

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT

2 STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

3 MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

4 -----
5 DATE: April 2, 2025

6 HELD VIA Zoom

7 CONVENED AT 9:00 A.M.
8 -----

9 Present (Via Zoom):

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11 Dr. Sachin Parekh, Chairperson

12 Dr. Nikolai Lieders

13 Dr. Eric Shore

14 Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

15 Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division

16 Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division

17 Alex Cipolla, Retirement Services Division

18 Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP
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1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:05 a.m.)

2 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Okay. Good morning, everyone. The
3 April 2, 2025 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in
4 session. I, Dr. Sachin Parekh will serve as Chairperson.

5 Present are Dr. Nikolai Lieders and Dr. Eric Shore.
6 Present from the Office of the State Comptroller Retirement
7 Services Division are staff members, Alexandra Cipolla, Patrick
8 Fairbanks, Robert Helfand, and Nabil Waheed. General Counsel
9 for the Retirement Commission and Medical Examining Board is
10 Cindy Cieslak.

11 I'm making a motion now to go into executive session
12 and request that the members of the Retirement Services Division
13 and Counsel be allowed to remain. Is there a second?

14 DR. LIEDERS: I second the motion, Lieders.

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

17 DR. LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

18 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

19 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

20 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously. So
21 what this means for all of our applicants and members of the
22 public, I'm going to place you back in the waiting room. Those
23 who are on reconsideration will be invited in to make their
24 statement when the doctors are ready to hear from them.

25 We go into executive session because we're discussing

1 private medical information that we, you know, presume you would
2 not want to be public.

3 This process of going through each applicant could
4 take a couple of hours, so while you're in the waiting room, it
5 might be an hour or two. Please be patient with us. Thank you.

6
7 (Executive session from 9:06 a.m. to 11:38 a.m.)

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9 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Dr. Parekh, you can proceed when
10 you're ready.

11 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Thank you. The Board will be making
12 determinations and voting on those determinations, but would
13 like to remind members that only the final vote will be given
14 today and not the reasons for the vote.

15 In some instances there may not have been enough
16 medical information to make a determination, or perhaps a
17 non-service connected disability is more likely a service
18 connected disability.

19 You may seek reconsideration of your initial denial.
20 You'll receive the Board's written determination within 2 to 4
21 weeks, which will provide you with the additional information.

22 The Board votes to approve non-service connected
23 disability for Jane Carey.

24 DR. LIEDERS: Second, Lieders.

25 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There

1 being none, all in favor, say aye.

2 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

3 DR. LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

4 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

5 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
6 non-service connected disability for Viqui Carter.

7 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

10 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

12 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

13 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

14 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny service
15 connected disability but approve non-service connected
16 disability for Irvin Clemons.

17 DR. LIEDERS: Second, Lieders.

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

20 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

21 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

22 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

23 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

24 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
25 non-service connected disability for Michael Darden.

1 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

4 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

5 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

6 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

7 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

8 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve service
9 connected disability retirement for Matthew Duprey.

10 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

14 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

15 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

16 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
17 non-service connected disability for Dorothea Driscoll.

18 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

21 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

23 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

24 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny non-service
25 connected disability retirement for Bridget Fallon.

1 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

4 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

5 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

6 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

7 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

8 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve service
9 connected disability retirement for Nancy Flanigan.

10 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

13 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

14 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

15 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

16 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

17 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve service
18 connected disability retirement for Juan Gardner.

19 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

22 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

23 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

24 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

25 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

1 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve service
2 connected disability retirement for Shontel Harris.

3 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

6 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

7 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

9 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

10 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to table the
11 decision for service connected disability for Jason Harrison.

12 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

15 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

16 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

17 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

18 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion poses unanimously.

19 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
20 non-service connected disability retirement for Janet Jubrey.

21 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

24 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

25 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

1 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

2 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

3 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
4 non-service connected disability retirement for Mark Lowe.

5 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

8 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

9 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

10 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

11 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

12 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
13 non-service connected disability retirement for Shannon Martin.

14 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

17 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

18 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

19 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

20 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

21 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny service
22 connected disability retirement for Tiffany Moore.

23 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

1 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

2 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

3 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

4 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

5 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
6 non-service connected disability retirement for Kimberly Newman.

7 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

10 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

12 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

13 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

14 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to table the
15 decision for non-service connected disability retirement for
16 Maria Padilla.

17 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

20 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

21 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

22 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

23 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

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

1 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

4 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

5 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

6 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

7 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

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

10 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

13 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

14 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

15 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

16 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

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

19 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

22 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

23 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

24 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

25 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

1 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to table the
2 decision for non-service connected disability retirement for
3 Sara Vera.

4 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

7 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

8 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

9 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

10 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

11 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
12 non-service connected disability retirement for Yotisse
13 Williams.

14 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

17 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

18 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

19 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

20 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

21 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: The Board votes to deny service
22 connected disability but approve non-service connected
23 disability retirement for Donna Woviotis.

24 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

25 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There

1 being none, all in favor, say aye.

2 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

3 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

4 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

5 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

6 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: I'm making a motion to adjourn the
7 meeting. Is there a second?

8 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second.

9 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: All in favor say aye.

10 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

12 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

13 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: We are adjourned. Thank you,
14 everyone.

15 DR. LIEDERS: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN PAREKH: Thank you.

17 DR. SHORE: Have a good day.

18 (Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.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 April 2, 2025 to the best of my ability.

Wendy Malitsky

Wendy Malitsky

My Commission Expires
March 31, 2030