

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

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JUNE 17, 2022 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:14 a.m.

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Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Frank Gerratana  
Dr. J. Robert Galvin  
Dr. Fielding Johnson  
Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division  
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division  
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division  
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division  
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:14 a.m.)

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4  
5 MS. CIESLAK: You may proceed whenever you'd  
6 like to begin.

7 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Okay. So the June  
8 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now  
9 in session. I am Dr. Frank Gerratana, Chairperson.  
10 Present is Dr. Fielding Johnson, Dr. Zohrab Zahedi.  
11 Present from the Office of the State Comptroller,  
12 Retirement Services Division are staff members from the  
13 Retirement Services Division Colin Newman-

14 MR. NEWMAN: Dr. Gerratana? I don't think -  
15 Dr. Zahedi is not on this Board. It's you, Dr. Galvin-

16 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Oh, oh, I'm sorry.  
17 I'm sorry. That was the information that was given to  
18 me.

19 MR. NEWMAN: Uh-huh. Oh.

20 MR. CASSADA: Oh, no. I apologize. I sent  
21 you the form before he cancelled out and I didn't  
22 update it on your-

23 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: So it's Dr. Galvin.

24 DR. GALVIN: It's me.

25 MR. NEWMAN: Yes, it's Dr. Galvin. Yes.

1 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Okay.

2 MS. CIESLAK: All right. This is Cindy  
3 Cieslak. Just for everyone's information, the record  
4 is not going to be entirely clear because we haven't  
5 announced who is speaking. So for the record, Dr.  
6 Gerratana was starting the meeting. Colin Newman had  
7 spoken to say that Dr. Zahedi is not here. Mr. Cassada  
8 has spoken to indicate that the script that was sent  
9 out hadn't been updated.

10 So in any event, the doctors who are here are  
11 Dr. Frank Gerratana, Dr. Fielding Johnson, and Dr. J.  
12 Robert Galvin. And Dr. Gerratana, you may proceed now.

13 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Okay, thank you. So  
14 the correct attendees are myself, Dr. Johnson, and Dr.  
15 Robert Galvin, and present from the Office of the State  
16 Comptroller, Retirement Services Division are staff  
17 members from the Retirement Services Division Colin  
18 Newman, Robert Helfand, William Cassada, and Helena  
19 Bartolomeo, and also General Counsel to the Retirement  
20 Commission, Attorney Cindy Cieslak.

21 At this time, I'll accept a motion for the  
22 Medical Examining Board to go into executive session  
23 for purposes of discussing individual members'  
24 disability health issues, and request that the members  
25 of the Retirement Division be allowed to remain.

1 DR. GALVIN: So moved, Galvin.

2 DR. JOHNSON: So, second, Dr. Johnson.

3 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: So we'll move into  
4 the executive session.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Perfect. This is Cindy  
6 Cieslak. Any discussion? There being none, all in  
7 favor, say aye.

8 DR. JOHNSON: Aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Aye.

10 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. All  
12 right. We are moving into executive session.

13 (The Board was in executive session from 9:16  
14 a.m. until 10:44 a.m.)

15 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Gerratana, are you still  
16 there?

17 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Yes.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. We are back in public  
19 session. So you can proceed when you would like.  
20 Actually, real quick, this is Cindy Cieslak. The  
21 person at iPhone 12, do you want to identify yourself?

22 Okay, we can't hear you if you are speaking.  
23 So I was just, for the record, trying to identify the  
24 person at iPhone 12 so that we can determine who that  
25 was to see if it was the individual on reconsideration.

1 Dr. Gerratana, you may proceed with the  
2 public session. Would you like me to assist in calling  
3 the motions, or will you be doing that?

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: I can do it.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. Sounds good. Go right  
6 ahead.

7 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: So this is Dr.  
8 Gerratana returning to the regular session of the  
9 Medical Examining Board. I'll say that the Board has  
10 made its determinations, but would like to remind  
11 members that only the final vote will be given today  
12 and not the reasons for the vote. In some instances,  
13 there may not have been enough medical information to  
14 make a favorable determination. You may seek  
15 reconsideration of a denial. You will receive the  
16 Board's determination within two to four weeks, which  
17 will provide you with that additional information.

18 Now, the Board will vote on individual  
19 member's continued entitlement to disability benefits.  
20 The first is Lisa Carter. I make a motion to table her  
21 request for continued entitlement benefits.

22 DR. GALVIN: Galvin seconds.

23 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

24 DR. JOHNSON: Aye.

25 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

1           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA:   Gerratana, aye.

2           For Sherry Hawk, I make a motion to deny her  
3 request for continued retirement benefits. Is there a  
4 second?

5           DR. GALVIN:   Galvin seconds.

6           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA:   All those in favor?

7           DR. JOHNSON:   Aye.

8           DR. GALVIN:   Aye, Galvin.

9           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA:   Gerratana, aye.

10          For Katherine Hoxie, I make a motion to deny  
11 her request for continued entitlement benefits. Is  
12 there a second?

13          DR. GALVIN:   Galvin, second.

14          CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA:   For Arron McLaughlin,  
15 I make a motion to table his request—

16          MS. CIESLAK:   Dr. Gerratana?   Dr. Gerratana?

17          CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA:   Yes.

18          MS. CIESLAK:   I apologize.   On Katherine  
19 Hoxie—

20          DR. GALVIN:   Got to vote on Hoxie.

21          MS. CIESLAK:   Correct.   I believe it was  
22 moved and seconded, but there was no vote yet.

23          CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA:   Oh, I'm sorry.   I  
24 always take the advice of my attorney.   So for  
25 Katherine Hoxie, the motion was to deny her request for

1 continued benefits. Is there a second?

2 DR. JOHNSON: Second.

3 DR. GALVIN: Galvin seconds.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: And all those in  
5 favor?

6 DR. JOHNSON: Aye.

7 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

9 Now for Arron McLaughlin, I make a motion to  
10 table his request for continued entitlement. Is there  
11 a second?

12 DR. JOHNSON: Second. Second, Johnson.

13 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: And all those in  
14 favor?

15 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

16 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Aye, Gerratana.

17 DR. JOHNSON: Aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: For Sherene Nelson, I  
19 move to deny her request for continued entitlement  
20 benefits. Is there a second?

21 DR. JOHNSON: Second, Johnson.

22 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

23 DR. JOHNSON: Aye.

24 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

25 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Aye, Gerratana.

1                   For Latasha Russell, I make a motion to  
2 approve her request for continued entitlement benefits.  
3 Is there a second?

4                   DR. JOHNSON: Johnson, second.

5                   CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

6                   DR. JOHNSON: Aye.

7                   DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

8                   CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Aye, Gerratana.

9                   For Meiline Smith, I make a motion to table  
10 her request for continued entitlement benefits. Is  
11 there a second?

12                   DR. JOHNSON: Second, Johnson.

13                   CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

14                   DR. JOHNSON: Aye.

15                   DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

16                   CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Aye, Gerratana.

17                   For James—

18                   MS. HOXIE: Hello?

19                   CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Yes?

20                   MS. HOXIE: Hello? This is Katherine Hoxie,  
21 and I did Zoom in and I don't know what's going on, but  
22 I wanted to make a statement in regards to my case.

23                   MS. CIESLAK: Okay, Ms. Hoxie. This is Cindy  
24 Cieslak. The doctors have voted on your matter. It  
25 will be up to their discretion whether they want to



1 reconsider the matter now that they know you are  
2 present.

3 MS. HOXIE: Okay. Thank you.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Of course. What I would  
5 suggest, doctors, is that you finish the motions you  
6 are currently making, and then you can decide whether  
7 you would like to reconsider Ms. Hoxie's matter after  
8 your votes. So you would withdraw - you would move to  
9 reconsider, then you would reconsider, and then make  
10 another motion on her depending on how that comes out.

11 So mainly-

12 MS. HOXIE: I was trying to connect and I've  
13 never been able to connect. And I'm just able to do  
14 that now. I don't know what happened.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Yep, I understand. Just stay  
16 on the line real quick so the doctors can finish the  
17 business that they're working on.

18 MS. HOXIE: Okay.

19 MS. CIESLAK: And then they will discuss your  
20 matter.

21 MS. HOXIE: Okay, thank you.

22 MS. CIESLAK: So, Dr. Gerratana, please  
23 proceed.

24 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Did we complete  
25 Meiline Smith?

1 DR. JOHNSON: I do not think so.

2 DR. GALVIN: No.

3 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Okay. So for Meiline  
4 Smith, I move that we table her request for continued  
5 entitlement benefits. Is there a second?

6 DR. JOHNSON: Second, Johnson.

7 DR. GALVIN: Galvin seconds.

8 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: And all those in  
9 favor?

10 DR. JOHNSON: Aye, Johnson.

11 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

12 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Aye, Gerratana.

13 And for James Turner, II, I make a motion to  
14 approve his request for continued entitlement benefits.  
15 Is there a second?

16 DR. JOHNSON: Johnson, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

18 DR. JOHNSON: Aye.

19 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Aye, Gerratana.

21 Now, I'd like to go further to address those  
22 individuals for which we will continue entitlement  
23 pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding of August  
24 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. I'll read the names and we'll vote on them  
25 as a group.

1           There's Belkis Borquez, Bruno Delmonaco,  
2           Theresa Lirette, Michelle Lopes, Sharon Moye-Johnson,  
3           Carmen Propiescus, Wanda Robinson, Michael Solemene,  
4           and Carline Vanriel.

5           I make a motion that we accept their  
6           continued entitlement based on the memorandum of  
7           understanding that was mentioned. Is there a second?

8           DR. JOHNSON: Johnson, second.

9           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: And all in favor?

10          DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

11          DR. JOHNSON: Aye, Johnson.

12          CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Aye, Gerratana. And  
13          that's - motion approved.

14          MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Gerratana, this is Cindy  
15          Cieslak. Ms. Hoxie has notified the Board that she is  
16          here because she is on reconsideration. She would  
17          ordinarily be able to make a statement. However, the  
18          Board did vote on her matter before it knew she was  
19          here. And so in order to review her matter with her  
20          statement, you would have to move to reconsider the  
21          matter, and that is up to your discretion.

22          CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Yes, I think-

23          DR. GARVIN: Can we review the vote? The  
24          vote was done in public session; was it not?

25          MS. CIESLAK: It was.

1           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Review the vote on  
2 Katherine Hoxie? Is that what you're asking?

3           DR. GARVIN: Okay, what do we do about the  
4 vote that's in place?

5           MS. CIESLAK: The vote that's in place would  
6 stand, unless you would like to reconsider her. All  
7 you would have to do is someone would make a motion to  
8 reconsider, someone would have to second it, and then  
9 it would have to pass by two-thirds vote. Assuming it  
10 would pass by two-thirds vote, then you could reenter  
11 executive session to hear her statement because it  
12 would concern her medical evidence.

13           And so you would reenter executive session if  
14 that would be your desire, you would hear her  
15 statement, and then you could come back into public  
16 session to make another vote on the matter. So that is  
17 - it's all within your discretion at this point.

18           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Well, I would  
19 recommend that we vote to go back into executive  
20 session if that's the only way we can hear Ms. Hoxie's  
21 statement, and we should give her the courtesy of  
22 hearing her.

23           DR. JOHNSON: I make a motion to-

24           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: So if there's no  
25 objection-

1 DR. JOHNSON: So I'll just make a motion-

2 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: --I'll enter a motion  
3 to go back into executive session.

4 DR. JOHNSON: Second.

5 MS. CIESLAK: First, you would have to move  
6 to reconsider. So I would ask that you withdraw your  
7 motion to go into executive session and move to  
8 reconsider Ms. Hoxie.

9 DR. JOHNSON: So I will move to reconsider  
10 Ms. Hoxie.

11 DR. GALVIN: Second.

12 MS. CIESLAK: That was a motion by Dr.  
13 Johnson. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion. All in  
14 favor, say aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Yeah, all those in  
16 favor?

17 DR. JOHNSON: Aye.

18 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: And Gerratana, aye.

20 MS. CIESLAK: All right. The motion passes  
21 to reconsider Ms. Hoxie. Real quick, I would like to  
22 address Ms. Nelson because I know she is also here.

23 Ms. Nelson, your matter is not on  
24 reconsideration. So traditionally, the Board allows  
25 members who are on reconsideration to make statements

1 if they appear during the meeting. And so that is the  
2 purpose for Ms. Hoxie, the motions we're having  
3 concerning Ms. Hoxie right now. You will receive your  
4 decision in the ordinary course from the Retirement  
5 Services Division.

6 And so at this point in time, I would  
7 recommend the doctors move to go into executive session  
8 to discuss Ms. Hoxie. And then if anyone is here when  
9 you return from executive session to the public  
10 session, obviously, we will return to public session.

11 DR. JOHNSON: I move to return to executive  
12 session.

13 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin. Do we have a  
14 vote?

15 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

16 DR. JOHNSON: Aye, Johnson.

17 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

18 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Aye, Gerratana.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. Give me one minute.

20 (The Board was in executive session from  
21 10:56 a.m. until 11:17 a.m.)

22 MS. CIESLAK: All right, Dr. Gerratana, you  
23 may proceed. We are back in public session. This is  
24 Cindy Cieslak.

25 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: So this is Dr.

1 Gerratana, Chairman for today. We're back in regular  
2 session of the Medical Examining Board. And the Board  
3 has made its determinations, but would like to remind  
4 members that only the final vote will be given today  
5 and not the reasons for the vote. In some instances,  
6 there may not have been enough medical information to  
7 make a favorable determination. You may seek  
8 reconsideration of a denial.

9           You will receive the Board's determination  
10 within two to four weeks, which will provide you with  
11 that additional information. I'll stress and emphasize  
12 that with that final determination and with that  
13 information, there may be instructions as to what to do  
14 next. And pay attention to all of the communication  
15 that you get from the retirement commission.

16           So that being said, we will vote on the one  
17 outstanding matter. And I'll make a motion for  
18 Katherine Hoxie to table the request for continued  
19 entitlement benefits. Is there a second?

20           DR. JOHNSON: Second, Johnson.

21           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: And all those in  
22 favor?

23           DR. JOHNSON: Aye.

24           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: And Gerratana, aye.

25           Dr. Galvin, I didn't hear your vote. Are we

1 having communication problems with Dr. Galvin?

2 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. He was  
3 cutting in and out before, so there may be some  
4 communication problems. He is still on, so we still  
5 have a quorum. He just isn't responding. So the  
6 record can reflect that the-

7 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: The majority of those  
8 present then voting voted in favor of the motion.

9 So I think that concludes the business at  
10 hand for this regular session of the Medical Examining  
11 Board.

12 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Thank  
13 you, Dr. Gerratana. You can entertain a motion to  
14 adjourn.

15 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Okay. I hesitated in  
16 case anyone else wanted to bring up additional things.  
17 But hearing no objection, then first, I'll thank all of  
18 the participants today for their efforts. And we'll  
19 accept a second adjourning the meeting.

20 DR. JOHNSON: Second, Johnson.

21 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

22 DR. JOHNSON: Aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Aye, Gerratana.

24 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Okay,  
25 our meeting is adjourned. Thank you, everyone.



1 MR. CASSADA: Oh, Cindy, did you want to say  
2 something?

3 MS. CIESLAK: Oh, yes. I apologize. We're  
4 still on the recording, so even though we have  
5 adjourned, this will be recorded. I would like to  
6 congratulate Colin Newman, the Assistant Director for  
7 the Retirement Services Division. He is retiring. I  
8 hear he is going to be back on a very parttime basis,  
9 but I don't know if he's going to be back with us for  
10 the Medical Examining Board.

11 And so I just want to congratulate him on his  
12 retirement. And, you know, personally, thank you,  
13 Colin, for I joined this process, you know,  
14 approximately five or six years ago, and you have been  
15 a valuable resource. So thank you.

16 MR. NEWMAN: Oh, thank you very much.

17 DR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Colin.

18 MR. NEWMAN: Thank you. Thank you, all.

19 DR. JOHNSON: Enjoy the rest.

20 MR. NEWMAN: Yes. Whether I'll still be  
21 participating is still to be determined. So you may or  
22 may not still see me. So - but anyway, thank you.  
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Yeah. And on behalf  
25 of all of the physician members of all of the boards, I

1 want to, you know, thank you for the help, instruction,  
2 and attention you've given us, you know, over the past  
3 years.

4 MR. NEWMAN: I appreciate that. Thank you  
5 very much.

6 And, Cindy, you were an easy pupil, so, you  
7 know - yeah.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Well, thank you. And Happy  
9 Father's Day to all of the fathers out there.

10 MR. CASSADA: Thanks.

11 DR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

12 MR. NEWMAN: Thanks a lot.

13 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Thank you all.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Have a good weekend, everyone.

15 MR. CASSADA: See you all.

16 MR. NEWMAN: You too. Bye-bye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Bye-bye.

18 (Adjourned at 11:21 a.m.)  
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I, Karin A. Empson, do hereby  
certify that the preceding pages are an accurate  
transcription of the Connecticut State Employees  
Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board meeting  
held electronically via Zoom, conducted at 9:14 a.m. on  
June 17, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

07/27/2022

Date