



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SEGUNDO MAGA'LĀHEN GUĀHAN
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA
DIRECTOR

PETERJOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

AMANDA LEE SHELTON, MPA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 28, 2026

Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Executive Chambers
PO Box 2950
Hagåtña, Guam 96932

Frank F. Blas Jr.
I Mina'Trentai Ocho na Lehislaturan GuĀhan
Speaker, 38th Guam Legislature
163 Chalan Santa Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**RE: The Guam Board of Examiners for Optometry Regular Board meeting April 28, 2026
at 8:30 a.m.**

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero and Speaker Blas:

As required by 5 GCA § 8113.1, attached please find electronic copies of:

1. Agenda: April 28, 2026
2. Attendance sheet: April 28, 2026
3. Publications: April 21, 2026 and April 24, 2026
4. Approved Minutes March 31, 2026

Should you have any questions, please call us at (671) 735-7408-12 or email to:
breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov.

Respectfully,

Sharon M. Manibusan
Customer Service Representative

Cc: Jean Taitano

Attachments: Agenda, Attendance, minutes and announcements



Department of Public Health & Social Services
GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRY
Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 8:30 AM Guam (ChST)
194 Hernan Cortes Ave., Terlaje Prof. Bldg., Ste. 213A
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: 671-735-7404-12

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89129135273?pwd=O1zjlLF3KhTjP9GWUmzZiNkPTnTWbb.1>

Meeting ID: 891 2913 5273

Passcode: 405051

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER: _____**
- II. ROLL CALL:**
- III. PROOF OF PUBLICATION:**
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
- VI. TREASURER'S REPORT:**
- VII. HPL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - (a) The practice act revision (TPA) – ongoing discussion
 - (b) Rules and regulations proposed revision 2.0 – ongoing discussion
 - (c) Complaint
 - GBEO-CO-2025-001
 - (d) Initial Application by endorsement
 - Dean Scott Steinberger
- IX. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - (a) Clinic Inspections
- X. NEXT BOARD MEETING:**
- XI. ADJOURNMENT: _____**

GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRY

Board Meeting Attendance Sheet

194 Hernan Cortez Ave, Hagatna, GU 96910

Health Professional Licensing Office Conference Room 209

Date of Meeting:

April 28, 2026

Regular Meeting

Special Meeting

Meeting Call to Order

8:37 AM

Time of Adjournment

9:23 AM

Quorum

No Quorum

BOARD MEMBERS	POSITION	SIGNATURE
Marlene San Nicolas, O.D.	Chairperson	<i>Marlene San Nicolas</i>
John Kim, O.D.	Vice Chairperson	<i>virtually present</i>
James Anglim, O.D.	Secretary	<i>virtually present</i>
Julian Archer, O.D.	Treasurer	<i>virtually present</i>

OTHERS PRESENT

PRINT NAME	AGENCY	SIGNATURE
<i>Sharon Maritusan</i>	<i>HPLO</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Breanna Sablan</i>	<i>HPLO</i>	<i>virtually present</i>
<i>Peter John Camacho</i>	<i>DPHSS</i>	<i>virtually present</i>

Meth dealer in 'trap house' bust gets 5 years in prison

By Julianne Hernandez
Pacific Daily News

A man described in court records as the “main man” or “main pusher” at a Dededo “trap house” tied to methamphetamine distribution was sentenced on Monday to five years in prison.

Gerald Baldeviso Porte, also known as Gerald Fortie or “Forty” or “40,” was sentenced nearly two years after a 2024 investigation linked him to multiple drug sales.

Superior Court Judge Vernon Perez handed down Porte’s sentence of 60 months in prison, the maximum term under his plea agreement.

Porte, 49, pleaded guilty in January to possession of a Schedule II controlled substance with intent to deliver.

He and three others, Daison Teiuo Ludwig, Russell Quindo Calpatura Jr. and Stacy Marie Cepeda Pocaique, were arrested on Oct. 3, 2024, following a weeks-long surveillance operation at a Dededo property investigators identified as a suspected drug distribution site.

Porte served about 18 to 19 months in custody at the Department of Corrections and may reduce his sentence by up to 12 months if he completes the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program.

“I made a mistake. I can’t take that back,” Porte told the court on Monday. “I’m seeking treatment right now, to get back on it. Get back on there. I’ll get any treatment I can get, help or even admit myself to the application.”

‘Source’ of meth

At sentencing, prosecuting attorney Nicholas Joseph Ennis told the judge that the government seeks the maximum 60-month term under the plea agreement.

“This is not a simple possession case. Your honor, the defendant was identified by multiple individuals as a source of methamphetamine,” he said. “He admitted to selling the drug to officers.”

Ennis pointed to packaged methamphetamine and a scale recovered during the investigation, which he said indicated ongoing distribution under Guam law.

He argued a lower sentence would diminish the seriousness of the offense and fail to protect the public.

The attorney also said methamphetamine distribution continues to cause

significant harm on Guam.

“While the defendant has limited criminal history, leniency is already reflected in the posture of this case,” Ennis told the court. “He originally faced up to 15 years in prison for the single charge he’s pleading to and the current range treats him more like a first offender, even with that consideration. Your honor, the nature of this conduct warrants a custodial sentence for those reasons, the people respectfully request five years in prison.”

‘He took responsibility’

Defense attorney Brycen Breazeale asked the court to impose 19 months, arguing Porte should be released with parole supervision.

Breazeale said multiple factors supported a lower sentence, including acceptance of responsibility.

“Mr. Porte should have the benefit of the minimum sentence, notwithstanding that he’s facing zero to five [years], but he’s already done a year and a half in DOC,” he said. “The first is his level of accountability. Your honor, not only has he pled guilty in this case, he did not use the government’s resources to fight this case at trial. He took responsibility for his actions.”

Breazeale said Porte worked with authorities during the execution of the search warrant in September 2024.

“He gave them the information they were looking for. He wrote a written statement. He explained his role in these allegations and that cooperation should weigh in favor of a lower sentence,” he said.

He also pointed to Porte’s background and criminal record, stating he has lived on Guam for most of his

adult life and has had only one misdemeanor conviction from 2001.

“He has objectively been a law-abiding member of our community. He’s had jobs, he has family support, he’s stayed out of trouble,” Breazeale said.

He argued maximum sentences should be reserved for repeat offenders who have demonstrated that lower penalties are not effective.

“That’s not the position that Mr. Porte is in,” he said. “Aside from that 2001 misdemeanor conviction that’s listed in the [Pre-Sentencing Report], he has a completely clean record,” he said. “That law abiding behavior for the last 49 years absolutely weighs in favor of the court providing a sentence closer to the minimum.”

He described the case as non-violent and low-level, saying there was no indication Porte posed a physical danger.

Breazeale also argued the case involved a small amount of methamphetamine, saying the evidence showed a sale of one gram for \$20. He described the conduct as limited and not similar to large-scale drug trafficking.

“To impose the maximum sentence, your honor respectfully, would be to ignore that there are so many cases involving higher levels of drug distribution they get favorable treatment by the Attorney General’s Office or by the Superior Court,” he said. “And this is the lowest possible case on the totem pole.”

Breazeale asked the court to find that the 18 months Porte has already served is sufficient punishment.

Broader impact of meth use

While Perez acknowl-

edged Porte’s limited criminal history, he said it did not lessen the severity of the offense.

“The charge that you admitted to is one of the most serious charges we have in Guam’s laws today,” the judge said. “And the court’s aware that the government, the Legislature has really changed the law a bit, attempting to perhaps make even more stiff or tough, if you will, the types of sentences that are available for charges such as yours.”

Perez also referenced the broader impact of methamphetamine use on the island.

“For all my years on the court, this war on drugs has been fought, seemingly by the government, by perhaps others, other divisions of the government,” he said. “Even if one person who is in receipt of something that you may have distributed finds their way to some criminal activity, even if not criminal activity, finding themselves being that much less productive as an individual in the community, you’re having a tremendous effect.”

He then imposed the maximum sentence under the plea agreement.

“Your lawyer is correct. I cannot suspend any portion of a five-year sentence, however, a reduction may be acquired by you if you do get treatment,” he said, referring to RSAT.


“To that extent, the term of 60 months or five years will be the technical sentence, with the caveat for the opportunity for a deduction to 48 months in the event you successfully complete the RSAT program,” he said.

Breazeale objected to a \$10,000 fine in the plea agreement, arguing the court must determine ability to pay.

Contact reporter Julianne Hernandez at jhernandez@guampdn.com or (671) 483-1429.



Porte



GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Physical/Mailing Address:
194 Hernan Cortez Ave. Terlaje Professional Bldg, Suite 209 Hagatna, Guam 96910

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
at 8:30 a.m. (Guam ChST)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89129135273?pwd=O1ZlLlF3KHtJP9GWUmZiNkPTnTWbb.1>

Meeting ID: 891 2913 5273
Passcode: 405051

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- II. Roll Call
- III. Proof of Publications
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Approval of Minutes
- VI. Treasurer’s Report
- VII. HPL Administrator’s Report
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. The Practice Act Revision (TPA) – ongoing discussion
 - b. Rules and Regulations Proposed Revision 2.0 – ongoing discussion
 - c. Complaint GBEO-CO-2025-001
 - d. Initial Application by Endorsement
- IX. New Business
 - a. Clinic Inspections
- X. Next Board Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

To view the names of the applicants being considered go to <https://guamoptometry.org>
LIVE Streaming link https://go.opengovguam.com/meetings_list/gbeo

This advertisement was paid for by DPHSS/Health Professional Licensing Office-Local Funds.


For more information, please contact the Board office at 735-7404/10 thru 12. Persons needing a telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) may contact 475-8339.


Guam Board of Examiners for Optometry - Regular Board Meeting

 PRINT

Guam Board of Examiners for Optometry - Regular Board Meeting

MEETING

 **Posted on:** 04/21/2026 11:21 AM

 **Posted by:** Baltazar Hattori

 **Department(s):**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
(/notices?department_id=10)

 **Division(s):**

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSING OFFICE (HPLO) (/notices?division_id=258)

 **Notice Topic(s):** BOARD MEETING (/notices?topic_id=76)

 **Types of Notice:** MEETING (/notices?type_id=5)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

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Department of Public Health & Social Services
GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRY

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pwd=O1zjlLF3KhTjP9GWUmzZiNkPTnTWbb.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89129135273?pwd=O1zjlLF3KhTjP9GWUmzZiNkPTnTWbb.1)
([https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89129135273?
pwd=O1zjlLF3KhTjP9GWUmzZiNkPTnTWbb.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89129135273?pwd=O1zjlLF3KhTjP9GWUmzZiNkPTnTWbb.1))

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(a) Clinic Inspections

X. NEXT BOARD MEETING:

XI. ADJOURNMENT: _____

Softball

Continued from Page 27

ing autism programs and government assistance for children with special needs “far beyond what Guam could even imagine.”

The mother said the move benefited Connor and allowed him to receive the care and assistance he needed to understand his autism and how to interact with people.

Connor’s Crew

She said their softball team consists primarily of family members who moved to Arizona from Guam, plus some friends the family made after moving out there.

They decided to name the team “Connor’s Crew” and used the autism symbol on team jerseys and posters.

The team plays in the Cactus Yards Men’s D Division.

“Since softball is such a big sport here in Arizona, what better way to advocate for autism and bring autism more into the community than creating a softball team centered just around Connor?” Cepeda said.

She added that many people in the community or on other teams they played against are wanting to buy a Connor’s Crew jersey, “just because of the autism symbol and what our team represents.”

Connor’s Crew competes in four seasons per year, winning its second championship, most recently in February. It won its first championship in the summer of 2025.

The team is also off to a great start in its current season, winning its first two games, 11-5 and 14-13, at the end of March.

“Every time we make it into the championship games, he is ecstatic. ‘I’m the champion. You guys made me a champion.’ He was so excited when we won that championship on



COURTESY OF MARESSA CEPEDA
Connor Cepeda, front, with his family after the Connor’s Crew softball team won its first two games of the current season of the Cactus Yards Men’s D Division in Arizona on March 28, 2026.

Feb. 13, he ran the bases. He just was so excited that Connor’s Crew was the champions,” Cepeda said.

The youngest member of the team is Cepeda’s nephew, who is 17 years old. She said the oldest is around 45 years old, “so it’s a good range.”

Cepeda said the team welcomes people from all walks of life, from police officers to business owners.

“We really approached it with diversity. We don’t discriminate whatever race you are. We don’t care. That’s what our culture is, coming from Guam. We accept everyone and turn friends into family. This team really has that familial center. We treat each other like family. There’s not much more we can ask from our team,” Cepeda said.

Taste of Guam

Ethnically, the team is made up of mostly CHamorus and Filipinos, but everyone who joins takes part in “what the island culture is about, what Guam is about, our attitudes, the way we welcome people, the way we feed people.”

“These guys have never tried CHamoru food,

but during our barbecues, that’s what we have. It does bring them into our culture, and...these guys want to go to visit Guam,” Cepeda said.

Cepeda said her son is the inspiration behind the team and is functionally the team’s mascot. She said he is the reason why everyone works hard to get into the championship, “so that Connor’s Crew can be a staple out there.”

“Autism is such a large spectrum, so what we want to do is just bring it out in the open. We are all adults here, advocating for acceptance of autism, and winning championships just makes it even louder,” Cepeda said.

The biggest benefit of the team is her son seeing that he has all these people care so much about him and are there to support him through anything, Cepeda added.

She said the team has allowed him to learn how to interact with others, come out of his shell, and give him emotional and physical support.

“They’re behind Connor 110% as if they are his family,” Cepeda said.

Cepeda added that there isn’t always a support system for people with special needs, or for CHamorus who first move out to the mainland.

“When we first moved out here, we didn’t know anyone, so all [Connor] had was me, my husband, my sister, my brother-in-law, and my parents whenever they’d come out. That was really the only support system that he had,” Cepeda said.

Celebrate wins, losses

Cepeda said having her son at the forefront of the team has made its players and supporters all more understanding and accepting of people with autism.

“Everyone comes together [to] celebrate our wins, celebrate our losses,

and celebrate Connor. He’s such a big role in our family, like our extended family and our friends have never been around someone with autism. Connor has been an eye opener to a lot of our team, [young and old],” Cepeda said.

The softball team is not the only outlet Cepeda uses to support and spread awareness for autism.

“I have a small business, and it’s called CVC (Connor Vincent Cepeda) customs, and my logo is a silhouette of my son. I do a lot of laser work, cutting and engraving promotional items. We do custom clothing, hats, woodworking, the whole works,” she said.

Cepeda added that she was never able to find

work, because she had to be her son’s support when he was doing ABA therapy 20 hours a week for two years.

She said he is still doing therapies, which doesn’t allow her to get a full-time job, which is why Cepeda opened a small business.

“I just want people to know that even strangers can become family and become that village for your family and your child with special needs, and that’s what this team is doing. We’ve become family with strangers that love my son as much as I do, as much as my husband does,” Cepeda said. “Unfortunately, yes, we do miss home, and home will always be there.”

Reach reporter Uriah Aguon at uaguon@guampdn.com.

GUAM BOARD OF ALLIED HEALTH EXAMINERS

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 1, 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/84268576050?pwd=mdt8rAeYPO2yolgKWM8jXl30r7HaMl.1>

Meeting ID: 842 6857 6050

Passcode: 721067

MEETING AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Proof of Publications
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- IV. TREASURER’S REPORT
- V. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT
- VI. GBAHE COMPLAINTS
 - A. GBAHE-CO-22-03 Received 02/21/22
 - B. GBAHE-CO-23-02 Received 12/28/23
 - C. GBAHE-CO-23-03 Received 12/28/23
 - D. GBAHE-CO-24-03 Received 08/06/24
 - E. GBAHE-CO-25-09 Received 04/29/25
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
- IX. NEXT BOARD MEETING
- X. ADJOURNMENT

To view the names of the applicants being considered go to <https://guamhpl.org/gbahe> LIVE Streaming link https://govguam.tv/video_details/gbahe/gbahe-live-stream

This advertisement was paid for by DPHSS/Health Professional Licensing Office-Local Funds.

For more information or to request for special accommodations, please contact the Board Office at (671) 735-7404/07-12 or email hpl@dpshss.guam.gov.



GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRY

Physical/Mailing Address:
194 Hernan Cortez Ave. Terlaje Professional Bldg. Suite 209 Hagatna, Guam 96910

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at 8:30 a.m. (Guam ChST)

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Guam Board of Examiners for Optometry - Regular Board Meeting (2nd Notice)

 PRINT

Guam Board of Examiners for Optometry - Regular Board Meeting (2nd Notice)

MEETING

 **Posted on:** 04/24/2026 08:25 AM

 **Posted by:** Baltazar Hattori

 **Department(s):**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
(/notices?department_id=10)

 **Division(s):**

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSING OFFICE (HPLO) (/notices?division_id=258)

 **Notice Topic(s):** BOARD MEETING (/notices?topic_id=76)

 **Types of Notice:** MEETING (/notices?type_id=5)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

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([https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89129135273?
pwd=O1zjlLF3KhTjP9GWUmzZiNkPTnTWbb.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89129135273?pwd=O1zjlLF3KhTjP9GWUmzZiNkPTnTWbb.1))

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XI. ADJOURNMENT: _____

GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRY

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 8:30 AM Guam (ChST)
 194 Hernan Cortes Ave., Terlaje Prof. Bldg., Ste. 213A
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 Phone: 671-735-7404-12
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83710020357?pwd=holdMbmqGCI9WNXjZQUMddePdvjicd.1>

Meeting ID: 837 1002 0357

Passcode: 071528

MINUTES

Agenda Item		Discussion/Decision	Responsible party	Reporting time frame	Status	
I	CALL TO ORDER	Meeting Chaired by M. San Nicolas	Chair	0840	Call to Order	
II	Roll Call	GBBC <u>Present:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marlene San Nicolas, O.D., Chairperson <u>Virtually Present:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Kim, O.D., Vice-Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Anglim, O.D., Secretary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julian Archer, O.D., Treasurer	Other Attendees: <u>Present:</u> Sharon Manibusan, HPLO <u>Virtually Present:</u> PeterJohn Camacho, DPHSS Melani Cruz, Public	GBEO	0840	Quorum Establish
III	Proof of Publication	Reviewed and found to be in conformance with current laws 03/24/26 and 03/27/26. <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Kim; 2nd: Dr. Archer.</i>		08841	Confirmed	
IV	APPROVAL OF AGENDA	<i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Kim; 2nd: Dr. Archer.</i>	GBEO	0841	Unanimously Approved	
V	APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Minutes Dated: 02/24/2026 <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Kim; 2nd: Dr. Archer.</i>	GBEO	0841	Unanimously Approved	
VI	TREASURER'S REPORT	No report S. Manibusan to provide a treasurer's report for the next board meeting.	J. Archer	0842	No Report, Until Next Board Meetin	
VII	HPLO REPORT	No report	HPLO	0842	No Report	
VIII	OLD BUSINESS	A. The practice act revision (TPA) – ongoing discussion Dr. San Nicolas encouraged members to review the current Practice Act and rules and regulations to become familiar with their wording, and it was emphasized that any questions or areas of uncertainty should be discussed collaboratively to ensure a shared understanding of their meaning moving forward.	GBEO	0843	Ongoing Discussio	
		B. Rules and regulations proposed revision 2.0 – ongoing discussion	GBEO		Ongoing Discussio	
		C. Complaints:				

Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Responsible party	Reporting time frame	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GBEO-CO-2025-001 S. Manibusan reported that no response had been received from the AG’s office regarding the submitted request for guidance on how to proceed without the applicant’s knowledge and in the absence of supporting records. <p>D. Inspection The Board discussed readiness to send out the revised letter to the Attorney General and proceed with related inspections, confirming that the letter had been previously reviewed and discussed at the last meeting. Consensus was expressed to move forward with sending the letters, while logistical considerations such as inspection assignments and whether to conduct them in pairs were noted for future discussion. The members also deliberated on establishing an appropriate timeframe for the inspections, taking into account scheduling conflicts and planned travel, and generally agreed to provide a defined window—potentially between June and July—to allow adequate coordination and flexibility.</p> <p>The members agreed to adjust the inspection timeframe to May 1 through June 30 in order to complete activities prior to the summer holiday period, noting that there were 13 sites to be inspected. It was confirmed that the notification letters would be distributed both by mail and email to ensure redundancy and proper communication, with additional measures such as delivery verification or receipt confirmation requested to ensure that all recipients acknowledged receipt. The members also agreed on the need to convene a meeting prior to May 1 to organize inspection assignments, form groups, and ensure alignment on procedures before commencing the inspections.</p>	GBEO		Ongoing, No Update from AG’s Office
		GBEO		Noted
IX	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>A. Initial Applications by Endorsement</p> <p>1. Melani A. Cruz The Board reviewed the application of M. Cruz and identified inconsistencies regarding her licensure and claimed years of practice, noting that while documentation indicated her Virginia license was issued in 2021, she asserted having practiced since 2017, raising concerns about whether any prior practice occurred without proper licensure. Additional discussion considered possible licensure in Washington State; however, it was noted that supporting documentation had not been fully provided. Despite these concerns, it was reiterated that under current regulations, all applicants are required to complete the practical examination regardless of years of experience, rendering the question of her total length of practice less impactful on the immediate licensure decision, though clarification of her credentials and compliance with endorsement requirements remained necessary.</p> <p>The applicant, M. Cruz, was acknowledged as present during the meeting and provided clarification regarding her licensure history, stating that she had been licensed in Washington</p>		0857	Unanimously Approved

Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Responsible party	Reporting time frame	Status
	<p>State since October 2018 and had actively practiced there until relocating to Virginia. She explained that while she was unable to provide an original copy of her Washington license due to its inactive status and record disposal, verification of her licensure dates could be obtained through the Washington State public health website using her identifying information, thereby supporting her claim of several years of professional practice.</p> <p>Board members sought clarification from M. Cruz regarding her eligibility under the requirement of active practice within a jurisdiction of licensure for seven consecutive years, during which she confirmed that although she had not practiced in Virginia for the full seven-year period, she had continuously practiced since 2018, first in Washington State and then in Virginia without any gap in employment. She further confirmed that she currently holds an active license in Virginia and remains actively practicing there, while also informing the Board of her imminent relocation to Guam and intent to obtain local licensure to continue her practice.</p> <p>Board members discussed whether the inactive status of M. Cruz's Washington license affected the continuity of her practice for endorsement purposes and determined that, regardless of this consideration, she had satisfied the necessary requirements to proceed through the examination pathway. It was clarified that licensure by endorsement was applicable under the current circumstances, and that she would be required to complete a practical examination before the Board. M. Cruz acknowledged and accepted this requirement, and the process for scheduling and conducting the practicum upon her arrival in Guam was explained. The board expressed that this additional step was consistent with existing regulations with ongoing efforts to update them, and a motion was subsequently made to approve her application and allow her to sit for the required practical examination.</p> <p>Dr. Kim discussed the role of background checks in evaluating applicants, particularly in identifying any prior issues related to licensure or professional conduct, and Dr. San Nicolas noted that M. Cruz had a past matter in her file that had been resolved with no charges sustained. While it was generally agreed that the issue was not related to her clinical practice and was therefore considered moot, some members expressed that such information could still be relevant when assessing moral character. M. Cruz was given the opportunity to provide clarification and explained that the matter stemmed from a corporate advertising issue in Washington State, where she was held accountable due to regulatory policies despite not having direct control over the</p>			

Agenda Item		Discussion/Decision	Responsible party	Reporting time frame	Status
		<p>advertisements, and she confirmed that the charges were ultimately dismissed and fully documented in public records. <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Kim; 2nd: Dr. Archer.</i></p> <p>2. Dean Scott Steinberger Board members reviewed D. Steinberger's licensure in California, noting that although his license had been issued in 1999 and was valid through 2027, he had practiced for less than seven years in the relevant period. The discussion considered whether the Board could exercise discretion or was strictly bound by law, ultimately determining that he must pursue licensure by examination and complete the practical like other candidates. Background checks were also addressed, revealing a prior matter in his file that had been resolved with no charges sustained and was unrelated to his optometry practice; while some members noted that such information could inform considerations of moral character, it was generally deemed moot for the purposes of licensure.</p> <p>The Board discussed that D. Steinberger's application was incomplete, noting that the checklist had not been fully completed and that additional documentation was required. Members agreed that his file needed to be reviewed in detail, and they explored the possibility of obtaining information over the phone to facilitate the review. It was confirmed that his prior disclosures to the Board could be examined in the interim. The Board decided to table D. Steinberger's application until the following month to allow for the submission of the remaining documentation and to enable a more thorough review before any decision. <i>Motion to Table to Next Month: Dr. Kim; 2nd: Dr. Archer.</i></p>			Tabled Until Next Month
X	NEXT BOARD MEETING	Next Scheduled Meeting: April 28, 2026	GBEO	0913	Set Date
XI	ADJOURNMENT	<i>Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Kim; 2nd: Dr. Archer.</i>	GBEO	0914	Adjourned

Minutes Drafted by: FLAME TREE Freedom Center, Inc.

Date Submitted:

Submitted by the GBBC Secretary:

Date:

Approved by the GBBC with or without changes:

Date: 4/28/2026

Certified by or Attested by the Chairperson:

Melanie J. Hill

Date: 4/28/2026
