

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 25, 2023 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:06 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Lynn Rudich
Dr. Frank Gerretana
Dr. Ralph Rosenberg
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolemeo, Retirement Services Division
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

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

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

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. The August 25th,
8 2023 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in
9 session. I am Chair Dr. Lynn Rudich. We have Dr.
10 Frank Gerratana and Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. Present from
11 the Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement
12 Services Division, are Robert Helfand, William Cassada
13 (inaudible), and Helena Bartolomeo. We also have
14 General Counsel to the Retirement Commission, Cindy
15 Cieslak.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, this is Cindy
17 Cieslak. Just for the record, William Cassada is not
18 here today.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: He isn't. Okay.

20 I make a motion to go into executive session.
21 Is there a second to the motion?

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
24 favor, say aye.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

1 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye. All opposed, say
3 nay. The motion passes.

4 I'm going to request that the members of the
5 Retirement Services Division and our counsel be allowed
6 to remain in our session.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. And what this means
8 for the retirees and everyone at the division, we are
9 going - this is Cindy Cieslak - we are going into
10 executive session. The doctors will be discussing your
11 medical information in private as it contains obviously
12 sensitive and confidential information. Then each
13 individual will be called in one at a time to make any
14 statement they would like to provide to the doctors.
15 And then we will exit executive session and go into
16 public session, at which time, if you're still here,
17 you'll be able to hear the decision today.

18 So I'm going to place everyone in the waiting
19 room and then you'll be called in one at a time as the
20 doctors are ready to hear from you. Okay?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So what do we do
24 (inaudible)?

25 MR. HELFAND: You don't need to go into the

1 other room yet.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

3 MR. HELFAND: You can wait where you are now.
4 This room is a little larger (inaudible).

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, okay.

6 MR. HELFAND: So stay where you are and when
7 we come out of executive session (inaudible) and let
8 you know what needs to be done.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.

11 (The board was in executive session from 9:07
12 a.m. until 2:24 p.m.)

13 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, you can proceed
14 when you are ready.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. The board has
16 made its determinations, but would like to remind
17 members that only the final - I'm sorry. The board has
18 made its determinations, but would like to remind
19 members that only the final vote will be given today
20 and not the reasons for the vote. In some instances,
21 there may not have been enough medical information to
22 make a favorable determination.

23 You may seek reconsideration of a denial.

24 You will receive the board's determination within two
25 to four weeks, which will provide you with that

1 additional information.

2 I make a motion to deny the continued
3 entitlements of service-connected disability retirement
4 of David Diaz.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
7 favor, say aye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye. All in
10 favor, say nay - all opposed, say nay.

11 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, nay.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The motion passes, two-
13 to-one.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to
15 approve the continued entitlements of service-connected
16 disability retirement of Domingo Malave. Is there a
17 second?

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

22 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye. The motion
24 passes.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny

1 the continued entitlements to service-connected
2 disability retirement of William Pagoni.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
5 favor, say aye.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

7 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye. The motion
9 passes.

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
11 the continued entitlements on reconsideration of
12 service-connected disability retirement of Christopher
13 Robinson.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
16 favor, say aye.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

18 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye. The motion
20 passes.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
22 the continued entitlements to service-connected
23 disability retirement on reconsideration of Cordelia
24 Thorpe. Is there a second?

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second. That was

1 Gerratana second.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? Any
3 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

5 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye. The motion
7 passes.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
9 the continued entitlements of service-connected
10 disability retirement of Christopher Vescera. Is there
11 a second?

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
14 favor, say aye.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

16 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye. The motion
18 passes.

19 I make a motion to adjourn the meeting of the
20 Medical Examining Board today.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
23 favor, say aye.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

25 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye. The motion
2 passes.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you all.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Thank you, everyone.

5 DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Thank you.

7 (Adjourned at 2:29 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
August 25, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

09/14/2023

Date