

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Via Hand Delivery
and E-mail to: speaker@guamlegislature.org

October 4, 2023

HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE

Speaker

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2023-10

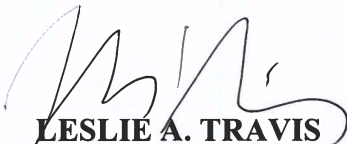
Hafa Adai Madame Speaker:

Pursuant to Public Law 34-16, transmitted herewith is the following Executive Order:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2023-10: RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING GUAM'S
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
COLLABORATIVE**

Thank you.

Senseramente,



LESLIE A. TRAVIS
Legal Counsel

Enclosure: Executive Order No. 2023-10

cc via email: *Maga'hågan Guåhan*
Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan
Hon. Robert J. Torres, Jr., Chief Justice of Guam
Compiler of Law
Central Files
Cabinet Members



ISLAND OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAGATNA, GUAM 96932
U.S.A.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2023-10

RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING GUAM'S HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE

WHEREAS, just like the rest of the Nation, Guam is experiencing a public health crisis due to labor shortages in the healthcare sector. While this issue predates the COVID-19 pandemic, the pandemic exacerbated the problem, placing greater strain on our already fragile healthcare system. Healthcare and ancillary professionals were on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19. Many of our frontliners came into direct contact with individuals who were sick at a time when treatments and vaccines did not exist, and experienced posttraumatic stress and extreme fatigue; and

WHEREAS, social workers also play a critical role in providing social and emotional support to our island community in times of crisis and in the normal course. Social workers, an often overlooked group of frontline workers, delivered services to our island's most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic, and as with healthcare professionals, experienced exhaustion and trauma-induced stress as they worked to ensure continuity in services; and

WHEREAS, Typhoon Mawar, which made landfall on Guam on May 24, 2023, further impeded the recruitment efforts of our island's healthcare institutions; and

WHEREAS, consequently, the need for doctors, registered nurses, allied health professionals, pharmacists, medical technicians, and social workers on our island continues to escalate, impacting our island's hospitals, clinics, mental health facilities, and social services agencies; and

WHEREAS, the lack of training resources for medical technicians on our island further contributes to the healthcare labor shortage. While some medical technicians may receive on-the-job training, others require certifications that are not currently available at our island's institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, in response to Typhoon Mawar, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") activated the Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response ("ASPR"), which leads the coordination of typhoon response and recovery efforts for Guam's healthcare system. Recognizing Guam's important role in providing services throughout the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands ("USAPI"), the HHS intends to provide future preparedness assistance, both technical and substantive, as our island's public health agencies work to address various issues including the ongoing healthcare labor shortage; and

WHEREAS, our island's healthcare and social services systems are critical to supporting the health and well-being of individuals and families within our community. By addressing labor shortages within these essential industries, we will ensure our island is better prepared



ISLAND OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAGATNA, GUAM 96932
U.S.A.

for potential health threats and natural disasters, and strengthen our island's overall health security; and

WHEREAS, if not addressed, labor shortages within our healthcare and social services systems may lead to a public health crisis on our island. Based on the ASPR's recommendation, it is both timely and appropriate to create a Guam Health and Social Services Workforce Development Collaborative, a coalition of Guam's public health and social services agencies and institutions of higher learning, to assess the factors that contribute to our island's healthcare and social services labor challenges, advise me of recommendations to resolve these challenges, and assist in operationalizing our island's overall strategy to recruit and retain healthcare and social services professionals in service to our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, and the laws of Guam, do hereby order:

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GUAM HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE. I hereby order the establishment of the Guam Health and Social Services Workforce Development Collaborative ("Collaborative"), and direct as follows:

- a. The Collaborative shall consist of the following individuals or their designees:
 - i. the President of the University of Guam or their designee;
 - ii. the President of the Guam Community College or their designee;
 - iii. the Chief Executive Officer of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority or their designee;
 - iv. the Director of the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center or their designee;
 - v. the Director of the Department of Public Health & Social Services or their designee;
 - vi. the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing Examiners, Department of Public Health & Social Services or their designee;
 - vii. the Director of the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities or their designee; and
 - viii. The Director of the Department of Administration or their designee.



ISLAND OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAGATNA, GUAM 96932
U.S.A.

The Governor may from time to time designate such other members to the Collaborative as necessary in furtherance of the Collaborative's objectives.

b. The Collaborative shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- i. Examine Guam's current healthcare and social services labor shortages, and develop recommendations on methods to achieve the following objectives:
 1. Increase the number of registered nurses, allied health, and social work professionals graduating from Guam's institutions of higher education;
 2. Expand the number of culturally competent social workers and health and medical professionals in the USAPI;
 3. Add to Guam's economy by filling high-paying health, and medical jobs by local residents; and
 4. Continue Guam's progress toward becoming the premier health and medical training center in Micronesia.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam, this 4th day of **October, 2023**.

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Attested by:

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan
Lt. Governor of Guam

