

GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Guam Board of Medical Examiners Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 4:00 pm

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

Hagåtña, GU 96910

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81991772034?pwd=68GhOkjdMaVagqvLvyzvdXPGvhnF0P.1>

Meeting ID: 819 9177 2034

Passcode: 954593

MINUTES

Topic	DECISION(S) / ACTION(S) MADE		Responsible Party	Time	Status
I. Call to Order	Meeting Chaired by: Dr. Berg		Chair	1608	Called to Order
	A. Roll Call: GBME <u>Present</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nathaniel B. Berg, M.D., Chairperson <u>Virtually Present:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luis G. Cruz, M.D., Secretary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joleen Aguon, M.D., Vice Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexander D Wielgaard, 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 Breanna Sablan HPLO/EMS Jolene Toves, Guam Daily Post Gillian Russell, OAG	Chair		Quorum Established
	B. Confirmation of Public Notice Dr. Berg reviewed and found it to be in conformance with current laws.		Chair		Confirmed
	<i>Motion to Adopt the Agenda: Dr. Berg.</i>		GBME		Adopted
III. Review and Approval of Minutes	Draft Minutes dated November 12, 2025 The Board reviewed and adopted the minutes, noting only a minor typo in which the word "diverse" was misspelled on the front page. <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg.</i>		GBME		Unanimously Approved
IV. Treasurer's Report	No report Dr. Berg discussed scheduling a meeting at the beginning of the next calendar year, ideally in the first quarter, to		Dr. Wielgaard		Noted

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		coordinate with the director and ensure proper budgeting. Dr. Berg noted he and B. Hattori are planning for additional funding for the upcoming year, and a meeting in January would provide clarity on available resources based on licensing fee revenue.			
V.	HPLD Administrator's Report	<p>B. Sablan informed the Board, for situational awareness, that Dr. Annie Bordallo's confirmation or appointment is scheduled for the following day at the Guam Legislature, beginning at 9 a.m.</p> <p>Dr. Berg reminded that traditionally, members are encouraged not to participate in testimony to maintain an independent confirmation process. He noted that Dr. Bordallo, previously served as the board's medical director and as assistant administrator for medical services at Guam Memorial Hospital, brings extensive experience and familiarity with the board's operations. While no official testimony was being requested, members were encouraged to inform physicians who could speak of Dr. Bordallo's suitability so that they might provide written or in-person testimony if they chose.</p>	HPLD		Noted
VI.	Chairperson's Report	<p>(a) Bill 206-38 (COR) An Act to Add a New §12202 (c), Amend §12205 (c), §12206 and Add a New 12206.1 AND §12207 (a) (5) To Article 2, Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Building a More Divers and Sustainable Healthcare Workforce on Guam by Expanding Licensure Pathways for Foreign Medical Graduates and establishing a local CONRAD 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program. (????)</p> <p>Dr. Berg reported on several key initiatives and upcoming events. It was noted that the Federation of State Medical Boards will visit at the beginning of January, and an agenda will be provided shortly, though coordination has been somewhat complex due to Palau joining the IAMRA rather than the FSMB. Discussions are also underway with the Federated States of Micronesia to join IAMRA, which would strengthen the regional voice. Members were reminded of the FSMB meeting in Baltimore from April 29 to May 2, 2026 and encouraged to attend, highlighting the value of the conference for networking, learning about medical regulation, and connecting with non-contiguous boards from Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. While funding is limited, some support may be available to offset travel costs. Additionally, Guam is establishing a physician health program as part of a larger professional health plan network to provide financial and structural support for impaired professionals across multiple fields, including medicine, law, engineering, and social work. The program will require a full-time administrator starting in January. Information regarding concurrent FSMB sessions, including training opportunities for board attorneys, was shared, noting potential funding sources from both the attorney general's office and the FSMB. The Board was reassured that members from various medical professions, including podiatrists and physician assistants, are welcome at the conferences, and that combined and separate board structures are common.</p>	Dr. Berg		Noted

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		<p>Dr. Wielaard noted that even when members personally fund their participation in FSMB trips, such as a previous trip to Seattle, they are required to disclose their travel to GovGuam as representatives of the Board. The member emphasized that this notification process should be followed, even for last-minute decisions to attend.</p> <p>B. Sablan emphasized that even when members personally cover travel expenses, they are required to disclose the trip to GovGuam and complete the appropriate travel authorization forms. The process, outlined in a director's order and the Budget Act, involves a two-step procedure that the Board's staff can assist with to ensure compliance. Dr. Berg then turned to ongoing work with the Alternative Pathways to Licensure program, in which the Board is represented at monthly meetings convened by the executive branch. Art San Agustin was assigned by the governor to run this committee. The program includes input from impacted stakeholders and the legislature, with the goal of avoiding mistakes seen in other jurisdictions during the implementation of similar initiatives. Current efforts are focused on data gathering, and the Board will be kept informed as the process develops, with the potential for additional members to be invited to participate.</p> <p>Finally, Dr. Berg expressed appreciation for the presence of Atty. Russell at the Board Meeting, noting the value of having legal guidance.</p>			
VIII	Old Business	<p>A. Complaint(s):</p> <p>1. GBME-CO-20-005 – Received: 09/18/2020</p> <p>Dr. Berg discussed a funding challenge for obtaining an expert opinion, noting that responses to requests for proposals were prohibitively expensive. It was stated that a meeting with the director will be held early in the year to develop a solution, with the goal of resolving the case by the end of the first quarter, recognizing that obtaining the necessary expert opinion is a critical step.</p> <p>B. Sablan clarified that an expert opinion for the case has already been obtained, and the next step involves seeking guidance from the OAG regarding how to proceed.</p> <p>The Board discussed that while Dr. Ada had already reviewed the case, she recommended engaging a specialist in a specific sub-specialty for further review. The next step involves requesting assistance from the OAG to obtain that specialized input. Legal guidance is also required, and once received, the Board, in consultation with legal counsel, will determine whether to proceed with Dr. Ada's recommendation or continue with a formal hearing.</p>	Dr. Cruz	On-Going, Expecting Decision Next Meeting	

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	<p>B. Sablan clarified that the difficulty in the case is not in finding a specialist, as several have expressed interest, but rather in the procurement process. Previously, off-island experts or investigators could be engaged through a purchase order, but current requirements mandate an RFP, which has resulted in prohibitively high costs. As a result, the Board is pursuing legal guidance from the OAG to determine the appropriate next steps.</p> <p>Atty. Russell noted that she has not yet received the relevant materials, as this was her first meeting since Atty. Tillman's departure, and stated that she will request her paralegal to provide the documents for review before moving forward with the case.</p> <p>Dr. Aguon asked if there is a budget. B. Sablan noted that there is a small budget allocated for the case, but the involvement of the OAG is necessary to determine whether the board investigator can present a recommendation directly to the Board or if an external specialist must be sourced. Ultimately, the Board retains the authority to adopt the investigator's recommendation or to determine alternative actions regarding any potential sanctions on the individual's license.</p> <p>Dr. Berg discussed the importance of reviewing the case details, noting that the recommendation to hire an outside specialist is not mandatory but advisory. He suggested that Dr. Cruz provide a summary or relevant documentation so that all members, including Dr. Kim and R. Tajalle, can familiarize themselves with the case and make informed decisions. Dr. Cruz agreed to coordinate with B. Sablan to obtain and distribute the necessary materials, ensuring that the Board can review the information in context before any final recommendations or votes are made.</p> <p>Dr. Wieland emphasized the importance of clearly communicating when the case information is sent, particularly for new members who are becoming familiar with the matter. They noted the need to understand the specific component that requires a subspecialist's opinion, as this appears to be the critical element of the case, and suggested that once this is clarified, the Board can assess whether it remains essential or if other aspects of the case can be adjudicated without it.</p> <p>Dr. Berg discussed that the key issue involves whether a subspecialist in hospital medicine is needed to review an inpatient case, as the original assessment was conducted by a physician of the same specialty but not a hospitalist. While the initial recommendation was to engage an outside specialist, the departure of the</p>			

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	<p>original investigator left the decision unresolved. It was agreed that Dr. Cruz, in consultation with Atty. Russell, will review the case and provide a recommendation on whether an external investigation is necessary. The Board will then collectively decide whether to proceed with securing funding and engaging a specialist or to move forward using the existing data and opinions.</p> <p>Dr. Berg confirmed that the complainant remains actively involved in the case and has been requesting monthly updates. It was noted that all other components of the case have been resolved, leaving only the single outstanding issue regarding the subspecialist review.</p> <p>Dr. Berg concluded that Dr. Cruz will take the lead in reviewing the case in depth, examining all relevant documents, and providing either a recommendation or a presentation of the available data. Board members will also have the opportunity to review the materials to ensure they are fully informed. Any remaining legal issues will be addressed with input from Atty. Russell, and the Board intends to reach a consensus on how to proceed, aiming to make a decision during the January meeting if possible.</p>			
2. GBME-CO-2022-010 – Received: 06/21/2022	<p>Dr. Aguon noted that her assigned case had been under review with Atty. Tillman, and with her departure, the matter will now be handled by Attorney Russell. She indicated that she has not yet received any correspondence regarding the progress Atty. Tillman's review, and was uncertain how far it had advanced, though follow-up was conducted during the previous meetings.</p> <p>Dr. Wielaard inquired whether, while maintaining appropriate confidentiality, it would be possible to clarify the specific aspects of the case for which legal advice is needed, in order to better understand the process and requirements.</p> <p>Dr. Berg discussed that the case involves a healthcare organization that is conflicted about releasing confidential patient information. Despite the Board's subpoena powers to obtain the necessary documents, the institution has cited privacy concerns under HIPAA. The Board is seeking legal guidance from the Attorney General's office to determine which authority supersedes and what the organization is legally obligated to provide.</p> <p>Atty. Russell clarified that none of the cases listed under old business have yet been assigned to her as yet. Following Attorney Tillman's departure, her files were reviewed but have not been distributed to the current attorneys. She anticipates being formally appointed to the Board of Medical Examiners, after which the cases</p>	Dr. Aguon		On-Going, Relevant Case Files Provided by the end of the Week

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	<p>will be assigned, and she will prioritize reviewing them promptly to provide the Board with the necessary guidance.</p> <p>Dr. Berg emphasized that the investigating officers, as well as the chair and vice chair, were available at any time for support or questions. He stated that counsel could reach out through B. Sablan, B. Hattori, or directly to the chair for any information or assistance needed and reiterated the board's willingness to provide full support. Atty. Russell expressed gratitude for the offer of assistance, and Dr. Berg noted that the relevant case files would likely be provided by the end of the week.</p>			
	<p>3. GBME-CO-2025-003 – Received: 06/12/2025 Dr. Berg explained that they are handling a complex case involving a physician who was working for the VA as a contracted physician through a contractor. He noted that obtaining the necessary records has been challenging, but the physician under investigation has volunteered to contact his contractor, who in turn will seek permission from the VA to release the documents.</p> <p>Dr. Berg emphasized that the investigation cannot move forward without the documentation from the VA, and the physician hopes to provide the records by January, noting that no negative action is being taken against him for the delay in producing them.</p>	Dr. Berg		On-Going, Documents Provided by January
	<p>4. GBME-CO-2025-004 – Received: 06/12/2025 Dr. Berg noted that this case involves a complaint primarily under the Board of Barbering & Cosmetology, which has not yet been adjudicated, and stated that it will be addressed as soon as it is received.</p>			On-Going
VIII.	<p>A. Complaint(s):</p> <p>1. GBME -CO-2025-005 – Received: 10/28/2025 Dr. Berg explained that the complainant's specific concerns regarding the physician are somewhat unclear, but there appears to be a reasonable possibility of a misunderstanding between the parties. He noted that, based on past experience, such issues have often been resolved amicably, while emphasizing that if the complainant chooses to continue pursuing the matter, the board will follow the appropriate formal process. Dr. Berg stated that, following standard procedure, the complaint will be forwarded to the physician involved and the licensee, while also notifying the complainant that the board has initiated its review process. He noted that only limited information has been disclosed to the complainant to maintain confidentiality and ensure the integrity of the process.</p> <p>Dr. Berg explained that he planned to call the complainant to discuss the possibility of resolving the matter amicably before pursuing formal action. He expressed optimism, noting past success with this approach, and</p>	GBME		Ongoing,

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	emphasized that such efforts help ensure both parties feel the board has fulfilled its responsibility to facilitate communication. He also observed that many complaints over the years have stemmed primarily from physicians' failure to communicate effectively with patients.			
	B. Applications for Full Licensure:			Unanimously Approved
	1. Sarah L. Anderson <i>Motion to Conditionally Approve Pending Review of FCVS upon Submission: Dr. Berg.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	C. Applications for Physician Assistants:			
	1. Troy E. Higdon <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg.</i>	GBME		Unanimously Approved
	2. Justin R. Keadle <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	D. Application(s) for Reinstatement of Licensure:			
	1. Andrew J. McDonnell <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg.</i>			Unanimously Approved
	E. 2025 Renewals			
	1. Michelle Healey			Unanimously Approved
	2. Jennifer A. Linden			Unanimously Approved
	3. Hidetaka Kitazono			Unanimously Approved
	4. Samir S. Ambrale			Unanimously Approved
	5. Vincent T. Akimoto			Unanimously Approved
	6. Andrew Healey			Unanimously Approved
	7. Michael W. Cruz			Unanimously Approved
	8. Jeffrey D. Shay			Unanimously Approved
	9. Scott R. Shay			Unanimously Approved
	10. Xavier Packianathan			Unanimously Approved

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	11. Juan C. Quiros			Unanimously Approved
	12. Peachy Piana-Pacheco			Unanimously Approved
	13. Jason Hwang			Unanimously Approved
	14. Ma. Gladys Linsangan			Unanimously Approved
	15. Paula Lee			Unanimously Approved
	16. Felipe H. Grimaldo			Unanimously Approved
	17. Mohsin Pasha			Unanimously Approved
	18. Carl von Trampe			Unanimously Approved
	19. Amanda S. del Rosario			Unanimously Approved
	20. Carmelino Galang			Unanimously Approved
	21. Nancy Lentz			Unanimously Approved
	22. Edison P. Manaloto			Unanimously Approved
	23. Sarah Haley-Wien			Unanimously Approved
	24. Joan H. Gill			Unanimously Approved
	25. Hyo S. Ji			Unanimously Approved
	26. Jared W. Carlson			Unanimously Approved
	27. Calvin J. Rick			Unanimously Approved
	28. Alix J. Chenet			Unanimously Approved
	29. Lisa D. Flores			Unanimously Approved
	30. Verrad Kwasi Nyame			Unanimously Approved
	31. Shadia S. Constantine			Unanimously Approved
	32. Jon Buras			Unanimously Approved
	33. Wende Buras			Unanimously Approved

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	34. April C. Esteba			Unanimously Approved
	35. Jennifer C. Peters-Diamond			Unanimously Approved
	36. Elliot M. Ross			Unanimously Approved
	37. Arrisueno Martin			Unanimously Approved
	38. Syed F. Ahmed			Unanimously Approved
	39. James Pecsok			Unanimously Approved
	40. Brandon Noyes			Unanimously Approved
	41. Naho Hattori			Unanimously Approved
	42. Maheswara Golla			Unanimously Approved
	43. Lawrence L. Williams Jr.			Unanimously Approved
	44. Arjan Gower			Unanimously Approved
	45. Corey A. Amman			Unanimously Approved
	46. Jeremy P. Baran			Unanimously Approved
	47. Joe Miller			Unanimously Approved
	48. Chad A. Thompson			Unanimously Approved
	49. Eden E. Villa			Unanimously Approved
	50. Kin-Sing Au			Unanimously Approved
	51. Nat Dumrongmongcolgul			Unanimously Approved
	52. Matthew D. Bourne			Unanimously Approved
	53. Le Yu Chiu			Unanimously Approved
	54. Steven T. McCormack			Unanimously Approved
	55. Travis J. Petree			Unanimously Approved
	56. Karen G. Phillips			Unanimously Approved

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	57. Veronica Y. Ruvo			Unanimously Approved
	58. Adham B. Shoujaa			Unanimously Approved
	59. Shannon L. St. Clair			Unanimously Approved
	60. John W. Yeoman			Unanimously Approved
	61. Bevan A. Geslani			Unanimously Approved
	62. Allyson Jarvis			Unanimously Approved
	63. Cornelio Tomelden			Unanimously Approved
	64. Michael C. Dam			Unanimously Approved
	65. Nathaniel B. Berg			Unanimously Approved
	66. Emmanuel A. Omoba			Unanimously Approved
	67. Charmaine R. Gregory			Unanimously Approved
	68. Adele E. Tse			Unanimously Approved
	69. Patrick Moon			Unanimously Approved
	70. Yoshito Okumura			Unanimously Approved
	71. Keitaroh Takeda			Unanimously Approved
	72. Christopher Tainter			Unanimously Approved
	73. Jennifer Davis			Unanimously Approved
	74. Stanley R. Smith			Unanimously Approved
IX.	Announcement	Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 4:00 pm	GBME	Set Date
X.	Adjournment	<i>Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Berg.</i>	GBME	I 701
				Adjourned

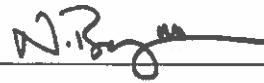
Minutes Drafted by: FLAME TREE Freedom Center, Inc.

Date Submitted:

Submitted by the GBME Secretary:

Date:

Approved by the GBME with or without changes:



Date: 1/28/2026

Certified by or Attested by the Chairperson:



Date: 1/28/2026
