

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

---

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:04 a.m.

---

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Ralph Rosenberg  
Dr. Mike Gerstenfeld  
Dr. Frank Gerratana  
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division  
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division  
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division  
Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division  
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:04 a.m.)

2  
3  
4  
5 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, you could  
6 proceed when you are ready.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. This is  
8 the September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting of the Medical  
9 Examining Board, now in session. I am Dr. Ralph  
10 Rosenberg, Chairperson for this meeting. Present today  
11 is Dr. Frank Gerratana, Dr. Mike Gerstenfeld, and  
12 myself, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. Present from the Office  
13 of the State Comptroller's Office, from the Retirement  
14 Services Division, are staff members from the  
15 Retirement Services Division Robert Helfand, Colin  
16 Newman, and Helena Bartolomeo. General Counsel for the  
17 Retirement Commission is Cindy Cieslak and she is  
18 present today as well.

19 Are there any motions to amend the agenda?

20 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, this is Cindy  
21 Cieslak. I don't have a motion to amend the agenda,  
22 but I will also note for the record that William  
23 Cassada from the Retirement Services Division is also  
24 here.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. Is there

1 anybody else that I missed? Okay. Thank you.

2 Are there any motions to remove anything from  
3 the agenda?

4 Okay. Then I make a motion that we go into  
5 executive session for the purposes of discussing  
6 individual retirement disability health issues. As the  
7 Chairman, I request that the members of the Retirement  
8 Services Division and counsel be allowed to remain.

9 Is there a second?

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. This is Dr.  
12 Ralph Rosenberg. All those in favor of going into  
13 executive session, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

15 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. Then we will  
17 be going into executive session.

18 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Thank  
19 you, Dr. Rosenberg. I'm going to place the members of  
20 the public into our waiting room, and then when we  
21 reenter public session, you will be invited back in.  
22 And also for the record, those who are on  
23 reconsideration, if they are also present, will be able  
24 to make their statement while we are in executive  
25 session and we will call you in when we get to your

1 matter.

2 Thank you.

3 (The Board was in executive session from 9:05  
4 a.m. until 1:51 p.m.)

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, you may proceed  
7 when you're ready.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
9 Rosenberg, Chairperson of the September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
10 Medical Examination Board meeting. The Board will be  
11 making determinations and voting on those  
12 determinations. I would like to remind members that  
13 only the final vote will be given today and 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-connected  
17 disability is more likely a service-connected  
18 disability.

19 You may seek reconsideration of an initial  
20 denial. You will receive the Board's written  
21 determination within two to four weeks, which provides  
22 you with that additional information. We will be  
23 voting on the individual member's entitlement to  
24 disability benefits.

25 And I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to

1 grant non-service-connected disability for Eileen  
2 Blauvelt. All those in favor, say aye. Rosenberg,  
3 aye.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, I apologize for  
5 the interruption. This is Cindy Cieslak. We need a  
6 second to the motion.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor,  
9 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. So, Cindy,  
13 going through the vote now on each of the applicants?

14 MS. CIESLAK: Yes, Dr. Rosenberg. You may  
15 proceed.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you.

17 So I motion that Eileen Blauvelt be approved  
18 for non-service-connected disability. All those in  
19 favor, say aye.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

23 Motion passes.

24 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Beverly  
25 Bragg be denied non-service-connected disability. Is

1       there a second?

2                   DR. GERRATANA:   Gerratana, second.

3                   CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG:   All those in favor of  
4   denying non-service-connected disability to Beverly  
5   Bragg, say aye.   Rosenberg, aye.

6                   DR. GERRATANA:   Gerratana, aye.

7                   DR. GERSTENFELD:   Gerstenfeld, aye.

8                   CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG:   The motion passes.

9                   I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Sandra  
10   Brown-Brewton be approved for non-service-connected  
11   disability.   Is there a second?

12                   DR. GERRATANA:   Gerratana, second.

13                   CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG:   All those in favor,  
14   say aye.   Rosenberg, aye.

15                   DR. GERRATANA:   Gerratana, aye.

16                   DR. GERSTENFELD:   Gerstenfeld, aye.

17                   CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG:   The motion passes.

18                   I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Sonnie  
19   Council be approved for service-connected disability.  
20   Is there a second?

21                   DR. GERRATANA:   Gerratana, second.

22                   CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG:   All those in favor of  
23   approving Sonnie Council for service-connected  
24   disability, say aye.   Rosenberg, aye.

25                   DR. GERRATANA:   Gerratana, aye.

1 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

3 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Tonya  
4 Dillon be denied non-service-connected disability. Is  
5 there a second?

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
8 denying non-service-connected disability for Tonya  
9 Dillon, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

13 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Jessica  
14 Elliott be denied non-service-connected disability. Is  
15 there a second?

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
18 denying non-service-connected disability for Jessica  
19 Elliott, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

23 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Anthony  
24 Fago be tabled for non-service-connected disability.  
25 Is there a second?

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
3 tabling Anthony Fago for non-service-connected  
4 disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

8 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Stephen  
9 Gelinas be approved for service-connected disability.  
10 Is there a second?

11 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
13 approving Stephen Gelinas for service-connected  
14 disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

16 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

18 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Dennis  
19 Hart be denied service-connected disability. Is there  
20 a second?

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Before there's a vote - this is  
23 Cindy Cieslak. Dr. Rosenberg, can you comment-

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Yes.

25 MS. CIESLAK: --but the Board would look



1 favorably upon a non-service-connected disability?

2 DR. ROSENBERG: Yes, I was going to - thank  
3 you, Attorney.

4 So although the Board will be denying - is  
5 voting on denying service-connected disability for  
6 Dennis Hart, the Board would look favorably on  
7 approving a non-service-connected disability for Dennis  
8 Hart. Is there a second?

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
11 denying a non-service-connected disability, but looking  
12 favorably - I'm sorry. All those in favor of denying a  
13 service-connected disability for Dennis Hart, but  
14 looking favorably on a non-service-connected  
15 disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

19 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. And I motion  
20 for Mayra Holbrook, I motion that the Board - sorry.  
21 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. And I motion that we deny  
22 a service-connected disability for Mayra Holbrook, but  
23 look favorably on a non-service-connected disability.  
24 Is there a second?

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

1           CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
2 denying a service-connected disability for Mayra  
3 Holbrook, but looking favorably on a non-service-  
4 connected disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

5           DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

6           DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

7           CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

8           I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to  
9 table a request for non-service-connected disability  
10 for William Kenney. Is there a second?

11          DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

12          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
13 tabling a non-service-connected disability for William  
14 Kenney, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

15          DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

16          DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

17          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes to  
18 table on William Kenney.

19          I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to approve a  
20 non-service-connected disability for Jean O'Connor. Is  
21 there a second?

22          DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

23          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
24 approving a non-service-connected disability for Jean  
25 O'Connor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

4 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny  
5 service-connected disability for Marisol Padin-Sanchez,  
6 but look favorably on a non-service-connected  
7 disability. Is there a second?

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
10 denying the service-connected disability for Marisol  
11 Padin-Sanchez, but looking favorably on a non-service-  
12 connected disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

16 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to  
17 table a request for non-service-connected disability  
18 for Teresa Skaff. Is there a second?

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
21 denying - I'm sorry. All those in favor of tabling a  
22 request for non-service-connected disability for Teresa  
23 Skaff, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

2 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to  
3 approve Javier Velez for service-connected disability.  
4 Is there a second?

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
7 approving Javier Velez for a service-connected  
8 disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

10 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion  
12 passes.

13 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to table a  
14 request for service-connected disability for Michael  
15 Vogt. Is there a second?

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
18 tabling a request for service-connected disability for  
19 Michael Vogt, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

23 Cindy, do we need to vote on the change of  
24 status on the five other people listed on the program?

25 MS. CIESLAK: Yes, please.

1           CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Do we do them all as  
2 one, or each one individually?

3           MS. CIESLAK: However you prefer, but all as  
4 one is acceptable.

5           CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: So on the motion to  
6 change Dexter Biggs (phonetic), Devandir deBarros,  
7 Tracy Hernandez (phonetic), Ana Mina, and Caldwell Lee  
8 to a service-connected disability. This is Dr. Ralph  
9 Rosenberg. I motion that we accept all these  
10 individuals for service-connected disability change of  
11 status. Is there a second?

12          DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

13          MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, I apologize for  
14 the interruption. The list you just named is not the  
15 list that was on my agenda today online. So we will  
16 either need a motion to amend the agenda if all those  
17 individuals are the correct individuals, alternatively,  
18 if the agenda that was posted online has the correct  
19 individuals, then I can provide those names for you.

20          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I'd like you to do  
21 that because I was using the list from the earlier  
22 meeting that I had had that we've had to cancel. So if  
23 you would do that, that would be wonderful, Cindy.

24          MS. CIESLAK: Sure. This is Cindy Cieslak  
25 and I'd just like to confirm with someone from the

1 Retirement Services Division that today, for the change  
2 from non-service, we are doing Karen Ahmed, Devandir  
3 deBarros, Ana Mina, and Caldwell Lee.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Wonderful. Dr. Rosenberg-

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I will make a motion  
7 that we accept those for a change in status. Is there  
8 a second?

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And so I make a  
11 motion again that we change the status to service-  
12 connected disability. All those in favor, say aye.  
13 Rosenberg, aye.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, I apologize for  
16 the interruption. One more clarification. I believe  
17 you just said a change to service-connected. It's a  
18 change to non-service-connected for Karen Ahmed,  
19 Devandir deBarros, Ana Mina, and Caldwell Lee for non-  
20 service.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. I was  
22 looking at my old agenda again. Thank you, to non-  
23 service-connected. All those in favor - is there a  
24 second?

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

1           CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG:   Okay.  All those in  
2   favor, say aye.  Rosenberg, aye.

3           DR. GERRATANA:  Gerratana, aye.

4           DR. GERSTENFELD:  Gerstenfeld, aye.

5           CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG:  The motion passes.  
6           Okay.  This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg.  And I  
7   make a motion to adjourn the meeting.  Is there a  
8   second?

9           DR. GERRATANA:  Gerratana, second, with great  
10   appreciation to our Chairman.

11          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG:  Thank you all for  
12   your help.  This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a  
13   motion that we adjourn the meeting.  All those in  
14   favor, say aye.  Rosenberg, aye.

15          DR. GERRATANA:  Gerratana, aye.

16          DR. GERSTENFELD:  Gerstenfeld, aye.

17          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG:  And the meeting is  
18   adjourned.  And I thank you all for your help and your  
19   patience.  And we look forward to being able to help  
20   everyone.  Thank you.

21          MS. CIESLAK:  Thank you.

22          DR. GERRATANA:  Thank you, everyone.

23          (Adjourned at 2:04 p.m.)  
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 9:04 a.m. on  
September 29, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

10/27/2022

Date