




I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 164-31(COR)

Introduced by:

D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. 
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr. 

RELATIVE TO COMMENDING SONIA ELAINE BLISSETT, PH.D. FOR THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS SHE HAS MADE TO THE PEOPLE OF GUAM AS A PSYCHOLOGIST WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND TO FURTHER EXTENDING TO HER A SINCERE UN DÅNGKULO NA SI YU'OS MA'ÅSE FOR HELPING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

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1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF**
2 ***I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS,** Sonia E. Blissett received her Bachelor of Arts Degree
4 in Psychology in 1980 from Cedar Crest College in Allentown,
5 Pennsylvania, a Master of Arts Degree in Applied Psychology in 1982
6 from Adelphi University in Garden City, New York, and her Doctor of
7 Philosophy Degree in Clinical Psychology in 1994 from Fairleigh
8 Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey; and

1 **WHEREAS**, a Licensed Psychologist in both the State of New York
2 and Territory of Guam, Dr. Blissett is also a member of the American
3 Psychological Association and the Association for Supervision and
4 Curriculum Development; and

5 **WHEREAS**, throughout her career, Dr. Blissett held various
6 clinical and administrative positions including her appointment as a
7 Group Therapist at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Department of
8 Psychology in Teaneck, New Jersey (1986), Psychology Intern at Hall-
9 Brooke Hospital in Westport, Connecticut (1987-1988), School
10 Psychologist at Fordham Tremont Community Mental Health Clinic in
11 Bronx, New York (1991-1992), Clinical Psychologist at United Cerebral
12 Palsy of New York City, New York (2005-2006), and Director of Clinical
13 and Managerial Services for Tamkeen Centre in Al Shaab Al Bahary,
14 Kuwait (2006-2009); and

15 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Blissett also joined the field of teaching as an
16 instructor in the areas of child development, behavior modification in
17 the classroom, educational psychology, advanced behavior modification
18 and social skills development. From 1982 to 1999, Dr. Blissett served as
19 a faculty member at different centers including Adelphi University in
20 Garden City, New York, Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck,
21 New Jersey, and Jeddah Autistic Center and Al-Bir Orphanage in
22 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the array of services she provided as a
2 consultant and clinical psychologist for both the State of New York and
3 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Blissett also maintained her private
4 practice in New York and provided assessment, psychotherapy, and
5 consultation services to schools throughout the state; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Blissett found her way to the Department of
7 Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) in 2009 as a Staff
8 Psychiatrist, appointed to help provide comprehensive psychological
9 assessments, diagnoses, and treatment evaluation services at a time
10 when only three (3) psychologists were employed at the agency on a
11 full-time basis; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Dr. York agreed to a two year employment contract
13 under the leadership of Dr. David Shimizu and would later assist the
14 agency address various challenges that have long plagued the island's
15 mental health system of care, including the hiring of additional
16 psychologists who, like her, shared an impressive professional history;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, together with the outstanding professional and
19 support staff of DMHSA, Dr. Blissett worked diligently to improve
20 various components of the agency, including the completion of multi-
21 disciplinary treatment plans for clients, facilitation of individual, family

1 and group therapy, and the improved networking of family members,
2 service providers, and community groups; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Blissett also strived to integrate the various
4 standards of care commonly found in similar health care facilities
5 throughout the U.S. mainland. She brought with her tangible
6 experiences that helped DMHSA improve the quality and delivery of
7 health care provided to individuals with disabilities; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in August 2011 the clients and staff at the Department
9 of Mental Health and Substance Abuse will bid farewell to Dr. Blissett as
10 her tenure at the agency concludes, thus ending yet another exciting and
11 productive example of Dr. Blissett's commitment to public service; and,
12 now therefore be it

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina' Trentai Unu*
14 *na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam, commend
15 Sonia Elaine Blissett, Ph.D. for the outstanding contributions she has
16 made to the people of Guam as a psychologist with the Department of
17 Mental Health and Substance Abuse; and be it further

18 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina' Trentai Unu*
19 *na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam, further extend
20 a sincere *Un dângkulo na si Yu'os ma'åse* to Dr. Blissett for helping to
21 improve the quality and delivery of healthcare to individuals with
22 disabilities; and be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and Chairperson of the Committee
2 on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption
3 hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Sonia
4 Elaine Blissett, Ph.D.; to Mr. Wilfred Aflague, Director, Department of
5 Mental Health and Substance Abuse; and to the Honorable Edward J.B.
6 Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
OF I MINA'TRENTAI UNU A NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE ____
DAY OF JULY 2011.**

JUDITH T. WONPAT, Ed.D
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairman, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA-BARNES
Legislative Secretary