

GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Guam Board of Medical Examiners Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 4:00 pm

194 Hernan Cortez Ave. Terlaje Professional Bldg., Suite 209

Hagatna, GU 96910

Join Zoom Meeting:

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Meeting ID: 813 1936 8481

Passcode: 503890

MINUTES

Topic		DECISION(S) / ACTION(S) MADE		Responsible Party	Time	Status
I.	Call to Order	Meeting Chaired by: Dr. Berg		Chair	1610	Called to Order
		A. Roll Call: GBME <u>Present</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luis G. Cruz, M.D., Secretary <u>Virtually Present:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nathaniel B. Berg, M.D., Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Joleen Aguon, M.D., Vice Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Alexander D Wielaard, M.D., Treasurer <input type="checkbox"/> Ricardo Eusebio, M.D., Member of GMHA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sungwook "Steve" Kim, Podiatry Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ray Tajalle, Physician Assistant Member	<u>Others Present:</u> Baltazar Hattori III, HPLO/EMS <u>Virtually Present:</u> Peter John Camacho, DPHSS Uriah Aguon, Pacific Daily News	Chair		Quorum Established
		B. Confirmation of Public Notice Dr. Berg reviewed and found it to be in conformance with current laws.		Chair		Confirmed
II.	Adoption of Agenda	Motion to Adopt the Agenda: Dr. Berg.		GBME		Adopted
III.	Review and Approval of Minutes	Draft Minutes dated July 9, 2025 and August 06, 2025 Dr. Berg noted there were some spelling errors submitted to the service responsible for transcribing the meeting, the content remained accurate overall. <i>Approved by: Dr. Berg.</i>		GBME		Unanimously Approved
IV.	Treasurer's Report	The treasurer's report could not be presented as Dr. Wielaard was absent, therefore Dr. Berg tabled to the following month's meeting.		Dr. Wielaard		No Report
V.	HPLO Administrator's Report	A. Resolution 2025-01 B. Hattori reported that Resolution 2025-01, which had been reviewed by the board's legal counsel, Attorney C. Tillman was introduced to authorize the chair and the administrator of the HPLO to review and approve applications with entirely clean records. This includes applicants with no reports from the National Practitioner Data Bank and no disciplinary actions or reprimands from any jurisdictional boards. The intent of the resolution is to streamline the		HPLO		Noted

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	<p>application process and expedite the approval timeline, thereby minimizing delays in delivering essential services to the community. The approach mirrors the emergency procedures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, where licenses were issued swiftly to health professionals. The resolution applies to full license applications, temporary licenses, and limited licenses for physicians in graduate training, and also extends to podiatrists and physician assistants who have recently been integrated into the Board of Medical Examiners' purview.</p> <p>Dr. Berg addressed Dr. Kim and R. Tajalle, and explained that the board has been facing a significant administrative workload, primarily due to its long-standing practice of having every application individually and thoroughly reviewed by board members—a process not commonly followed in most other states and territories, where administrative staff typically handle such reviews unless concerns arise. It was noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the governor had authorized the board chair, in conjunction with the HPLO administrator, to review and approve applications administratively, provided all criteria and verification checkboxes were properly met. This dual review process, involving both a physician and an administrator, proved to be effective and efficient, without resulting in any issues. The success of this model, combined with national trends toward administrative processing and the increasing demands of fields such as teleradiology—where applicants may hold licenses in dozens of states—has led the board to consider formally streamlining the process through Resolution 2025-01. While physician assistant and podiatric applications will continue to be reviewed collaboratively for the time being, the chair expressed optimism that in the near future, such applications could also be administratively processed if found to be in complete order. The overarching goal is to eliminate unnecessary time spent during board meetings on applications that are already deemed complete and appropriate for approval, thereby enhancing efficiency without compromising oversight.</p>			
	<p>B. Public Law 38-42 (Bill No. 56-38) B. Hattori noted Bill No. 56-38 for its role in formally transferring the podiatry profession from the allied health category to the jurisdiction of the medical board.</p>	B. Hattori		Noted
	<p>C. Public Law 38-43 (Bill No. 123-38) B. Hattori confirmed that Bill No. 123-38, like Bill No. 56-38, had been signed into law, officially transferring physician assistants from the allied health category to the medical board. The HPLO is currently engaged in the administrative process of transferring all relevant data, applications, and licenses into the medical board's system. This transition is still underway, and the board formally acknowledged during the meeting the integration of both podiatrists and physician assistants as newly regulated professions under its jurisdiction.</p> <p>Dr. Berg asked regarding the licensing renewal cycles for podiatrists and physician assistants. It was clarified by Dr. Kim that podiatrists had completed their renewal cycle in the previous year, meaning that all podiatrists on island currently hold active licenses for the year. While there are no immediate concerns, Dr. Berg and B. Hattori agreed that aligning renewal cycles would eventually be necessary and suggested future discussions to determine the best approach. Options mentioned included extending current licenses by a year or requiring an abbreviated renewal application for cycle alignment.</p> <p>Similarly, it was confirmed that physician assistants follow an even-year renewal cycle, placing them on the same schedule as podiatrists. Dr. Berg guessed that the decision to maintain separate renewal cycles from other</p>	B. Hattori		Noted

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		professions was intentional, aimed at reducing the administrative burden on the licensing office. As no licenses are currently set to expire, the board acknowledged that it has time to carefully consider how best to unify or manage the renewal timelines.			
VI.	Chairperson's Report	<p>A. IAMRA</p> <p>Dr. Berg noted during the meeting that the board is now a member of the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities, alongside CNMI, which also recently joined. Although a representative, Marty Roringer, attended the most recent IAMRA conference in Ireland, financial limitations prevented broader participation, and the event, while informative, did not appear compelling enough to justify the expense for multiple attendees. Plans are in place to attend the next IAMRA meeting in two years.</p> <p>Attention then shifted to the Federation of State Medical Boards, Dr. Berg emphasized the high value of its conferences and encouraged participation, especially from new members such as Dr. Kim and R. Tajalle. The FSMB meetings were described as deeply informative and beneficial for professional networking, particularly with other boards that include podiatrists and physician assistants. The board typically sends attendees to the annual FSMB conference, usually held between late April and early May, and scholarship funding is available to support participation. While the next meeting will take place in Baltimore, it was acknowledged that travel is primarily for business purposes, with attendees remaining focused on conference responsibilities.</p> <p>Dr. Berg also highlighted the availability of formal FSMB training for new board members, both online and in-person, typically held in Dallas. B. Hattori was tasked with following up to ensure that Dr. Kim and R. Tajalle receive the appropriate onboarding and training support through FSMB resources.</p> <p>Further plans were shared regarding the FSMB leadership's intention to visit Guam in early January, a visit that occurs roughly every eight years as part of FSMB's outreach to its 57 jurisdictions. This visit will also include travel to Palau. T. Woodard was scheduled to contact FSMB representatives to begin coordinating the visit. The board views this visit as an opportunity for its members to become more engaged and recognized within the broader national regulatory community.</p> <p>Dr. Berg emphasized the importance of Guam having a strong presence and voice in FSMB activities, particularly in advocating for policies and regulatory changes that acknowledge Guam's unique geographic and operational considerations. Dr. Berg also committed to ensuring that regulatory matters affecting podiatrists and physician assistants are equally represented at the national level, especially in cases where proposed rules may disproportionately impact Guam.</p> <p>Finally, it was noted that FSMB oversees key national systems such as the FCVS and contributes to the National Board of Medical Examiners, underlining the significance of Guam's continued involvement. While international licensing issues may not currently affect physician assistants or podiatrists directly, these developments remain</p>	Dr. Berg		Noted

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		relevant as they pertain to the Guam Board of Medical Examiners as a whole. Dr. Berg concluded by encouraging new members to remain actively involved, expressing hope that they would find value in participating in FSMB initiatives.			
		B. Licensing Requirements for Military Physicians Prescribing Compounded Medications in Guam Dr. Berg informed that the licensing requirements for military physicians are currently being addressed by Dr. Aguon. He noted that this issue was not urgent at present. Additionally, the topic of compounding medications, which was raised by the board of pharmacy, was acknowledged as an area involving both physician and pharmacy oversight.			Noted
VIII	Old Business	A. Complaint(s):			
		GBME-CO-20-005 – Received: 09/18/2020 Dr. Berg acknowledged that they had been awaiting the assignment of legal counsel to address this case with a complex legal background. Attorney C. Tillman, assigned from the Attorney General's office, has now taken on the case and is actively reviewing it. Dr. Berg recognized that the case, assigned to Dr. Cruz, remains under review and may require an extended period before resolution due to its complexity, with no expectation of a response within the next month.	Dr. Cruz		On-Going, Expecting Results Next Month
		GBME-CO-2022-010 – Received: 06/21/2022 Case 2022-010, involving GRMC, is currently under review by legal counsel and concerns the board's authority to subpoena medical records. However, GRMC has raised concerns related to HIPAA compliance, and both parties are working to resolve these issues. The board anticipates a resolution within approximately one month.	Dr. Aguon		On-Going, Resolution Approximately in One Month
		GBME-CO-2025-003 – Received: 06/12/2025 Dr. Berg discussed a complaint involving a physician who conducted physical assessments for the Veterans Affairs office on Guam without holding a Guam medical license at the time, noting that federal facilities such as the VA do not require practitioners to be licensed in the specific jurisdiction where they work, only that they hold an active license elsewhere. Since the physician was not licensed in Guam during the incidents in question, the board initially lacked jurisdiction over the complaint; however, the physician has since obtained a Guam license, making the board the appropriate authority moving forward. The board plans to notify the complainant that the matter may need to be addressed by the jurisdiction where the physician was licensed at the time of the alleged incidents, while also consulting with attorney C. Tillman on whether the board can independently investigate the complaint despite the licensing timing. The discussion highlighted the balance between addressing serious allegations that impact public protection and avoiding investigation of minor pre-licensing issues, with legal guidance sought to determine the appropriate course of action.	Dr. Berg		On-Going, Legal Guidance Needed
		GBME-CO-2025-004 – Received: 06/12/2025 The board reviewed a complaint involving an unlicensed individual performing cosmetic procedures, primarily a matter for the cosmetology board since the person holds no license to practice. Photos related to			On-Going

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		<p>the complaint were shared with the cosmetology board members but not yet with the medical board members, Dr. Berg suggested that these be distributed to the medical board for awareness. The issue is complicated by the fact that the individual advertised as a cosmetologist or esthetician but performed procedures involving needles, which fall under the practice of medicine and thus could potentially involve the medical board. However, the medical board prefers to defer initially to the primary board—in this case, cosmetology—to determine if the person is practicing on Guam and whether their activities fall under their jurisdiction. If cosmetology finds the individual is licensed and enforces corrective measures, the matter would not be escalated to the medical board. The board acknowledged that cosmetology may refer the issue back if it concludes that it is not within their authority but rather a medical board concern.</p>			
		<p>B. Hearing: GBME-DPA-2025-01: The board discussed the case of Dr. Kenneth Carr, who consented to having his name used in a public forum. Dr. Carr previously had his medical license suspended in California for various reasons; however, that license has since been reinstated contingent upon his adherence to specific conditions outlined by the California board. After several meetings with Dr. Carr, the Guam Board of Medical Examiners agreed in principle to consider granting him a provisional license under supervision, provided that GRMC submits a formal monitoring plan detailing how they will oversee his practice. Dr. Berg confirmed that the provisional licensure letter had been signed and approved, and the board is now awaiting GRMC’s proposal, which they hope to receive by the next board meeting. B. Hattori confirmed that, as of the meeting, no such plan had yet been received.</p>	GBME		Ongoing, Awaiting GRMC’s Proposal
VIII.	New Business	A. Application(s) for Full Licensure			
		1. Joshua J. Fleming <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>	GBME		Unanimously Approved
		2. Alex C. Trolenberg <i>Motion to Approve: Cruz; 2nd: Dr. Berg.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		3. Eun Jee Lee <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		4. Luke Chang-Dae Kang <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		5. Sean Chia Chang <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		B. 2025 Renewals			
		1. Edward Blounts <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>	GBME		Unanimously Approved
		2. Susan Dobbs <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		3. Eugene Ng			Unanimously Approved

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		<i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			
		4. Anna Chacon <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		5. Elaine Brown <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		6. Bilal Chaudhry <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		7. Michael Switzer <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		8. Konstantina Papthomas <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		9. Robert J. Michaud <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		10. Marjorie Debenedictis <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		11. David J. Yeh <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		12. Maria Andrea R. Alano <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		13. Jacqueline D. Michaud <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		14. Colette D. Reahl <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		15. Darren J. Sommer <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		16. Paul C. Coty <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		17. Vincent A. Duenas <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		18. Derek W. Grady <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		19. William Fox <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		20. Wendy D. Frickel <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		21. Seung Young Huh <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved

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	22. Augusta Uwah <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	23. Jeffrey R. Cruz <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	24. Adrian Cora-Morges <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	25. Ronald T. Kobayashi <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	26. Martin Springer <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	27. Arvind K. Gupta <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	28. Golda Sol M. Fernandez <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	29. Jasmine Sinkhada <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	30. Juan P. Lirio <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	31. Pichet Iampornpipopchai <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	32. Marcin Czerniakow <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	33. Jennifer J. Chang <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	34. Brinda Rengaraju <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	35. Rengaraju Ramasamy <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	36. Vasin Jungtrakoolchai <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	37. Byeori Lee <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	38. Scott K. Erickson <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	39. Henry Hasson <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	40. David J. Parks <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved

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		41. Kelli Jarrett <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			Unanimously Approved
IX.	Announcement	Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 08, 2025 at 4:00 pm.	GBME		Set Date
X.	Adjournment	<i>Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Berg.</i>	GBME	1654	Adjourned

Minutes Drafted by: FLAME TREE Freedom Center, Inc.

Date Submitted: 9/29/2025

Submitted by the GBME Secretary:

Date:

Approved by the GBME with or without changes:



Date: 10/8/2025

Certified by or Attested by the Chairperson:



Date: 10/8/2025