

# Agencies, lawmakers discuss ways to reduce sexual violence

By Nick Delgado  
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Officials from legal and law enforcement agencies gathered for a roundtable at the Guam Congress Building in Hagåtña on Monday to discuss efforts to reduce criminal sexual conduct cases on the island.

The discussion was led by the legislative committee on justice.

During the hearing, the Guam Police Department reported a total of 1,282 cases involving criminal sexual conduct between 2017 and 2021.

Police Chief Stephen Ignacio said of those cases only 547 resulted in an arrest.

"It doesn't account for cases that were suspended due to insufficient probable cause for an arrest," said Ignacio, who admitted the department does lack adequate personnel.

Committee chairwoman Speaker

Therese Terlaje questioned the disparity in hopes that the community can see that the difference in the number of cases versus the number of arrests isn't a result of "shoddy police work," adding that victims need to feel comfortable enough to speak out about their abuse.

"These are one of the cases where victims are hesitant to come forward," Ignacio said. "Even if they come forward it is difficult for them to follow through to prosecute. We probably don't see many cases go to trial because victims don't want to get up there to testify on the stand. Those are the challenges."

Ignacio told senators he wants to revive a sex crimes unit within his department.

A major concern officials said they continue to notice is that many victims and abusers end up having close family ties.

"It's a little disturbing to have to



**ROUNDTABLE:** Officials gathered for a roundtable hearing at the Guam Congress Building in Hagåtña to discuss efforts to reduce criminal sexual conduct cases on the island on July 18. *Marcus Evaristo/The Guam Daily Post*

report that majority of our CSC cases involve family members. Either it's an uncle, stepdad, father, or grandfather," said Chief Prosecutor Basil O'Mallan.

He admitted that at times the other adult in the household finds it difficult to leave the abuser for financial reasons.

"A big fear for mothers is to be homeless, and the only breadwinner is about to be locked up for a long time. I've encountered mothers who have that valid fear. We work with that," he said.

Multiple programs are in place to help victims of sexual abuse through

the legal process and the healing process.

"Although in public it sounds like a slap in the hand or minimal kind of punishment (for the defendant), I see the victims relieved they don't have to get back on the stand and retell their story," said Joanne Agustin, an advocate with the attorney general's office. "A lot of times these cases, the perpetrators are family members. The victims have to muster up the courage to say something. Then to find out the lengthy legal process, a lot of times they are reluctant,"

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**GOVERNMENT OF GUAM**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIPARTAMENTON SALUT PUBLIKO YAN SETEBISION SUSIAT

**EMS Commission & EMS for Children Advisory Committee Regular Board Meeting**

**Thursday, July 28, 2022**  
**at 10:00 AM (ChST)**  
**Join Zoom Meeting:**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82170711843?pwd=di8ydWRLWEdBWkZjYjYJWeklZ1RqZz09>  
Meeting ID: 821 7071 1843  
Passcode: 461249


**Meeting Agenda:**

- I. Call to order
- II. Confirmation of Publication  
07/19/2022 and 07/26/2022
- III. Roll call
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Administrator's Report
- VI. Legal Counsel Report
- VII. Committee Reports
  - (1) Statutes and Rules and Regulations (Draft Amendments to Chapter 84)
  - (2) Policies and Protocol Booklet
  - (3) Ambulance Diversion Policy and Interfacility Transfer
- VIII. Old Business
  - (a) Agency Reports (USNH, GMHA, GCC, GDOE, DPHSS, DPW, EMSC, EMD)
  - (b) Paramedic Program Update
- IX. New Business
  - (a) GRMC Primary Stroke Center
  - (b) Recertifications:
- X. Announcements
- XI. Adjournment

**To view the names of the applicants being considered, go to:**  
<https://guamhpl.org/emsc>  
**To View live Streaming visit**  
<http://facebook.com/HPLOGuam>

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



**GOVERNMENT OF GUAM**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIPARTAMENTON SALUT PUBLIKO YAN SETEBISION SUSIAT

**The Guam Board of Examiners for Pharmacy Regular Virtual Board Meeting,**

**Thursday, July 28, 2022**  
**at 7:30 AM (ChST)**  
**Join Zoom Meeting:**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83820451160?pwd=dWEyM0JwWGFKUWhWbmdC>  
YnRFNjpmUT09  
Meeting ID: 838 2045 1160  
Passcode: 883142

**Meeting Agenda:**

- I. Call to Order:
  - (a) Roll Call
  - (b) Confirmation of Public Notice
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes: Minutes of June 16, 2022
- IV. HPLA Administrator's Report
- V. Complaint(s):
  - (a) GBEP-CO-16-01
  - (b) GBEP-CO-17-01
- VI. Old Business:
  - (a) Pharmacies/Facilities/Wholesales
- VII. New Business:
  - (a) Pharmacists by Endorsement
  - (b) Pharmacy Technicians
  - (c) Pharmacies/Facilities/Wholesale
  - (d) Renewals 2022
- VIII. Announcement:
  - (a) The Guam Board of Examiners for Pharmacy Regular Session Meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2022 at 7:30a.m (Tentative)
- X. Adjournment:

**To view the names of the applicants being considered, go to:**  
<http://guampharmacies.org>  
**To View live Streaming visit**  
<http://facebook.com/HPLOGuam>

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