

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

---

FEBRUARY 4, 2022 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:05 a.m.

---

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Richard Blum  
Dr. Michael Gerstenfeld  
Dr. Zohrab Zahedi  
Robin Kallor, Esq., Rose Kallor LLP  
Annette Sadlowski, Retirement Services Division  
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division  
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:05 a.m.)

2  
3  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Okay. It's Dr. Richard Blum.  
6 I'll be chairman today or chairperson today. Present  
7 are Doctors Blum, Gerstenfeld, and Zahedi. And we'll  
8 start with any amendments to this meeting, motion to  
9 amend.

10 MS. SADLOWSKI: There's no amendments, Dr.  
11 Blum. This is Annette.

12 CHAIRMAN BLUM: And anything to add to the  
13 meeting or remove?

14 MS. SADLOWSKI: No.

15 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Yeah. So the Board, we're  
16 going to be in executive session now. Do I need a  
17 second on that or-

18 MS. KALLOR: Yeah, you need a second.

19 DR. ZAHEDI: Second, Zahedi.

20 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Excellent.

21 MS. KALLOR: And then we need a vote. Well,  
22 first you have to invite the individuals from  
23 Retirement Services Division and myself. So if you  
24 can-

25 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Yeah, I was - that's the next

1 sentence.

2 MS. KALLOR: Okay.

3 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Must request the members of  
4 the Retirement Services Division and counsel be allowed  
5 to remain, and so approved.

6 MS. KALLOR: And we should have a vote.

7 CHAIRMAN BLUM: They do not have a vote.

8 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye, Zahedi.

9 CHAIRMAN BLUM: And so we'll be in executive  
10 session. And this is an aside. A member, people on  
11 disability, may be present in front of the MEB to make  
12 a brief statement. The MEB may ask the member  
13 questions. Members are called individually.

14 So why don't we begin-

15 MS. KALLOR: Wait, wait, wait one second.

16 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Wait. Okay.

17 MS. KALLOR: One second. So there's a motion  
18 to go into executive session by Dr. Blum. Dr. Zahedi  
19 seconded it. We need to vote. All in favor?

20 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye, Zahedi.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

22 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Aye, Blum.

23 MS. KALLOR: Okay.

24 CHAIRMAN BLUM: It's like sixth grade all  
25 over again. Okay.

1 MS. KALLOR: I know. So I - one second. One  
2 second. I need to, okay, put - those who are not  
3 invited, I'm going to put in the waiting room. And  
4 then-

5 (The Board was in executive session from 9:07  
6 a.m. until 11:18 a.m.)

7 MS. KALLOR: Okay.

8 CHAIRMAN BLUM: They're all on?

9 MS. KALLOR: Everybody's - yes.

10 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Good. Okay, the Board will  
11 be making determinations and voting on those  
12 determinations and would like to remind members that  
13 only the final vote will be given today, not the  
14 reasons for the vote. In some instances, there may not  
15 have been enough medical information to make a  
16 determination, or perhaps a non-service disability is  
17 more likely a service-connected disability.

18 You may seek consideration of an initial  
19 denial. You will receive the Board's written  
20 determination within two to four weeks, which will  
21 provide you with the additional information.

22 Okay. So I'm going to go through these  
23 determinations today. I make a motion to approve  
24 Joseph Bouteiller for a service-connected disability.

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

1 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Any discussion? I think  
2 that's the attorney's job. I'm sorry.

3 MS. KALLOR: Right. Well, that's fine. Any  
4 discussion? All in favor?

5 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

6 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

8 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

9 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

10 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to approve  
11 the service-connected disability of Jo-Ann Chatfield.  
12 Do I hear a second? Oh, that's your job. I'm sorry.

13 MS. KALLOR: That's okay. Either way. Any  
14 second?

15 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

16 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

17 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

18 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

19 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

20 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

21 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to approve  
22 the service-connected disability of Mark Clinton.

23 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

24 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

25 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

1 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

3 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

4 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

5 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to approve  
6 the service-connected disability of Mark Clinton.

7 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

8 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

9 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

10 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

13 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

14 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to approve  
15 the non-service-connected disability of Dru Coleman.

16 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

17 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

18 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

19 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

21 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Aye, Blum.

22 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

23 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to - what are  
24 we on now?

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Colone.

1 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Coleman or—

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Colone.

3 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Pardon? Colone. I make a  
4 motion to approve the non-service disability of Daniel  
5 Colone.

6 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

7 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

8 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

9 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

10 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Aye, Blum.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

13 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to approve  
14 the non-service disability of Deborah Craig.

15 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

16 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

17 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

18 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

19 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

21 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

22 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to deny the  
23 non-service-connected disability of Colleen Johnson.

24 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

1 MS. KALLOR: I'm sorry. Dr. Blum, you didn't  
2 - I interrupted you before you said what the  
3 application was for.

4 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Non-service.

5 MS. KALLOR: Okay. Is there any discussion?  
6 All in favor?

7 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

8 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Aye, Blum.

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

10 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

11 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to table the  
12 decision on Bernadette Kazibwe for her service-  
13 connected disability application, look favorably on a  
14 non-service-related approval.

15 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

16 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

17 MS. KALLOR: Is there any discussion? All in  
18 favor?

19 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

20 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

22 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

23 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to approve  
24 the non-service disability of Edward Kurz.

25 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?



1 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

2 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

3 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

4 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Aye, Blum.

5 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

6 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

7 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to approve  
8 the non-service disability of Kevin Lembo.

9 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

10 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

11 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

12 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

13 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

15 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

16 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to approve  
17 the change from service- to non-service disability of  
18 Bernard Oksenberg.

19 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

20 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

21 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye. Zahedi, aye. I  
24 apologize. I got distracted. Zahedi, aye.

25 CHAIRMAN BLUM: (Inaudible)

1 I make a motion to deny the service-connected  
2 disability of Jessica Olson, but to approve a non-  
3 service disability.

4 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

5 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Second, Blum.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

7 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi - I'm sorry.

8 MS. KALLOR: Okay. All in favor?

9 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

10 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

13 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to approve  
14 the non-service disability retirement of Julie Randino.

15 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

16 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

17 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

18 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

19 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

21 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

22 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to approve  
23 the non-service-connected disability of Michael  
24 Richardson.

25 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

1 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

2 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

3 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

5 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

6 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

7 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to approve

8 the non-service-connected disability of Richard

9 Sartini.

10 MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

11 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

12 MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

13 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

15 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

16 MS. KALLOR: Motion passes. And so we've

17 gone through all of them. If there's-

18 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion-

19 MS. KALLOR: Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN BLUM: --to adjourn the meeting.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

22 CHAIRMAN BLUM: I make a motion to adjourn

23 the meeting.

24 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

25 MS. KALLOR: Okay. All in favor?

1 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

3 CHAIRMAN BLUM: Blum, aye.

4 MS. KALLOR: Okay. The meeting is adjourned.

5 Let me just—

6 (Adjourned at 11:27 a.m.)

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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 9:05 a.m. on  
February 4, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

03/03/2022

Date