

MINUTES TO MEETING
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
INVESTIGATION
Wednesday, November 19, 2025

A Meeting of the Medical Examining Board was held on Wednesday, November 19, 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
Sachin Parekh, 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.
Sohrab Zahedi, M.D.
Sokpoleak So, M.D.
Frank Gerratana, M.D.
Sheldon Nova, M.D.
Ralph Rosenberg, 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 9:04 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. Parekh, at 9:06 am. Members of the Retirement Services Division and the General Counsel to the Commission were invited to stay during Executive Session. There was a brief break taken.

1. Attorney Jeffrey Ment and Michael O'Leary appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:00 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:22 am.
2. Attorney Jeffrey Ment and Ryan Hawthorne appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:22 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:47 am.
3. Attorney Russell Zimmerlin and Trinene Davis appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:47 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:53 am.
4. Basilio Ortiz appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:53 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 12:02 pm.
5. Attorney Michael Blakeman and Carmelo Ortiz appeared on Zoom before the Board at 12:02 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 12:22 pm.

Dr. Rudich motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Parekh at 12:23 pm.

DAVIS, TRINENE

CONTINUED ENTITLEMENT (RECON)

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Parekh, to discontinue Trinene Davis' entitlement to Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

O'LEARY, MICHAEL

CONTINUED ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Parekh moved, seconded by Dr. Parekh, to continue Michael O'Leary's entitlement to Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ORTIZ, BASILIO

CONTINUED ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Parekh, to discontinue Basilio Ortiz's entitlement to Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ORTIZ, CARMELO

CONTINUED ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Parekh, to table a decision on Carmelo Ortiz's continued entitlement to Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

REMILLARD, TARA

NON SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Parekh, to table a decision on Tara Remillard's entitlement to Non Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

HAWTHORNE, RYAN

SERVICE CONNECTED* (RECON)

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Parekh, to deny Ryan Hawthorne's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to Non Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

HICKCOX, HEIDI

SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Parekh, to table Heidi Hickcox's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to Non Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Parekh to adjourn the meeting at 12:28 pm. Motion approved unanimously.