

Guam Board of Allied Health Examiners

REGULAR VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 02, 2025 at 12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87224438889?pwd=WdPkaIaaYO8u0B9ap3OSFM7FRs6fDC.1>

Meeting ID: 872 2443 8889

Passcode: 525190

MINUTES

Item		Discussion	Responsible Party	Reporting Timeframe	Status
I	Call to Order	Meeting Chaired by Dr. Balajadia	Chair	1203	Call to Order
	Proof of Publication	04/25/2025 and 04/30/2025 Guam Daily Post	Chair	1204	Confirmed
	Roll Call	<div> GBAHE Members <u>Present at HPLO:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Mamie Balajadia, Clinical Psychology, Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Nadine Cepeda, LPC, LMHC, LMFT, Secretary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vince Pereda, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Vice-Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosalind S. Taitingfong, Occupational Therapist, Treasurer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Velma R. Harper, Veterinarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gregory J. Cruz, Respiratory Therapist <u>Virtual Attendance:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Dennis Triolo, Audiology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Sungwook “Steve” S. Kim, Podiatrist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Gregory Miller, Chiropractic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Richard Chong, ACOM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ray Tajalle, Physician Assistant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine San Nicolas, Clinical Dietitian </div> <div> Other Attendees <u>Present at HPLO:</u> Kaysie Lee, DPHSS/HPLO Don Sulat, DPHSS/HPLO <u>Virtual Attendance:</u> Breanna Sablan, DPHSS/HPLO Hiroshi Ishii – Adajar, Public Jolene Toves, Guam Daily Post Peter John D. Camacho, DPHSS </div>	Chair	1203	Quorum Established
II	Adoption of Agenda	<i>Motion to Adopt the Agenda: Dr Harper; 2nd: V. Pereda.</i>	GBAHE	1205	Unanimously Adopted Agenda
III	Approval of Minutes	Draft Minutes dated 04/11/2025 An error was found in Item VIII Section D. C. San Nicolas noted she made no comment in the discussion. <i>Motion to Approve as Amended: Dr. Harper; 2nd: Dr. Miller.</i>	GBAHE	1205	Unanimously Approved as Amended
IV	Treasurer’s Report	As of April 29, 2025, updates to financial reporting were clarified to reflect the correct date, with a preference not to alter certain designations such as “fiscal year 2025.” Adjustments were noted by K. Lee. R. Taitingfong reported that \$450 had been expended for supplies, reducing that specific budget line to zero. Additionally, \$2,550 was allocated for board assignments, bringing the remaining available balance to \$11,248. However, no updated data had been received from DOA, meaning figures on the far-right	R. Taitingfong	1209	Noted

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		column of the report were not final. It was emphasized that the financial figures provided were solely from the treasurer's records, and efforts were ongoing to reconcile these amounts with DOA.			
V	Administrator's Report	B. Sablan provided an update regarding board vacancies, specifically for the physical therapist and speech and language therapist positions. Inquiries had been sent once again to the governor's office, and it was confirmed that nominees had been submitted, though no confirmation had been received yet. These positions, therefore, remained vacant. It was mentioned that the VTSSLC nominations were under consideration at the governor's office. Julianne Duenas was identified as the nominee endorsed by the Physical Therapy Association, and her nomination had been officially submitted; however, confirmation was still pending. For the speech and language therapist vacancy, no candidate names were provided.	B. Sablan	1211	Noted
VI	GBAHE Complaints	A. GBAHE-CO-22-03 MFT Received 02/21/22 Assigned to Dr. Balajadia investigation remains ongoing as the board is awaiting legal counsel's advice regarding the appropriate sanction or recommendation.	Dr. Balajadia	1214	Ongoing Waiting Legal Opinion
		B. GBAHE-CO-23-02 Veterinarian Received 12/28/23 The process involving off-island consultants remains pending due to procurement complications. A previous attempt to proceed with a small purchase, consistent with practices from past fiscal years, was rejected under the current procurement system. As a result, the office must now prepare an RFP, which is still in progress.	GBAHE		Ongoing
		C. GBAHE-CO-23-03 Veterinarian Received 12/28/23 The process involving off-island consultants remains pending due to procurement complications. A previous attempt to proceed with a small purchase, consistent with practices from past fiscal years, was rejected under the current procurement system. As a result, the office must now prepare an RFP, which is still in progress.	GBAHE		Ongoing
		D. GBAHE-CO-24-03 SLP Received 08/06/24 The matter remains ongoing pending legal advice regarding the recommendation provided by the assigned investigator.	GBAHE		Ongoing Pending Legal Advice
		E. GBAHE-CO-25-01 LPC Received 03/17/25 Assigned to Dr. Balajadia, and is still under investigation, pending legal advice. This new complaint involves allegations of unprofessional service of delivery, specifically citing failures to fulfill scheduled meetings and a general lack of professional courtesy in coordinating those meetings.	Dr. Balajadia		Ongoing
		F. GBAHE-CO-25-02 CP Received 03/26/25 Assigned to Dr. Harper the complaint centers on the clinical psychologist and includes allegations that incorrect statements made during a meeting led to an unjust delay in the complainant's licensure. The complainant contends that the psychologist violated ethical guidelines and board regulations regarding statements made about the licensure process and the handling of a specific application. The case remains under active investigation.	Dr. Harper		Ongoing Under Active Investigation
		G. GBAHE-CO-25-03 Acupuncture Received 03/28/25	Dr. Balajadia		Ongoing

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	Assigned to Dr. Balajadia, the complainant alleges that a licensee is improperly using the title “Doctor” despite only holding a degree in acupuncture and oriental medicine. A decision on this matter is anticipated at the next board meeting.			
	H. GBAHE-CO-25-04 CP Received 03/31/25 A complaint currently under investigation by R. Taitingfong alleges multiple violations, including a breach of the Open Government Law due to an unadvertised meeting between a board member and another individual. The complainant also accuses the involved party of abuse of power, targeted public harassment, and the creation of conflicting interpretations of both licensing law and the rules and regulations governing GBAHE. The investigation into these allegations is still ongoing.	R. Taitingfong		Ongoing
	I. GBAHE-CO-25-05 LMHC, LPC Received 03/31/25 Assigned to Dr. Harper, involves claims of violations of the Open Government Law due to an unadvertised meeting between a licensee and a board member. The complainant also alleges abuse of power, targeted public harassment, and the deliberate creation of conflicting interpretations of licensing laws and the governing rules and regulations of GBAHE. This investigation remains ongoing.	Dr. Harper		Ongoing
	J. GBAHE-CO-25-06 LPC Received 04/02/25 Assigned to Dr. Balajadia alleges that the LPC may have engaged in practices beyond the authorized scope of their license. The investigation into this matter is currently ongoing.	Dr. Balajadia		Ongoing
	K. GBAHE-CO-25-07 PA Received 04/14/25 Assigned to C. San Nicolas, Dr. Balajadia has spoken to both the individual in question and the associated clinic. A resolution or update on this matter is expected to be presented at the next board meeting. During the discussion, Dr. Miller expressed concern that several of the listed complaints appear to be procedural in nature—such as potential violations of open meeting laws—rather than cases involving conduct that could endanger patients. Dr. Miller emphasized that the board retains the authority to review and address such complaints independently, without necessarily relying on prolonged legal consultation. He pointed out that securing legal counsel through procurement could result in significant delays, and noted that previous requests to the AG’s office had not received timely responses. Dr. Miller also raised transparency concerns, stating that most board members, aside from the assigned investigators, lack detailed knowledge of the complaints. He suggested that complaints might be considered public records and questioned the current level of access provided to board members. In response to Dr. Miller’s comments, B. Sablan clarified that the investigation and the complaint itself are not considered public records. Dr. Miller had previously misunderstood, thinking only the identity of the complainant could be kept confidential, while the complaint itself could be public. However, it was explained that, during a public meeting, general information about the	C. San Nicolas		Ongoing

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		<p>complaint can be discussed, but the specifics of the investigation and complaint remain confidential in order to ensure due process for both the licensee and the complainant.</p> <p>In the discussion, B. Sablan acknowledged that some complaints may seem trivial and could be addressed directly at the board level for a resolution, rather than waiting for legal intervention or assistance from the AG’s office, which could lead to unnecessary delays. She agreed on the need for the board to efficiently process complaints and come to conclusions. To ensure a thorough process, B. Sablan noted that investigators are working closely with the board and following established SOPs to manage complaints effectively. The board has the authority to make decisions on these complaints, and when investigators present their findings, those will be discussed in public meetings to provide transparency and a clearer understanding for board members. Additionally, she outlined ongoing efforts to procure legal counsel and work with an MOU with the OAG, with the goal of addressing a significant number of complaints in the upcoming board meeting. The importance of ensuring compliance with local and federal laws when considering recommended sanctions was also emphasized. It was expressed that the goal is to address the majority of the complaints in the upcoming board meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Harper added that for the complaints under investigation, the process primarily involves gathering and verifying the information submitted, as well as obtaining a response from the individual the complaint is against. Legal input is not required for most of these cases, as the focus is on ensuring all details are accurate and complete before presenting the findings to the board.</p>			
VII	NEW Business	A. Initial/New Applications		1226	
		i. Adams, Michael – RRT (Cruz) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>	GBAHE		Unanimously Approved
		ii. Pablo, Nadia – OT (Taitingfong) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		iii. Summerville, Sarah – OT (Taitingfong) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		iv. Dahan, Leah – OT (Taitingfong) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		v. LaSalle, Lisa – SLP (Triolo) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		vi. Nice, Millie – MFT Intern (Pereda) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller ; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		vii. Nice, Millie – LMHC Intern (Pereda) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		viii. Dean, Erin – PA (CPA) (Tajalle) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimously Approved

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		ix. Esperdion, Montero – RRT (Cruz) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		x. Mendoza, Elisia – CRT (Cruz) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		xi. Espinosa, Dianne – CD (San Nicolas) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		B. Renewal Applications			
		i. Patterson, Stephanie – MFT (Pereda) <i>Motion to Approve: R. Taitingfong; 2nd: Dr. Harper.</i>	GBAHE		Unanimously Approved
		ii. March, Lynda – CD (San Nicolas) <i>Motion to Approve: R. Taitingfong; 2nd: Dr. Harper.</i>			Unanimously Approved
VII	Next Board Meeting	Announcements – Next Meeting – June 6, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.	GBAHE	1229	Set Date
IX	Adjournment	Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Harper; 2 nd : V. Pereda.	GBAHE	1230	Adjourned

Minutes Drafted by: FLAME TREE Freedom Center, Inc.

Date Submitted:

Submitted by the GBAHE Secretary:

Date:

Approved by the GBAHE with or without changes:

Date:

Certified by or Attested by the Chairperson:

Mamie Chalapadha

Date: 06/06/2025