

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

Resolution No. 164-31 (COR)

Introduced by:

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
R. J. Respicio
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
F. F. Blas, Jr.
B. J.F. Cruz
Chris M. Dueñas
Sam Mabini, Ph.D.
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
T. R. Muña Barnes
v. c. pangelinan
M. Silva Taijeron
Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

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 Dangkulo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* for helping to improve the quality and delivery of health care services provided to individuals with disabilities.

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

3 **WHEREAS,** Sonia E. Blissett received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in
4 Psychology in 1980 from Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pennsylvania; a Master

1 of Arts Degree in Applied Psychology in 1982 from Adelphi University in Garden
2 City, New York; and her Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Clinical Psychology in 1994
3 from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey; and

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

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

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

22 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the array of services she provided as a consultant
23 and clinical psychologist for both the State of New York and the Kingdom of Saudi
24 Arabia, Dr. Blissett also maintained her private practice in New York, and provided
25 assessment, psychotherapy, and consultation services to school children throughout
26 the state; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2009, Dr. Blissett found her way to the Department of Mental
2 Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA), where she was appointed as a Staff
3 Psychologist to help provide comprehensive psychological assessments, diagnoses,
4 and treatment evaluation services at a time when only three (3) psychologists were
5 employed at the agency on a full-time basis; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Blissett agreed to a two (2) year employment contract under
7 the leadership of Dr. David Shimizu, and she would later assist the agency in
8 addressing various challenges that have long plagued the island's mental health
9 system of care, including the hiring of additional psychologists who, like her, shared
10 an impressive professional history; and

11 **WHEREAS**, together with the outstanding professional and support staff of
12 DMHSA, Dr. Blissett worked diligently to improve various components of the
13 agency, including the completion of multi-disciplinary treatment plans for clients,
14 facilitation of individual, family and group therapy, and the improved networking of
15 family members, service providers, and community groups; and

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

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

24 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
25 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
26 of Guam, commend Sonia Elaine Blissett, Ph.D., for the outstanding contributions she

1 has made to the people of Guam as a Psychologist with the Department of Mental
2 Health and Substance Abuse; and does further extend a sincere *Un Dangkolo Na Si*
3 *Yu'os Ma'åse'* to Dr. Blissett for helping to improve the quality and delivery of health
4 care services provided to individuals with disabilities; and be it further

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

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 24TH DAY
OF JULY 2011.**



BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Acting Speaker



JUDITH P. GUTHERTZ, DPA
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules



ADOLPHO B. PALACIOS, SR.
Acting Legislative Secretary