

**Guam Board of Allied Health Examiners
Regular Board Meeting
Friday, January 16, 2026 at 12:00 PM
194 Herman Cortez Ave., Terlaje Professional Building Suite 209
Hagatna, Guam 96910
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84547096052?pwd=9i6gmpKvyR7GZpXq7QhDmQq6MoawNV.1>
Meeting ID: 845 4709 6052
Passcode: 293156**

MINUTES

Item	Discussion	Responsible Party	Reporting Timeframe	Status	
I	Call to Order	Meeting Chaired by Dr. Balajadia	Chair	1202	Call to Order
	Proof of Publication	01/09/2026 and 01/14/2026 GuamPDN	Chair	1204	Confirmed
	Roll Call	<p>GBAHE Members <i>Present:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Mamie Balajadia, Clinical Psychology, Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vince Pereda, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Vice-Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nadine Cepeda, LPC, LMHC, LMFT, Secretary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosalind S. Taitingfong, Occupational Therapist, Treasurer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Richard Chong, ACOM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Dennis Triolo, Audiology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Gregory Miller, Chiropractic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine San Nicolas, Clinical Dietitian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gregory J. Cruz, Respiratory Therapist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Velma R. Harper, Veterinarian 	<p>Other Attendees <i>Present at HPLO:</i></p> <p>Breanna Sablan, HPLO Kaysie Lee, DPHSS/HPLO</p>	Chair	1202
II	Adoption of Agenda	<i>Motion to Adopt the Agenda; Dr. Miller; 2nd: Dr. Harper.</i>	GBAHE	1205	Unanimous Adopted Agenda
III	Approval of Minutes	Draft Minutes Dated: 12/12/2025 The meeting minutes had not yet been finalized by the vendor. Review and approval would be deferred to the next scheduled meeting.	GBAHE	1205	Tabled, No Meeting
IV	Treasurer's Report	R. Taitingfong reported that revenue had been received in October, November, and December of the fiscal year, which had not been included in the previous Treasurer's report, and confirmed that as of December 31, 2025, collections totaled \$1,800 in October, \$1,935 in November, and \$2,700 in December, for a cumulative amount of \$6,435 for fiscal year 2026. The Board further noted that contractual expenditures totaled \$7,547.35 and that the only other expenditure was a miscellaneous cost of \$6,425 related to the board cycle. The Board stated that the current available balance was \$33,101.66.	R. Taitingfong	1205	Noted

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<p>V</p> <p>Administrator's Report</p>	<p>B. Sablan reported that ongoing weekly follow-ups were being conducted regarding the vacant SLP member position, and that there had been no updates or developments reported for the vacancy at that time.</p> <p>Dr. Miller inquired whether the amendments passed on December 22 had been merged by the Compiler of Laws into the existing statute to create a single, consolidated document, noting that only the signed bill reflecting the amendments was currently available and did not represent the full law. He also asked whether there was any information or timeline regarding the preparation of a complete, unified version of the law.</p> <p>Dr. Balajadia discussed the complexity of determining whether amended laws are automatically consolidated by the Compiler of Laws, noting that the current documentation reflected only amendments to specific sections rather than a fully integrated statute. Members expressed uncertainty about the Compiler of Laws' procedures for merging amendments with existing law and agreed that having a single, consolidated document would improve clarity and accessibility. B. Sablan was asked if she could follow up with the Compiler of Laws to inquire about the process and feasibility of producing an updated, unified version of the law.</p> <p>B. Sablan confirmed her ability to research the matter and to contact the Compiler of Laws, in order to follow up on the questions raised.</p> <p>Later in the meeting, C. San Nicolas revisited the earlier question of Dr. Miller regarding the Compiler of Laws and reported that a review of the relevant section affecting the dietitian article showed that the public law passed on December 22 had already been incorporated, with the most recent update reflected on the website as of December 5, 2024. C. San Nicolas and Dr. Miller discussed that the updated law could be downloaded from the Compiler of Laws website and confirmed that requested changes to the public law were already reflected within the applicable article. It was noted, however, that while some sections indicate when updates are made, the specific article reviewed did not reflect a recent update and instead listed the last change as occurring in 2015. Dr. Miller clarified navigation within the Compiler of Laws website, explaining that users must access the appropriate title and article to verify updates, and noted that individuals seeking licensure or information on scope of practice would need to reference the relevant article within the GCA portion to confirm the most current provisions.</p> <p>Dr. Balajadia noted that the same information was also available on the HPLO website under GBAHE. Dr. Miller acknowledged a misunderstanding regarding the status of the Compiler of Laws and confirmed that the consolidation process had already been completed, with paper copies having been properly notified. The Board concluded that the matter had been resolved and expressed clarity and satisfaction regarding the availability and completion of the updated law.</p>	<p>GBAHE</p>	<p>1207</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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VI	GBAHE Complaints	<p>A. GBAHE-CO-22-03 MFT Received 02/21/22 Dr. Balajadia informed that a request has been sent to the Office of the Attorney General seeking legal guidance and review.</p>	Dr. Balajadia	1211	Ongoing, Seeking Leg Guidance ar Review
		<p>B. GBAHE-CO-23-02 Veterinarian Received 12/28/23 Dr. Balajadia informed that a request has been sent to the Office of the Attorney General seeking legal guidance and review.</p>	GBAHE		Ongoing, Seeking Leg Guidance ar Review
		<p>C. GBAHE-CO-23-03 Veterinarian Received 12/28/23 Dr. Balajadia informed that the complaint had been sent to Dr. Turner, an on-island consult, for her review and investigation, and that a response from her had not yet been received but was expected to be forthcoming.</p>	GBAHE		Ongoing, Pending Investigatio
		<p>D. GBAHE-CO-24-03 SLP Received 08/06/24 N. Cepeda reported that the matter is currently under review at the AG’s office, and that once legal guidance is received, the recommendations would be brought back to the Board for consideration to assess their validity before any further action is taken.</p> <p>Dr. Harper noted that this situation underscores the importance of holding executive sessions so that all Board members can be included in discussions. Dr. Miller questioned whether additional media notifications would be required, expressing concern about the difficulty of meeting such requirements. Dr. Harper responded that, in their opinion, these requirements must be addressed, emphasizing that case details and developments cannot be discussed during a regular public session, and that all Board members should justifiably be included in these discussions.</p> <p>B. Sablan informed the Board that a similar request regarding executive sessions had been previously addressed by the Attorney General, who explained that executive sessions may only be held to discuss complaints if there is threatened litigation, ongoing litigation, or an active hearing concerning the complainant. She emphasized that the law governing executive sessions is very specific, allowing such sessions only for legal matters or personnel issues, and that since the Board does not currently fund any personnel, this exception does not apply. While there is a recognized need to provide more information to Board members, all investigations must remain confidential, and investigators summarize findings to keep members informed without breaching confidentiality. The guidance further clarified that unless the matter involves personnel or legal proceedings, the Board cannot convene an executive session. It was noted that any expansion of executive session authority would require updating Board rules and coordinating with the legislature to amend.</p> <p>The Board acknowledged the clarification that, during regular sessions, they may discuss the details of investigations and findings for the benefit of all members, provided that no names are mentioned. Members expressed appreciation for this guidance, noting that it allows for more</p>	N. Cepeda		Ongoing, N Updates

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	<p>comprehensive discussion than they had previously understood.</p> <p>Dr. Duenas, new to the board, inquired that the specifics of the complaint are not currently known to her. N. Cepeda clarified that they will receive general information about the complaint, and that any recommendations requiring action will be brought forward in accordance with the Attorney General’s advice, allowing for informed discussion and decision-making.</p> <p>B. Sablan provided Dr. Duenas with a brief background regarding the complaint submitted regarding the profession of a speech-language pathologist, noting that it was received on August 6, 2024. It was explained that the assigned investigator is N. Cepeda and Assistant Attorney General Tillman, was assigned to review the case, but she has since departed the office, and the case is now being handled by a newly assigned attorney. At this time, there are no updates available, but the Board will be provided with general information about the complaint, and once the investigators have completed their review, their findings and any recommendations will be presented to the Board in this setting.</p>			
	<p>E. GBAHE-CO-25-08 Veterinarian Received 04/28/25 Dr. Harper reported that the veterinarian had provided care consistent with the appropriate standard of practice, and that the kitten’s death was due to its severe illness rather than any deficiency in care. After reviewing the investigation, Dr. Harper concluded that the veterinarian had acted professionally and appropriately and recommended that no further action be taken regarding the complaint. <i>Motion to Dismiss; N. Cepeda; 2nd: V. Pereda.</i></p>	Dr. Harper		Unanimous Dismissed
	<p>F. GBAHE-CO-25-09 LPC Received 04/29/25 Dr. Balajadia stated the investigation is ongoing and somewhat complex, and that discussion and updates regarding it will be addressed at the next meeting.</p>	Dr. Balajadia		Ongoing. Updates Addressed Next Board Meeting
VII	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. Old Business</p> <p>i. Clinical Supervision Qualifications (P.L. 37-142 § 0408(d)(1)): The Board was informed by Dr. Balajadia about a case involving the denial of a person’s clinical hours, with a subsequent letter submitted on October 29 requesting reconsideration. Dr. Balajadia noted concerns regarding the situation, explaining that Joleen Baza, a licensed professional counselor and director of Blue Ocean Behavioral Health, had submitted the letter on behalf of Dr. Millie Nice, whose internship hours had been denied because the supervision did not comply with the Board’s rules and regulations. Dr. Balajadia brought the matter to the Board’s attention in their capacity as the reviewer.</p> <p>N. Cepeda reported that the individual’s initial supervisor did not meet the legal qualifications, and a subsequent supervisor, although meeting the qualifications, had a conflict of interest,</p>	GBAHE	1220	Unanimous Disapprove Reconsideration of Clinical Supervision Hours

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	<p>resulting in the denial of those supervision hours. A new supervisor was later presented who met the required qualifications, and the Board agreed that hours completed under this supervisor from that point forward would be accepted. However, all prior hours were previously voted on and not approved, and the Board clarified that this determination applies to the clinical hours being completed toward licensure.</p> <p>Dr. Balajadia mentioned that there are concerns regarding the opinion of the former supervisor, noting a potential conflict of interest as the supervisor’s father is the director of Blue Ocean. N. Cepeda clarified that the supervisor in question holds a Ph.D. in Communication, not in a clinical or therapy-related field, and emphasized the importance of accurately representing this distinction. The Board agreed that it is ethically necessary to clarify that the supervisor’s doctorate is in Communication, as misrepresentation could be misleading given that the individual is overseeing hours for someone pursuing clinical licensure as a therapist.</p> <p>Dr. Balajadia explained that while the supervisor holds a doctorate in Communication, she is not a clinical practitioner, and the situation is complicated by a potential conflict of interest. The supervisor, who is co-director of an agency, is approving clinical hours for Dr. Nice, who serves as director of the same agency, creating a situation that Dr. Balajadia described as ethically concerning and potentially in violation of professional guidelines. Despite references in the letter to the APA Code of Ethics, Dr. Balajadia emphasized that individuals in such positions should not have been involved in approving hours due to the conflict. The Board was informed that Dr. Nice is requesting reconsideration of the previously denied hours, but Dr. Balajadia highlighted the ethical and procedural issues underlying this request.</p> <p>N. Cepeda expressed strong concerns regarding the repeated requests for reconsideration of the denied hours, stating that it is unprofessional to persistently ask the same question in hopes of receiving a different answer. She emphasized that the Board’s rules and regulations are clear and cannot be changed without legislative action, and that the Board is not in a position to disregard the law to grant such requests. N. Cepeda noted that all professionals, including Board members, are expected to follow established rules and licensure requirements, and that repeatedly seeking an exception is both unethical and inappropriate.</p> <p>Dr. Balajadia emphasized that the Board’s laws and regulations align with national standards, which clearly indicate that the situation under discussion does not meet proper professional guidelines. She highlighted the ethical concern of a co-director approving the clinical hours of the director within the same organization, noting that such an arrangement is inconsistent with both local and national standards.</p> <p>Dr. Harper clarified that the matter under discussion is specifically the request for acceptance of the clinical hours, and that there is no justification to approve them. It was emphasized that the</p>			

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	<p>Board's previous decision remains unchanged, and that repeated requests for reconsideration will not alter the outcome. Any additional concerns raised are recognized as separate issues but do not affect the determination regarding the original request.</p> <p>The Board moved to consider a motion to maintain its prior decision to disapprove the clinical hours in question. Members discussed the issue of professional titles, noting that while the individual holds a doctorate in Communication, the title must clearly indicate the field of expertise to avoid misleading the public, and that clinical qualifications do not apply to a doctorate in Communication. It was further explained that during a previous meeting, the individual presented herself as a doctor without specifying her field, and had referenced certifications in clinical therapies, which do not align with her educational background, resulting in a complaint against a Board member for raising the issue. The Board clarified that the denial of hours is based on law and regulations requiring specific qualifications, not personal discretion, and emphasized the importance of maintaining consistent standards. It was noted that the individual appears determined to repeatedly challenge the Board's decision, which was described as bordering on harassment, and the Board reaffirmed that the prior decision stands. Members also confirmed that internships must have preapproval, and any hours completed without meeting these requirements cannot be accepted.</p> <p>The Board discussed that the initial supervisor was rejected because they did not meet the legal qualifications regarding the required number of years licensed to supervise prior to the hours being completed. It was explained that the applicant had attempted to set up multiple supervisors across different internship applications, some of whom did not meet the educational or licensing requirements as clearly outlined in law, and that this created integrity concerns regarding who was actually supervising the clinical hours. The Board emphasized that it had reviewed each situation thoroughly, identified mistakes where necessary, and corrected them, but the overarching issue remained that switching supervisors or attempting to bypass requirements raised ethical concerns, particularly regarding integrity, which is highlighted as a core APA ethical standard. The discussion underscored that the Board's responsibility is to uphold professional and legal standards, ensure proper supervision, and maintain the integrity of the licensure process, and that despite repeated requests from the applicant, the Board must adhere to its prior decisions.</p> <p>Dr. Harper raised a general concern regarding complaints brought to the Board, questioning why the involvement of a professional representative from the same field is often viewed as a conflict of interest. She emphasized that Board members are performing their duties according to the law, and that decisions must be made objectively without personal bias. While she acknowledged the value of having a third-party review, she expressed concern that requiring it in every instance undermines the professional judgment and ethical responsibility of Board</p>			

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	<p>members to make decisions based on established laws and regulations.</p> <p>N. Cepeda explained that the concern arose because the individual involved submitted a letter opposing any actions by Dr. Balajadia and herself due to an existing complaint. She clarified that the Board has been attempting to address the concern fairly, involving collaboration with V. Pereda to review the matter, and emphasized that the process has been managed professionally and cooperatively.</p> <p>Dr. Harper emphasized that board members should not allow themselves to be intimidated, pressured, or made to feel defensive when performing their duties. She stressed that the members are ethical professionals selected to serve on the Board, and they must carry out their responsibilities confidently and without yielding to external pressures, as succumbing could compromise the Board's ability to function effectively.</p> <p>N. Cepeda reinforced Dr. Harper's point by stating that she is firmly standing by her position because she presented it to the board and the matter has been repeatedly delayed. She emphasized that the Board's responsibility is to follow the law as written, and she encouraged everyone to read and understand the law themselves if they feel unsure, underscoring personal accountability and adherence to legal standards.</p> <p>Dr. Harper, emphasized that the core point of the letter is threefold, focusing especially on ethical behavior. She explained that ethics includes not just how professionals act, but also how they use their time and practice within the scope of their profession. Using her example, a veterinarian cannot practice chiropractic on patients—this illustrates that professional boundaries must be respected.</p> <p>She stressed that the public cannot judge the professional scope of practice for any profession, which is why the Board's role is crucial. Board members are obligated to ensure a minimum standard of care, monitor ethical behavior, and intervene proactively to prevent issues before complaints arise. Ethics, therefore, serves as a safeguard for both professional integrity and public protection.</p> <p>B. Sablan clarified that the request in question pertains to an appeal regarding the supervision hours or the qualifications of the supervisor for Dr. MillieNice, distinguishing it from a request for reconsideration. Questions were raised about whether there is a formal appeal process, with it noted that such a process exists, though details were not immediately clear.</p> <p>Dr. Balajadia clarified that the correspondence regarding the denial of clinical supervision hours for Dr. MillieNice, addressed to the board and the board administrator, is a request for clarification and not a formal appeal.</p>			

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	<p>It was discussed that the board could respond to the request for reconsideration by reiterating the previous decision and citing the applicable law, attaching the original letter to avoid rewriting it. The members agreed that any response should reference the relevant sections of law and regulations, clearly affirming that the board’s decision stands firm and that the rules, not personal opinion, govern the outcome. It was concluded that the request from J. Baza for reconsideration of clinical supervision hours is therefore denied, and a motion was requested to formalize this decision.</p> <p><i>Motion to Disapprove Reconsideration of Clinical Supervision Hours: Dr. Harper; 2nd: Dr. Triolo.</i></p> <p>B. Initial/New Applications</p> <p>i. Ishizu, Chad (Chiropractic) (G. Miller) <i>Motion to Approve; Dr. Miller; 2nd: Dr. Harper.</i></p> <p>ii. Ruiz, Daniel (RRT) (G. Cruz) <i>Motion to Approve; Dr. Miller; 2nd: Dr. Harper.</i></p> <p>iii. Taylor, Nicole (RRT) (G. Cruz) <i>Motion to Approve; Dr. Miller; 2nd: Dr. Harper.</i></p> <p>iv. Zapanta, Arvene (RRT) (G. Cruz) <i>Motion to Approve; Dr. Miller; 2nd: Dr. Harper.</i></p>			
IX	Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting: Friday, February 6, 2026, at 12:00 PM.	GBAHE	1259	Set Date
X	<i>Motion to Adjourn: N. Cepeda; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>	GBAHE	1300	Adjourned

Minutes Drafted by: FLAME TREE Freedom Center, Inc.

Date Submitted: 01/26/2026

Submitted by the GBAHE Secretary:

Date:

Approved by the GBAHE with or without changes:

Date:

Certified by or Attested by the Chairperson: *Manie Chalapada*

Date: 02/20/2026