

# **GUAM BOARD OF ALLIED HEALTH OF EXAMINERS HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSING OFFICE**

Terlaje Professional Bldg., Conference Rm. 209, 194 Hernan Cortez Ave., Hagatna, Guam 96910

## **MINUTES of October 02, 2020**

Present were: Dr. Mamie Balajadia, Chair; Dr. Gregory Miller, Vice-Chair; Nadine Cepeda, Secretary; Catherine San Nicolas, Treasurer; Vincent Pereda, Member; Sibyl Crisostomo, Member; Dr. Dennis Triolo, Member; Dr. Richard Chong, Member; Dr. Ryan Claros, Member; Ray Tajalle, Member; Alesia Ogo, Member; Dr. Paul Pomes, Member; AAG Rob Weinberg, Legal Counsel; and Zennia Pecina, Administrator of HPLO.

Absent: Greg Cruz, Member.

**I. Call To Order**

Meeting was called to Order at 12:03 pm via GoToMeeting.

Subject meeting was posted on the Websites of the Attorney General and Department of Administration.

**II. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion made by Sibyl Crisostomo. Seconded by Dr. Miller

**III. Minutes of September 4, 2020.**

Correction made that Dr. Claros and Alesia Ogo were present at meeting of 9/04/2020.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

No changes to expenditure. Given that October 2<sup>nd</sup> is just two days to the new fiscal year, HPLO is waiting for FY 21 budget to be loaded.

**V. HPLO Administrator's Report**

The Military provided fifteen (15) ICU Nurses and three (3) Respiratory Therapists.

In collaboration with FEMA, four (4) Respiratory Therapists (RT) were granted Emergency Temporary Work Permit, for three (3) weeks as of September 22, 2020;

- 1) Lodrina Skeeter
- 2) Neshormeh Dunkley
- 3) Glenda Martin
- 4) Heylen Montero-Gonzalez

**VI. Legal Counsel Report**

Per RFQ of \$25,000, contract for legal services were given to Attorneys Minakshi Hemlani and Georgette Conception who are reviewing Complaints filed.

**VII. New Business**

- A. 1. Complaint 2020-08 Lubofsky against GMH Respiratory Therapist Cleopatra Manzon.
2. Complaint 2020-09 Lubofsky against GMH "Responsible Staff No.8".
3. Complaint 2020-10 Lubofsky against GMH "Responsible Staff No.9".

The Chair asked Dr. Michael Cruz, Chief Medical Officer of GRMC to assist the Board by assigning one of his RT staff to investigate Complaints 2020-08 against GMH RT staff.

- B. EPPP (Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology) Part II  
The Chair, representing Clinical Psychology, made a motion to postpone Part II Exam start date another year, to November 1, 2021. Motion was seconded by Nadine Cepeda.
- C. **New/Initial Applications:** (Motion to approve made by Dr. Pomes; Seconded by San Nicolas)
  - 1. **Melissa Ortiz** for *Nutritionist/Clinical Dietitian* (San Nicolaos)
  - 2. **Molly Herr** for *Speech & Language Pathology* (Crisostomo)
  - 3. **Amanda Hatley** for *Occupational Therapy* (Ogo)
  - 4. **Stephanie Patterson** for *Marriage & Family Therapy* (Cepeda)
- D. **Renewal Applications:** (Motion to approve made by Dr. Pomes; Seconded by San Nicolas)
  - 1. **Jong Chin YU** for *Acupuncture* (Chong)
  - 2. **Ma. Louella Buan** for *Occupational Therapy* (Ogo)
  - 3. **Ligaya Mariano** for *Occupational Therapy* (Ogo)
  - 4. **Clare Camacho** for *Speech & Language Pathology* (Crisostomo)
  - 5. **Phoebe Chen** for *Speech & Language Pathology* (Crisostomo)
  - 6. **Sibyl Crisostomo** for *Speech & Language Pathology* (Triolo)
  - 7. **Tracy Gravette** for *Speech & Language Pathology* (Crisostomo)
  - 8. **Alesia Ogo** for *Occupational Therapy* (Claros)

#### VIII. **Miscellaneous**

- A. Grief Specialist was discussed, and this subject was discussed in a previous Board meeting. Nadine Cepeda said that people in the community have brought to her attention and questioning her on whether these Individuals claiming to be "Certified Grief Specialist", in the media, and who are also identifying themselves as "Advanced Grief Counselor" are licensed and qualified to provide "counseling." Their self-promotion in the community as "Certified Grief Counselors", received limited number hours of orientation with a fee, are in contradiction with Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). Grief Specialist receives no formal education or training in Counseling or Therapy. Grief Counselor title was endorsed by Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC), but not an official GovGuam workforce Title. Some staff in the Prevention Branch at the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) is claiming to be a "Certified Grief Counselor."  
Vince Pereda said that Grief Specialist may be "claiming to be counseling clients" but what about other professions with a Counselor title?  
Legal Counsel explained that Counselor title usually have a definition of practice. For the legal profession, the title is Counselor-At-Law.  
Vince Pereda said that on the pastoral profession, it is the title of "Pastoral Counselor." They are restricted in practice but they do provide marriage and family counseling like the Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist. A Catholic Priest provides Couple Counseling based on religion, spiritual and pastoral perspectives.  
The Chair will write to the Director of GBHWC on this subject.

IX. **Next Meeting – Friday November 6, 2020 at 12 noon via GoToMeeting**

X. **Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm (Motioned by Dr. Miller; Seconded by Tajalle)**