

MINUTES TO MEETING
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
FRIDAY, February 2, 2024

A Meeting of the Medical Examining Board was held on Friday, February 2, 2024, at the Office of the State Comptroller, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, Connecticut, 06106. Circumstances created by the COVID-19 virus have resulted in all Medical Examining Board meetings being conducted electronically.

PRESENT:

Sachin Parekh, M.D., CHAIRPERSON
Eric T. Shore, M.D.
Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.

ABSENT:

Frank Gerratana, M.D.
Fielding Johnson, M.D.
Manny Katsetos, M.D.
Nikolai Lieders, M.D.
Sheldon Nova, M.D.
Rita Ohene-Adjei, M.D.
Ralph Rosenberg, M.D.
Lynn Rudich, M.D.
Sokpoleak So, M.D.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robert Helfand, Disability Retirement Unit, Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Disability Retirement Unit, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Disability Retirement Unit, Retirement Services Division
Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor, LLP.

Please note that a portion of the meeting was conducted in executive session as the focus of the meeting was the medical condition(s) of each Disability Retirement applicant.

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Dr. Parekh motioned to go into the Executive Session to discuss medical condition(s) related to the applications for Disability Retirement, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, at 9:04 am. Members of the Retirement Services Division and the General Counsel to the Commission were invited to stay during Executive Session. A brief break was taken.

1. Sophia Ferrell and Attorney Russell Zimmerlin appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:17 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:20 am.
2. Attorney Colleen Casini appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:21 am. Attorney Casini made a statement and was excused by the Board at 11:23 am.
3. Bernard Sharkey and Attorney Brandi Roberts appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:24 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:30 am.
4. Jill Sizensky and Attorney Justin Raymond appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:31 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:37 am.

Dr. Parekh motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld at 11:37 am.

BOWMAN, DESIREE 161290 SERVICE CONNECTED (CONT'D)
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny Desiree Bowman's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

BURGESS, MISTY 020435 SERVICE CONNECTED*
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve Misty Burgess's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CHASE, LAURAL 613647 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny Laural Chase's entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

COLES, PHYLISHA 468026 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to table Phylisha Coles's entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

FERRELL, SOPHIA 472350 SERVICE CONNECTED (RECON)
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve Sophia Ferrell's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

GADSDEN, SHANITA 064641 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny Shanita Gadsden's entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

HART, DENNIS 356599 SERVICE CONNECTED* (RECON)
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny Dennis Hart's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

JOSEPH, SCHMID 647620 CHANGE TO NON-SERVICE CONNECTED
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve Schmid Joseph's entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

JOHNSON, TIMOTHY 056319 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny Timothy Johnson's entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

KABEL, TIMOTHY 526453 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve Timothy Kabel's entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LEWIS, TASHISHIA 625999 SERVICE CONNECTED
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve Tashishia Lewis's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MCCLANE, KELLY 125410 SERVICE CONNECTED*
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny Kelly McClane's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

PHILLIPS-WHITE, COLLEEN 373952 SERVICE CONNECTED*
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny Colleen Phillips-White's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

PIERSCINSKI, ELIZABETH 875675 SERVICE CONNECTED*
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny Elizabeth Pierscinski's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SANJURJO MELENDEZ, EVELYN 504231 SERVICE CONNECTED* (CONT'D)
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny Evelyn Sanjurjo Melendez's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SHARKEY, BERNARD 972767 SERVICE CONNECTED (RECON)
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve Bernard Sharkey's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SIZENSKY, JILL 408748 SERVICE CONNECTED (RECON)
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to stand by the Board's previous decision to deny Jill Sizensky's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

VELEZ, ANGELO 557183 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve Angelo Velez's entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

VIERA, MICHAEL 148428 SERVICE CONNECTED
Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny Michael Viera's entitlement to service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 am. Motion approved unanimously.