

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE EMPLOYEE'S RETIREMENT COMMISSION

MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

October 18, 2024

HELD VIA ZOOM

CONVENED AT 9:07 A.M.

Present (Via Zoom):

Lynn Rudich, M.D.

Ralph Rosenberg, M.D.

Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

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

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The October 18, 2024 meeting of  
3 the Medical Examining Board is now in session. I'm Dr. Lynn  
4 Rudich, chairperson. We also have Dr. Michael Gerstenfeld, and  
5 Dr. Ralph Rosenberg with us. Present from the office of the  
6 State Comptroller Retirement Services Division are staff members  
7 Robert Helfand, Helena Bartolomeo and Nabil Waheed. We also  
8 have general counsel for the Retirement Commission and Medical  
9 Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

10 I'm gonna make a motion to go into executive session,  
11 but I'm going to request that members of the Retirement Services  
12 Division and counsel be allowed to remain. Is there a second?

13 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Rosenberg, I second.

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

16 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

19 MS. CIESLAK: All right. This is Cindy Cieslak. What  
20 that means for all of our retirees and their counsel today is  
21 I'm gonna place you back in the waiting room, the doctors are  
22 going to review all of the information you submitted, and then  
23 they will be inviting each of you in one by one to make a  
24 statement. Sometimes this process can take a couple of hours,  
25 so please be patient with us. And then once we have reviewed

1 everyone, the doctors will reenter public session and everyone  
2 will be invited into hear the decision today. All right? Thank  
3 you. Dr. Rudich, you can proceed when you're ready.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The board will be making  
5 determinations and voting on those determinations. I would like  
6 to remind members that only the final vote will be given today  
7 and not the reasons for the vote. In some instances there may  
8 not have been enough medical information to make a determination  
9 or perhaps other information may be requested. You may seek a  
10 reconsideration of a denial -- of an initial denial. You'll  
11 receive the board's written determination within 2 to 4 weeks,  
12 which will provide you with that additional information.

13 I make a motion to deny the continued entitlement to  
14 service connected disability retirement of Trinene Davis.

15 Second?

16 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Rosenberg, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,  
18 say aye. Rudich, aye.

19 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion  
22 to deny the service connected -- the continued entitlement to  
23 service connected disability retirement on reconsideration of  
24 David Diaz. Is there a second?

25 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

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

3 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion  
6 to deny the continued entitlement to service connected  
7 disability retirement of Rosalyn Furlow. Is there a second?

8 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,  
10 say aye. Rudich, aye.

11 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion  
14 to table the continued entitlement to nonservice connected  
15 disability retirement of Gloribel Marin-Luna. Is there a  
16 second?

17 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

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

20 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion  
23 to deny the continued entitlement on reconsideration of service  
24 connected disability retirement of William Pagoni. Is there a  
25 second?

1 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

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

4 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed say nay.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, nay.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes two to one. I make  
8 a motion to deny service connect entitle continued entitlement  
9 to service connected disability retirement and reconsideration  
10 of Jeffrey Patton. Is there a second?

11 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

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

14 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

15 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion  
17 to deny the continued entitlement to service connected  
18 disability retirement of Joseph Russo. Is there a second?

19 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

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

22 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion  
25 to adjourn the meeting of the Medical Examining Board of today.

1 Is there a second?

2 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

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

5 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, everyone.

9 MS. TRINENE DAVIS: Um hello -- I have a question.  
10 Hello?

11 MS. CIESLAK: So, you should call the Retirement  
12 Services Division with your question because we can't --

13 MS. TRINENE DAVIS: I just need to understand what  
14 they just said, did they deny me my disability?

15 MS. CIESLAK: Yes. You were denied today.

16 MS. TRINENE DAVIS: Is there an appeal board?

17 MS. CIESLAK: You will receive a letter with all of  
18 your appeal options.

19 MS. TRINENE DAVIS: So I'm not gonna be receiving any  
20 benefits?

21 MS. CIESLAK: I don't know the current status, but  
22 you've been denied, so yeah, if you are receiving benefits,  
23 they're gonna be stopped.

24 MS. TRINENE DAVIS: Okay.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Okay.

1 MS. TRINENE DAVIS: And this is --

2 BOARD MEMBER: They will be stopped.

3 MS. TRINENE DAVIS: -- what my doctor's saying I can't  
4 work in a hazardous duty job. And my job was hazardous duty,  
5 and y'all can't place me back in a hazardous duty job, and you  
6 denied me my benefits.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Ms. Davis, we don't want to discuss  
8 medical information on a public meeting. You should call the  
9 Retirement Services Division in order to discuss what your  
10 options are, and then you will receive a written decision  
11 indicating the reasons that you were denied.

12 MS. TRINENE DAVIS: Okay. Thank you.

13 MS. CIESLAK: All right. Have a good weekend,  
14 everyone.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Thank you.  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1  
2 **CERTIFICATE**

3  
4 I certify that this document is a true and accurate  
5 description of the proceedings obtained from the recorded  
6 meeting of the State of Connecticut State Employees Retirement  
7 Commission, Medical Examining Board on October 18, 2024 to the  
8 best of my ability.

9  
10 

11 Wendy Malitsky  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25