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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

September 20, 2024

HELD VIA ZOOM

CONVENED AT 9:03 A.M.

Present (Via Zoom):

Sokpoleak So, M.D.

Nicolai Lieders, M.D.

Eric Shore, M.D.

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

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

2 CHAIRPERSON SO: The September 20, 2024
3 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in
4 session. Doctor Sokpoleak So, chairperson. Present are
5 Dr. Nikolai Lieders, Dr. Eric Shore, Dr. Sokpoleak So.
6 Also present from the Office of State Comptroller,
7 Retirement Services Division are staff members from the
8 Retirement Services Division, Robert Helfand, Helena
9 Bartolomeo and Nabil Waheed. General counsel for the
10 retirement commission and Medical Examining Board, Cindy
11 Cieslak. I make a motion to enter executive session in
12 doctor a second.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Nikolai Lieders, second.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. So, this is Cindy Cieslak.
15 Sometimes the doctors have me call the motions and ask
16 for the votes, and sometimes the doctors like to do it
17 on their own. Which would you prefer?

18 CHAIRPERSON SO: You could call the motion.

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

21 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed say nay. The motion
23 passes.

24 All right, so for the applicants and retirees
25 who are here, I'm going to place you back in the waiting

1 room. The doctors are going to review your medical
2 information in executive session, so it's not open to
3 the public because your medical information is
4 confidential. If you're on reconsideration, you will be
5 invited back in to make a statement during executive
6 session. After the doctors have reviewed all of the
7 applications, we will reenter public session, which you
8 will be invited back into so you can hear the decision
9 at that time. This can take, you know, a couple of
10 hours. We have a shorter agenda today, but sometimes it
11 still takes some time to go through them. So if it ends
12 up being a couple of hours, we're -- we're still here.
13 Just hang with us. All right? Thank you.

14 MS. CIESLAK: All right. Dr. So, you can
15 proceed.

16 (The board was in executive session from 9:04
17 a.m. to 9:58 a.m.)

18 CHAIRPERSON SO: The board will be making
19 determination and voting on those determinations but
20 would like to remind members that only the final vote
21 will be given today and not the reason for the vote. In
22 some instances there may not have been enough medical
23 information to make determination, or perhaps a not
24 service connected disability is more likely a service
25 connected disability. You may seek reconsideration of

1 initial denial. You will receive the board's written
2 determination within 2 to 4 weeks, which you will
3 provide -- which will provide you with the additional
4 information. We'll be voting on each individual member.

5 I motion to deny Kathleen Dempsey's
6 application for continuance of disability retirement.

7 Is there a second?

8 DR. LIEDERS: Second, Lieders.

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

11 DR. LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

12 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

13 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

14 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Brison
15 Downing's application for continuance of disability
16 retirement.

17 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

20 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

21 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

22 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

23 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to table Tracie
24 Hernandez's application for disability retirement.

25 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

3 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

4 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
6 motion passes unanimously.

7 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve John
8 Kozin's application for disability retirement.

9 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

13 DR. SHORE: Aye.

14 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

16 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Lourdes
17 Montalvo's application for disability retirement.

18 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

21 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

22 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

24 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

25 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Clara

1 Ogbaa's application for disability retirement.

2 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

5 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

6 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

8 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

9 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Rocco
10 Pagliarulo's application for disability retirement.

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

14 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

15 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

18 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Rosalind
19 Payne's application for disability retirement.

20 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

23 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

24 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

2 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to table Annie
3 Perry's application for disability retirement.

4 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

7 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

10 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

11 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Jack
12 Smith's application for disability retirement.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

16 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

17 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

19 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

20 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve David
21 Svalestad's application for disability retirement.

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

25 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

1 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

4 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Vivian
5 Valencia's application for disability retirement.

6 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

9 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

10 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

13 CHAIRPERSON SO: The following individuals are
14 approved for continuing entitlement pursuant to the
15 memoranda of understanding of August 6, 2015. Wendy
16 Blake, Stephen Bradshaw, Georgia Brown, Matthew Cole,
17 Christopher Gearhart, Maria Giuliano, Sandra Griffin,
18 Antoinietta Gugliotti, Ricardo Kingland, John Moore,
19 Darlene Moskey, Christian Philemon, Adrienne Reid,
20 Sylvia Reid, Wilfred Rivera.

21 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

24 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

25 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.
3 Dr. So, at this point in time a motion to adjourn would
4 be appropriate.

5 CHAIRPERSON SO: Motion to adjourn the
6 meeting.

7 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

9 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

10 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: We are adjourned. Thank you
13 all.

14 (Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE

2
3 I certify that this document is a true and
4 accurate description of the proceedings obtained from
5 the recorded meeting of the State of Connecticut State
6 Employees Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board
7 on September 20, 2024 to the best of my ability.

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9 

10 Wendy Malitsky

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