

MINUTES TO MEETING
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
Wednesday, October 1, 2025

A Meeting of the Medical Examining Board was held on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at the Office of the State Comptroller, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, Connecticut, 06106. All Medical Examining Board meetings being conducted electronically.

PRESENT:

Lynn Rudich, M.D., CHAIRPERSON
Sokpoleak So, M.D.
Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.

ABSENT:

Fielding Johnson, M.D.
Rita Ohene-Adjei, M.D.
Manny Katsetos, M.D.
Nikolai Lieders, M.D.
Eric T. Shore, M.D.
Sachin Parekh, M.D.
Sheldon Nova, M.D.
Sohrab Zahedi, M.D.
Ralph Rosenberg, M.D.
Frank Gerratana, M.D,

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division
Alexandra Cipolla, Retirement Services Division
Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor, LLP.

Please note that a portion of the meeting was conducted in executive session as the focus of the meeting was the medical condition(s) of each Disability Retirement applicant.

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.

Dr. Rudich motioned to go into the Executive Session to discuss medical condition(s) related to the applications for Disability Retirement, seconded by Dr. So, at 9:10 am. Members of the Retirement Services Division and the General Counsel to the Commission were invited to stay during Executive Session. A brief break was taken.

1. Mario Rodrigues appeared on Zoom before the Board at 12:23 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 12:35 pm.
2. Melissa Smith appeared on Zoom before the Board at 12:35 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 12:42 pm.

Dr. Rudich motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. So at 12:45 pm.

SHIRLEY AMOS-COOPER NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny the entitlement of Shirley Amos-Cooper for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

DEBORAH BAER NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to table the entitlement of Deborah Baer for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MARK BRAULT SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve the entitlement of Mark Brault for a Service-Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

NAYDA CONCEPCION NON-SERVICE CONN.(RECON)

Dr. Gerstenfeld moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve the entitlement of Nayda Concepcion for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved by majority decision, Dr. Rudich dissents.

HEATHER DALEY NON-SERVICE CONN.(CONT'D)

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve the entitlement of Heather Daley for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MELODY DRINAN NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve the entitlement of Melody Drinan for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

RADHAMES ECHAVARRIA SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve the entitlement of Radhames Echavarria for a Service-Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

PEGGY JACQUES NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve the entitlement of Peggy Jacques for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

TAMMY KEITH-ASKEW NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve the entitlement of Tammy Keith-Askew for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny William Lawrence's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but the Board would look favorably upon non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

GARRETT PAGANI NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve the entitlement of Garrett Pagani for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

PAMELA PASHA NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve the entitlement of Pamela Pasha for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

YVETTE PEREZ SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny the entitlement of Yvette Perez for a Service-Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SHAUN ROBINSON SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to table the entitlement of Shaun Robinson for a Service-Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MARIO RODRIGUES SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Mario Rodrigues' entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but the Board would look favorably upon non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MELANIE ROMAN SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny the entitlement of Melanie Roman for a Service-Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LEE ROSS NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve the entitlement of Lee Ross for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

DONNA ROSSEIGNOL NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve the entitlement of Donna Rosseignol for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CYNTHIA SERIGNESE SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Cynthia Serignese's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but the Board would look favorably upon non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MELISSA SMITH SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to table the entitlement of Melissa Smith for a Service-Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ELIZABETH SOHL NON-SERVICE CONN.

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny the entitlement of Elizabeth Sohl for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

JOEL TORRES SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to table the entitlement of Joel Torres for a Service-Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

JILL VESSELLA NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to table the entitlement of Jill Vessella for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

KARL WILDMAN SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny the entitlement of Karl Wildman for a Service-Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

TASHEENA WOMACK SERVICE-CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Tasheena Womack's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but the Board would look favorably upon non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So to adjourn the meeting at 12:56 pm. Motion approved unanimously.