

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT

2 STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

3 MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

4 -----

5 DATE: February 19, 2025

6 HELD VIA Zoom

7 CONVENED AT 9:00 A.M.

8 -----

9 Present (Via Zoom):

10 Ralph Rosenberg, M.D.

11 Poleak So, M.D.

12 Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.

13  
14 Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

15 Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

16 Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division

17 Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division

18 Alex Cipolla, Retirement Services Division

19 Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

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2 (Proceedings began at 9:06 a.m.)  
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5 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, and  
6 today is the February 19, 2025 meeting of the Medical Examining  
7 Board, and it is now in session.

8 I am the chairperson for this meeting. Also present  
9 is Dr. Michael Gerstenfeld and Dr. Poleak So.

10 From the Office of the State Comptroller's office,  
11 Retirement Service Division are staff members, Helena  
12 Bartolomeo, Alexandra Cipolla, Patrick Fairbanks, Robert  
13 Helfend, and Nabil Waheed. General Counsel for the Retirement  
14 Commission and Medical Examination Board is Cindy Cieslak.

15 I make a motion that if anybody has any agenda that  
16 they would like to amend or remove, to please speak up. If  
17 there is no such motion, we will have the executive session of  
18 the Medical Examination Board.

19 I make a motion to go into executive session. Is  
20 there a second?

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

22 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: Okay. All those in favor of  
23 going into executive session say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

24 DR. SO: So, aye.

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

1 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: Motion passes, and I request that  
2 the members of the Retirement Services Division and Counsel be  
3 allowed to remain.

4 I'm going to again request a motion for that. So this  
5 is Rosenberg making a motion that Cindy Cieslak and the members  
6 of the Retirement Services Division remain during executive  
7 session. Is there a second?

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye.

10 DR. SO: So, aye.

11 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

13 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: And the motion passes.

14 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Rosenberg. For the  
15 other individuals who are here, I'm going to place you in the  
16 waiting room. The doctors are going to review the medical  
17 information in executive session, and once they are ready to  
18 hear anyone on reconsideration, we will invite you in. Once  
19 we're in public session, you will be invited in to hear the  
20 decision. Thank you.

21  
22 (Executive session from 9:07 a.m. until 10:52 a.m.)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The Board will be making  
25 determinations and voting on those determinations, but would

1 like to remind members that only the final vote will be given  
2 today and not the reasons for the vote.

3 In some instances there may not have been enough  
4 medical information to make a determination, or perhaps a  
5 non-service connected disability is more likely a service  
6 connected disability.

7 You may seek reconsideration of an initial denial.  
8 You will receive the Board's written determination within 2 to 4  
9 weeks which will provide you with that additional information.  
10 We will vote on individual member entitlement to disability  
11 benefits.

12 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion for Susan Damian  
13 to be approved for her disability application. Is there a  
14 second?

15 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

16 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, all  
17 those in favor of approving Susan Damian for her continued  
18 entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg, aye

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

20 DR. SO: So, aye.

21 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

22 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg make a motion to table the  
23 request for continued entitlement for Casilda De Los Santos. Is  
24 there a second.

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

1 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I  
2 make a motion to table continued entitlement for Casilda De Los  
3 Santos. All those in favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

5 DR. SO: So, aye.

6 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes to table.

7 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
8 approve for continued entitlement for Kristen Hayward-Miller.  
9 Is there a second?

10 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

11 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All  
12 those in favor of approving continued entitlement for Kristen  
13 Hayward Miller, say aye. Rosenberg, aye

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

15 DR. SO: So, aye.

16 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

17 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
18 approve for continued entitlement for Willie Hunter. Is there a  
19 second?

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

21 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All  
22 those in favor of approving for continued entitlement for Willie  
23 Hunter, say aye. Rosenberg, aye

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

25 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: Those opposed say nay -- say aye.

1 DR. SO: So, nay.

2 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: And the motion passes with two in  
3 favor and one opposed.

4 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
5 approve continued entitlement for Joseph Schmid. Is there a  
6 second?

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

8 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I  
9 make a motion to approve for continued entitlement for Joseph  
10 Schmid. All those in favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 DR. SO: So, aye.

13 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

14 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
15 approve for continued entitlement for Pasqualina Lorenzo. Is  
16 there a second?

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

18 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I  
19 make a motion to approve for continued entitlement for  
20 Pasqualina Lorenzo. All those in favor, say aye. Rosenberg,  
21 aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 DR. SO: So, aye.

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

25 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to

1 approve for continued entitlement for Shannon McClure. Is there  
2 a second?

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I  
5 make a motion to approve for continued entitlement for Shannon  
6 McClure. All those in favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

8 DR. SO: So, aye.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

10 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
11 approve for continued entitlement for Kim Milia. Is there a  
12 second.

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

14 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I  
15 make a motion to approve for continued entitlement for Kim  
16 Milia. All those in favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

18 DR. SO: So, aye.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

20 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
21 approve for continued entitlement on reconsideration for Elsa  
22 Perez de Ortiz. Is there a second?

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, all  
25 those in favor of approving for continued entitlement for

1 reconsideration for Elsa Perez de Ortiz, say aye. Rosenberg,  
2 aye.

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

4 DR. SO: So, aye.

5 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

6 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
7 approve for continued entitlement for Tabitha Perkins. Is there  
8 a second?

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

10 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I  
11 make a motion to approve for continued entitlement for Tabitha  
12 Perkins. All those in favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye

14 DR. SO: So, aye.

15 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

16 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
17 approve for continued entitlement for Rachel Perusse. Is there  
18 a second.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

20 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All  
21 those in favor of approving for continued entitlement for Rachel  
22 Perusse, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

24 DR. SO: So, aye.

25 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.



1           This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
2 approve for continued entitlement on reconsideration for Archie  
3 Robertson. Is there a second?

4           DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

5           CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I  
6 make a motion to approve for continued entitlement for Archie  
7 Robertson. All those in favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

8           DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

9           DR. SO: So, aye.

10          CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

11          This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
12 approve for continued entitlement for Richard Rusiecki. Is  
13 there a second?

14          DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

15          CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All  
16 those in favor of approving Richard Rusiecki for continued  
17 entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

18          DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye

19          DR. SO: So, aye.

20          CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

21          This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
22 approve for Kristalynn Shell for continued entitlement. Is  
23 there a second?

24          DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

25          CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving

1 for continued entitlement for Kristalynn Shell, say aye.

2 Rosenberg, aye.

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

4 DR. SO: So, aye.

5 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

6 I'd like to go back because I think I didn't make  
7 clear on Willie Hunter. I'd like to redo that motion, if that's  
8 okay.

9 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
10 approve for continued entitlement for Willie Hunter. Is there a  
11 second?

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

13 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg --

14 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, real quick. In  
15 order to redo a motion, we do have to -- there's certain rules  
16 of procedure where we'd have to undo it and so --

17 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: So, Cindy, my concern is that I  
18 had said all those that want to deny say aye, and if you tell me  
19 that that was not a problem, then I'm okay. If I should have  
20 said nay and that's a problem, then tell me what we should do.

21 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: So you did say all those opposed  
22 say aye, but Dr. So did say nay. I think the record is clear  
23 that it's a two to one decision.

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: Thank you. I apologize for my  
25 confusion, and thank you for clarifying.

1 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: No apologies necessary.

2 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: Cindy, I believe I need to go  
3 through each of the continued entitlements?

4 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Pursuant to the Memorandum of  
5 Understanding, yes.

6 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: Yes, okay. This is Dr. Ralph  
7 Rosenberg. All those in favor -- for Carl Baker. I ask that we  
8 submit for continued entitlement. Is there a second?

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

10 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
11 for continued entitlement for Carl Baker, say aye. Rosenberg,  
12 aye.

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

14 DR. SO: So, aye.

15 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.  
16 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, for Sophia Brown, for  
17 continued entitlement -- I make -- is there a second?

18 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
20 Sophia Brown for continued entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg,  
21 aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 DR. SO: So, aye.

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.  
25 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to

1 approve for Rashala Burrus for continued entitlement. Is there  
2 a second?

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
5 Rashala Burrus for continued entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg,  
6 aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

8 DR. SO: So, aye.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

10 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, I make a motion to  
11 approve for continued entitlement for Michael Clements. Is  
12 there a second?

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

14 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
15 Michael Clements for continue entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg,  
16 aye.

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

18 DR. SO: So, aye.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

20 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, I make a motion to  
21 approve for continued entitlement for John Cristofaro. Is there  
22 a second.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
25 for continued entitlement John Cristofaro, say aye. Rosenberg,

1 aye.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

3 DR. SO: So, aye.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

5 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
6 approve for continued entitlement Angel Cruz. Is there a  
7 second?

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: All those in favor for approving  
10 for continued entitlement for Angel Cruz, say aye. Rosenberg,  
11 aye.

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

13 DR. SO: So, aye.

14 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

15 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, I make a motion to  
16 approve for continued entitlement for Amy Epps. Is there a  
17 second?

18 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All  
20 those in favor of approving Amy Epps for continued entitlement,  
21 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 DR. SO: So, aye.

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

25 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to

1 approve for continued entitlement for Gilberto Febus. Is there  
2 a second?

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All  
5 those in favor of approving Gilberto Febus for continued  
6 entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

8 DR. SO: So, aye.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

10 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
11 approve for continued entitlement for Dennis Hart. Is there a  
12 second?

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

14 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
15 for continued entitlement for Dennis Hart, say aye. Rosenberg,  
16 aye.

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

18 DR. SO: So, aye.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

20 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
21 approve for continued entitlement for Timothy Kabel. Is there a  
22 second?

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, all  
25 those in favor of approving Timothy Kabel for continued

1 entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

3 DR. SO: So, aye.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

5 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, I make a motion to  
6 approve for continued entitlement for Sonia Levy-Reid. Is there  
7 a second?

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, all  
10 those in favor of approving Sonia Levy-Reid for continued  
11 entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg, aye

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

13 DR. SO: So, aye.

14 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

15 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
16 approve for continued entitlement for Shown Lowe. Is there a  
17 second?

18 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, all  
20 those in favor of approving Shown Lowe for continued  
21 entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 DR. SO: So, aye.

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

25 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to

1 approve for continued entitlement for Vilma Marrero. Is there a  
2 second.

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All  
5 those in favor of approving Vilma Marrero for continued  
6 entitlement say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

8 DR. SO: So, aye.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

10 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
11 approve for continuing entitlement for Jacqueline Miller. Is  
12 there a second?

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

14 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All  
15 those in favor of approving Jacquelyn Miller for continuing  
16 entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

18 DR. SO: So, aye.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

20 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
21 approve for continued entitlement for Lance Oliver. Is there a  
22 second.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All  
25 those in favor of approving Lance Oliver for continuing



1 entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

3 DR. SO: So, aye.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

5 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
6 approve for continued entitlement for Lillian Rodriguez-Marcano.

7 Is there a second?

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All  
10 those in favor for approving for continued entitlement Lillian  
11 Rodriguez-Marcano, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

13 DR. SO: So, aye.

14 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

15 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to  
16 approve for continued entitlement for Gary Simpson. Is there a  
17 second.

18 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I  
20 make -- all those in favor of approving Gary Simpson for  
21 continued entitlement, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 DR. SO: So, aye.

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

25 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to

1 approve for continued entitlement for Olivia Zuca. Is there a  
2 second?

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, all  
5 those in favor of approving for continued entitlement of  
6 Elizabeth Zujko, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

8 DR. SO: So, aye.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

10 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, I make a motion to  
11 adjourn the meeting for the Medical Examination Board, is there  
12 a second?

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

14 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
15 the adjournment of today's Medical Examination Board meeting,  
16 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

18 DR. SO: So, aye.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

20 Thank you all very much. We wish you all a happy,  
21 healthy, good day.

22 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Thank you, everyone.

23 (Adjourned at 11:08 a.m.)  
24  
25

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 19, 2025 to the best of my ability.

*Wendy Malitsky*

Wendy Malitsky