

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

---

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:05 a.m.

---

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Ralph Rosenberg  
Dr. Sachin Parekh  
Dr. Eric Shore  
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division  
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division  
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division  
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:05 a.m.)

2  
3  
4  
5 MS. CIESLAK: Good morning, everyone. We're  
6 just getting started. I'm going to end up muting  
7 everyone but the doctors. Dr. Rosenberg, you can  
8 begin when you're ready.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. Welcome  
10 to the September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting of the Medical  
11 Examination Board. I am Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, the  
12 Chairperson. Present today from the Medical  
13 Examination Board are Dr. Eric Shore and Dr. Sachin  
14 Parekh. Present from the Office of the State  
15 Comptroller's Office, Retirement Services Division, are  
16 staff members from the Retirement Services Division  
17 Robert Helfand, William Cassada, and Helena Bartolomeo.  
18 General Counsel for the Retirement Commission and  
19 Medical Examination Board is Cindy Cieslak.

20 Are there any motions to amend today's  
21 meeting?

22 DR. SHORE: No.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: If there are no such  
24 motion, I motion that we accept the agenda. Is there a  
25 second?

1 DR. PAREKH: Second.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor,  
3 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

4 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

5 DR. SHORE: Aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor,  
7 say aye. I'm sorry.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

9 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Motion passes. I  
11 make a motion that we go into executive session, and I  
12 request that members from the State Comptroller's  
13 Office, Robert Helfand, William Cassada, and Helena  
14 Bartolomeo, remain in the session as well as General  
15 Counsel Cindy Cieslak. Is there a second?

16 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor,  
18 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

19 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

20 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Motion passes. We  
22 will go into executive session.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Rosenberg. This  
24 is Cindy Cieslak. Just for the record, Dr. Parekh  
25 seconded the motion to approve the agenda. And then

1 all of the individuals here who are applicants or from  
2 the public, I'm going to place you back in the waiting  
3 room. The doctors go into executive session to discuss  
4 the confidential and private medical information.

5 And then while they are discussing the  
6 matters, those who are on reconsideration will be  
7 invited in to make their statement. And then once they  
8 have finished discussing everyone's matter, they will  
9 return to public session and everyone who is in the  
10 waiting room will be invited back in to hear the  
11 decisions today.

12 Thank you.

13 (The board was in executive session from 9:06  
14 a.m. until 11:27 a.m.)

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry about that.

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

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. The board  
19 will be making determinations and voting on those  
20 determinations, but would like to remind members that  
21 only the final vote will be given today, not the reason  
22 for the vote. In some instances, there may not have  
23 been enough medical information to make a  
24 determination, or perhaps a non-service-connected  
25 disability is more likely a service-connected

1 disability.

2 You may seek reconsideration of an initial  
3 denial. You will receive the board's written  
4 determination within two to four weeks, which will  
5 provide you with that additional information.

6 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a  
7 motion to deny - oh, sorry. This is Dr. Ralph  
8 Rosenberg and I make a motion to deny service-connected  
9 disability for Willie Barnes. Is there a second?

10 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
12 Rosenberg. All those in favor - is there any  
13 discussion? This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All those in  
14 favor of denying service-connected disability to Willie  
15 Barnes, say aye.

16 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

17 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

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

20 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
21 to table service-connected disability for Desiree  
22 Bowman. Is there a second?

23 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
25 Rosenberg. All those in favor of tabling the decision

1 for service-connected disability for Desiree Bowman,  
2 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

3 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

4 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

6 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
7 to deny service-connected disability for Stephen  
8 Bradshaw. Is there a second?

9 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
11 Rosenberg. All those in favor of denying service-  
12 connected disability to Stephen Bradshaw, say aye.  
13 Rosenberg, aye.

14 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

15 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion  
17 passes.

18 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
19 to approve service-connected disability for Francis  
20 Conley. Is there a second?

21 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
23 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving service-  
24 connected disability to Francis Conley, say aye.  
25 Rosenberg, aye.

1 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

2 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion  
4 passes.

5 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
6 to approve service-connected disability for Gilberto  
7 Febus. Is there a second?

8 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
10 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving service-  
11 connected disability for Gilberto Febus, say aye.  
12 Rosenberg, aye.

13 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

14 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

16 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
17 to approve service-connected disability for Adelina  
18 Galarza. Is there a second?

19 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
21 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve service-  
22 connected disability for Adalina Galarza. All those in  
23 favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

24 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

25 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
2 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve service-  
3 connected disability for Thomas Jones. Is there a  
4 second?

5                   DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

6                   CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
7 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving service-  
8 connected disability for Thomas Jones, say aye.  
9 Rosenberg, aye.

10                  DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

11                  DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

12                  CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

13                  This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
14 to approve non-service-connected disability for Kelly  
15 Knight. Is there a second?

16                  DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

17                  CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
18 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving non-  
19 service-connected disability for Kelly Knight, say aye.  
20 Rosenberg, aye.

21                  DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

22                  DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

23                  CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

24                  This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
25 to approve service-connected disability for Henry



1 Kuczenski. Is there a second?

2 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
4 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving service-  
5 connected disability for Henry Kuczenski, say aye.  
6 Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

10 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
11 to deny service-connected disability for Stephen  
12 Bradshaw. Is there a second?

13 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
15 Rosenberg. All those in favor of denying service-  
16 connected disability to Stephen Bradshaw, say aye.  
17 Rosenberg, aye.

18 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

19 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion  
21 passes.

22 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
23 to table non-service-connected disability for Dorian  
24 Lord. Is there a second?

25 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

1 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
2 tabling application for non-service-connected  
3 disability for Dorian Lord, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

4 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

5 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

7 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
8 to deny service-connected disability for Francine  
9 Magnano, but to approve non-service-connected  
10 disability. Is there a second?

11 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
13 Rosenberg. I make a motion to deny - this is Dr. Ralph  
14 Rosenberg. I make a motion to deny Francine Magnano  
15 for service-connected disability, but to approve  
16 service-connected (sic) disability.

17 All those in favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

18 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

19 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

21 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
22 to deny service-connected disability for Vilma Marrero.  
23 Is there a second?

24 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph

1 Rosenberg. All those in favor of denying service-  
2 connected disability to Vilma Marrero, say aye.

3 Rosenberg, aye.

4 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

5 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

7 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
8 to deny service-connected disability to Michael  
9 McCargo. Is there a second?

10 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
12 Rosenberg. All those in favor of denying service-  
13 connected disability to Michael McCargo, say aye.  
14 Rosenberg, aye.

15 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

16 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

18 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
19 to approve service-connected disability for Brendon  
20 Murray. Is there a second?

21 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
23 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve service-  
24 connected disability for Brendon Murray. All those in  
25 favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

1 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

2 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

4 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
5 to approve non-service-connected disability for Michael  
6 Otero. Is there a second?

7 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
9 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving non-  
10 service-connected disability to Michael Otero, say aye.  
11 Rosenberg, aye.

12 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

13 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

15 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
16 to approve non-service-connected disability for Michael  
17 Pesce. Is there a second?

18 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
20 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve non-service-  
21 connected disability for Michael Pesce. All those in  
22 favor say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

23 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

24 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

1           This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
2 to approve non-service-connected disability for Crystal  
3 Plummer. Is there a second?

4           DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

5           CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
6 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving non-  
7 service-connected disability for Crystal Plummer, say  
8 aye. Rosenberg, aye.

9           DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

10          DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

11          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion  
12 passes.

13          This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
14 to deny service-connected disability for Diane Rogers.  
15 Is there a second?

16          DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

17          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
18 Rosenberg. All those in favor of denying service-  
19 connected disability to Diane Rogers, say aye.  
20 Rosenberg, aye.

21          MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg? This is Cindy  
22 Cieslak. For discussion purposes, are you commenting  
23 on-

24          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: She was approved for  
25 non-service.

1 MS. CIESLAK: --on non-service. I would  
2 rephrase - withdraw your motion and rephrase your  
3 motion. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: You want me to redo  
5 it. I remove my motion and I will start again. Thank  
6 you and I appreciate that.

7 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
8 to deny service-connected disability for Diane Rogers,  
9 but approve non-service-connected disability for Diane  
10 Rogers. Is there a second?

11 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor -  
13 this is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All those in favor of  
14 denying service-connected disability for Diane Rogers,  
15 but approving non-service-connected disability, say  
16 aye. Rosenberg, aye.

17 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

18 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

20 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
21 to deny non-service-connected disability to Lisa  
22 Suarez. Is there a second?

23 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
25 Rosenberg. All those in favor of denying non-service-

1 connected disability to Lisa Suarez, say aye.

2 Rosenberg, aye.

3 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

4 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

6 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
7 to deny service-connected disability for Sean Sullivan.  
8 Is there a second?

9 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
11 Rosenberg. All those in favor of denying service-  
12 connected disability-

13 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg? I apologize for  
14 the interruption.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Go ahead.

16 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. I  
17 apologize for the interruption. I think there is some  
18 comment on this one.

19 Dr. Shore, is there comment about the non-  
20 service?

21 DR. SHORE: Yeah. Approve non-service.  
22 That's all. That's what I have written down. Parekh?

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Well, it's supposed  
24 to be-

25 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak.

1           CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: He does not elect  
2 that as an option. So it's to look favorably, I  
3 thought.

4           DR. PAREKH: It was to look favorably.  
5 That's correct.

6           CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: So it's a deny, but  
7 look favorably. Is that - does that need to be listed  
8 in choice - in the discussion?

9           DR. SHORE: Yes.

10          MS. CIESLAK: It would make the record  
11 clearer, yeah.

12          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Then I will do that  
13 to make the record clearer.

14          This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I withdraw the  
15 previous on Sean Sullivan and will rephrase. So this  
16 is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to deny  
17 service-connected disability to Sean Sullivan, but look  
18 favorably on an application for non-service-connected  
19 disability. Is there a second?

20          DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

21          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
22 Rosenberg. I make a motion to deny service-connected  
23 disability for Sean Sullivan, but look favorably on  
24 non-service-connected disability. All in favor, say  
25 aye. Rosenberg, aye.



1 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

2 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion  
4 passes.

5 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
6 to approve non-service-connected disability for Ivonne  
7 Torres. Is there a second?

8 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
10 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve non-service-  
11 connected disability for Ivonne Torres. All those in  
12 favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

13 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

14 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

16 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion  
17 to adjourn today's September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Medical  
18 Examination Board. Is there a second?

19 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
21 Rosenberg. All those in favor of adjourning today's  
22 meeting of the Medical Examination Board, say aye.  
23 Rosenberg, aye.

24 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

25 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

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

CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.  
And I thank everyone for their help and their  
attendance.

DR. PAREKH: Thank you, everyone.  
(Adjourned at 11:40 a.m.)

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 9:05 a.m. on  
September 8, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

09/18/2023

Date