

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 3, 2023 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:10 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Ralph Rosenberg
Dr. Sachin Parekh
Dr. Mike Gerstenfeld
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
Robin Kallor, Rose Kallor, LLP
Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:10 a.m.)

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5 MS. KALLOR: All right. We're on the
6 recording.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Good morning. This
8 is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. Today is the November 3rd, 2023
9 meeting of the Medical Examination Board and is now in
10 session. I am Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, Chairperson.
11 Present today for the Medical Examination Board is Dr.
12 Sachin Parekh and Dr. Michael Gerstenfeld. Present
13 from the Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement
14 Services Division, are staff members from the
15 Retirement Services Division Robert Helfand and Helena
16 Bartolomeo.

17 General Counsel for the commission and
18 Medical Examining Board, for the first hour, Attorney
19 Robin Kallor, then after that, it will be Attorney
20 Cindy Cieslak.

21 Is there any motion to amend today's agenda?
22 If there's no motion to amend today's agenda, I request
23 that we accept the agenda. Is there a second? Dr.
24 Parekh, you're muted.

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

1 DR. PAREKH: Second.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of
3 accepting the agenda, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

4 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

5 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion
7 passes. I make a motion that we go into executive
8 session. Is there a second?

9 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I also request that
11 when we go into executive session that, from the State
12 Comptroller's Office, that Robert Helfand and Helena
13 Bartolomeo continue to join the executive session as
14 well as the General Counsel for the Retirement
15 Commission, Medical Examining Board, Robin Kallor and
16 Cindy Cieslak. Is there a second?

17 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of
19 going into executive session, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

20 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion
23 passes.

24 MS. KALLOR: Okay, just give me one second.

25 (The board was in executive session from 9:13

1 a.m. until 11:26 a.m.)

2 MS. WINIARSKI: I'm sorry. Did I come back
3 in accidentally?

4 MS. CIESLAK: Nope. You're fine, Ms.
5 Winiarski. We are just entering public session.

6 MS. WINIARSKI: Oh (inaudible).

7 MS. CIESLAK: We'll begin in a second.

8 MS. WINIARSKI: Okay, thank you.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. The board
12 will be 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 So, I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
25 approve non-service-connected disability for Kristen

1 Bernier. Is there any discussion? Is there a second?

2 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of
4 approving non-service-connected disability for Kristen
5 Bernier, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

6 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

9 I motion to deny service-connected disability
10 for Aleshia Caple. Is there a second?

11 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
13 those in favor of denying service-connected disability
14 for Aleshia Caple, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

15 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

16 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

18 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
19 table decision for service-connected disability for
20 Cynthia Cassada. Is there a second?

21 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
23 discussion? That being the case, all those in favor of
24 tabling service-connected disability for Cynthia
25 Cassada, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

1 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

4 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
5 accept service-connected disability for Shari Chan. Is
6 there a second?

7 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? That
9 being the case, I make a motion - this is Dr. Ralph
10 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving service-
11 connected disability for Shari Chan, say aye.
12 Rosenberg, aye.

13 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

16 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
17 accept non-service-connected disability for Efrain
18 Colon. Is there a second?

19 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
21 those in favor of approving non-service-connected
22 disability for Efrain Colon, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

23 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

1 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
2 accept, on reconsideration, service-connected
3 disability for James Conley. Is there a second?

4 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
6 those in favor of accepting service-connected
7 disability on reconsideration for James Conley, say
8 aye. Rosenberg, aye.

9 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

10 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

12 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny
13 service-connected disability for Lleidy Deleon, but
14 would look favorably on a non-service-connected
15 disability for the applicant. Is there a second?

16 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
18 those in favor of denying service-connected disability,
19 but looking favorably on a non-service-connected
20 disability for Lleidy Deleon, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

24 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a
25 motion to accept service-connected disability for Debra

1 Dorso. Is there a second?

2 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
4 those in favor of approving service-connected
5 disability for Debra Dorso, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

6 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

9 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
10 approve service-connected disability on reconsideration
11 for Brison Downing. Is there a second?

12 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
14 those in favor of approving service-connected
15 disability for Brison Downing, say aye. Rosenberg,
16 aye.

17 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

18 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

20 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny
21 non-service-connected disability to Jennifer Doyle. Is
22 there a second?

23 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? I,
25 Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny non-service-

1 connected disability to Jennifer Doyle.

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

3 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

6 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
7 approve non-service-connected disability for Jonathan
8 Encarnacion. Is there a second?

9 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? I,
11 Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to approve non-
12 service-connected disability for Jonathan Encarnacion.

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

14 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

15 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

17 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny
18 non-service-connected disability for Nicole LaVie. Is
19 there a second?

20 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? I,
22 Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny non-service-
23 connected disability for Nicole LaVie.

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

25 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

1 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

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

6 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of
8 approving non-service-connected disability for Shown
9 Lowe, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

10 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

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

16 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
18 those in favor of approving - all those in favor of
19 tabling service-connected disability for Keith
20 Lukasiewski, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

24 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
25 approve non-service-connected disability for Corinne

1 Mesite. Is there a second?

2 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
4 those in favor of approving non-service-connected
5 disability for Corinne Mesite, say aye. Rosenberg,
6 aye.

7 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

10 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
11 approve non-service-connected disability for Shelley
12 Mosig. Is there a second?

13 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
15 those in favor of approving non-service-connected
16 disability for Shelley Mosig, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

17 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

18 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

20 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
21 approve non-service-connected disability for Melody
22 Pribesh. Is there a second?

23 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
25 those in favor of approving non-service-connected

1 disability for Melody Pribesh, say aye. Rosenberg,
2 aye.

3 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

6 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
7 table a request for service-connected disability for
8 Alicia Pronovost. Is there a second?

9 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
11 those in favor of tabling a request for service-
12 connected disability for Alicia Pronovost, say aye.
13 Rosenberg, aye.

14 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

15 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

17 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
18 approve non-service-connected disability on a
19 posthumous basis for Tyrone Shaver. Is there a second?

20 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
22 those in favor of approving non-service-connected
23 posthumous disability for Tyrone Shaver, say aye.
24 Rosenberg, aye.

25 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

1 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

3 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny
4 non-service-connected disability on reconsideration for
5 Juliane Winiarski. Is there a second?

6 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
8 those in favor of denying non-service-connected
9 disability on reconsideration for Juliane Winiarski,
10 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

11 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

14 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to
15 accept non-service-connected disability for Nicole
16 McCann. Is there a second?

17 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Any discussion? All
19 those in favor of accepting non-service-connected
20 disability for Nicole McCann, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

24 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a
25 motion to adjourn the meeting. Is there a second?

1 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor of
3 adjourning the meeting of today's November 3rd, 2023 MEB
4 Board meeting, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

5 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Motion passes.

8 Thank you all very much.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.

10 DR. PAREKH: Thank you.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Thank you.

12 (Adjourned at 11:39 a.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 9:10 a.m. on
November 3, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

11/13/2023

Date