

**Guam Board of Allied Health Examiners  
Regular Board Meeting  
f Allied Health Examiners – Regular Board Meeting  
Friday, April 10, 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/85071940580?pwd=UeLJup4OpoYFEfdvaJulkSYEFE5Tsw.1>

**Meeting ID:** 850 7194 0580

**Passcode:** 613943

**MINUTES**

Item	Discussion	Responsible Party	Reporting Timeframe	Status		
<b>I</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	Meeting Chaired by Dr. Balajadia.		Chair	1205	Call to Order
	<b>Proof of Publication</b>	04/03/2026 and 04/08/2026 Guam PDN and the Government of Guam Public Portal.		Chair		Confirmed
	<b>Roll Call</b>	<p><b>GBAHE Members</b></p> <p><u>Present:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Mamie Balajadia, Clinical Psychology, Chair</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nadine Cepeda, LPC, LMHC, LMFT, Vice-Chair</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Velma R. Harper, Veterinarian, Secretary</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Richard Chong, ACOM</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Gregory Miller, Chiropractic</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Julienne Duenas, Physical Therapist</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gregory J. Cruz, Respiratory Therapist</li> </ul> <p><u>Virtually Present:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine San Nicolas, Clinical Dietician</li> </ul> <p><u>Not in Attendance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rosalind S. Taitingfong, Occupational Therapist, Treasurer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vincent Pereda, Licensed Mental Health Counselor</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Present at HPLO:</u></p> <p>Sharon Manibusan, DPHSS/HPLO</p> <p><u>Virtually Present:</u></p> <p>Breanna Sablan, DPHSS/HPLO</p> <p>Kaysie Lee, DPHSS/HPLO</p>	Chair		Quorum Established
<b>II</b>	<b>Adoption of Agenda</b>	<i>Motion to Adopt the Agenda: C. San Nicolas; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Miller.</i>		GBAHE	1206	Unanimous Adopted Agenda
<b>III</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>Draft Minutes</b> dated 03/13/2026 <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Duenas; 2<sup>nd</sup>: N. Cepeda.</i>		GBAHE	1207	Unanimous Approved
<b>IV</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	No report.		R. Taitingfong	1208	No Report
<b>V</b>	<b>Administrator's Report</b>	B. Sablan reported to the board that a nominee for the SLP member position had been identified as May		GBAHE	1208	Noted

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	<p>Camacho, and although the legislative confirmation hearing had not yet been scheduled, the nomination packet had already been submitted to the legislature. B. Sablan also provided a reminder that the conflict of interest forms were due on April 22 to the Guam Election Commission, with instructions that members could either submit the forms through the office or deliver them in person. Dr. Balajadia subsequently asked which members had already submitted their reports and discussed making copies available, while it was also indicated that additional forms would be printed and brought to the conference room for distribution and submission assistance.</p>				
VI	GBAHE Complaints	<p><b>A. GBAHE-CO-22-03 MFT Received 02/21/22</b> Ongoing, sent to legal counsel for guidance.</p>	Dr. Balajadia	1210	Ongoing, Pending Leg Counsel fo Guidance
		<p><b>B. GBAHE-CO-23-02 Veterinarian Received 12/28/23</b> Ongoing, sent to territorial veterinarian for investigation.</p>	GBAHE		Ongoing, Se to Territori: Veterinaria for Investigatio
		<p><b>C. GBAHE-CO-23-03 Veterinarian Received 12/28/23</b> Ongoing, sent to territorial veterinarian for investigation.</p> <p>B. Sablan expressed multiple attempts had been made by HPLO to obtain necessary medical records and consent forms from the complainant for both complaints sent to Dr. Turner, the territorial veterinarian, without success. She clarified that the inability to secure the complainant's consent prevented the release of medical records by the clinic, thereby hindering the investigator's ability to proceed, and that the complainant had become unresponsive despite initiating the complaint.</p> <p>A discussion arose regarding procedural considerations related to the complaint, during which it was noted that if no actionable findings could be established through proper procedures, the matter may need to be dismissed. It was suggested that no immediate decision should be made at the next meeting, but rather that all relevant information be gathered in advance to allow for a thorough review of the process followed. Concerns were also raised about the potential applicability of any statute of limitations and whether the matter could be revisited in accordance with proper procedures. Emphasis was placed on the board's responsibility to adhere to an established, step-by-step process for handling complaints to ensure completeness and compliance, and it was agreed that clarification on any non-procedural actions taken would be presented at the subsequent meeting.</p>	GBAHE		Ongoing, Se to Territori: Veterinaria for Investigatio
		<p><b>D. GBAHE-CO-24-03 SLP Received 08/06/24</b> Ongoing, sent to legal counsel for guidance.</p>	N. Cepeda		Ongoing, Pending Leg Counsel fo Guidance

Item	Discussion	Responsible Party	Reporting Timeframe	Status
	<p><b>E. GBAHE-CO-25-09 LPC Received 04/29/25</b> Ongoing, sent to legal counsel for guidance.</p>	Dr. Balajadia		Ongoing. Pending Legal Counsel for Guidance
VII	<p><b>Old Business</b></p> <p><b>A. Review of Pending Bills</b></p> <p><b>i. Bill No. 276-38: “Relative to including dry needling and spinal manipulation as authorized activities for licensed practitioners of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine”.</b></p> <p>Dr. Chong provided context for the bill, noting that dry needling and spinal manipulation are already practiced under acupuncture and Oriental medicine through Tuina, a traditional Chinese manual therapy encompassing whole-body joint manipulation, and that other licensed professions such as physical therapists and osteopathic practitioners are similarly permitted to perform spinal manipulation. He expressed that the intent of the bill was to formally codify these practices within the acupuncturist's scope of practice to prevent professional disputes.</p> <p>Dr. Miller raised concerns regarding the adequacy of training hours for the procedures in question, requesting that documentation be provided to demonstrate that licensed acupuncturists meet the didactic and clinical hour requirements necessary to perform dry needling and spinal manipulation. Dr. Harper further noted that any expansion of scope would need to be grounded in a clearly established syllabus aligned with existing licensing standards under the Guam Health Practice Act.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding the overlap between professions and the interpretation of existing statutes, during which it was acknowledged that differences in professional opinion would be difficult to resolve at the board level without dedicated time for review. Dr. Balajadia proposed that the item be removed from the agenda and referred to a work group to allow the involved parties to review scope-of-practice definitions, reconcile training requirements, and present a unified position prior to any recommendation being submitted to the legislature.</p> <p><b>ii. Bill No. 277-38: “Relative to authorizing and regulating Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Assistants”.</b></p> <p>Dr. Chong clarified that Bill No. 277-38 is separate and distinct from Bill No. 276-38, and pertains to the creation and regulation of a new licensure category designated as Oriental Medicine Assistants. He described the proposed qualification framework as a job-training model requiring approximately 40 hours of study, noting that the specifics had already been outlined in the bill. Dr. Balajadia acknowledged that the qualifications for this new category had not yet been fully reviewed by all board members, and indicated that further clarification was needed. No formal action was taken, and the item was deferred to the upcoming work session for comprehensive review alongside Bill No. 276-38.</p>	GBAHE	1217	Ongoing. Pending Further Review
	<p><b>ii. Bill No. 277-38: “Relative to authorizing and regulating Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Assistants”.</b></p> <p>Dr. Chong clarified that Bill No. 277-38 is separate and distinct from Bill No. 276-38, and pertains to the creation and regulation of a new licensure category designated as Oriental Medicine Assistants. He described the proposed qualification framework as a job-training model requiring approximately 40 hours of study, noting that the specifics had already been outlined in the bill. Dr. Balajadia acknowledged that the qualifications for this new category had not yet been fully reviewed by all board members, and indicated that further clarification was needed. No formal action was taken, and the item was deferred to the upcoming work session for comprehensive review alongside Bill No. 276-38.</p>	GBAHE		Ongoing. to Reviewed Next Meeting
VIII	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p><b>A. Initial and New Applications for Licensure</b></p> <p><b>i. Physical Therapist</b></p>		1238	

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	a) <b>Chang, Maria K. (J. Duenas)</b> <i>Motion to Approve: N. Cepeda; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Duenas.</i>	GBAHE		Unanimous Approved
	b) <b>Draper, Cindy P. (J. Duenas)</b> <i>Motion to Approve: N. Cepeda; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Duenas.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	c) <b>Cruz, Jaymee Lynn D.R. (J. Duenas)</b> <i>Motion to Approve: N. Cepeda; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Duenas.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	<b>ii. Occupational Therapist</b>			
	a) <b>Gaudio, Johanna P. (R. Taitingfong)</b> <i>Motion to Approve: N. Cepeda; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Duenas.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	<b>iii. Licensed Professional Counselor</b>			
	a) <b>Paranal, Nelia</b> Pending further review by Dr. Balajadia.			Tabled, Pending Further Review by I Balajadia
	<b>iv. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist</b>			
	a) <b>Paranal, Nelia</b> <i>Motion to Approve: N. Cepeda; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Duenas.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	<b>v. Licensed Professional Counselor Intern</b>			
	a) <b>a. Mesa Jr., John R.</b> <i>Motion to Approve: N. Cepeda; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Duenas.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	b) <b>b. Inciong, Yvonne P.</b> <i>Motion to Approve: N. Cepeda; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Duenas.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	<b>vi. Licensed Psychology Associate</b>			
	a) <b>Meno, Camarin Andrea G. (M. Balajadia)</b> <i>Motion to Approve: N. Cepeda; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Duenas.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	<b>B. Application to Sit for Exam</b>			
	<b>i. National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE)</b>			
	a) <b>Cepeda, Nadine T.</b> <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Duenas; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Miller.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	<b>C. Approval of Clinical Supervisors</b>			
	<b>i. Licensed Professional Counselor</b>			
	a) <b>Gillan-Mantanane, Emma F. (LPC-137)</b> <i>Proposed Supervisee(s):</i> • <b>Uncangco-Meno, Samantha J.</b> • <b>Reyes, Casiana</b> <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Duenas; 2<sup>nd</sup>: N. Cepeda.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	<b>ii. Licensed Mental Health Counselor</b>			
	a) <b>Cooper-Nurse, James D. (LMHC-025)</b> <i>Proposed Supervisee(s):</i>	Tabled, for Further Review		

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		<p>• <b>Inciong, Yvonne P.</b> Dr. Balajadia reported that the application involving a licensed mental health counselor and the proposed supervisee, had been placed on hold because it had been advanced prior to undergoing proper review, and as a result, the board would not be taking a vote on the matter at that time.</p> <p>N. Cepeda clarified that the delay was related to concerns regarding compliance with supervisory requirements, prompting emphasis on the need for clearer procedures. It was highlighted that all individuals seeking to serve as clinical interns must first obtain board approval for their designated clinical supervisors, as applications must include the identification of a supervisor who meets established qualifications before any approval is granted. N. Cepeda also noted recurring issues with supervisors not meeting requirements and stressed the importance of enforcing this process consistently to ensure compliance, fairness, and adherence to established rules moving forward. <i>Motion to Table for Review: Dr. Balajadia.</i></p>			
IX	Next Board Meeting	Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting: <b>Friday, May 1, 2026 at 12:00 PM.</b>	GBAHE	1245	Set Date
X	Adjournment	<i>Motion to Adjourn: N. Cepeda; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Duenas.</i>	GBAHE	1246	Adjourned

Minutes Drafted by: FLAME TREE Freedom Center, Inc.

Date Submitted: 04/20/2026

Submitted by the GBAHE Secretary:

Date:

Approved by the GBAHE with or without changes:

Date:

Certified by or Attested by the Chairperson:

*Marianne Balajadia*

Date: 05/01/2026