is a family mediator with Bennett Law Group in Hawaii. She has nearly two decades of experience in education, social work, child advocacy and family law. In her current role, Katie works to settle and litigate disputes in the areas of divorce, paternity, guardianship, adoption and child welfare. / More
Meet Gwen Okamoto, Hale Kipa’s New CFO

Hale Kipa is pleased to welcome Gwen Okamoto as chief financial officer. Gwen has more than 25 years of experience as a CFO, most recently at the Hawaiian Humane Society. She previously served as the CFO and controller at Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), which provides educational research and training to the Pacific Islands. She also oversaw the information technology and human resources operations of both organizations. / More

Hale Kipa Opens New Kauai Office

Hale Kipa recently opened a new office on Kauai to support the launch of School Attendance Support Services, a program designed to help middle- and high-school youth curb truancy when it starts. The stand-alone office on Waimea Road is in addition to two smaller offices in Waimea Canyon Middle School and Waimea High School. / More

Hale Kipa Staff Paddle in Hilo Race

On April 21, 2018, Hale Kipa Kai Like Program (KLP) staff from the Island of Hawaii participated in the Kamehameha Canoe Club’s 35th-Annual Business Regatta at Hilo Bayfront Park. The Hale Kipa paddlers made it to finals this year and enjoyed a celebratory potluck after the race. It is the third year of participation by Hale Kipa staff. / More
the News" Q&A with Hale Kipa CEO Punky Pletan-Cross was featured in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser; and MidWeek Kauai (left) and The Garden Island newspaper covered our new Kauai Office and School Attendance Support Services program.

Coming up: We will be breaking ground this summer on our 4.26-acre West Oahu campus; and the Honolulu Professionals Foundation will host a benefit for YO! on 7/3: Purchase tickets here.

Mahalo to our Generous Donors

Mahalo to our generous donors, who have made helping Hawaii’s youth and young adults a priority, regardless of where they reside. As a nonprofit organization, we rely on your generosity. Your gift helps us provide vital services to hundreds of youth and families each year. Gifts from the following donors were made in February, March, April, May:

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