



**AGA Guam Chapter
General Membership
Meeting Minutes**
Wednesday, September 25, 2019
at 12:00pm.
Hilton Resort & Spa Koko Room

Debbie Ngata
President
Pilar Pangelinan
President-Elect
Frances Danieli, MBA, CB, CGFM
Immediate Past President
Shannon Bartonico, CFE
Treasurer
Fierce Catoc, CPA
Treasurer-Elect
Llewelyn Terlaje, CGFM, CGAP, CFE
Secretary

Attendance Count - Members: 34; Non-members: 19

- I. Meeting called to order at 12:01 PM by President Debbie Ngata.
- II. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. July Minutes – Doreen moved to approve minutes subject to corrections. Yuka seconded the motion. All were in favor and minutes were approved.
 - b. August Minutes - Tabled
- III. Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer’s Reports were tabled.
- IV. Guest Speaker Presentation:

Doreen introduced the September speaker for the meeting, Lillian Perez-Posadas is the Administrator of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA). Her presentation was on the Lifeline of the Guam Memorial Hospital.

Lillian’s presentation focused on providing an overview of GMHA and its challenges. The birth of GMHA started in 1956, which was under the Department of Public Health and Welfare where the hospital, public health, and mental health were under one umbrella. Then in 1964 GMHA became a separate agency and then 13 years later became an autonomous agency. In 1987, the hospital relocated to its current location from its original location at Oka Point.

Overtime, the hospital expanded due to the increased population. In 1996 the skilled nursing Facility moved to Barrigada Heights. However, it is certified as a separate entity.

GMHA is the only hospital that provides care for maternal child healthcare. Lillian then discussed the Organizational Chart as part of her overview, which includes the Chief Internal Auditor, the first ever for GMHA.

As for some of the challenges of GMHA, Lillian shared that GMHA’s FY 2020 Budget Request was \$191 Million (M), of which \$104M is expected to be generated by GMHA, then nearly \$30M would come from the regular funding sources (Pharmaceutical Fund, Healthy Futures Fund, and Limited Gaming Fund), and the remaining balance of about \$60M was for the much needed capital improvement costs.

The urgent infrastructure repairs included the electrical panel of \$11M, heard in the news, and which has outlived its lifespan. Also, there are roof repairs where water is leaking in the elevators. The electronic conversion or replacement of the health record system is also needed, which is estimated at \$21M.

However, the Legislature appropriated \$28 million for operations and an additional \$10 million which is expected from the FY 2019 excess revenues.



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Another challenge is that additional highly skilled and knowledgeable nurses are needed, which would require commensurate pay.

GMHA's patient mix is comprised of 50% self-pay patients as the hospital cannot deny anyone healthcare service regardless of their ability to pay. This is followed by third-party payors at 30%. Then the remaining is comprised of Medicaid, Medicare, and MIP payors.

The FY 2018 audited financial statements indicated a \$3.3M deficit. Uncollected accounts amounted to \$60M of which \$19.4M were from self-pay patients. The Office of Public Accountability reported that GMHA is only collecting 49 cents to the dollar.

In regards to payroll, on a weekly basis, payroll costs average \$2.4M. One area that Lillian would like an audit on is the high overtime costs. Concerns with on-call pay was also discovered by the new administration. For example, one individual who received 80 hours in pay also received 100 hours of on-call pay, which did not appear necessary or justified. On call costs are \$100M.

GMHA also owes Department of Revenue and Taxation \$8.7M for withholding taxes from FY 2014, FY 2015, FY 2017, and FY 2018. The hospital has begun chipping away at the balance.

Among the accomplishments discussed by GMHA was the more aggressive billing and collection efforts with the coordination of the Attorney General. Another is the Pyxis medication distribution system that was implemented that allows Pharmacy to be more efficient and will reduce insurance denials due to documentation. Pyxis will also significantly improve billing and inventory controls.

One question was asked about whether Guam Economic Development Authority can assist GMHA for the infrastructure. Lillian stated that GEDA was instrumental in preparing the RFP for interim financing, which is on hold as the ARMY Corps of Engineers will assess the hospital's structural stability. Ricky Hernandez, Deputy Administrator of GEDA, stated that there have been discussions with both agencies, but legislation is required to move forward.

Doreen then thanked Lillian for her presentation and congratulated GMHA for receiving the Certificate of Excellence from AGA National for their CCR.

V. **President's Report**

- a. Community Service – Debbie and the committee thanked those who volunteered with the Coastal Clean-up on September 21, 2019.
- b. AGA was accepting donations for The Relief Society Women's Organization Backpack and School Supply Drive.
- c. John Phillips Award – Dan Fitzgerald, John Fernandez, and Jackie Potter were nominated for the award.
- d. September Anniversaries were announced.



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- VI. Other Matters/Open Floor
- a. Debbie presented infographics on the eligibility of the PDT Scholarships for Program Year 2019-2020. To be eligible for the raffle, you have to already be a member for your attendance to count. In addition, the community service requirement has been increased to two for the program year.
 - b. A Community Service announcement was made to ask for volunteers to sign up for the Get Smart about Credit Day.
 - c. AGA Video – Debbie had played the video prior to the meeting.
 - d. Lunch Raffle – Jason Katigbak won the raffle.
- VII. Reminder: Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 23, 2019
- VIII. Adjourn Meeting – Clariza Roque moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Vanessa Valencia. All were in favor and meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Official Minutes prepared by: Llewelyn Terlaje
AGA – Guam Chapter Secretary