

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

---

AUGUST 11, 2023 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:19 a.m.

---

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Mike Gerstenfeld  
Dr. Frank Gerretana  
Dr. Sheldon Nova  
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division  
Helena Bartolemeo, Retirement Services Division  
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:19 a.m.)

2  
3  
4  
5 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: The State of  
6 Connecticut Medical Examining Board is being called to  
7 order. The August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting of the Medical  
8 Examining Board is now in session. My name is Dr.  
9 Michael Gerstenfeld. I'm the chairperson. Present is  
10 Dr. Sheldon Nova and Dr. Frank Gerratana. Present from  
11 the Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement  
12 Services Division, are staff members from the  
13 Retirement Services Division, Robert Helfand and Helena  
14 Bartolomeo; General Counsel for the Retirement  
15 Commission and Medical Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

16 The Medical Examining Board - any amending  
17 agenda? Is there any motion to amend the agenda for  
18 today or make any motion to remove anyone?

19 DR. GERRATANA: No.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: If there's no  
21 motion, then I would like to make a motion to go into  
22 executive session, please, and also request that  
23 members of the Retirement Services Division and counsel  
24 be allowed to remain.

25 So is there a motion to go into executive

1 session?

2 DR. NOVA: I make a motion. Dr. Nova.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Thank you.

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

7 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

8 DR. NOVA: Aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

10 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

11 We're going to go into executive - this is Cindy  
12 Cieslak. What that means is we're going to discuss the  
13 applicants' medical information in private because it  
14 contains sensitive and confidential information. If  
15 you are on reconsideration, you'll be invited in to  
16 make a statement to the doctors or answer any of their  
17 questions.

18 I'm going to put everyone back in the waiting  
19 room. When the doctors are done discussing everyone's  
20 medical records, we will reenter into a public session  
21 like this. And so we'll invite everyone back in from  
22 the waiting room to hear the decisions. It might be,  
23 you know, a couple of hours, and so I just want to give  
24 you that fair warning.

25 But if you are in the waiting room when we

1 reenter public session, you'll be invited back in. And  
2 if for some reason you can't wait and you're not on  
3 here to make a statement, then you will receive the  
4 written decision in the ordinary course.

5 All right. So I'm going to put everyone in  
6 the waiting room right now. So just hold tight. I'm  
7 going to turn the recording off.

8 (The board was in executive session from 9:20  
9 a.m. until 12:57 p.m.)

10 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: So the board will  
11 be making determinations and voting on those  
12 determinations, but 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 will  
22 provide you with that additional information.

23 So I'd like to start - I make a motion to  
24 deny David Budrawich's non-service disability -  
25 application for disability retirement.

1 DR. NOVA: Second.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Second from Dr. Nova. Is there  
3 any further discussion? There being none, all in  
4 favor, say aye.

5 DR. NOVA: Aye.

6 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

10 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve  
11 Roslyn Campbell's application for non-service-connected  
12 disability retirement.

13 DR. NOVA: Second.

14 MS. CIESLAK: The second was made by Dr.  
15 Nova. And for purposes of the record, I will note that  
16 unless I say something further in the future, Dr. Nova  
17 will have made all of the seconds.

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

20 DR. NOVA: Aye.

21 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve

1 David Chupcavich's application for service-connected  
2 disability retirement. Is there a second?

3 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

6 DR. NOVA: Aye.

7 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve  
12 Judy Dion's application for service-connected  
13 disability retirement. Is there a second?

14 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

17 DR. NOVA: Aye.

18 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I motion to deny,  
23 but would look favorably on - deny Michael Gallicchio's  
24 application for service-connected disability  
25 retirement, but look favorably upon a non-service-

1 connected disability retirement.

2 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

5 DR. NOVA: Aye.

6 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

10 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve  
11 Henry Hampton's application for non-service-connected  
12 disability retirement.

13 DR. NOVA: Second.

14 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. For the  
15 record, in case it wasn't clear, Dr. Gerstenfeld is  
16 also making these motions and Dr. Nova is seconding  
17 them.

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

20 DR. NOVA: Aye.

21 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to

1 deny Robert Haughton's application for non-service-  
2 connected disability retirement. Is there a second?

3 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

6 DR. NOVA: Aye.

7 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I motion to table  
12 Kristen Heyward's application for non-service-connected  
13 disability retirement.

14 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

17 DR. NOVA: Aye.

18 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
23 approve Marvin Hill's application for non-service-  
24 connected disability retirement.

25 DR. NOVA: Second.



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

3 DR. NOVA: Aye.

4 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

8 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I move to table  
9 Colleen Johnson's application for non-service-connected  
10 disability retirement. Is there a second?

11 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

14 DR. NOVA: Aye.

15 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

19 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
20 approve Tonya Keith-West's application for non-service-  
21 connected disability retirement. Is there a second?

22 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

1 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

5 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
6 approve Susan Martin's application for non-service-  
7 connected disability retirement.

8 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

11 DR. NOVA: Aye.

12 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

16 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
17 deny Persio Martinez' application for service-connected  
18 disability retirement. Is there a second?

19 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

22 DR. NOVA: Aye.

23 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

1 motion passes unanimously.

2 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
3 deny Susan Mohl's service-connected and non-service-  
4 connected application for disability retirement. Is  
5 there a second?

6 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

9 DR. NOVA: Aye.

10 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

14 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
15 table Michelle Plourde's application for non-service-  
16 connected disability retirement.

17 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

20 DR. NOVA: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to

1 approve Ruth Quale's application for service-connected  
2 disability retirement.

3 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

6 DR. NOVA: Aye.

7 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
12 table Richard Rusiecki's application for service- and  
13 non-service-connected - application for disability  
14 retirement.

15 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

18 DR. NOVA: Aye.

19 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

23 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
24 approve Hamel Springer's application for non-service-  
25 connected disability retirement.

1 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

4 DR. NOVA: Aye.

5 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

9 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
10 approve Tara Stevenson's application for non-service-  
11 connected disability.

12 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

15 DR. NOVA: Aye.

16 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
21 approve Debra Trimachi's application for service-  
22 connected disability retirement.

23 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

1 DR. NOVA: Aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

3 DR. GERRATANA: This is Dr. Gerratana. I  
4 abstain from the vote on Debra Trimachi.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. So the motion will pass  
6 two-to-zero-to-one with Dr. Gerratana abstaining.  
7 Given that it's not completely unanimous, we do have to  
8 do a rollcall vote.

9 So, Dr. Gerstenfeld, on the motion to approve  
10 Dr. Trimachi, what is your vote - or Debra Trimachi.  
11 What is your vote?

12 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: My vote is to  
13 approve.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. And, Dr. Nova, what is  
15 your vote?

16 DR. NOVA: Approve.

17 MS. CIESLAK: And Dr. Gerratana is  
18 abstaining. So it's approved two-to-zero with Dr.  
19 Gerratana abstaining. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
21 approve Jefte Vasquez' application for service-  
22 connected disability retirement. Is there a second?

23 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

1 DR. NOVA: Aye.

2 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I make a motion to  
7 adjourn the Medical Examining Board meeting for August  
8 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Gerstenfeld, I'm going to  
10 ask you to withdraw your motion to adjourn because we  
11 have one more matter on the agenda.

12 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Oh, my apologies.

13 MS. CIESLAK: That's okay. So we do have a  
14 matter on the agenda, which is a change from service-  
15 to non-service for Annie Perry. So we will need a  
16 motion to approve that change and we'll need a second.

17 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve  
18 the change.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Gerstenfeld moved to  
20 approve the change--

21 DR. NOVA: Second.

22 MS. CIESLAK: --to non-service for Annie  
23 Perry. Dr. Nova seconded the motion. Any discussion?  
24 There being none, all in favor, say aye.

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

1 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
4 motion passes unanimously. Now you may adjourn, Dr.  
5 Gerstenfeld.

6 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Thank you. I'd  
7 like to make a motion to adjourn the August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
8 meeting of the Medical Examining Board.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Gerratana. All  
11 in favor, say aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Aye.

13 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: And we have nobody opposed, so  
16 the meeting is adjourned. Thank you, everyone.

17 DR. NOVA: Thank you.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Thank you, all.

19 CHAIRPERSON GERSTENFELD: Thank you,  
20 everybody.

21 (Adjourned at 1:09 p.m.)  
22  
23  
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 9:19 a.m. on  
August 11, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

09/05/2023

Date