

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

Medical Examining Board MEETING

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OCTOBER 4, 2024

HELD VIA ZOOM

CONVENED AT 9:05 A.M.  
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Present (Via Zoom) :

Sachin Parekh, M.D.

Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.

Rita Ohene-Adjei, 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 9:05 a.m.)

2 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The October 4, 2024  
3 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in  
4 session. Dr. Sachin Parekh will serve as chairperson.  
5 Present are our medical examining board physicians, Dr.  
6 Rita Ohene-Adeji and Dr. Michael Gerstenfeld. Present  
7 from the Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement  
8 Services Division are staff members Robert Helfand,  
9 Helena Bartolomeo and Nabil Waheed. General counsel for  
10 the Retirement Commission and Medical Examining Board is  
11 Cindy Cieslak. I would like to now make a motion to go  
12 into executive session, and I request that the members  
13 of the medical -- excuse me, the members of the  
14 Retirement Services Division and counsel are allowed to  
15 remain.

16 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

17 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Any  
18 further discussion? There being none, all in favor say,  
19 aye.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

21 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
24 motion passes. All right, for our applicants and  
25 members of the public, I'm going to be placing you into

1 the waiting room. The doctors review all of the medical  
2 information in executive session so that it is not open  
3 to the public, your confidential medical information.  
4 Those individuals who are on reconsideration will be  
5 invited in to make their statement. At the end, after  
6 the doctors have reviewed all of the medical records, we  
7 will be reentering public session, at which time the  
8 doctors will make the decisions in public. If you are  
9 still in the waiting room, then you'll be invited back  
10 in so you can hear the public decisions.

11 This process can sometimes take a couple of  
12 hours. So if you're in the waiting room for a long  
13 time, that would be the reason why, and so just hang  
14 tight with us. All right. I'm going to start putting  
15 everyone in the waiting room now. Thank you.

16 (The Board was in executive session from 9:06  
17 a.m. until 11:08 a.m.)

18 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Parekh, you can proceed when  
19 you're ready.

20 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Thank you. The board  
21 will be making determinations and voting on those  
22 determinations, but would like to remind the members  
23 that only the final vote will be given today and not the  
24 reasons for the vote. In some instances there may not  
25 have been enough medical information to make a

1 determination, or perhaps a non service connected  
2 disability is more likely a service connected  
3 disability. You may seek reconsideration for any  
4 initial denial. You will receive the board's written  
5 determination within 2 to 4 weeks, which will provide  
6 you with that additional information.

7 The board votes to approve service connected  
8 disability retirement for Victor Alecea.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Is there a second?

10 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
12 being none, all in favor, say aye.

13 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

16 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to  
17 approve service connected disability retirement for  
18 Michael Ardizzone.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
21 being none, all in favor, say aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

24 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene-Adjei, aye.

25 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

1           CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to deny  
2 non service connected disability for Delores  
3 Carrington-Moody.

4           DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

5           MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
6 being none, all in favor, say aye.

7           CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

8           DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

9           DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene-Adjei, aye.

10          MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

11          CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to  
12 approve non service connected disability for Annette  
13 Charles-Victorin.

14          DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

15          MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
16 being none, all in favor, say aye.

17          CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

18          DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

19          DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

20          MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

21          CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to deny  
22 service connected disability but approve non service  
23 connected disability retirement for Coy Clarke.

24          DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

25          MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There

1 being none, all in favor, say aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

4 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

5 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

6 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to  
7 approve service connected disability retirement for  
8 Dennis Clarke.

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
11 being none, all in favor, say aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

14 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

16 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to  
17 approve non service connected disability retirement for  
18 Cheryl Cyr-Sparks.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
21 being none, all in favor, say aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

24 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

25 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

1 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to  
2 approve non service connected disability retirement for  
3 Sheila Jenkins.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
6 being none, all in favor, say aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

9 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

10 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

11 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to table  
12 the decision for non service connected disability  
13 retirement for Crystal Jones.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
16 being none, all in favor, say aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

18 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

19 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

20 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

21 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to deny  
22 service connected disability retirement, but look  
23 favorably upon non service connected disability  
24 retirement for Keith Ukases.

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
2 being none, all in favor, say aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

5 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

6 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

7 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to deny  
8 non service connected disability retirement for Vickey  
9 Marshall.

10 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
12 being none, all in favor, say aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

15 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

16 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

17 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to  
18 approve non service connected disability retirement for  
19 Iceypheen McClain.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
22 being none, all in favor, say aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

25 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.



1 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

2 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to  
3 approve non service connected disability retirement for  
4 Kathryn Nowak.

5 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
7 being none, all in favor, say aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

10 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

11 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

12 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to deny  
13 non service connected disability retirement for Cynthia  
14 Phoenix.

15 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
17 being none, all in favor, say aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

20 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

21 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

22 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to  
23 approve non service connected disability retirement for  
24 Lillian Rodriguez-Marcano.

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
2 being none, all in favor, say aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

5 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

6 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

7 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to  
8 approve non service connected disability to retirement  
9 for Eric Sawyer.

10 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
12 being none, all in favor, say aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

15 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

16 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

17 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to table  
18 the decision for service connected disability retirement  
19 for Eric Taylor.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
22 being none, all in favor, say aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

25 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

2 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to  
3 approve service connected disability retirement for  
4 Anthony Vasquez.

5 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
7 being none, all in favor, say aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

10 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

11 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

12 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to table  
13 the decision for service connected disability retirement  
14 for Michael Viera.

15 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
17 being none, all in favor, say aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

20 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

21 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

22 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: I make a motion to  
23 adjourn today's MEB meeting.

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: All in favor, say aye.

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CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

MS. CIESLAK: We are adjourned. Thank you,  
everyone. I hope everyone has a good weekend.

(Meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

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



Wendy Malitsky

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