

Guam Board of Allied Health Examiners
Regular Board Meeting
Friday, June 12, 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/85609978667?pwd=n14UJRf0nT2f4YPPXjUaCGdoD4aK1W.1>

Meeting ID: 856 0997 8667

Passcode: 606371

MINUTES

Item		Discussion		Responsible Party	Reporting Timeframe	Status
I	Call to Order	Meeting Chaired by Dr. Balajadia		Chair	1203	Call to Order
	Proof of Publication	06/05/2026 and 06/10/2026 Guam PDN and the Government of Guam Public Portal		Chair		Confirmed
	Roll Call	GBAHE Members <u>Present:</u> ☑Dr. Mamie Balajadia, Clinical Psychology, Chair ☑Nadine Cepeda, LPC, LMHC, LMFT, Vice-Chair ☑Dr. Velma R. Harper, Veterinarian, Secretary ☑Rosalind S. Taitingfong, Occupational Therapist, Treasurer ☑Dr. Richard Chong, ACOM ☑Catherine San Nicolas, Clinical Dietician ☑Vincent Pereda, Licensed Mental Health Counselor ☑Dr. Julianne Duenas, Physical Therapist ☑Gregory J. Cruz, Respiratory Therapist <u>Virtually Present:</u> ☑Dr. Gregory Miller, Chiropractic <u>Not in Attendance:</u> ☐May Camacho, Speech Language Pathologist	Other Attendees <u>Present at HPLO:</u> Kaysie Lee, DPHSS/HPLO Sibyl Crisostomo, Public <u>Virtually Present:</u> Breanna Sablan, DPHSS/HPLO PeterJohn Camacho, DPHSS Millie Nice, Public	Chair		Quorum Established
II	Adoption of Agenda	Motion to Adopt the Agenda: N. Cepeda; 2 nd : C. San Nicolas.		GBAHE	1204	Unanimous Adopted Agenda
III	Approval of Minutes	Draft Minutes Dated: May 01, 2026 Motion to Approve: V. Pereda; 2 nd : Dr. Harper.		GBAHE	1205	Unanimous Approved
IV	Treasurer's Report	R. Taitingfong presented a financial report for the month of May, noting that the Board's travel budget had an appropriation of \$8,034.82, with only a nominal allotment currently available until travel requests are submitted. The contractual services budget of \$17,547.35 had been		R. Taitingfong	1209	Noted

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		fully expended, leaving no remaining balance. There is nothing for office supplies, although \$7,000 had been appropriated, the Board is only allotted \$450, and have used \$6450, the available balance is \$876.44. The equipment budget remained largely untouched, with an appropriation and available balance of \$2,041.84, the Board is only allotted a dollar, because in essence the Board's equipment needs were being met through HPLO resources, so the Board still has a balance of \$2,041.08. The miscellaneous and payments category had a total appropriation and allotment of \$19,000, of which \$8,000 had been used during May, leaving an available balance of \$11,000 as of May 31, 2026. Board members requested clarification regarding the miscellaneous payments category. It was explained that expenditures within this category primarily included board member stipends and annual dues to the Federation of Regulatory Boards, which supports multiple professional regulatory boards, including psychology and counseling boards. Additional discussion focused on the reported \$8,000 expenditure and the remaining balance of \$11,000, which was confirmed as the available balance as of May 31, 2026. It was further noted that budget appropriations, allotments, expenditures, and available balances may fluctuate from month to month, as funds can be reprogrammed by authorized entities, including the DOA and the Director of Public Health.			
V	Administrator's Report	No report was presented. Dr. Balajadia informed the Board that she had spoken with B. Sablan earlier that morning and that B. Sablan was sick.	GBAHE	1213	No Report
VI	GBAHE Complaints	A. GBAHE-CO-22-03 MFT Received 02/21/22 Awaiting legal counsel.	Dr. Balajadia	1214	Ongoing, Awaiting Legal Counsel
		B. GBAHE-CO-23-02 Veterinarian Received 12/28/23 Dr. Balajadia noted this case was awaiting legal counsel. Dr. Harper reported that K. Lee had been unable to contact the complainants after repeated attempts through various methods. Given the age of the case and the lack of progress in the investigation, Dr. Harper suggested dropping the case. <i>Motion to Close: Dr. Harper; 2nd: Dr. Duenas.</i>	GBAHE		Motion to Close Case
		C. GBAHE-CO-23-03 Veterinarian Received 12/28/23 Dr. Balajadia noted this case was awaiting legal counsel. Dr. Harper reported that K. Lee had been unable to contact the complainants after repeated attempts through various methods. Given the age of the case and the lack of progress in the investigation, Dr. Harper suggested dropping the case. <i>Motion to Close: Dr. Harper; 2nd: Dr. Duenas.</i>	GBAHE		Motion to Close Case
		D. GBAHE-CO-24-03 SLP Received 08/06/24	N. Cepeda		Ongoing, Pending Leg

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		Remains pending, awaiting assistance from legal counsel.	Dr. Balajadia		Counsel
		E. GBAHE-CO-25-09 LPC Received 04/29/25 Remains pending, awaiting assistance from legal counsel.			Ongoing, Awaiting Assistance from Legal Counsel
VII	New Business	A. Review of Pending Bills	GBAHE	1216	Noted
		i. Bill No. 295-38: "Relative to school psychology licensure; and to amend §12101(b) and §12802(a) of chapter 12, title 10, Guam Code Annotated, relative to including school psychology in the healing arts and allied health professions definitions". Dr. Balajadia informed the Board that legislation establishing the school psychologist designation had been passed and signed into law. Discussion focused on implementing the new licensure category under the existing psychology profession and developing the necessary application forms and procedures. It was noted that six DOE school psychologists would be grandfathered under the law but would still be required to submit applications and supporting documentation to establish licensure files. The Board emphasized that the law provides a 90-day period for eligible individuals to complete the application process and encouraged prompt submission of all required materials. The Board further clarified that the school psychologist designation is not a separate profession but a specialty within the psychology discipline. The new licensure category was created to formally recognize qualified school psychologists and align Guam with national standards. Future applicants seeking licensure as school psychologists will be required to complete the standard initial application process, pay applicable fees, and satisfy all licensing requirements. Individuals who currently hold other professional licenses, such as Licensed Professional Counselor or Marriage and Family Therapist licenses, may maintain those credentials separately while obtaining school psychologist licensure. Additional discussion addressed staffing implications for schools and confirmed that individuals hired under the new law would be required to obtain licensure as school psychologists. The Board noted that the school psychologist category will be incorporated into existing psychology regulations as authorized by law. The Board also discussed developing a certification process in coordination with the DOE. Clarification was provided that licensure is the primary credential required to practice, while certification serves as an additional professional qualification and does not			

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	replace licensure requirements.			
	ii. Bill No. 308-38: "Relative to regulating the training of clinical psychologists to allow for supervision in Guam". The Board discussed proposed legislation relating to the supervision and training requirements of clinical psychologists. It was noted that while current law addresses supervision, the proposed bill would provide greater clarity regarding the qualifications necessary to serve as a supervisor. Board members emphasized that professional licensure alone does not automatically qualify an individual to provide clinical supervision and that effective supervision requires additional training, experience, and competency in supervisory practices. Discussion also addressed national trends and industry standards, noting that many jurisdictions are moving toward requiring specialized education, continuing education units, and formal training in supervision, in addition to years of professional experience. Board members expressed concern that experience alone may not adequately prepare professionals to supervise others and highlighted the importance of ethical and effective supervision to ensure quality patient care and professional development. The Board further noted that the proposed legislation is intended to establish clearer standards for supervisory qualifications, including appropriate training and experience requirements. Members emphasized the value of ongoing professional development in supervision and the need for supervisors to remain informed of best practices and evolving standards within the profession. The bill was reported to be pending a public hearing for further consideration.			Noted
	B. Litigation Matters i. Status Update: Millie Nice vs. GBAHE Dr. Balajadia reported that B. Sablan, the Board Administrator, could possibly expound further on the matter; however, she was absent due to illness. Dr. Balajadia additionally noted that she knows the Attorney General has assigned an attorney to assume responsibility for the case. She indicated that no further discussion could occur at that time, as there had been no direct communication with legal counsel. As a result, the matter was deferred and tabled pending further input from B. Sablan			Tabled, to Next Meeting

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	<i>Tabled to Next Meeting: Dr. Balajadia.</i>			
	C. Veterinary Hospital Correspondents			
	i. Review and discussion of letter received on May 20, 2026			Noted
	Dr. Harper discussed a letter of concern submitted by a veterinarian regarding the repeated use of certain drug combinations by another veterinarian, which was raised as a professional concern rather than a formal complaint. She noted that the concerned veterinarian had also directly communicated the issue to the colleague in question, who subsequently provided a written response addressing the concerns in a professional manner. Both the initial letter and the response were reviewed by Dr. Harper, members were given copies of the initial concern as well as the response of the other veterinarian. Dr. Harper felt the matter appeared to have been handled appropriately. Dr. Harper noted that the response had already been forwarded to the original veterinarian and that the matter had been effectively resolved between the parties involved. Members further discussed uncertainty regarding the Board's jurisdiction over such informal concerns and whether formal Board action was required. Dr. Harper suggested that the issue may not warrant further enforcement action but should be properly documented for the record. The Board agreed to seek guidance from legal counsel and the Board Administrator, B. Sablan, regarding the appropriate procedural handling of similar matters in the future. It was determined that no motion would be made at that time, and the matter would remain pending for administrative review and further clarification on proper Board procedure.			
	D. New Applications for Licensure			
	i. Certified Respiratory Therapist			
	a) Tartrend, Williams (G. Cruz) <i>Motion to Approve: G. Cruz; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	b) Scott, Jolie (G. Cruz) G. Cruz noted that J. Scott is applying for licensure under Registered Respiratory Therapist rather than Certified Respiratory Therapist. <i>Motion to Approve: G. Cruz; 2nd: V. Pereda.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	ii. Chiropractic			
	a) Yi, Terry (G. Miller) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Miller; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimous Approved

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	iii. Licensed Professional Counselor			
	a) Santos, Chi Man (V. Pereda) <i>Motion to Approve: V. Pereda; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	iv. Speech Language Pathologist			
	a) Rodrigues, Sonali (M. Balajadia) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Balajadia; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	v. Veterinarian			
	a) Serrano, Natasha (V. Harper) <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Harper; 2nd: C. San Nicolas.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	E. Approval of Clinical Supervisors			
	i. Licensed Professional Counselor			
	a) Finona, Rethelje Ann (LPC-146)			
	Proposed Supervisee(s): • Balance, Robyn Julianne <i>Motion to Approve: N. Cepeda; 2nd: V. Pereda.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	b) Tolentino, Doris (LMHC-016)			
	Proposed Supervisee(s): • Turnbull, Jayne <i>Motion to Approve: N. Cepeda; 2nd: V. Pereda.</i>			Unanimous Approved
	F. Application to Sit for Exam			
	i. EPPP			
	a) Otero, Christopher (M. Balajadia) V. Pereda was assigned to review C. Otero's application. Upon review of the applicant's file, it was determined that the individual held a PhD in school psychology rather than clinical psychology and therefore did not meet the educational requirements under current law to qualify for a clinical psychology license or to sit for the examination. It was noted that, pursuant to regulations established in 2022, eligibility for clinical psychology licensure requires a doctoral degree explicitly in clinical or counseling psychology, and that a general doctorate or school psychology degree does not meet this standard. The Board further discussed distinctions between school psychology and clinical psychology, clarifying that school psychology is education-based while clinical psychology is considered clinical or medical in nature. Members reiterated that licensure requirements must align with the specific degree designation as reflected on official academic credentials. It was also noted that titles such as "fellow" or			Write Letter Stating Ineligibility EPPP and Need for A Correction Use Exact What His License Indicates

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		similar professional designations may be misleading if not aligned with licensure status, and that individuals must present themselves in accordance with their official license classification. After discussion, a motion was made and supported for the Board to issue a formal letter. N. Cepeda will write the letter, informing the applicant of ineligibility to sit for the EPPP examination due to not meeting the required doctoral degree criteria. Currently, C. Otero is a licensed psychology associate. It was noted that, in the individual's current capacity of practice, he may continue to practice; however, it was emphasized that such practice must remain under appropriate supervision in accordance with applicable licensure requirements. The Board also indicated that any professional representation must accurately reflect licensure status as an associate psychologist and must comply with supervision requirements where applicable. N. Cepeda further agreed that the letter would include clarification regarding proper use of professional titles, emphasizing that individuals may not represent themselves as clinical psychologists or use related titles without appropriate licensure. <i>Motion to Write Letter Stating Ineligibility for EPPP and Need for Ad Correction to Use Exactly What His License Indicates: N. Cepeda; 2nd: Dr. Duenas.</i>			
		G. Renewal Application			
		i. Licensed Mental Health Counselor			
		a) Cooper-Nurse, James (Pending Board Member Review) The Board noted that the renewal application had not yet been reviewed by board members and therefore required postponement to the next meeting. It was clarified that the application is for "licensed marriage and family therapist" not "licensed mental health counselor". V. Pereda was requested to review the application in advance of the next meeting for consideration. <i>Tabled to Next Meeting: Dr. Balajadia.</i>			Tabled to Next Meeting
VIII	Next Board Meeting	Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting: Friday, July 10, 2026 at 12:00 PM.	GBAHE	1256	Set Date
IX	Adjournment	<i>Motion to Adjourn: N. Cepeda; 2nd: Dr. Duenas.</i>	GBAHE	1257	Adjourned

Minutes Drafted by: FLAME TREE Freedom Center, Inc.

Date Submitted: 06/30/2026

Submitted by the GBAHE Secretary:

Date:

Approved by the GBAHE with or without changes:

Date:

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

Date: 07/17/2026