

MINUTES TO MEETING  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD  
Wednesday, March 5, 2025

A Meeting of the Medical Examining Board was held on Wednesday, March 5, 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.  
Frank Gerratana, M.D.

ABSENT:

Nikolai Lieders, M.D.  
Sachin Parekh, M.D.  
Sheldon Nova, M.D.  
Fielding Johnson, M.D.  
Eric T. Shore, M.D.  
Ralph Rosenberg, M.D.  
Rita Ohene-Adjei, M.D.  
Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.  
Manny Katsetos, M.D.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division  
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division  
Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division  
Alexandra Cipolla, Retirement Services Division  
Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division  
Robin Kallor, 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 9:06 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 9:07 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. Attorney Russell Zimmerlin, Dr. Clinton Jambor and Linda Cicarella appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:35am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:46am.
2. Shanita Gadsden appeared on Zoom before the Board at 1:04pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 1:06pm.
3. Nicole LaVie appeared on Zoom before the Board at 1:06pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 1:18pm.
4. Joanna Mechlinski appeared on Zoom before the Board at 1:24pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 1:39pm.

Dr. Rudich motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. So at 1:43pm.

APICELLA, ALLISON # 653829 SERVICE CONNECTED\*  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Allison Apicella's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CICARELLA, LINDA # 244808 SERVICE CONNECTED (RECON)  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Linda Cicarella's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but the Board would look favorably upon non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CLARKE-BROWNE, CHARMAINE # 035837 SERVICE CONNECTED\*  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Charmaine Clarke-Browne's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

COLLINS, JASON # 598924 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve Jason Collins' entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

DEMARCO, JASON # 970938 SERVICE CONNECTED  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Jason DeMarco's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but the Board would look favorably upon non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

GADSDEN, SHANITA # 064641 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED (RECON)  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Shanita Gadsden's entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

GRONOWSKI JR., JAMES # 499761 SERVICE CONNECTED  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve James Gronowski Jr.'s entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

HOLLIS, PAULA # 482454 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED (POSTH)  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve Paula Hollis' entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

KNIGHT-HERNANDEZ, ALEXANDER # 500176 SERVICE CONNECTED  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Alexander Knight-Hernandez's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LAVIE, NICOLE # 095801 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED (RECON)  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Nicole LaVie's entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LEMAY, VICTOR # 236056 SERVICE CONNECTED\*  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve Victory LeMay's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LUNN, DANIEL # 613090 SERVICE CONNECTED  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to table Daniel Lunn's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MECHLINSKI, JOANNA # 641967 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED (RECON)  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve Joanna Mechlinski's entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ORSINI, CHRISTINE # 125661 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Christine Orsini's entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

PRONOVOST, ALICIA # 644622 SERVICE CONNECTED\* (CONT'D)  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve Alicia Pronovost's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

RAMOS, JOSE # 231649 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve Jose Ramos' entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

RODGERS, TANETRA # 021045 SERVICE CONNECTED  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Tanetra Rodgers' entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SERRANO, EMIL # 491247 SERVICE CONNECTED  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Emil Serrano's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SHAW, BETH # 615615 SERVICE CONNECTED\* (CONT'D)  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Beth Shaw's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

THAXTON, PAUL # 137256 NON-SERVICE CONNECTED  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to approve Paul Thaxton's entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

BAERGA, BRENDA # 526082 SERVICE CONNECTED\*  
Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. So, to deny Brenda Baerga'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. So to adjourn the meeting at 1:52pm. Motion approved unanimously.