

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

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APRIL 5, 2024 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:03 a.m.

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Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Frank Gerratana  
Dr. Ralph Rosenberg  
Dr. Sheldon Nova  
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division  
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division  
Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:03 a.m.)

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5 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Gerratana, you can start  
6 when you are ready.

7 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Good morning,  
8 everyone. The April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting of the Medical  
9 Examining Board is now in session. I'm Dr. Frank  
10 Gerratana, your Chairperson. Also present are Dr.  
11 Ralph Rosenberg and Dr. Sheldon Nova. Present from the  
12 Office of the Comptroller, Retirement Services  
13 Division, are staff members William Cassada and Helena  
14 Bartolomeo, and General Counsel for the Retirement  
15 Commission and Medical Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

16 I'll make a motion to go into executive  
17 session for the purposes of discussing individual  
18 members' disability health issues. I'll also request  
19 that the members of the Retirement Services Division  
20 and counsel be allowed to remain, and I'll need a  
21 second for that.

22 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Rosenberg. I  
23 second.

24 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Therefore, that  
25 motion passes.

1 MS. CIESLAK: I'll call the motion. Any  
2 discussion? There being none, all in favor, say aye.

3 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Aye.

5 DR. NOVA: Aye.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. It was  
7 unanimous.

8 So we're going to go into executive session.  
9 All of the applicants and members from the public here,  
10 I'm going to place you back in the waiting room. The  
11 doctors are going to discuss each applicant's medical  
12 history. If you are on reconsideration, you will be  
13 invited in to make a statement.

14 This process sometimes does take an hour or  
15 two, so just remain patient, that you are going to be  
16 in a waiting room, and then we'll let you back in also  
17 when we reenter public session and the doctors make  
18 their decisions today. Thank you.

19 (The Board was in executive session from 9:04  
20 a.m. until 1:09 p.m.)

21 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Gerratana, you can proceed  
22 when you are ready.

23 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: The Board has just  
24 come out of executive session. The Board now will be  
25 making determinations and voting on those

1 determinations, but would like to remind members that  
2 only the final vote will be given today and not the  
3 reasons for the vote. In some instances, there may not  
4 have been enough medical information to make a  
5 determination, or perhaps a service-connected  
6 disability is more likely a non-service-connected  
7 disability.

8 You may seek reconsideration of an initial  
9 denial. You will receive the Board's written  
10 determination within two to four weeks, which will  
11 provide you with that additional information.

12 The Board will now vote on the applicants'  
13 requests. I move that the service-connected request  
14 from Jonathan Andino be tabled. Is there a second?

15 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Rosenberg. I  
16 second.

17 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

18 DR. NOVA: Aye.

19 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
21 motion passes.

22 I move that for Jose Aponte, II, his request  
23 for a service-connected disability retirement be  
24 denied. Is there a second?

25 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

1 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

2 DR. NOVA: Aye.

3 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
5 motion passes.

6 For Vicki Blumberg, I move that the request  
7 for a service-connected disability retirement be  
8 denied. Is there a second?

9 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

11 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
14 motion passes.

15 For Robert Carrillo, I move that the request  
16 for a service-connected disability retirement be  
17 denied, but that the Board will look favorably on a  
18 request for a non-service-connected disability  
19 retirement. Is there a second?

20 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

21 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

22 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

23 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
25 motion passes.

1           Concerning Regina Chambers, I make a motion  
2 that the request for a service-connected disability  
3 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

4           DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

5           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: And all those in  
6 favor?

7           DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

8           DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

9           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
10 motion passes.

11           Concerning Christopher Cohen, I make a motion  
12 that that the request for a service-connected  
13 disability retirement to be approved. Is there a  
14 second?

15           DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. Second.  
16 Rosenberg, second. Sorry.

17           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

18           DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

19           DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

20           CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
21 motion passes.

22           Concerning Jessica Elliott, I move that the  
23 request for a non-service-connected disability  
24 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

25           DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

1 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

2 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

3 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
5 motion passes.

6 Concerning Patrice Hamer, I make a motion  
7 that the request for a service-connected disability  
8 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

9 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: And all those in  
11 favor?

12 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

13 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
15 motion passes.

16 Concerning Elizabeth Hurt, I make a motion  
17 that the posthumous request for a non-service-connected  
18 disability retirement be approved. Is there a second?

19 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

21 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

22 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
24 motion passes.

25 Concerning Richard Hutchings, I make a motion

1 that the request for a non-service-connected disability  
2 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

3 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

5 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

6 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
8 motion passes.

9 Concerning Mark Leonard, I make a motion that  
10 the request for a non-service-connected disability  
11 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

12 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

13 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

14 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

15 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
17 motion passes.

18 Concerning Sonia Levy-Reid, I make a motion  
19 that the request for a service-connected disability  
20 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

21 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

22 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

23 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

24 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The



1 motion passes.

2 Concerning Denise Liguori, I make a motion  
3 that the request for a non-service-connected disability  
4 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

5 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

6 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

7 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

8 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
10 motion passes.

11 Concerning Cedric Lindsey, I make a motion  
12 that the request for a service-connected disability  
13 retirement be denied, but that we approve a non-  
14 service-connected disability request. Is there a  
15 second?

16 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

18 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

19 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

21 Concerning Lisa Loeser, I make a motion that  
22 the non-service-connected disability retirement request  
23 be denied. Is there a second?

24 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

25 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

1 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

2 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
4 motion passes.

5 Concerning Kim Peterson, I make a motion that  
6 the request for a service-connected disability  
7 retirement be denied. Is there a second?

8 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

9 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

10 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

11 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
13 motion passes.

14 Concerning Christopher Powers, I make a  
15 motion that the request for a service-connected  
16 disability retirement be approved. Is there a second?

17 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

18 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

19 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

20 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
22 motion passes.

23 Concerning Sylvia Reid, I make a motion that  
24 the request for a non-service-connected disability  
25 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

1 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

2 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Dr. Nova?

3 DR. ROSENBERG: You have no - Frank, you have  
4 to-

5 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: I'm sorry. Excuse  
6 me. We have a second on Sylvia Reid. All those in  
7 favor?

8 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

9 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
11 motion passes.

12 For - concerning Eddie Rivera, I make a  
13 motion that the request for a service-connected  
14 disability retirement be denied. Is there a second?

15 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

16 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Now, all in favor?

17 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

18 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
20 motion passes.

21 Concerning Richard Rusiecki, I make a motion  
22 that the request for a service-connected disability  
23 retirement be denied, but that the Board would look  
24 favorably on a request for a non-service-connected  
25 disability retirement. Is there a second?

1 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

2 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

3 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

4 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
6 motion passes.

7 Concerning Earl Schoolfield, I make a motion  
8 that the request for a service-connected disability  
9 retirement be denied. Is there a second?

10 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

11 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All in favor?

12 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

13 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
15 motion passes.

16 For Magdalena Valentine-Campos, I make a  
17 motion that her request for a non-service-connected  
18 disability retirement be approved. Is there a second?

19 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All in favor?

21 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

22 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
24 motion passes.

25 Okay, and for Carlton White, I make a motion

1 that the request for a non-service-connected disability  
2 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

3 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

5 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

6 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
8 motion passes.

9 For a request for changing from service- to  
10 non-service-related disability retirement, the requests  
11 of Michael King and John Cristofaro, I make a motion  
12 that their applications be approved. Is there a  
13 second?

14 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

15 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All in favor?

16 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

17 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The  
19 motion passes.

20 That concludes our voting today on these  
21 applicants.

22 If there are no further issues to discuss, I  
23 make a motion that the meeting be adjourned.

24 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

25 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: I thank the

1 applicants for their participation.

2 All those in favor?

3 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

4 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

6 So that concludes our meeting today.

7 DR. ROSENBERG: Frank, maybe you have to say  
8 that the motion-

9 (Adjourned at 1:21 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 9:03 a.m. on  
April 5, 2024.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

04/19/2024

Date