

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2021 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:04 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Nikolai Lieders
Dr. Lynn Rudich
Dr. Mike Gerstenfeld
Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
Annette Sadlowski, Retirement Services Division
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

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

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5 MS. CIESLAK: I don't think we have everyone.
6 Are we ready to get started?

7 DR. LIEDERS: I'm ready.

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Yes.

9 DR. RUDICH: All right. (Inaudible)

10 DR. LIEDERS: I'm sorry. Hi, Dr. Rudich.

11 DR. RUDICH: Have we elected you Chair?

12 DR. LIEDERS: No, but I could do it if you
13 want to. Can you do the-

14 DR. RUDICH: That's okay. Yeah, we can share
15 it. I'll do the write-up. You can-

16 DR. LIEDERS: Yeah, it's been a while since
17 we worked together.

18 All right, so meeting, come to order. The
19 November 19th, 2021 meeting of the Medical Examining
20 Board is now in session. I am Dr. Lieders. Present
21 also Dr. Rudich and Dr. Gerstenfeld as members of the
22 Medical Examining Board. Present also from the Office
23 of the State Comptroller Retirement Services Division
24 are Ms. Annette Sadlowski, Robert Helfand, William
25 Cassada, General Counsel for Retirement Commission

1 Cindy Cieslak.

2 Do we have to amend the-

3 MR. NEWMAN: I'm here too, Dr. Lieders.

4 DR. LIEDERS: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 MR. NEWMAN: Oh, this is Colin Newman.

6 DR. LIEDERS: Sorry, Mr. Newman. So Colin
7 Newman as well present from the Retirement Services
8 Division.

9 Do we have to amend the agenda with the -
10 adding those two names that are change in status, and
11 then are not-

12 MS. SADLOWSKI: No, those - yeah, those were
13 already posted to the website. This is Annette
14 Sadlowski.

15 DR. LIEDERS: So (inaudible).

16 MS. SADLOWSKI: Therefore, already posted, so
17 there's no amendments.

18 DR. LIEDERS: Okay, thank you. So I think
19 I'm going to make a motion then for us to go into
20 executive session. Is there a second?

21 DR. RUDICH: I second.

22 DR. LIEDERS: Is there any discussion? All
23 in favor, say aye.

24 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

25 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

1 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

2 DR. LIEDERS: All opposed, say nay. Motion
3 passes. We are in executive session now.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, this is Cindy
5 Cieslak. Does your motion include an invitation to
6 Colin Newman, Annette Sadlowski, William Cassada,
7 Robert Helfand, and myself, Cindy Cieslak, to go into
8 executive session with you?

9 DR. LIEDERS: Yes. I'm sorry. I don't - I
10 haven't been doing this too much lately. So, yes,
11 please. Please.

12 MS. CIESLAK: That's okay. Okay. All right.
13 So for our guests, that means the doctors are going
14 into executive session to discuss your medical
15 information. We do that in private to maintain your
16 privacy. I'm going to put you in a waiting room, and
17 then when the doctors are ready to hear from those
18 individuals on reconsideration and otherwise make their
19 decisions on the matter, I will let you back in for
20 public session.

21 DR. LIEDERS: So are we ready?

22 MS. CIESLAK: Give me one second.

23 DR. LIEDERS: Mm-hmm, yep.

24 (The Board was in executive session from 9:05
25 a.m. until 11:58 a.m.)

1 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, you may proceed
2 when you're ready.

3 DR. LIEDERS: Okay. The Board will be making
4 determinations and voting on those determinations, but
5 I'd like to remind members that only the final vote
6 will be given today and not the reasons for the vote.
7 In some instances, there may not have been enough
8 medical information to make a determination, or perhaps
9 a non-service-connected disability is more likely than
10 a service-connected disability. You may seek
11 reconsideration of an initial denial. You will receive
12 the Board's written determination between two to four
13 weeks, which will provide you with additional
14 information.

15 So we will proceed to vote. I make a motion
16 to approve Edwin Alicea's application for service-
17 connected disability retirement.

18 DR. RUDICH: This is Rudich. I second.

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

21 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

22 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
25 motion passes.

1 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve
2 Dion Avery's application for service-connected - I
3 mean, to deny - I'm sorry. I make a motion to deny
4 Dion Avery's application for service-connected
5 disability retirement.

6 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

9 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

10 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

14 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
15 Thomas Baker's application for service-connected
16 disability retirement, however, the Board will look
17 favorably upon a non-service-connected disability
18 retirement.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Is there a second?

20 DR. RUDICH: Second, Dr. Rudich.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich seconded the motion.
22 Thank you. Any further discussion? There being none,
23 all in favor, say aye.

24 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

25 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

1 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

4 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve
5 Timothy Brown's application for service-connected
6 disability retirement.

7 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

10 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

11 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
14 motion passes.

15 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
16 Julia Davis's application for service-connected
17 disability retirement.

18 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

21 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

22 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
25 motion passes.

1 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny Suzette
2 Flecha's application for non-service-connected
3 disability retirement.

4 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

7 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

8 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

12 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve
13 Jonathan Gordon's application for non-service-connected
14 disability retirement.

15 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

18 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

19 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

23 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
24 Ricardo Harris' application for service-connected
25 disability retirement.

1 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

4 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

5 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

9 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion-

10 DR. RUDICH: I make-

11 DR. LIEDERS: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Go
12 ahead.

13 DR. RUDICH: I make a motion to deny the
14 application for service-connected disability retirement
15 of Latefa Harvey, but the Board would look favorably on
16 non-service connection. Is there a second?

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld seconds.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. The motion was made
19 by Dr. Rudich and seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld. Any
20 further discussion? There being none, all in favor,
21 say aye.

22 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

24 DR. LIEDERS: I abstain.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Okay, Dr. Lieders abstains.

1 Any opposed, say nay. The motion passes unanimously
2 two-to-zero with Dr. Lieders abstaining.

3 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny Ryan
4 Howlett's application for service-connected disability
5 retirement.

6 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

9 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

10 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

14 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve
15 Jerald Johns' application for non-service-connected
16 disability retirement.

17 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

20 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

21 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
24 motion passes.

25 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve

1 Diane Krzykowski's application for non-service-
2 connected disability retirement.

3 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

6 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

7 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
10 motion passes.

11 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny Tait
12 Lawler's application for service-connected disability
13 retirement.

14 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

17 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

18 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

22 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
23 Tarvares Lloyd's application for service-connected
24 disability retirement.

25 DR. RUDICH: Second, Rudich.

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

3 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

4 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

5 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

8 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
9 Wilfredo Lopez' application for service-connected
10 disability retirement.

11 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

14 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

15 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

16 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

19 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
20 Latoya Maia's application for service-connected
21 disability retirement.

22 DR. RUDICH: Second, Rudich.

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

25 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

1 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

5 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve
6 Raeleen McMillan's application for non-service-
7 connected disability retirement.

8 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

11 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

12 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

16 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve Gary
17 Newton's application for non-service-connected
18 disability retirement.

19 DR. RUDICH: Second, Rudich.

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

22 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

23 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The

1 motion passes.

2 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny Lisa
3 Penna's application for service-connected disability
4 retirement.

5 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, this is Cindy
7 Cieslak. The audio on that cut out for me. I don't
8 know if it cut out for anyone else, but because we are
9 recording, can you repeat your motion?

10 DR. LIEDERS: Yeah. I make a motion to deny
11 Lisa Penna's application for service-connected
12 disability retirement.

13 MS. CIESLAK: And Dr. Rudich—

14 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.

16 DR. RUDICH: I second.

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

19 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

20 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
23 motion passes.

24 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve
25 Chantal Poulin's request to change her application from

1 service- to non-service-connected disability
2 retirement.

3 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

6 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

7 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
10 motion passes.

11 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve
12 Latasha Russell's application for service-connected
13 disability retirement.

14 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

17 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

18 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

22 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve
23 Linda Turgeon's request to change her application from
24 service- to non-service-connected disability
25 retirement.

1 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

4 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

5 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

9 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to table the
10 decision on Deborah Walker's application for service-
11 connected disability retirement.

12 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

15 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

16 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

20 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny
21 Roderick Waller's application for service-connected
22 disability retirement.

23 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

1 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

2 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

6 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny Mary
7 Zang's application for non-service-connected disability
8 retirement.

9 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

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

12 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

13 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

17 DR. LIEDERS: We have no more further cases.
18 We have finished.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, would you like to
20 make a motion to adjourn?

21 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to adjourn
22 today's meeting.

23 DR. RUDICH: Second. This is Rudich.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Any discussion? All in favor,
25 say aye.

1 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

2 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

4 MS. CIESLAK: We are adjourned. Thank you.

5 DR. LIEDERS: Thank you.

6 (Adjourned at 12:09 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 9:04 a.m. on
November 19, 2021.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

12/28/2021

Date