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In The Matter Of:
SERC Medical Examining Board

Medical Examining Board

May 21, 2021

*A Plus Reporting Service LLC
55 Whiting Street, Suite 1A
Plainville, CT 06062
203.269.9976*

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

May 21, 2021 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:08 A.M.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Ralph Rosenberg
Dr. Sheldon Nova
Dr. Vasantha Kainkaryam

Also Present:

Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services
Unit
Annette Sadlowski, Disability Retirement Unit,
Retirement Services Division
Robert Helfand, Investigation & Recovery Unit,
Retirement Division
William Cassada, Investigation & Recovery Unit,
Retirement Division
Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose
Kallor, LLP.

Court Reporter: Theresa Bergstrand, CSR #406

1 (The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m.)

2
3 DR. ROSENBERG: Today is the May 21st meeting of
4 the Medical Examining Board, and it is now in session.
5 I am Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, Chairperson. Present today
6 are myself, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, Dr. Sheldon Nova and
7 Dr. Vasantha Kainkaryam. Present from the Office of the
8 State Controller, from the Retirement Service Division,
9 are staff members from Retirement Service Division Colin
10 Newman, Annette Sadlowski, Robert Helfand and William
11 Cassada. General Counsel for the Retirement Commission
12 is Cindy Cieslak.

13 The MEB Board action for amending the agenda, are
14 there any motions to add anything to the agenda? Are
15 there any motions to -- are there any motions to remove
16 anything from the agenda?

17 Okay. So the MEB, the MEB Board Executive Session,
18 we'll go into Executive Session. Is there a motion made
19 to go into Executive Session? I will make the first
20 motion, is it seconded?

21 DR. NOVA: Second.

22 DR. ROSENBERG: Okay. It is seconded. And this is
23 for the purpose of discussing individual members'
24 disability health issues. I request that members of the
25 Retirement Service Division and Counsel be allowed to

1 remain. The MEB Board action, as a courtesy a member
2 may be present in front of the MEB to make a brief
3 statement. The Medical Examining Board may ask the
4 members questions. Members are called individually.
5 Out of Executive Session, or are we --

6 MS. CIESLAK: No, we will -- this is Cindy Cieslak.
7 We will go into Executive Session. I apologize I have a
8 little bit of memory lapse here all of a sudden. Was
9 there a, so I know Dr. Rosenberg moved to go into
10 Executive Session and Dr. Nova seconded. Was a vote
11 taken?

12 DR. ROSENBERG: No.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. So is there any discussion on
14 going into Executive Session? All right. No
15 discussion. All those in favor of going into Executive
16 Session say aye. Any opposed say nay. All right. We
17 are in Executive Session.

18
19 (Whereupon a short recess was taken.)

20
21 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. We are out of Executive
22 Session. This is Cindy Cieslak, I just turned the
23 recording back on. Please give me a minute to allow
24 those in attendance and the waiting room back into our
25 meeting.

1 Okay. Good afternoon. This is Cindy Cieslak. The
2 doctors have voted to come out of Executive Session.
3 Dr. Rosenberg, when you are ready to proceed, you may
4 proceed.

5 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. The
6 Board will be making determinations and voting on those
7 determinations. I would like to remind members that
8 only the final vote will be given today, and not the
9 reasons for the vote. In some instances there may not
10 have been enough medical information to make a
11 determination or perhaps a nonservice connected
12 disability is more likely than a service connected
13 disability. You may seek reconsideration of an initial
14 denial. You will receive the Board's written
15 determination within two to four week, which will
16 provide you with the additional, that additional
17 information.

18 We are now going to vote on the individual
19 entitlement to disabilities. I Dr. Ralph Rosenberg
20 motion to accept Non-Service Connected Disability on
21 Neil Atkinson. Is there a second?

22 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, second.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any discussion? There being none,
24 all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion
25 passes.

1 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Rosenberg, motion to deny
2 Thomas Baker Service-Connected Disability. Any seconds?

3 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

4 DR. ROSENBERG: Is there any discussion? Sorry.

5 MS. CIESLAK: I will call -- no problem. If you
6 want to call for discussion, Dr. Rosenberg, you may. I
7 do have discussion on this.

8 DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Is this a matter that the Board will
10 look favorable upon Non-Service Connected Disability?

11 DR. ROSENBERG: Yes.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. That is all the discussion. I
13 have.

14 Any further discussion? There being none, all in
15 favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion passes.

16 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
17 accept Non-Service Connected Disability for Deloris
18 Campbell. Is there a second?

19 DR. KAINKARYAM: Second, Kainkaryam.

20 DR. ROSENBERG: Is there any discussion?

21 MS. CIESLAK: No discussion. All in favor say aye.
22 Opposed say nay. The motion passes.

23 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Rosenberg, motion to deny
24 David Chupcavich Service-Connected Disability, and we
25 ask that there is not enough information there, and ask

1 for additional information.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Is there a second?

3 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
5 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
6 motion passes.

7 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
8 change Wanda Doiron to Non-Service Connected. Is there
9 a second?

10 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any discussion? There being none,
12 all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion
13 passes.

14 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Rosenberg, motion to change
15 Dawn Dube by to Non-Service Connected Disability. Is
16 there a second?

17 DR. NOVA: Second.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any discussion? There been none, all
19 in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion
20 passes.

21 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Rosenberg, motion to accept
22 Service-Connected Disability for Melanie Emery. Is
23 there a second?

24 DR. NOVA: Second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being

1 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
2 motion passes.

3 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
4 change Robert Erickson to a Non-Service Connected
5 Disability. Is there a second?

6 DR. NOVA: Second.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for that second, Dr. Nova.
8 Any further discussion? There being none, all in favor
9 say aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion passes.

10 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
11 accept for Non-Service Connected Disability for Vanessa
12 Fitzner-Brone. Is there a second?

13 DR. NOVA: Second.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
15 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
16 motion passes.

17 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
18 change Manual Gomes, or Gomes, to Non-Service Connected
19 Disability. Is there a second?

20 DR. NOVA: Second.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? Thank you
22 for that second, Dr. Nova. No further discussion, all
23 in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion
24 passes.

25 DR. ROSENBERG: I motion to grant Non-Service

1 Connected Disability to Cheryl Gunn. Is there a second?

2 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
4 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
5 motion passes.

6 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
7 grant Service-Connected Disability to George Haray. Is
8 there a second?

9 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There been
11 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
12 motion passes.

13 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
14 grant Service-Connected Disability to John Hjulstrom --
15 Non-Service Connected Disability. Is there a second?

16 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

17 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy. Any discussion? I do
18 have one piece of discussion. Is, Dr. Rosenberg, I just
19 want to clarify, you said John Hjulstrom, is his name
20 Justin Hjulstrom?

21 DR. ROSENBERG: Sorry. I apologize. Yes, Justin
22 Hjulstrom.

23 MS. CIESLAK: And I believe you clarified, but it's
24 for Non-Service Connected Disability?

25 DR. ROSENBERG: Non-Service, correct.

1 MS. CIESLAK: That is all the discussion I have.
2 Any further discussion? There being none, all in favor
3 say aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion passes.

4 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
5 grant Service-Connected Disability to James Ivanko. Is
6 there a second?

7 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
9 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
10 motion passes.

11 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
12 grant Service-Connected Disability to Natalie Johnson.
13 Is there a second?

14 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
16 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
17 motion passes.

18 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
19 grant Non-Service Connected Disability to Sylvia Lopez.
20 Is there a second?

21 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
23 none, all in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. The
24 motion passes.

25 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to

1 deny service-connected Disability to Sandra Lucier. Is
2 there a second?

3 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

5 DR. ROSENBERG: Yes.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Oh, you have discussion. Go ahead.

7 DR. ROSENBERG: We do. We had discussed that she
8 can reapply and also furnish us additional information
9 from her consultant, from the rheumatology.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
11 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
12 motion passes.

13 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
14 grant Non-Service Connected Disability to Richard
15 Martinez. Is there a second?

16 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
18 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
19 motion passes.

20 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
21 grant Service-Connected Disability to Dean Masse. Is
22 there a second?

23 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

1 motion passes.

2 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
3 grant Non-Service Connected Disability to Celia McAuley.
4 Is there a second?

5 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
7 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
8 motion passes.

9 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
10 deny Service-Connected Disability to Arron McLaughlin.
11 Is this a second?

12 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Is there discussion? And I am going
14 to pose for discussion, Dr. Rosenberg, did you mean to
15 deny or table Mr. McLaughlin's matter? There is a
16 difference, denying would be a denial. If you are
17 seeking additional information on his reconsideration,
18 the proper procedure would be to table, because he might
19 not have another opportunity at reconsideration.

20 DR. ROSENBERG: My apologies. In that case, no, I
21 will take that back, and I will motion for Arron
22 McLaughlin that we table his application for
23 Service-Connected Disability until we have such records
24 that support that he worked continuously with the
25 military and Electric Boat until his time of his work

1 with the State in Department of Correction.

2 MS. CIESLAK: I hate to be such a stickler, but
3 before we have a second on that motion, I do need Dr.
4 Nova to withdraw his second on the original motion.

5 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova withdrawing his second --

6 MS. CIESLAK: Okay.

7 DR. NOVA: -- on the original motion.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Nova. Dr. Rosenberg
9 you had just stated a new motion. Is there a second on
10 Dr. Rosenberg's new motion.

11 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. Is there any further
13 discussion? There being none, all in favor say aye.
14 Any opposed say nay. The motion passes.

15 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
16 accept Service-Connected Disability for Jessica Olson --
17 oh wait, I am sorry. I got to do that again.

18 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to deny
19 Service-Connected Disability to Jessica Olson. Is there
20 a second?

21 DR. KAINKARYAM: Second, Kainkaryam.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
23 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
24 motion passes.

25 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to

1 accept Non-Service Connected Disability for Michelle
2 Plourde-Davis. Is there -- and I want to do it again.
3 I apologize.

4 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to deny Non-Service
5 Connected Disability for Michelle Plourde-Davis. Is
6 there a second?

7 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
9 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
10 motion passes.

11 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
12 deny Non-Service Connected Disability to Silveri
13 Robinson. Is there a second?

14 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
16 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
17 motion passes.

18 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
19 deny Service-Connected Disability for Donald Taylor. Is
20 there a second?

21 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Is there any further discussion?

23 DR. ROSENBERG: Yes. We have a notation that we
24 would favor, look favorably on reconsideration for a
25 Non-Service Connected Disability.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
2 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
3 motion passes.

4 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
5 change to Non-Service Connected Disability for Darren
6 Treadwell. Is there a second?

7 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
9 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
10 motion passes.

11 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to
12 grant Service-Connected Disability to Sidney Yelton. Is
13 there a second?

14 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
16 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
17 motion passes.

18 All right. I believe at this time you have gone
19 through everyone on your agenda. If there is no further
20 business to be discussed, any of the doctors may make a
21 motion to adjourn.

22 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Rosenberg, and I make a
23 motion to adjourn the MEB Board meeting.

24 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any discussion? There being none,

1 all in favor say aye. All right. That vote is
2 unanimous and we are adjourned. Thank you.


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4 (Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 12:12
5 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Theresa Bergstrand, CSR, a Notary Public for the State of Connecticut, 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, convening at 9:08 a.m., on May 21, 2021.

WITNESS my hand this 14th day of July, 2021.



Theresa Bergstrand, CSR
My Commission Expires 3/31/2026