

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT

2 STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

3 MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

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5 DATE: February 5, 2025

6 HELD VIA Zoom

7 CONVENED AT 9:00 A.M.

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9 Present (Via Zoom):

10 Sachin Parekh, M.D.

11 Frank Gerratana, M.D.

12 Nicolai Lieders, M.D.

13 Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

14 Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

15 Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division

16 Alexandra Cipolla, Retirement Services Division

17 Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division

18 Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

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3 (Proceedings commenced at 9:08 a.m.)
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5 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Good morning, everyone. The
6 February 5, 2025 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now
7 in session. I, Dr. Sachin Parekh, will serve as chairperson.

8 Present are Dr. Nikolai Lieders and Dr. Frank
9 Gerratana.

10 Present from the Office of the State Comptroller
11 Retirement Services Division are staff members, Helena
12 Bartolomeo, Robert Helfand, Nabil Waheed, Alexandra Cipolla and
13 Patrick Fairbanks.

14 General Counsel for the Retirement Commission and
15 Medical Examining Board is Cindy Cieslak.

16 I make a motion to go into Executive Session and
17 request that the members of the Retirement Services Division and
18 General Counsel be allowed to remain.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Any discussion? All in favor say aye.

21 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Aye.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

23 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed say nay. The motion passes
25 unanimously.

1 This is Cindy Cieslak. What this means for the
2 applicants and the members of the public is that I'm going to
3 place you in the waiting room. The doctors discuss all of the
4 applicants medical information in Executive Session since it's
5 confidential, we don't have that open to the public. If you're
6 on reconsideration, you will be invited in to make a statement
7 in support of your application. If you are able to wait around
8 when we -- after we get through everyone's applications we will
9 enter public session at which time the doctors will vote on each
10 application and you will be able to hear the decision then. We
11 do have a very full agenda today, so this process could take a
12 couple of hours. So please be patient with us. And in the
13 meantime, I'm going to start placing everyone into the waiting
14 room.

15 (Executive Session from 9:08 a.m. until 12:12 p.m.)
16

17 MS. CIESLAK: All right, Dr. Parekh, you can proceed
18 when you're ready.

19 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board will be making
20 determinations and voting on those determinations, but I would
21 like to remind members that only the final vote will be given
22 today and not the reason for the vote.

23 In some instances there may not have been enough
24 medical information to make a determination, or perhaps a
25 non-service connected disability is more likely a service

1 connected disability.

2 You may seek reconsideration of an initial denial.
3 You will receive the Board's written determination within 2 to 4
4 weeks which will provide you with the additional information.

5 The Board votes to approve non-service connected
6 disability retirement for Michael Brandi.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

10 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Aye.

11 DR. LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

13 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

14 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny non-service
15 connected disability retirement for Christine Charif.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

19 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, Aye.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

21 DR. LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

22 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

23 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve service
24 connected disability retirement for Kimberly Clark.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

3 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

5 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

6 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

7 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
8 non-service connected disability retirement for Phylisha Coles.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

12 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

14 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

16 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny non-service
17 connected disability retirement for Nayda Concepcion.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

21 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

23 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

24 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

25 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny a service

1 connected disability retirement for Evangelista Contreras.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

5 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

7 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

8 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

9 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny service
10 connected disability, however, approve non-service connected
11 disability retirement for Stephen Day.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

15 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

17 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

18 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

19 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny non-service
20 connected disability retirement for Valerie Jackson-Coleman.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

24 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

1 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

3 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to table the
4 decision for non-service connected disability retirement for
5 Charlene Jenkins.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

9 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

13 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
14 non-service connected disability retirement for Joseph Juliano.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

18 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

20 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

21 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

22 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny non-service
23 connected disability retirement for William Kenney.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being

1 none, all in favor say aye.

2 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

4 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

5 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

6 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
7 non-service connected disability retirement for Nadine Krohley.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

11 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

14 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

15 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny non-service
16 connected disability retirement for Kebran Moss-Solomon.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

20 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

23 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

24 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny service
25 connected disability, however, approve non-service connected

1 disability retirement for Jolene Nemeth.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

5 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

7 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

8 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

9 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny non-service
10 connected disability retirement for Kimberly Newman.

11 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

14 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

16 DR. LIEDERS: Nay.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. All opposed say nay.

18 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, you're a nay. Okay, the
20 motion passes two to one.

21 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
22 non-service connected disability retirement for Christine
23 Santulli.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being

1 none, all in favor say aye.

2 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

4 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

5 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

6 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve service
7 connected disability retirement for Yvette Sapp.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

11 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

14 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

15 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve service
16 connected disability retirement for Michael Schork.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

20 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

23 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

24 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve service
25 connected disability retirement for Derek Sellow.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

4 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

6 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

8 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
9 non-service connected disability retirement for Edward Short.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

13 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

15 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

16 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

17 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
18 non-service connected disability retirement for Monica Smith.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

22 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

24 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

25 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

1 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
2 non-service connected disability retirement for Christopher
3 Urena.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

7 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

9 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

10 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

11 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: This concludes our Medical Examining
12 Board meeting today. I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

14 MS. CIESLAK: All in favor say aye.

15 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

17 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

18 MS. CIESLAK: We are adjourned. Thank you.

19 (Adjourned at 12:20 p.m.)

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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 State Employees Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board on February 5, 2025 to the best of my ability.

Wendy Malitsky

Wendy Malitsky

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