

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

DATE: October 1, 2025

LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

Present:

Dr. Lynn Rudich

Dr. Mike Gerstenfeld

Dr. Poleak So

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division

Alexandra Cipolla, Retirement Services Division.

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

1 (Proceedings began at 9:07 a.m.)

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3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The October 1st, 2025
4 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in
5 session. I am Dr. Lynn Rudich, Chairperson.

6 We also have Dr. Michael Gerstenfeld and Dr.
7 So. We also have present from the Office of the
8 State Comptroller, Retirement Services Division,
9 staff members Alexandra Cipolla, Patrick Fairbanks,
10 and Robert Helfend.

11 We also have General Counsel for the Retirement
12 Commission and Medical Examining Board, Cindy
13 Cieslak.

14 I make a motion to go into executive session,
15 but I request that the members of the Retirement
16 Services Division and counsel be allowed to remain.
17 Is there a second?

18 DR. SO: Second.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
20 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

21 DR. SO: So, aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Dr. Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

24 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: All right. So, for the
25 applicants and the members of the public, this is

1 Cindy Cieslak. I am going to place you in the
2 waiting room. The doctors will discuss your private
3 medical information in executive session to keep
4 that information confidential. If you are on
5 reconsideration, you'll be invited to make a
6 statement, and then when the doctors re-enter public
7 session, you'll be able to hear their votes on the
8 decisions. Thank you. And it'll just take me a few
9 seconds to get everyone into the waiting room.

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11 (Executive session from 9:08 a.m. until 12:45 p.m.)

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13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The Board will be making
14 determinations and voting on those determinations,
15 but I would like to remind members that only the
16 final vote will be given today, and not the reasons
17 for the vote. In some instances there may not have
18 been sufficient medical information to make a
19 determination, or perhaps a non-service-connected
20 disability is more likely than a service-connected
21 disability.

22 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
23 denial. You'll receive the Board's written
24 determination within two to four weeks, which will
25 provide you with that additional information.

1 I move to deny the application for non-service-
2 connected disability retirement of Shirley Amos-
3 Cooper. Is there a second?

4 DR. SO: So, second.

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

7 DR. SO: So, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

10 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
11 unanimously.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to table
13 the application for non-service-connected disability
14 retirement of Deborah Baer. Is there a second?

15 DR. SO: So, second.

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

18 DR. SO: So, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

21 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
22 unanimously.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to approve
24 the service-connected disability retirement of Mark
25 Brault. Is there a second?

1 DR. SO: So, second.

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

4 DR. SO: So, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

7 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
8 unanimously.

9 DR. SO: I make a motion to approve the
10 application of Nayda Concepcion for non-service-
11 connected disability retirement. Is there a second?

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

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

15 DR. SO: So, aye.

16 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

17 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, naye.

19 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes 2-to-1.

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to approve
21 the non-service-connected disability retirement of
22 Heather Daley.

23 DR. SO: So, second.

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

1 DR. SO: So, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

4 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
5 unanimously.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to approve
7 the non-service-connected disability retirement of
8 Melody Drinan. Is there a second?

9 DR. SO: So, second.

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

12 DR. SO: So, aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

15 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
16 unanimously.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to approve
18 the service-connected disability retirement of
19 Radhames Echavarria. Is there a second?

20 DR. SO: So, second.

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

23 DR. SO: So, aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

1 **ATTORNEY CIESLAK:** The motion passes
2 unanimously.

3 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH:** I make a motion to approve
4 the non-service-connected disability retirement of
5 Peggy Jacques. Is there a second?

6 **DR. SO:** So, second.

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

9 **DR. SO:** So, aye.

10 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH:** Rudich, aye.

11 **DR. GERSTENFELD:** Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 **ATTORNEY CIESLAK:** The motion passes
13 unanimously.

14 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH:** I make a motion to approve
15 the non-service-connected disability retirement of
16 Tammy Keith-Askew. Is there a second?

17 **DR. SO:** So, second.

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

20 **DR. SO:** So, aye.

21 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH:** Rudich, aye.

22 **DR. GERSTENFELD:** Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 **ATTORNEY CIESLAK:** The motion passes
24 unanimously.

25 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH:** I make a motion to deny

1 service-connected disability retirement of William
2 Lawrence, but the Board would look favorably on a
3 non-service-connected disability retirement if the
4 applicant qualifies.

5 DR. SO: So, second.

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

8 DR. SO: So, aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

10 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld aye.

11 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
12 unanimously.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to approve
14 the non-service-connected disability retirement of
15 Garrett Pagani. Is there a second?

16 DR. SO: So, second.

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

19 DR. SO: So, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

22 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
23 unanimously.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to approve
25 the non-service-connected disability retirement of

1 **Pamela Pasha.**

2 **DR. SO: So, second.**

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

5 **DR. SO: So, aye.**

6 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.**

7 **DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.**

8 **ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes**
9 **unanimously.**

10 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny**
11 **the service-connected disability retirement of**
12 **Yvette Perez.**

13 **DR. SO: So, second.**

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

16 **DR. SO: So, aye.**

17 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.**

18 **DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.**

19 **ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes**
20 **unanimously.**

21 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to table**
22 **the service-connected disability retirement of Shaun**
23 **Robinson.**

24 **DR. SO: So, second.**

25 **ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?**

1 There being none, all in favor say aye.

2 DR. SO: So, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

5 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
6 unanimously.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
8 the service-connected disability retirement of Mario
9 Rodrigues, but the Board would look favorably on
10 non-service-connected disability retirement.

11 DR. SO: So, second.

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

14 DR. SO: So, aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

16 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

17 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
18 unanimously.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny a
20 service-connected disability retirement of Melanie
21 Roman.

22 DR. SO: So. Second.

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

25 DR. SO: So, aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, Aye.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, Aye.

3 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
4 unanimously.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to approve
6 the non-service-connected disability retirement of
7 Lee Ross.

8 DR. SO: So, second.

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

11 DR. SO: So, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

14 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
15 unanimously.

16 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to approve
17 the non-service-connected disability retirement of
18 Donna Rosseignol.

19 DR. SO: So, second.

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

22 DR. SO: So, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

25 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes

1 unanimously.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
3 the service-connected disability retirement of
4 Cynthia Serignese, but the Board would look
5 favorably on non-service-connected disability
6 retirement.

7 DR. SO: So, second.

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

10 DR. SO: So, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

13 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
14 unanimously.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to table
16 the application for service or non-service connected
17 disability retirement of Melissa Smith.

18 DR. SO: So, second.

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

21 DR. SO: So, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

24 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
25 unanimously.

1 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
2 the non-service-connected disability retirement of
3 Elizabeth Sohl.

4 DR. SO: So, second.

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

7 DR. SO: So, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

10 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
11 unanimously.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to table
13 the service-connected disability retirement
14 application of Joel Torres.

15 DR. SO: So, second.

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

18 DR. SO: So, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

21 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
22 unanimously.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to table
24 the non-service-connected disability retirement of
25 Jill Vessella.

1 DR. SO: So, second.

2 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

3 There being none, all in favor say aye.

4 DR. SO: So, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

7 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
8 unanimously.

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
10 the service-connected disability retirement of Karl
11 Wildman.

12 DR. SO: So, second.

13 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

14 There being none, all in favor say aye.

15 DR. SO: So, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

18 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: The motion passes
19 unanimously.

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
21 the service-connected disability retirement of
22 Tasheena Womack, but the Board would look favorably
23 on an application for non-service-connected
24 disability retirement.

25 DR. SO: So, second.

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

3 **DR. SO:** So, aye.

4 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH:** Rudich, aye.

5 **DR. GERSTENFELD:** Gerstenfeld, aye.

6 **ATTORNEY CIESLAK:** The motion passes
7 unanimously.

8 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH:** I make a motion to adjourn
9 the meeting of the Medical Examining Board.

10 **DR. SO:** So, second.

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

13 **DR. SO:** So, aye.

14 **CHAIRPERSON RUDICH:** Rudich, aye.

15 **DR. GERSTENFELD:** Gerstenfeld, aye.

16 **ATTORNEY CIESLAK:** The motion passes
17 unanimously. We are adjourned. Thank you.

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19 **(Meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.)**
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2 **REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE**

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4 **I, Wendy Maltisky, do hereby certify that the**
5 **foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true**
6 **and accurate transcript of the State of Connecticut State**
7 **Employees' Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board**
8 **held on October 1, 2025.**

9

10 *Wendy Malitsky*

11 **Wendy Malitsky, Notary Public**

12 **My Commission Expires March 31, 2030**

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