

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

JULY 14, 2023 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:09 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Ralph Rosenberg

Dr. Lynn Rudich

Dr. Sheldon Nova

William Cassada, Retirement Services Division

Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:09 a.m.)

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

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. Good
8 morning, everybody. Welcome to the July 14th, 2023
9 meeting of the Medical Examining Board, which is now in
10 session. My name is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I am the
11 chairperson of today's meeting. Present today are Dr.
12 Sheldon Nova, Dr. Lynn Rudich, and myself, Dr. Ralph
13 Rosenberg. Present from the Office of the State
14 Comptroller, Retirement Services Division, are staff
15 members for the Retirement Services Division, William
16 Cassada and Helena Bartolomeo. Also present is general
17 counsel for the Retirement Commission and Medical
18 Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

19 Dr. Nova, I think that there is sound in the
20 background.

21 DR. NOVA: All right. Just a minute. Okay.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. Are there
23 any motions to amend the agenda?

24 DR. RUDICH: None from me.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: If there are no

1 motions to amend the agenda, I motion to pass the
2 agenda. Is there a second?

3 DR. RUDICH: I can second.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Dr. Nova, you are
6 muted.

7 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. So Dr.
8 Rosenberg moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Rudich
9 seconded the agenda. And so Dr. Rosenberg, we can call
10 the motion. All in favor of approving the agenda, say
11 aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

13 DR. RUDICH: Aye. Rudich, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Dr. Nova, could you
15 either raise your hand if you're in favor or
16 (inaudible). Thank you.

17 So Cindy, is that okay or do you need a
18 verbal?

19 MS. CIESLAK: No. As long as it's unanimous,
20 it's all good. So the motion to approve the agenda is
21 approved. And so Dr. Rosenberg, you can proceed.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. So I am
23 now making a motion to go into executive session, and I
24 request that staff members from the Retirement Services
25 Division, William Cassada and Helena Bartolomeo, stay

1 in the session, as well as general counsel for the
2 Retirement Commission and Medical Examining Board,
3 Cindy Cieslak. Is there a second?

4 DR. NOVA: Second.

5 DR. RUDICH: I second.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those - this is
7 Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All those in favor of going into
8 executive session, say aye.

9 DR. NOVA: Aye.

10 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And Rosenberg, aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: All right. This is Cindy
13 Cieslak. For the record, Dr. Sheldon Nova seconded the
14 motion to go into executive session. What that means
15 is all of the applicants and members of the public will
16 be placed in the waiting room. The doctors go into
17 executive session so that they can discuss medical
18 information, which is confidential and private in
19 nature.

20 If you are on reconsideration, you will be
21 invited in to make your statement at that point in time
22 when the doctors get to that point of the day. And
23 then after the doctors have reviewed all of the matters
24 in executive session, we will reenter into public
25 session. Anyone who is in the waiting room will be

1 welcomed back into the meeting and you will be able to
2 hear the decisions today.

3 So remain patient with us. Sometimes this is
4 a couple-hour process. And if you are on
5 reconsideration, we will invite you back in for your
6 statement at that time. Thank you.

7 (The board was in executive session from 9:10
8 a.m. until 1:20 p.m.)

9 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, you can proceed
10 when you're ready.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The board will be
12 making determinations and voting on those
13 determinations, but would like to remind members that
14 only the final vote will be given today and not the
15 reasons for the vote. In some instances, there may not
16 have been enough medical information to make a
17 determination, or perhaps a non-service-connected
18 disability is more likely a service-connected
19 disability.

20 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
21 denial. You will receive the board's written
22 determination within two to four weeks, which will
23 provide you with that additional information.

24 I make a motion to approve non-service-
25 connected disability for Angella Bentley. Is there a

1 second?

2 DR. NOVA: Second.

3 DR. RUDICH: Rudich seconds.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
5 Rosenberg. Go ahead. I'll do it. This is Dr. Ralph
6 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving a non-
7 service-connected disability for Angella Bentley, say
8 aye. Rosenberg, aye.

9 DR. NOVA: Aye, Nova.

10 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.
12 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to approve
13 service-connected disability for Tora Chamblee. Is
14 there a second?

15 DR. NOVA: Second.

16 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
18 those in favor of approving Tora Chamblee for service-
19 connected disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

20 DR. NOVA: Aye.

21 DR. RUDICH: Aye, Rudich.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph
23 Rosenberg, make a motion to—

24 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, before you
25 proceed, I'll just note for the record that the motion

1 regarding Tora Chamblee was approved unanimously.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you.

3 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
4 approve service-connected disability for Christopher
5 Devanney. Is there a second?

6 DR. NOVA: Second.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
8 discussion? All those in favor of approving
9 Christopher Devanney for service-connected disability,
10 say aye.

11 DR. NOVA: Aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. Dr.
13 Rudich?

14 DR. RUDICH: Nay.

15 MS. CIESLAK: The motion is not - or the vote
16 is not unanimous. And so we do have to do a rollcall
17 vote when it's not unanimous.

18 So Dr. Rosenberg, do you vote aye or nay?

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I vote aye.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Nova, do you vote aye or
21 nay?

22 DR. NOVA: Aye.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, do you vote aye or
24 nay?

25 DR. RUDICH: Nay.

1 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes two-to-one.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph
3 Rosenberg, make a motion to deny service-connected
4 disability for Mark Durning, but approve a non-service-
5 connected disability. Is there a second?

6 DR. RUDICH: I second, Rudich.

7 DR. NOVA: Second.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those - is there
9 any discussion? All those in favor of approving non-
10 service-connected disability for Mark Durning, say aye.

11 DR. NOVA: Aye.

12 DR. RUDICH: Aye, Rudich.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
14 motion passes.

15 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
16 grant non-service-connected disability to Linda
17 Edwards. Is there a second?

18 DR. NOVA: Second.

19 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
21 discussion? All those in favor of granting non-
22 service-connected disability to Linda Edwards, say aye.

23 DR. NOVA: Aye.

24 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The

1 motion passes.

2 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
3 grant non-service-connected disability to Flabia Feo.
4 Is there a second?

5 DR. NOVA: Second.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
7 discussion? All those in favor of granting non-
8 service-connected disability to Flabia Feo, say aye.

9 DR. NOVA: Aye.

10 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
12 motion passes.

13 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
14 grant service-connected disability to Cynthia Francis.
15 Is there a second?

16 DR. NOVA: Second.

17 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
19 discussion? All those in favor of granting service-
20 connected disability to Cynthia Francis, say aye.

21 DR. NOVA: Aye.

22 DR. RUDICH: Aye. Rudich, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
24 motion passes.

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

1 grant non-service-connected disability to Justin
2 Holbrook. Is there a second?

3 DR. NOVA: Second.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
5 discussion?

6 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a - sorry. All
7 those in favor of granting non-service-connected
8 disability to Justin Holbrook, say aye.

9 DR. NOVA: Aye.

10 DR. RUDICH: Aye, Rudich.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
12 motion passes.

13 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny
14 service-connected disability to Michael Howard. Is
15 there a second?

16 DR. NOVA: Second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
18 discussion? All in favor of denying service-connected
19 disability to Michael Howard, say aye.

20 DR. NOVA: Aye.

21 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
23 motion passes.

24 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny
25 non-service-connected disability to Janet Jubrey. Is

1 there a second?

2 DR. NOVA: Second.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
4 discussion? All those in favor of denying non-service-
5 connected disability to Janet Jubrey, say aye.

6 DR. NOVA: Aye.

7 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
9 motion passes.

10 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny
11 Lori Laprise' non-service-connected disability. Is
12 there a second?

13 DR. NOVA: Second.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor -
15 is there any discussion? All those in favor of denying
16 Lori Laprise' non-service-connected disability, say
17 aye.

18 DR. NOVA: Aye.

19 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
21 motion passes.

22 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny
23 service-connected disability to Nicole McCann. Is
24 there a second?

25 DR. NOVA: I have a question. Didn't we say

1 (inaudible)?

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Yeah. Well, we'd
3 look favorably on a non-service-connected disability.

4 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

5 DR. NOVA: Aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. So the
7 motion. So the motion passes for-

8 MS. CIESLAK: Oh, real quick. Doctors, I
9 apologize for the interruption.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: No, thank you.

11 MS. CIESLAK: I'm going to have to have you
12 go through that again - this is Cindy Cieslak - just
13 because there wasn't a clear second. So let's - the
14 motion was made by Dr. Rosenberg to deny service-
15 connection, but look favorably upon non-service-
16 connection for Nicole McCann. The motion was made by
17 Dr. Rosenberg. Is there a second?

18 DR. NOVA: Second.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Second by Dr. Nova. All right.
20 Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.

21 DR. NOVA: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Aye.

23 DR. RUDICH: Aye. Rudich, aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

25 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

1 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Unanimously.

2 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to deny
3 service-connected disability, but look favorably upon a
4 non-service-connected disability for David Poynton. Is
5 there a second?

6 DR. NOVA: Second.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
8 discussion?

9 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. I have
10 some discussion. This individual was - on their
11 application, applied for both service and non-service.
12 So instead of looking favorably, I would request that
13 you change the motion to approve non-service and deny
14 service.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, do you accept
17 that amendment?

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I do, and I will
19 represent it, if that's okay. I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg,
20 motion to approve non-service-connected disability for
21 David Poynton. Is there a second?

22 DR. NOVA: Second.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there a
24 discussion?

25 MS. CIESLAK: Just for the record, I would-

1 DR. RUDICH: We're also denying service-
2 connection.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I'll try it again.

4 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to - for David
5 Poynton, to deny service-connected disability, but
6 approve non-service-connected disability. Is there a
7 second?

8 DR. NOVA: Second.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there a
10 discussion? All those in favor of approving non-
11 service-connected disability to David Poynton, say aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Aye.

13 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
15 motion passes unanimously.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg-

17 DR. RUDICH: Did we - yes, ma'am. Okay.

18 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. I think
19 Dr. Rudich was going to say the same thing. I think
20 Juan Navedo was skipped over.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. I'll
22 address it.

23 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to approve
24 service-connected disability for Juan Navedo. Is there
25 a second?

1 DR. NOVA: Second.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
3 those in favor of approving service-connected
4 disability for Juan Navedo, say aye.

5 DR. NOVA: Aye.

6 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
8 motion passes unanimously.

9 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to deny
10 service-connected disability for Monica Robles. Is
11 there a second?

12 DR. NOVA: Second.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
14 discussion? All those in favor of denying service-
15 connected disability for Monica Robles, say aye.

16 DR. NOVA: Aye.

17 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
19 motion passes unanimously.

20 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
21 grant non-service-connected disability to Linda
22 Edwards. Is there a second?

23 DR. NOVA: Second.

24 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, second.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any

1 discussion? All those in favor of granting non-
2 service-connected disability to Linda Edwards, say aye.

3 DR. NOVA: Aye.

4 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
6 motion passes.

7 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to grant non-
8 service-connected disability to Michael Sawka. Is
9 there a second?

10 DR. NOVA: Second.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
12 discussion? All those in favor of granting non-
13 service-connected disability to Michael Sawka, say aye.

14 DR. NOVA: Aye.

15 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
17 motion passes unanimously.

18 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
19 grant non-service-connected disability to Kathy Sledge.
20 Is there a second?

21 DR. NOVA: Second.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
23 discussion? All those in favor of granting non-
24 service-connected disability to Kathy Sledge, say aye.

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

1 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
3 motion passes unanimously.

4 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny
5 service-connected disability, but grant non-service-
6 connected disability for Carla Smith. Is there a
7 second?

8 DR. NOVA: Second.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
10 discussion? All those in favor of granting non-
11 service-connected disability to Carla Smith, say aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Aye.

13 DR. RUDICH: Aye, Rudich.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
15 motion passes unanimously.

16 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
17 grant service-connected disability to Noelle Stevenson.
18 Is there a second?

19 DR. NOVA: Second.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
21 discussion? All those in favor of granting service-
22 connected disability to Noelle Stevenson, say aye.

23 DR. NOVA: Aye.

24 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The

1 motion passes unanimously.

2 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
3 grant service-connected disability to Anthony
4 Vendrella. Is there a second?

5 DR. NOVA: Second.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
7 those in favor of granting service-connected disability
8 to Anthony Vendrella, say aye.

9 DR. NOVA: Aye.

10 DR. RUDICH: Aye, Rudich.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
12 motion passes unanimously.

13 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
14 table service-connected disability for Marcelle
15 Zeitoun. Is there a second?

16 DR. NOVA: Second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
18 discussion? All those in favor of tabling the request
19 for service-connected disability for Marcelle Zeitoun,
20 say aye.

21 DR. NOVA: Aye.

22 DR. RUDICH: Aye, Rudich.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
24 motion passes unanimously.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, this is Cindy

1 Cieslak. If that concludes the business today, you can
2 make a motion to adjourn.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And I will. This is
4 Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to adjourn
5 today's February (sic) 14th, 2023 meeting of the Medical
6 Examination Board. Is there a second?

7 DR. NOVA: Second.

8 DR. RUDICH: Rudich-

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of
10 adjourning today's meeting for the Medical Examination
11 Board, say aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Aye.

13 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The
15 motion passes unanimously.

16 DR. NOVA: I think, for the record, it's July
17 14th.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: What did I say, June?

19 DR. NOVA: February.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. All right,
21 everyone, we are adjourned. Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank-

23 (Adjourned at 1:36 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 9:09 a.m. on
July 14, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

08/06/2023

Date