

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT

2 STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

3 MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

4 -----

5 DATE: March 5, 2025

6 HELD VIA Zoom

7 CONVENED AT 9:00 A.M.

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10 Present (Via Zoom):

11 Lynn Rudich, M.D. - Chairperson

12 Poleak So, M.D.

13 Frank Gerratana, M.D.

14
15 Also Present (Via Zoom):

16 Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

17 Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

18 Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division

19 Robin Kallor, Rose Kallor LLP

20 Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division

21 Alex Cipolla, Retirement Services Division

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2 (Proceedings commenced at 9:06 a.m.)

3 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: The March 5, 2025 meeting of the
4 Medical Examining Board is now in session. I am Dr. Lynn
5 Rudich, Chairperson. We also have Dr. Frank Gerratana, and Dr.
6 Poleak So.

7 With us from the Office of State Comptroller,
8 Retirement Services Division, we have staff members Helena
9 Bartolomeo, Robert Helfand, Nabil Waheed, Patrick Fairbanks and
10 Alex Cipolla. We also have a General Counsel for the Retirement
11 Commission, Robin Kallor standing in for Cindy Cieslak.

12 We have no amendments to the agenda. I make a motion
13 to go into Executive Session, but I request that the members of
14 Retirement Services Division and Counsel be allowed to remain.
15 Is there a second?

16 DR. SO: Dr. So, second.

17 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
18 aye. Rudich, aye.

19 DR. GERRATANA: So, aye.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

21 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

22 ATTORNEY KALLOR: Okay, ready to go. If everyone
23 could just mute yourselves.

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25 (Executive Session from 9:08 a.m. to 1:43 p.m.)

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

9 You may seek reconsideration of an initial denial.
10 You will receive the Board's written determination within 2 to 4
11 weeks, which will provide additional information.

12 I make a motion to deny service connected disability
13 retirement of Allison Apicella.

14 DR. SO: So, second.

15 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
16 aye. Rudich, aye.

17 DR. SO: So, aye.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

19 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

20 I make a motion to deny service connected disability
21 retirement of Linda Cicarella, but the Board would look
22 favorably on non-service connected disability retirement.

23 DR. SO: So, second.

24 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
25 aye. Rudich, aye.

1 DR. SO: So, aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

3 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

4 I make a motion to deny service and non-service
5 connected disability retirement for Charmaine Clarke-Brown.

6 DR. SO: So, second.

7 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
8 aye. Rudich, aye.

9 DR. SO: So, aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

12 I make a motion to approve the non-service connected
13 disability retirement of Jason Collins.

14 DR. SO: So, second.

15 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
16 aye. Rudich, aye.

17 DR. SO: So, aye.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

19 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

20 I make a motion to deny the service connected
21 disability retirement of Jason DeMarco, but the Board would look
22 favorably on non-service connected disability retirement.

23 DR. SO: So, second.

24 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor say
25 aye. Rudich, aye.

1 DR. SO: So, aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

3 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

4 I make a motion to deny on reconsideration and
5 non-service connected disability retirement of Shanita Gadsden.

6 DR. SO: So, second.

7 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
8 aye. Rudich, aye.

9 DR. SO: So, aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

12 I make a motion to approve the service connected
13 disability retirement of James Gronowski.

14 DR. SO: So, second.

15 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
16 aye. Rudich, aye.

17 DR. SO: So, aye.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

19 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

20 I make a motion to approve the non-service connected
21 disability retirement of Paula Hollis.

22 DR. SO: So, second.

23 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
24 aye. Rudich, aye.

25 DR. SO: So, aye.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

2 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

3 I make a motion to deny a service connected disability
4 retirement of Alexander Knight-Hernandez.

5 DR. SO: So, second.

6 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
7 aye. Rudich, aye.

8 DR. SO: So, aye.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

10 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

11 I make a motion to deny on reconsideration the
12 non-service connected disability retirement of Nicole LaVie.

13 DR. SO: So, second.

14 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
15 aye. Rudich, aye.

16 DR. SO: So, aye.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

18 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

19 I make a motion to approve the service connected
20 disability retirement of Victor LeMay.

21 DR. SO: So, second.

22 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor say
23 aye. Rudich, aye.

24 DR. SO: So, aye.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

1 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

2 I make a motion to table the service connected
3 disability application for Daniel Lunn.

4 DR. SO: So, second.

5 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
6 aye. Rudich, aye.

7 DR. SO: So, aye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

9 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

10 I make a motion to approve on reconsideration the
11 non-service connected disability retirement of Joanna
12 Mechlinski.

13 DR. SO: So, second.

14 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
15 aye. Rudich, aye.

16 DR. SO: So, aye.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

18 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

19 I make a motion to deny the non-service connected
20 disability retirement of Christine Orsini.

21 DR. SO: So, second.

22 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
23 aye. Rudich, aye.

24 DR. SO: So, aye.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

1 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

2 I make a motion to approve the service connected
3 disability retirement of Alicia Pronovost.

4 DR. SO: So, second.

5 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
6 aye. Rudich, aye.

7 DR. SO: So, aye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

9 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

10 I make a motion to approve the non-service connected
11 disability retirement of Jose Ramos.

12 DR. SO: So, second.

13 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
14 aye. Rudich, aye.

15 DR. SO: So, aye.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

17 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

18 I make a motion to deny the service connected
19 disability retirement of Tanetra Rodgers.

20 DR. SO: So, second.

21 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
22 aye. Rudich, aye.

23 DR. SO: So, aye.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

25 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

1 I make a motion to deny the service connected
2 disability retirement of Emil Serrano.

3 DR. SO: So, second.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
5 aye. Rudich, aye.

6 DR. SO: So, aye.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

9 I make a motion to deny service connected disability
10 retirement but approve non non-service connected disability
11 retirement of Beth Shaw.

12 DR. SO: So, second.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
14 aye. Rudich, aye.

15 DR. SO: So, aye.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

18 I make a motion to approve the non-service connected
19 disability retirement of Paul Thaxton.

20 DR. SO: So, second.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
22 aye. Rudich, aye.

23 DR. SO: So, aye.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

1 I make a motion to approve a non-service connected
2 disability retirement of Brenda Baerga.

3 DR. SO: So, second.

4 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
5 aye. Rudich, aye.

6 DR. SO: So, aye.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

8 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion to
9 adjourn this meeting of the Medical Examining Board.

10 DR. SO: So, second.

11 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor, say
12 aye. Rudich, aye.

13 DR. SO: So, aye.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

15 CHAIPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. Meeting adjourned.

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17 (Proceedings adjourned at 1:52 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 March 5, 2025 to the best of my ability.

Wendy Malitsky

Wendy Malitsky

My Commission Expires
March 31, 2030