

Guam Board of Nurse Examiners

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 3:00 PM

194 Hernan Cortez Ave. Terlaje Professional Building Suite 209

Hagatna, Guam 96910

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82440350992?pwd=OVwIW2fiWPE0seUfL1okdzRv2KzxXb.1>

Meeting ID: 824 4035 0992

Passcode: 788230

MINUTES

Item	Discussion	Responsible Party	Reporting Timeframe	Status
I	Call to Order	Chaired by: Greg Woodard		Chair 1516 Called to Order
	Proof of Publication	Reviewed and confirmed by G. Woodard		Chair 1517 Confirmed
	Roll Call	<p>GBNE Members: <i>Virtual Attendance:</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Woodard, APRN-NPC, AOCNP, Chair, APRN Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anna Varghese, RN, DNP, Vice Chair, Education Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Philip John Calalo, DNP, RN, Treasurer, Hospital Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margarita Gay, Community Health Member</p> <p><i>Not In Attendance:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Brenda Manzana, Secretary, LPN Member <input type="checkbox"/> Gia Ramos, RN Member <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Huntsman, Public Member</p>	<p>Other Attendees: <i>Virtual Attendance:</i> Breanna Sablan, DPHSS/HPLO Kaysie Lee, DPHSS/HPLO Baltazar Hattori III, DPHSS/HPLO Peter John Camacho, DPHSS Jolene Toves, Guam Daily Post Nina Lalmol, Public</p>	GBNE 1518 Quorum Established
II	Adoption of Agenda	<i>Motion to Adopt the Agenda: G. Woodard; 2nd: Dr. Varghese.</i>		GBNE 1518 Unanimously Adopted
III	Approval of Minutes	<p>Minutes dated: 11/13/2025 <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Varghese; 2nd: M. Gay.</i></p>		GBNE 1519 Unanimously Approved
IV	Treasurer's Report	No report		Dr. Calalo 1520 No Report
V	Committee Reports	<p>Rules and Regulations (Proposed). G. Woodard reported that the relevant materials had already been reviewed and were now at the editing stage, and it was conveyed that the executive officer was prepared to forward the finalized documents to the Legislature.</p>		GBNE 1520 Noted

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VI	Nursing Education	No report	Dr Varghese	1521	No Report
VII	Executive Officer's Report	A. GBNE Complaints		1521	
		1. GBNE-CO-20-007/1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7 Received 9/16/20. G. Woodard stated that the matter remained pending due to the need for further evaluation of the expert opinion received from off island, and there was no additional information to report.	G Woodard		
		2. GBNE-CO-25-001 G. Woodard reported a review of the complaint, during which it was determined that there had been no direct interaction between the provider and the complainant, as the issue involved delays in scheduling rather than the provision of care. It was explained that the complaint stemmed from a family member's concern that a patient was unable to obtain timely healthcare because the nurse practitioner did not see the patient, resulting in a delay that was described as unfortunate; however, it was concluded that the circumstances did not fall within the scope of a valid complaint and did not establish sufficient grounds for investigation or disciplinary action by the Board. <i>Motion to Dismiss: G. Woodard; 2nd: Dr. Varghese.</i>	G Woodard		Unanimously Dismissed Complaint
		3. GBNE-CO-25-002 The Board was briefed on an ongoing matter that originated from a communication received in November from colleagues at the Board of Medicine concerning a provider practicing independently as an advanced practice registered nurse and potentially operating outside the authorized scope of practice. Following a review of the clinic's publicly available information, it was noted that the clinic advertised the administration of ketamine for psychiatric and pain management purposes, which was determined to be inconsistent with the scope of practice recognized by the certifying organization for advanced practice nurses, and given that ketamine is a scheduled drug, the situation was assessed as posing a potential risk to public safety. As a result, after consultation with the executive officer of the Guam Board of Medical Examiners, a cease and desist letter was issued directing the clinic to halt the administration of ketamine pending further clarification. It was further reported that the subject of the complaint retained legal counsel, submitted Freedom of Information requests that were fulfilled, and subsequently requested that the Board consider rescinding the cease and desist order. Because the issue arose between scheduled Board meetings, the action had been taken to address immediate concerns, and the matter was now formally presented to the Board for determination on whether the cease and desist order should remain in effect while the outstanding issues are resolved. Dr. Varghese requested clarification regarding whether the advanced practice registered nurse was administering a medication that fell outside the authorized scope of practice. G. Woodard explained that this concern prompted the issuance of the cease and desist	G Woodard	Continue with the Cease and Desist until Next Meeting	

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	<p>order due to a perceived risk to public safety. It was further articulated that the assessment of psychiatric conditions and the prescribing of a scheduled drug for such conditions were believed to be outside the scope of practice for a certified registered nurse anesthetist, based on consultation with the applicable credentialing body.</p> <p>Dr. Varghese raised questions about the potential impact of discontinuing the medication on the affected patient and the availability of alternative care given Guam's limited number of practitioners, to which G. Woodard responded that ketamine is not FDA approved for the treatment of depression and that other treatment options are available. Additional clarification was sought regarding the scope of practice and whether the APRN had been contacted directly, and it was reported that after the cease and desist letter was issued, the APRN referred all communication to legal counsel, reinforcing the decision to act promptly to fulfill the Board's responsibility to protect public safety.</p> <p>Additional clarification was provided that the cease and desist order applied to a certified registered nurse anesthetist, and it was explained that while ketamine is commonly administered by nurse anesthetists in perioperative settings, concerns arose because the clinic's representations suggested independent evaluation, diagnosis of psychiatric conditions, and treatment outside a surgical context. It was emphasized that diagnosing psychiatric conditions was not believed to fall within the appropriate scope of practice for a certified registered nurse anesthetist, and it was acknowledged that the inability to communicate directly with the APRN following referral to legal counsel limited opportunities for informal resolution.</p> <p>G. Woodard reported that the intent of the action was not punitive but protective of public safety, despite perceptions to the contrary, and members were asked to consider whether to maintain or rescind the cease and desist order while the matter continued to be reviewed.</p> <p>Dr. Varghese raised further questions and concerns regarding the APRN'S licensure status, patient impact, prevalence of the treatment on Guam, and the limited availability of psychiatric providers. She expressed her preference to await additional guidance and input from legal counsel and potentially the provider.</p> <p>G. Woodard recognized that the issue was complex and extended beyond some members' areas of expertise, but the Board's responsibility to oversee and regulate nursing practice was reaffirmed. A proposal was then presented to extend the cease and desist order on the administration of ketamine until the next Board meeting, at which time the outcome of further discussions with legal counsel could be considered and</p>			

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		<p>formally communicated based on the Board's vote.</p> <p>M. Gay emphasized the need for further medical and legal clarification, including whether the APRN had appropriate oversight regarding scope of practice and whether the cease and desist correspondence had been reviewed for legal sufficiency, with the view that consultation with the Attorney General's Office should occur before any final action was taken. She supported maintaining the cease and desist order until more information was obtained and legal guidance was received.</p> <p>G. Woodard reiterated that the matter was being brought before the full Board to ensure collective decision-making rather than unilateral action. P. J. Calalo also gave his consensus to hold the matter and seek legal advice, after which G. Woodard formally moved to continue the cease and desist order until the next Board meeting, at which time the CRNA would be invited to appear and respond to questions.</p> <p>B. Sablan also placed on the record that a demand letter seeking revocation of the cease and desist had been received on December 16, with a stated deadline of December 19, 2025, and notice that legal action could be pursued if the Board declined to comply, which was acknowledged as a significant consideration for the Board. <i>Motion to Continue with the Cease and Desist until Next Meeting: G. Woodard; 2nd: Dr. Varghese.</i></p>			
VIII	Old Business	<p>A. Provider Health G. Woodard reported that the initiative was a joint effort involving the Board of Nursing, the Board of Medicine, and the Board of Dentistry to address issues related to impaired providers and to determine the most appropriate ways to support their health needs on Guam. He offered to address any question and noted that the effort remained ongoing.</p>	GBNE	1545	Noted
VIX	New Business	A. Renewal Applications	GBNE	1546	
		1. RN			
		1) Erlinda Catague			Approved
		2) Evelyn Damian			Approved
		B. Reinstatement Applications	GBNE		
		1. RN			
		1) Fabian Galvez-Medina			Approved
		2) Lani Untalan			Approved
2. APRN					

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	1) Vena Joco			Approved
	3. CNA			
	1) Chriscelda Castor			Approved
	C. Initial Applications			
	1. Examination RN			
	1) Russell Murciano			Approved
	2. APRN			
	1) Jihyun Kim			Approved
	2) Deidamia Monfort			Approved
	3) Valerie Bellario			Approved
	4) Arnie Lou Baker			Approved
	5) Lynn Tran			Approved
	6) Suzanne Haines			Approved
	7) Hyacnity Joy Cassion			Approved
	3. Endorsement RN			
	1) Suanna Haines			Approved
	2) Drew Zahm			Approved
	3) Ariel Simon Nodado			Approved
	4) Frandizon Reyes			Approved
	5) Erwin Yabut			Approved
	6) Kathryn Pochyly			Approved
	7) Youngjee Lee			Approved
	8) Florencio Santos			Approved
	9) David Lee			Approved
	10) Allison Ifuku			Approved
	11) Lewelyn Rigor			Approved
	12) Abigael Carreon			Approved
	13) Maureen Sullivan			Approved
	14) Ljelani Ramones			Approved
	15) Rebecca Echols			Approved

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		16) Maria Divinia			Approved
		17) Hyacinth Joy Cassion			Approved
		18) Prasad Murukurthy			Approved
		4. Prescriptive Authority			
		1) Arnie Lou Baker			Approved
		D. Pending Applications	GBNE		
		1) Nina Lalmol – CNA <i>Motion to Conditionally Approve Application for Renewal of License Pending Clinical Checkoff: G. Woodard; 2nd: Dr. Varghese.</i>			Conditionally Approved Pending Clinical Checkoff
X	Next Board Meeting	Next Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 3:00 PM.	GBNE	1557	Set Meeting Date
XI	Adjournment	<i>Motion to Adjourn: M. Gay; 2nd: G. Woodard</i>	GBNE	1559	Adjourned

Minutes Drafted by: FLAME TREE Freedom Center, Inc.

Date Submitted: 01/12/2026

Submitted by the GBNE Secretary:

Date: _____

Approved by the GBNE with or without changes:

Date: _____

Certified by or Attested by the Chairperson:

Date: 3/12/26 