

GUAM BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

Thursday, April 03, 2025, 11:00 A.M. (Reconvene April 10)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87635712188?pwd=FcprMx1agiRki9sQC6y3LHxqLsSW4m.1>

Meeting ID: 876 3571 2188

Passcode: 638284

MINUTES

Item		Discussion	Responsible Party	Reporting Timeframe	Status
I	Call to Order	Meeting Chaired by A. Lape. Confirmation of Public Notice published in the Guam Daily Post and posted on the Government of Guam Meeting Portal: 03/27/2025 and 04/01/2025.	Chair	1119	Confirmed
II	Determination of Quorum	<div> GBSW: <u>Present Virtually at Remote location:</u> Angelina-Marie C. Lape, LMSW, Chair Diana Calvo, Vice Chair Jesse Baleto, Treasurer </div> <div> Others Present: <u>Present Virtually at Remote location:</u> Baltazar Hattori III, HPLO Don Sulat, HPLO Breanna Sablan, HPLO Joaquin Blaz, DPHSS Evalyn Sabinay, Public Julianne Hernandez, Guam DPN Jolene Tovez, Guam Daily Post </div>		1120	Quorum Confirmed
III	Adoption of Agenda	Approved by A. Lape	GBSW		
IV	Review and Approval of Minutes	March 06, 2025 <i>Motion to Approve: D. Calvo; 2nd: J. Baleto.</i>	GBSW	1120	Unanimously Approved
V	HPLO Administrator's Report	B. Sablan reminded me that the Disclosure of Conflict of Interest form from the Guam Election Commission is due on April 22nd, she informed members that the form can either be emailed or submitted in person to the Guam Election Commission.	HPLO	1121	Noted
VI	Chairperson's Report	<p>A. Lape shared an upcoming online training session hosted by ASWB, scheduled for April 24th, which aims to provide insight into the association and the relationship between ASWB and its members; this session is free of charge and is expected to last approximately one hour.</p> <p>She also noted that the ASWB education meeting will take place in May, though it is not covered by ASWB, and the deadline for scholarship applications has already passed. An additional online training will occur on May 15th, focusing on the various opportunities for board members to engage with ASWB, including potential committee participation.</p> <p>An administrator's online forum is also planned for August 26th, offering an opportunity to B. Sablan and B. Hattori to offer to individuals they have assigned to work with the board. She explained the training to be an administrator's connection ahead of the delegate assembly meeting. The registration for the online forum is not open yet, This forum is intended to facilitate the exchange of experiences and ideas relevant to board operations in Guam.</p>	A. Lape	1121	Noted

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		A. Lape further noted that J. Baletto has been designated as the board’s next representative for the delegate assembly, which will be held in Indianapolis on November 7th and 8th; registration has not yet opened, but the event will be fully funded by ASWB for the designated representative.			
VII	Committee Reports	A. Finance & Budget. No Report	J. Baletto	1124	No Report
		B. Statutes, Rules, and Forms 1. Update on Rules and Regulations A. Lape reported the board continues to hold meetings regarding updates to its rules and regulations, with a forthcoming meeting already scheduled. It was noted that most substantive discussions have been completed, and the board is now focused on finalizing details. Once the revisions are complete, a copy will be submitted to HPLO. Additionally, the board agreed to share the finalized version with ASWB to obtain any final feedback before the document is officially forwarded to the legislature.	A. Lape		Noted, Work Session was Scheduled.
VIII	Old Business	A. Complaint: GBSW-CO-2024-002 D. Calvo discussed the status of a letter sent to the Attorney General for clarification, noting that a draft had been reviewed, and feedback was provided to B. Hattori to proceed with finalizing it, pending a final review and signature. She also reported having met with the complainant to clarify the details of the information submitted and stated that coordination was underway to arrange a meeting with the involved social worker to verify and substantiate the claims. Additionally, She and B. Hattori received consent from the complainant to contact other individuals named in the complaint to gather further information. As a result, efforts are now moving forward on two items finalizing the letter to the Attorney General and coordinating meetings with the relevant parties involved in the matter.	GBSW	1125	Noted
IX	New Business	A. Consideration of Applications for Initial Licensure:	GBSW	1127	
		1. Naomi Ezra –LBSW D. Sulat addressed the board regarding the application of the LBSW credential, which had been reviewed by J. Baletto. He noted that her application included a disclosure of past difficulties in employment and a legal obligation stemming from a court case in 2013. N. Ezra characterized these experiences as significant personal learning opportunities, as reflected in her written statement and supporting clearance documents. Although the case in question was closed in 2013, it was presented to the board for further consideration due to the presence of a prior conviction noted in her clearance records. J. Baletto reiterates that while the clearance documents did indicate past charges, the applicant, N. Ezra, had submitted additional documentation detailing the circumstances of the case, the legal orders imposed, and how those obligations were fulfilled. It was noted that although the charges continue to appear on the clearance, they should have been removed due to the significant amount of time that has passed. Based on this context and the supporting documentation, he gave his recommendation to grant licensure to N. Ezra. A. Lape inquired about N. Ezra’s educational background and whether she had met all licensure requirements. J. Baletto confirmed that she had fulfilled all necessary qualifications. D. Calvo had no questions about the application. She noted that while N. Ezra is employed at CSS,			Unanimously Approved

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		<p>she does not directly supervise her due to multiple levels of management between them. D. Calvo also mentioned she was aware that N. Ezra recently completed her MSW, though it was clarified by J. Baleto that the application in question was for LBSW not MSW.</p> <p>A. Lape suggested that HPLO reach out to N. Ezra to confirm the completion of her MSW and, if verified with the appropriate documentation, encourage her to consider applying for licensure at that level within the eligible timeframe.</p> <p><i>Motion to Approve: J. Baleto; 2nd: A. Lape.</i></p>			
		<p>2. Kelsie Mafnas – LBSW</p> <p>D. Sulat provided an overview of the application for LBSW licensure, which was reviewed by D. Calvo. K. Mafnas holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from UOG and is currently employed. All required documentation, including letters of recommendation and police and court clearances, were submitted and found to be complete and up to date. Based on this, a recommendation was made to approve her licensure.</p> <p><i>Motion to Approve: D. Calvo; 2nd: A. Lape.</i></p>			Unanimously Approved
		B. Consideration of Applications for Renewal of Licensure:			
		<p>1. Evalyn A. Sabinay – LCSW-E-030</p> <p>D. Sulat acknowledged that E. Sabinay was present in the Zoom meeting as her application was discussed. Her renewal documents were reported as complete, with current police and court clearances, and she had met the requirement of 30 hours of continuing education. However, D. Calvo initially noted that none of the training appeared to directly fulfill the requirement regarding Guam’s diverse population. The application, originally reviewed by D. Calvo on April 1st, was followed up by communication with E. Sabinay, who stated she had been advised by someone at HPLO that cultural diversity could include any topic impacting Guam’s population. The CE’s submitted included courses on problematic sexual behavior in children, military and gun culture, and child traumatic stress—subjects she argued are relevant to Guam’s cultural diversity given the ongoing military buildup. These CEUs were reviewed a second time in person by J. Baleto for further consideration.</p> <p>J. Baleto addressed the topic of diversity and special populations, emphasizing that child sexual assault victims represent a significant and relevant population on Guam. It was noted that Guam's statistics in this area are comparable to the national average, and due to the island’s small size and the high incidence of such cases, this population should be considered unique and significant within the local context. He noted this meets the criteria for addressing Guam’s diverse population, as required for the initial application.</p> <p>J. Baleto also confirmed that the total number of CEUs submitted also fulfilled the necessary criteria. D. Calvo raised a point of clarification regarding the interpretation of cultural competence in the context of continuing education requirements, specifically referencing the guidance provided by HPLO. While acknowledging that child sexual assault victims constitute a</p>			Unanimously Approved

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		<p>special population and that specialized protocols and treatment standards exist, she expressed uncertainty about whether such training fully meets the intent of cultural competence, particularly as it pertains to addressing Guam’s unique social issues. However, it was ultimately stated that if HPLO had clarified that the training is sufficient to fulfill the requirement, she would not challenge accepting it.</p> <p>A. Lape acknowledged that the topic of cultural competency, particularly as it pertains to Guam’s diverse population, has been a recurring area of discussion within the board’s ongoing efforts to revise its rules and regulations for promulgation. The board is working to refine the language in the updated regulations to provide greater clarity on this requirement. In reference to the CEUs submitted by E. Sabinay, she agrees with D. Calvo, that the guidance provided by HPLO should not be contradicted at this time. The board agreed to address these uncertainties more thoroughly in future revisions to ensure consistent understanding moving forward.</p> <p>D. Calvo added that while discussions had referenced special populations—such as child victims, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, elderly victims, and individuals with disabilities—these groups, though requiring specific treatment methodologies, are distinct from the requirement for cultural competence under Guam law. The law explicitly emphasizes cultural diversity within the Pacific region, and more specifically, the unique cultural context of Guam. The board has historically exercised flexibility in this area, accepting trainings focused on populations such as Native Americans, other Pacific Islanders, or various minority groups, when there are cultural parallels or shared characteristics with the communities served on Guam. A. Lape expressed agreement with D. Calvo’s and reiterated that Guam law explicitly requires cultural competency training specific to the island’s diverse populations, not special populations. However, it was noted that confusion between these two terms has persisted, especially in the absence of promulgated rules. Given this, the board has maintained a flexible approach during this interim period. In alignment with J. Baleto’s earlier remarks and consistent with how similar cases have been handled, the recommendation was made to approve the CEUs submitted by E. Sabinay. It was emphasized that, moving forward, the finalized rules and regulations will clearly distinguish cultural competency related to Guam’s population from training focused solely on special populations. A. Lape concluded with congratulating Ms. Sabinay on the approval of her application for renewal.</p> <p><i>Motion to Approve: J. Baleto; 2nd: A. Lape.</i></p>			
		<p>2. Corrine T. Buendicho – LBSW-E-O34</p> <p>D. Sulat gave an overview of the application reviewed by D. Calvo on April 1st. At the time of the initial review, her court clearance was current, but the police clearance submitted lacked the required signature from the chief of police. However, the applicant later submitted an updated version that same day, which was properly signed and sealed, confirming its validity. D. Calvo verified that the applicant met the requirement of 30 CEUs, including the minimum six units for ethics and cultural diversity. Based on this, and with the corrected police clearance on file, the recommendation was made to approve the application.</p>			Unanimously Approved

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X	Announcements	Next scheduled board meeting: May 09, 2025, at 11:00 AM.	GBSW	1143	Set Meeting Date
XI	Adjournment	<i>Motion to Adjourn: A. Lape; 2nd: J. Baleta.</i>	GBSW	1146	Adjourned

Minutes Drafted by: FLAME TREE Freedom Center, Inc.

Date Submitted: 4/22/2025

Submitted by the GBSW Secretary: Don Sulat

Date: 5/23/25

Approved by the GBSW with or without changes: *Angelina - Mane C. Lape*

Date: 5/16/25

Certified by or Attested by the Chairperson: *Angelina - Mane C. Lape*

Date: 5/16/25