

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

JUNE 3, 2022 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:11 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Nikolai Lieders
Dr. Richard Blum
Dr. Amarjeet Dargan
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 9:11 a.m.)

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5 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Okay, so meeting come to
6 order. The June 3rd, 2022 meeting of the Medical
7 Examining Board is now in session. My name is Nikolai
8 Lieders. Members of the executive board, Dr. Richard
9 Blum and Dr. Amarjeet Dargan. Also present from the
10 Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement Services
11 Division are staff members Colin Newman - it looks like
12 Annette Sadlowski is not going to be in; is she?

13 MR. NEWMAN: No. Annette retired.

14 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Annette retired.
15 Congratulations. Mr. Robert Helfand, Mr. William
16 Cassada, and Ms. Helena Bartolomeo. I hope I'm saying
17 the name correctly. Also present is General Counsel
18 for the Retirement Commission, Cindy Cieslak.

19 So I make a motion to amend the agenda to add
20 the name of Deborah Silva to the agenda. Any second?

21 DR. DARGAN: Second.

22 DR. BLUM: What's her last name? I'm sorry,
23 I didn't get that.

24 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Silva, Deborah Silva, S-I-
25 L-V-A.

1 DR. BLUM: And what's her problem? I don't
2 have any notes on it.

3 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Oh, it's just a change
4 from service to non-service.

5 DR. BLUM: Got it.

6 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Is there any discussion?
7 So all in favor, say aye.

8 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

9 DR. BLUM: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye. Dr. Blum?

11 DR. BLUM: Aye. Aye, Blum.

12 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: All opposed, say nay. So
13 the motion passes; we add her name.

14 So I guess it's time for us to go into
15 executive session. So I make a motion for us to go
16 into executive session. Is there a second?

17 DR. DARGAN: Second.

18 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

19 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in
20 favor, say aye.

21 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

22 DR. BLUM: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: All opposed, say nay.
24 Motion passes. We are going to go into executive
25 session. I'm going to ask those members of the - staff

1 members from the Retirement Services Division as well
2 as Cindy Cieslak to stay in the meeting for the
3 executive session.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Lieders. So
5 that is Helena Bartolomeo, Bill Cassada, Robert
6 Helfand, and Colin Newman, and myself, Cindy Cieslak,
7 just for clarification of the record.

8 Those of you who are here, what that means is
9 I'm going to place you back into the waiting room. The
10 doctors are going to discuss each of your matters in
11 executive session due to the private medical nature of
12 the, you know, claims at issue. And then when we
13 reenter public session, you will be invited back in.

14 All right, Dr. Lieders, give me one second to
15 get us all set up here.

16 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Yeah, sure.

17 (The Board was in executive session from 9:13
18 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.)

19 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: All right.

20 MS. CIESLAK: All right, Dr. Lieders, you may
21 proceed.

22 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: (Inaudible) information.
23 Should I start again?

24 MS. CIESLAK: Yeah, Dr. Lieders. I'm not
25 sure what happened. The recording turned off as you

1 had started. Can you - everyone heard what-

2 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Start over?

3 MS. CIESLAK: Yeah. For the record, when we
4 exited - this is Cindy Cieslak. For the record, when
5 we exited executive session, all the individuals in the
6 waiting room were admitted. The recording was on, but
7 there was a technical malfunction. It must have paused
8 somehow.

9 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Okay.

10 MS. CIESLAK: So just so we have a clear
11 record, Dr. Lieders is going to restart-

12 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll start again.

13 MS. CIESLAK: --from when we entered public
14 session.

15 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Okay. Okay. So just for
16 your information, the Board will be making
17 determinations and voting on those determinations, but
18 we would like to remind members that only the final
19 vote will be given today and not the reasons for the
20 vote. In some instances, there may not have been
21 enough medical information to make a determination, or
22 perhaps a non-service-connected disability is more
23 likely than a service-connected disability.

24 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
25 denial. You will receive the Board's written

1 determination within two to four weeks, which will
2 provide you with additional information.

3 So I will proceed to first start voting -
4 presenting the cases and then voting on them. I'll
5 make a motion to deny Dexter Biggs' application for
6 service-connected disability retirement, but the Board
7 will look favorably upon a non-service-connected
8 disability retirement.

9 DR. BLUM: I second, Blum.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any discussion? There being
11 none, all in favor, say aye.

12 DR. BLUM: Aye.

13 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
16 motion passes.

17 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Okay, next one is I make a
18 motion to deny Georgia Brown's application for service-
19 connected disability retirement, however the Board will
20 look favorably upon a non-service-connected disability
21 retirement.

22 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
24 being none, all in favor, say aye.

25 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

1 DR. BLUM: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
4 motion passes.

5 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
6 Devandir deBarros' application for service-connected
7 disability retirement, however the Board will look
8 favorably upon a non-service-connected disability
9 retirement.

10 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
12 being none, all in favor, say aye.

13 DR. BLUM: Aye.

14 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
17 motion passes.

18 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Okay. Next one, I'll make
19 a motion to deny John Desrosiers' application for non-
20 service-connected disability retirement.

21 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
23 being none, all in favor, say aye.

24 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

1 DR. BLUM: Aye, Blum.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
3 motion passes.

4 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Next one, I will make a
5 motion to deny Tracie Hernandez' application for
6 service-connected disability retirement - I'm sorry. I
7 missed one.

8 DR. BLUM: Yeah, Geneva.

9 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Yeah. I'm sorry. Sorry
10 about that. I make a motion to approve Geneva
11 Deutsch's application for non-service-connected
12 disability retirement.

13 DR. DARGAN: Second.

14 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
16 being none, all in favor, say aye.

17 DR. BLUM: Aye.

18 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
21 motion passes.

22 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny
23 Tracie Hernandez' application for service-connected
24 disability, however the Board will look favorably upon
25 a non-service-connected disability.

1 DR. DARGAN: Second.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Dargan seconded the motion.
3 Any further discussion? There being none, all in
4 favor, say aye.

5 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

7 DR. BLUM: Aye.

8 MS. CIESLAK: All opposed, say nay. The
9 motion passes.

10 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
11 approve Hector Jimenez' application for service-
12 connected disability retirement.

13 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
15 being none, all in favor, say aye.

16 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

18 DR. BLUM: Aye.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
20 motion passes.

21 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
22 Caldwell Lee's application for service-connected
23 disability retirement, however the Board will look
24 favorably upon a non-service-connected disability
25 retirement.

1 DR. DARGAN: Second.

2 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
4 being none, all in favor, say aye.

5 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

6 DR. BLUM: Aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
8 motion passes.

9 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
10 approve John McDonald's application for service-
11 connected disability retirement.

12 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

13 DR. DARGAN: I dissent. Dissent.

14 MS. CIESLAK: All right. Any further
15 discussion? There being none, all in favor, say aye.

16 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

17 DR. BLUM: Aye, Blum.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

19 DR. DARGAN: Nay. So this is two-to-one,
20 allow?

21 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. So it's a two-to-one
22 decision. So we do have to do a roll-call vote for the
23 record.

24 Dr. Lieders?

25 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Approve.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Blum?

2 DR. BLUM: Blum says approve.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Dargan?

4 DR. DARGAN: I dissent.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. So the motion passes
6 two-to-one.

7 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
8 Christine Morin's application for non-service-connected
9 disability retirement.

10 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
12 being none, all in favor, say aye.

13 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

15 DR. BLUM: Aye.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
17 motion passes.

18 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
19 approve Paul Napoli's application for service-connected
20 disability retirement.

21 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
23 being none, all in favor, say aye.

24 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

25 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

1 DR. BLUM: Aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
3 motion passes.

4 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
5 Philip Norris' application for service-connected
6 disability, however the Board will look favorably upon
7 a non-service-connected disability retirement.

8 DR. DARGAN: So deny for service?

9 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

10 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Yes.

11 DR. DARGAN: Yes?

12 DR. BLUM: What?

13 DR. DARGAN: So let's-

14 DR. BLUM: Not service.

15 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Yeah, the motion was to
16 deny service-connected disability, but to approve - to
17 look - but the Board will look favorably-

18 DR. DARGAN: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: --upon a non-service-
20 connected disability.

21 DR. DARGAN: This is Philip Norris; correct?

22 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Yes.

23 DR. DARGAN: All right. Thanks.

24 MS. CIESLAK: All right. And for the record,
25 Dr. Blum, did you second that motion?

1 DR. BLUM: Yeah.

2 MS. CIESLAK: All right. The motion has been
3 made and seconded. Any further discussion? There
4 being none, all in favor, say aye.

5 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

6 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
8 motion passes.

9 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Okay. I'll make a motion
10 to deny Tessa Pelletier's application for non-service-
11 connected disability retirement.

12 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
14 being none, all in favor, say aye.

15 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
18 motion passes.

19 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
20 Jon Pierce's application for service-connected
21 disability retirement.

22 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
24 being none, all in favor, say aye.

25 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

2 DR. BLUM: Aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
4 motion passes.

5 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
6 approve Edna Shlien's application for service-connected
7 disability retirement.

8 DR. DARGAN: Second.

9 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
11 being none, all in favor, say aye.

12 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

14 DR. BLUM: Aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
16 motion passes.

17 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
18 change Deborah Silva's application from service to non-
19 service-related disability retirement.

20 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
22 being none, all in favor, say aye.

23 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

24 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

25 DR. BLUM: Aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
2 motion passes.

3 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: And finally, I make a
4 motion to approve Michael Spencer's application for
5 service-connected disability retirement.

6 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
8 being none, all in favor, say aye.

9 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

10 DR. BLUM: Aye.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
12 motion passes.

13 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Just to clarify, it passes
14 three-to-zero?

15 MS. CIESLAK: I believe so. I only heard two
16 votes, so we can certainly do a roll-call vote if you
17 would like, Dr. Lieders.

18 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Yes.

19 DR. BLUM: Are we talking about Spencer?

20 MS. CIESLAK: Yeah. Dr. Lieders, the motion
21 was to approve Michael Spencer for service-connected
22 disability. Dr. Lieders, how do you vote?

23 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Yes.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Blum, how do you vote?

25 DR. BLUM: Yes.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Dargan, how do you vote?

2 DR. DARGAN: I have to go back and see the
3 case. (Inaudible) This is Michael Spencer we are
4 talking?

5 MS. CIESLAK: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Yes.

7 DR. BLUM: Yeah, this is the one you didn't
8 want. He was the psych resilience guy.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Blum, we are in public
10 session. Let's not discuss medical information.

11 DR. BLUM: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

12 DR. DARGAN: No, sorry. For this one, I
13 dissent also.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. So the motion passes to
15 approve, two-to-one, with Dr. Dargan dissenting.

16 DR. DARGAN: Yeah.

17 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Is there any additional
18 business? If there are no additional businesses, I
19 make a motion to adjourn today's meeting.

20 DR. DARGAN: Second.

21 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Dargan seconded the motion.
23 Any discussion? There being none, all in favor, say
24 aye.

25 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Aye.

1 DR. DARGAN: Aye.

2 DR. BLUM: Aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. There is
4 none. We are adjourned. Thank you very much.

5 DR. DARGAN: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Thank you, everybody.

7 DR. BLUM: This is a question for Bill, if
8 you're still-

9 (Adjourned at 12:12 p.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 9:11 a.m. on
June 3, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

06/28/2022

Date