

Guam Board of Allied Health Examiners
Regular Board Meeting
Friday, February 20, 2026 at 12:00 PM
194 Hernan Cortez Ave., Terlaje Professional Building Suite 209
Hagatna, Guam 96910
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85992882958?pwd=bHdxwqpoEa5iLSvGI0yMsQCzxLrHgC.1>
Meeting ID: 859 9288 2958
Passcode: 431816
MINUTES

Item	Discussion	Responsible Party	Reporting Timeframe	Status
I	Call to Order Meeting Chaired by Dr. Balajadia	Chair	1207	Call to Order
	Proof of Publication 02/13/2026 and 02/18/2026 Guam PDN and the Government of Guam Public Portal	Chair	1207	Confirmed
	<p>Roll Call</p> <p>GBAHE Members <i>Present:</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Mamie Balajadia, Clinical Psychology, 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"/> Gregory J. Cruz, Respiratory Therapist</p> <p><i>Virtually Present:</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine San Nicolas, Clinical Dietitian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Julienne Duenas, Physical Therapist</p> <p><i>Not in Attendance:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Vince Pereda, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Vice-Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Gregory Miller, Chiropractic <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Velma R. Harper, Veterinarian</p>	Chair	1207	Quorum Established
	<p>Election of Board Officers</p> <p>Election of Board Officers: The Board proceeded with officer elections, during which B. Sablan was asked to conduct the process. Nominations were opened for the position of Chair, and Dr. M. Balajadia was nominated and seconded. With no further nominations presented, a vote was conducted and the motion carried, confirming Dr. M. Balajadia to remain as Board Chair. Nominations were then opened for Vice Chair, and N. Cepeda was nominated and seconded. Following a vote of the members present, the motion was carried and N. Cepeda was elected Vice Chair.</p> <p>For the position of Board Secretary, a nomination was extended to Dr. J. Duenas; however, respectfully</p>	GBAHE	1209	Noted

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		<p>deferred due to her recent appointment to the Board and expressed a preference for a more experienced member to serve in the role. Subsequently, Dr. V. Harper was nominated, seconded, and elected as Board Secretary despite her absence. Nominations were then opened for Board Treasurer, and R. Taitingfong was nominated and seconded. After a vote of the members present, the motion carried and R. Taitingfong was elected as Board Treasurer.</p> <p>The final slate of officers was confirmed as follows: Dr. M. Balajadia as Board Chair, N. Cepeda as Vice Chair, Dr. V. Harper as Board Secretary, and R. Taitingfong as Board Treasurer.</p>			
II	Adoption of Agenda	<i>Motion to Adopt the Agenda; C. San Nicolas; 2nd: N. Cepeda.</i>	GBAHE	1213	Unanimously Adopted Agenda
III	Approval of Minutes	<p>Draft Minutes Dated: 12/12/2025 and 1/16/2026</p> <p>C. San Nicolas referenced the January 16 meeting minutes, specifically page two, fifth paragraph, last sentence, and noted that the acronym “NCA” appeared to be a typographical error. It was clarified that the correct acronym should be “GCA,” referring to Guam Code Annotated, and the correction was acknowledged by the Board. No further corrections or additions were presented for the December 12, 2025 and January 16, 2026 meeting minutes.</p> <p><i>Motion to Approve as Amended: C. San Nicolas; 2nd: N. Cepeda.</i></p>	GBAHE	1214	Unanimously Approved as Amended
IV	Treasurer’s Report	<p>R. Taitingfong presented the financial report as of February 9, 2026, stating that the total allotment was \$37,449.35. Of this amount, \$17,547.35 was allocated for contractual services and fully expended, resulting in a zero balance for that category. No travel expenditures were reported, leaving the travel balance at \$8,034.82. The supplies category was allotted \$900, which was fully expended, leaving a zero balance. A correction was noted under the equipment category, clarifying that the fiscal year 2026 allotment should reflect \$2,041.84, consistent with the appropriated amount, with no expenditures to date and the full balance remaining. For miscellaneous expenses, \$19,000 was allotted, \$6,525 was expended, and \$12,575 remained available. The overall available balance was reported as \$22,651.66. It was further noted that total revenues collected for fiscal year 2025 and thus far in fiscal year 2026 remain pending confirmation and DOA’s audit.</p> <p>During discussion, N. Cepeda requested clarification regarding the contractual category and whether it included attorney fees. It was explained that contractual expenditures covered website maintenance, transcription services, newsprint publication, and copying services. It was also noted that monthly appropriation amounts fluctuate and are subject to change in subsequent reports. Further discussion emphasized that the need for appropriation for legal counsel and investigative services has been an ongoing concern of the Board, having been raised repeatedly over an extended period of time. Dr.</p>	R. Taitingfong	1217	Noted

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		Balajadia acknowledged that this matter has been discussed for years and remains unresolved.			
V	Administrator's Report	<p>B. Sablan reported ongoing efforts to address Board vacancies in coordination with the Governor's Office. She noted that Dr. Triolo had submitted a letter of resignation, resulting in a vacancy, and that recommendations from the Board are requested to fill open positions. The Board was informed that there are currently two vacancies in audiology and one vacancy in speech-language pathology, and efforts are underway with B. Sablan and Dr. Balajadia to identify and submit suitable nominees.</p> <p>R. Taitingfong addressed an applicant, M. Camacho, who has experienced repeated issues with her application submission and lack of follow-up communication from the Governor's Office. B. Sablan requested that the applicant email her documentation directly to her so it may be properly submitted and tracked to ensure appropriate vetting and follow-through.</p> <p>Additionally, B, Sablan asked board members to work closely with K. Lee to review and update application forms, as several revisions have been recommended. Suggested updates include adding the applicant's place of employment or prospective employer to assist with application review, as well as other modifications relevant to specific licensure categories. Members were encouraged to review the forms and collaborate on any necessary updates to ensure they are current and comprehensive.</p> <p>Concerns were also raised by N. Cepeda regarding the Micronesia Studies course requirement for certain licensure categories, including LMHC, LPC, and LMFT, particularly in light of staffing changes affecting course availability. It was noted that the course has traditionally been offered through the University of Guam and fulfills the Board's cultural competency requirement. Efforts are underway to confirm the appropriate point of contact and obtain an updated schedule to provide timely information to applicants. The Board acknowledged the importance of maintaining this statutory requirement while also ensuring that applicants are not unduly delayed in the licensure process.</p>	GBAHE	1221	Noted
VI	GBAHE Complaints	<p>A. GBAHE-CO-22-03 MFT Received 02/21/22 Dr. Balajadia informed that the complaint has been forwarded to legal counsel at the Attorney General's Office for guidance and review.</p>	Dr. Balajadia	1226	Ongoing, Awaiting Guidance and Further Review
		<p>B. GBAHE-CO-23-02 Veterinarian Received 12/28/23 The complaint has been referred to an on-island consultant and sent to the territorial veterinarian, Dr. M. Turner for review and appropriate action.</p>	GBAHE		Ongoing, Referred to an On-Island Consultant for Review and Appropriate Action
		<p>C. GBAHE-CO-23-03 Veterinarian Received 12/28/23 This complaint was also forwarded to Dr. M. Turner, Territorial Veterinarian, for ongoing investigation, having been submitted for review on December 30.</p>	GBAHE		Ongoing, Submitted for Review on December 30

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		D. GBAHE-CO-24-03 SLP Received 08/06/24 The Board was informed that the matter remains ongoing.	N. Cepeda		Ongoing, No Update
		E. GBAHE-CO-25-09 LPC Received 04/29/25 Dr. Balajadia updated the Board that work on the matter is ongoing, including sending a letter to the LPC requesting a response to a specific question that was identified.	Dr. Balajadia		Ongoing, Letter Sent, Awaiting Response from LPC
VII	Old Business	A. Old Business No report		1228	No Report
VIII	New Business	A. Initial/New Applications		1228	
		i. Veterinary Medicine			
		a) Brennecke, Lara (V. Harper) <i>Motion to Approve; N. Cepeda; 2nd: R. Taitingfong.</i>	GBAHE		Unanimously Approved
		b) Ingram, Mara E. (V. Harper) <i>Motion to Approve; N. Cepeda; 2nd: R. Taitingfong.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		ii. Physical Therapist			
		a) Black, Joel G. (J. Duenas) <i>Motion to Approve; N. Cepeda; 2nd: R. Taitingfong.</i>	GBAHE		Unanimously Approved
		b) Buce, Julia N. (J. Duenas) <i>Motion to Approve; N. Cepeda; 2nd: R. Taitingfong.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		c) Redona, Eric S. (J. Duenas) <i>Motion to Approve; N. Cepeda; 2nd: R. Taitingfong.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		iii. Registered Respiratory Therapist			
		a) Lucas, Sheri Lyn J. (G. Cruz) <i>Motion to Approve; N. Cepeda; 2nd: R. Taitingfong.</i>	GBAHE		Unanimously Approved
		iv. Occupational Therapist			
		a) Rael, Yolanda Y. (R. Taitingfong) <i>Motion to Approve; N. Cepeda; 2nd: R. Taitingfong.</i>	GBAHE		Unanimously Approved
		b) Tate, JoAnn E. (R. Taitingfong) <i>Motion to Approve; N. Cepeda; 2nd: R. Taitingfong.</i>			Unanimously Approved
		v. Audiologist			
a) Cleary, Leela Ann P. (D. Triolo) <i>Motion to Approve; N. Cepeda; 2nd: R. Taitingfong.</i>	GBAHE	Unanimously Approved			
b) Gower, Christine E. (D. Triolo) <i>Motion to Approve; N. Cepeda; 2nd: R. Taitingfong.</i>		Unanimously Approved			
IX	Next Board Meeting	Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting: Friday, March 13, 2026, at 12:00 PM.	GBAHE	1232	Set Date
X	Adjournment	<i>Motion to Adjourn: N. Cepeda; 2nd: R. Taitingfong.</i>	GBAHE	1232	Adjourned

Minutes Drafted by: FLAME TREE Freedom Center, Inc.

Date Submitted: 03/03/2026

Submitted by the GBAHE Secretary:

Date:

Approved by the GBAHE with or without changes:

Date:

Certified by or Attested by the Chairperson: *Mania Obaloyede*

Date: 03/13/2026