

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

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JUNE 9, 2023 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:06 a.m.

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Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Poleak So  
Dr. Lynn Rudich  
Dr. Sohrab Zahedi  
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division  
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division  
Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:06 a.m.)

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4  
5 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, you can proceed  
6 when you're ready.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. The June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
8 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in  
9 session. I'm Dr. Lynn Rudich, Chairperson. With us is  
10 Dr. Sohrab Zahedi and Dr. Poleak So. Present from the  
11 Office of State Comptroller, Retirement Services  
12 Division, are Robert Helfand and Helena Bartolomeo, and  
13 there is also General Counsel for the Retirement  
14 Commission and Medical Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

15 To start, I will make a motion to amend the  
16 agenda. I make a motion to remove Robert Carrillo from  
17 the agenda. Is there a second?

18 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in  
20 favor, say aye.

21 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. I'll  
22 just note for the record, Dr. Zahedi seconded the  
23 motion.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. And all in favor,  
25 say aye.

1 DR. SO: Aye.

2 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye. All opposed, say  
4 nay. Motion passes. I make a motion to go into  
5 executive session, but I request that members of the  
6 Retirement Services Division and counsel be allowed to  
7 remain. Is there a second?

8 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

9 DR. SO: So.

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in  
11 favor, say aye.

12 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

13 DR. SO: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye. All opposed, say  
15 nay. The motion passes.

16 So we are going to ask if only the members of  
17 the Retirement Services Division and counsel to remain,  
18 so all others—

19 We will be discussing individual cases in  
20 private session, and at the end of that discussion,  
21 we'll be calling people in who are up for  
22 reconsideration to discuss their cases. At the end of  
23 our private discussion, we'll be inviting all members  
24 back in to announce our decisions and make motions.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Rudich. This is

1 Cindy Cieslak. What that means is I am going to place  
2 all of the applicants and members of the public back in  
3 the waiting room as the doctors work through the  
4 private medical records and confidential medical  
5 records in a private executive session. They will do  
6 that, and then those on reconsideration will be invited  
7 back in. And then everyone, you know, we will invite  
8 you back in when they reenter public session.

9 So just remain in the waiting room. Thank  
10 you.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Hold on one second, Dr. Rudich.  
13 I'm still placing people into the waiting room.

14 (The board was in executive session from 9:07  
15 a.m. until 1:12 p.m.)

16 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, you can proceed  
17 when you're ready.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The board will be making  
19 determinations and voting on these determinations, but  
20 would like to remind the members that only the final  
21 vote will be given today and not the reasons for the  
22 vote. In some cases, there may not have been enough  
23 medical information to make a determination, and you  
24 may seek a reconsideration of an initial denial.

25 You will receive the board's written

1 determination within two to four weeks, which provides  
2 you with that additional information. If you've  
3 applied for both service- and non-service-connected,  
4 the decision will name which one.

5 I make a motion to deny the application for  
6 non-service-connected disability retirement for Jose  
7 Alexandra. Is there a second?

8 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

9 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Dr.  
10 Zahedi seconded the motion.

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

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

14 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

15 DR. SO: Aye.

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

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, I missed mine.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible)

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Can people mute if  
21 they're not speaking? Thank you.

22 I make a motion to approve the application  
23 for service-connected disability retirement of Sharon  
24 Brown. Is there a second?

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

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

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

5 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

6 DR. SO: Aye.

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

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny  
10 the application for service-connected disability  
11 retirement of Enrique Camacho, but the board would  
12 approve a non-service application.

13 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for the second, Dr.  
15 Zahedi. Any further discussion? There being none, all  
16 in favor, say aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

18 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

19 DR. SO: Aye.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny  
23 both service- and non-service-connected disability  
24 retirement of Eugene Chaude.

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for your second, Dr.  
2 Zahedi. Any further discussion? There being none, all  
3 in favor, say aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

5 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

6 DR. SO: Aye.

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

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny  
10 the service-connected disability retirement, but  
11 approve non-service-connected disability retirement for  
12 Kevin Delaney.

13 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for your second, Dr.  
15 Zahedi. Any further discussion? There being none, all  
16 in favor, say aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

18 DR. SO: Aye.

19 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to table  
23 the application for non-service-connected disability  
24 retirement of Maria Giuliano.

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Zahedi.

2 This is Cindy Cieslak. For the record, I  
3 will note that Dr. Rudich has made all the motions, Dr.  
4 Zahedi has seconded all the motions, and I will not be  
5 repeating that information unless, for some reason, a  
6 different doctor makes or seconds the motion.

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

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

10 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

11 DR. SO: Aye.

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

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to  
15 approve the application for service-connected  
16 disability retirement of Clarence Jones.

17 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

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

20 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

21 DR. SO: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny



1 the application for both service-connected and non-  
2 service-connected disability retirement of Hong Lee.

3 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

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

6 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye, Zahedi.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye. Aye.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

9 DR. SO: Nay, So.

10 MS. CIESLAK: All right. Where the motion is  
11 not unanimous, I do have to do a rollcall vote.

12 Dr. Lynn Rudich, say aye for in favor or nay  
13 for opposed.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Nay. Opposes, sorry.  
15 Nay for opposed to the motion, or in favor of-

16 MS. CIESLAK: I understand. I'll repeat the  
17 motion. So the motion was to deny on service- and non-  
18 service-connected disability.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

20 MS. CIESLAK: All right. Dr. Zahedi?

21 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. So?

23 DR. SO: Nay.

24 MS. CIESLAK: All right. So the motion  
25 passes to deny two-to-one.

1           CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to  
2 approve the application for service-connected  
3 disability retirement of Wilfredo Lopez.

4           DR. ZAHEDI: Second, Zahedi.

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

7           DR. ZAHEDI: Aye, Zahedi.

8           CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye. Aye, Rudich.

9           DR. SO: Aye, So.

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

12          CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny  
13 the application for service-connected and non-service-  
14 connected disability retirement of Thomas O'Connor.

15          DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

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

18          CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

19          DR. ZAHEDI: Aye, Zahedi.

20          DR. SO: Aye, So.

21          MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

22          CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye, Rudich.

23          MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

24          CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny  
25 the application for non-service-connected disability

1 retirement of Yvonne Muniz.

2 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

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

5 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye, Zahedi.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

7 DR. SO: Aye, So.

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

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny  
11 both service-connected and non-service-connected  
12 disability retirement of Stephen Phipps.

13 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

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

16 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye, Zahedi.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye, Rudich.

18 DR. SO: Aye, So.

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

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny  
22 service-connected, but approve non-service-connected  
23 disability retirement of Kimberly Rice.

24 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There

1 being none, all in favor, say aye.

2 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

3 DR. SO: So, aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to table  
8 the application for service-connected or non-service-  
9 connected disability retirement of Evelyn Melendez.

10 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

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

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

14 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye, Zahedi.

15 DR. SO: So, aye.

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

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny  
19 the application for service-connected disability  
20 retirement of Yvette Sapp.

21 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

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

24 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

1 DR. SO: So, aye.

2 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

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

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny  
6 the application for service-connected and non-service-  
7 connected disability retirement of Margie Soto.

8 DR. ZAHEDI: I'm abstaining, so I won't  
9 second that.

10 DR. SO: So, second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

12 This is Cindy Cieslak. I will note for the  
13 record that Ms. Soto sent a message to the board  
14 indicating that she was available under a different  
15 name and we couldn't identify her. So before the board  
16 votes, you do have the ability to go back into  
17 executive session in the event you would like to ask  
18 her any questions.

19 Okay. Is there any further discussion, or I  
20 will call the vote. Okay. I hear no further  
21 discussion, so all in favor of denying service- or non-  
22 service-connected disability for Margie Soto, say aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

24 DR. SO: So, aye.

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, abstain.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Zahedi. So I  
2 want to do a rollcall vote here.

3 Dr. Rudich?

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. So?

6 DR. SO: Aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: And Dr. Zahedi?

8 DR. ZAHEDI: Abstain.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. So the motion passes  
10 two-to-zero with one abstaining.

11 DR. ZAHEDI: I would say the motion passes  
12 two-to-one. Oh, you're right, two-to-zero. I  
13 apologize. I apologize. Forgive me.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to table  
15 the application for service-connected disability  
16 retirement of Tammie Young.

17 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

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

20 DR. SO: So, aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

22 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to

1 approve the non-service-connected disability retirement  
2 of Adrienne Reid. This was a change from the original  
3 application for service-connected.

4 DR. SO: So, second.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

8 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye, Zahedi.

9 DR. SO: So, aye.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to  
13 adjourn the meeting.

14 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

15 MS. CIESLAK: All in favor, say aye.

16 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye, Zahedi.

17 DR. SO: Aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

19 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.  
20 We are adjourned. Thank you.

21 DR. ZAHEDI: Thank you, everybody.

22 MR. HELFAND: Thank you, doctors.

23 DR. SO: Thanks. Nice meeting.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Have a nice weekend.

25 (Adjourned at 1:24 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 9:06 a.m. on  
June 9, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

07/09/2023

Date