

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

DATE: November 19, 2025

LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

Present:

Dr. Lynn Rudich

Dr. Sachin Parekh

Dr. Mike Gerstenfeld

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division

Alexandra Cipolla, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:04 a.m.)

2 DR. RUDICH: Okay. The November 19th, 2025
3 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in
4 session. My name is Dr. Lynn Rudich. I'm the
5 Chairperson.

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

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 request that the members of the Retirement
16 Services Division and Counsel be allowed to remain.
17 Is there a second?

18 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

21 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

22 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Dr. Gerstenfeld, we didn't
23 hear you. Can you raise your hand and we'll figure
24 out your audio? I see Dr. Gerstenfeld raising his
25 hand.

1 All right. This is Cindy Cieslak. All of --
2 oh, sorry, Dr. Rudich. The motion passes.

3 DR. RUDICH: Motion passes.

4 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: All right. This is Cindy
5 Cieslak. All of the applicants, their attorneys,
6 and the members of the public, I'm going to place
7 you in the waiting room. The doctors will discuss
8 all of your medical information in Executive
9 Session, and then those on reconsideration, on
10 initial application, or those on investigation will
11 be invited in to make a statement.

12 This can take a little bit of time, so if
13 you're in the waiting room for what seems like a
14 long time, please just be patient with us. Thank
15 you.

16
17 (Executive Session from 9:05 a.m. to 12:23 p.m.)
18

19 DR. RUDICH: The Board will be making
20 determinations and voting on those determinations,
21 but I would like to remind members that only the
22 final vote will be given today and not the reasons
23 for the vote. In some instances, there may not have
24 been enough medical information to make a
25 determination, and perhaps a non-service-connected

1 disability is more likely than a service-connected
2 disability.

3 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
4 denial. You'll receive the Board's written
5 determination within two to four weeks, which will
6 provide additional information.

7 I make a motion to deny, on investigation and
8 reconsideration, the non-service-connected
9 disability retirement of Trinene Davis.

10 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

11 DR. RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor say
12 aye. Rudich, aye.

13 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

15 DR. RUDICH: Motion passes.

16 I make a motion to approve, on investigation,
17 the disability retirement of Michael O'Leary.

18 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

21 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 DR. RUDICH: Motion passes.

24 I make a motion to deny, on investigation, the
25 disability retirement of Basilio Ortiz.

1 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

2 DR. RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor say
3 aye. Rudich, aye.

4 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

5 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

6 DR. RUDICH: Motion passes.

7 I make a motion to table the investigation
8 disability retirement for Carmelo Ortiz.

9 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

10 DR. RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor say
11 aye. Rudich, aye.

12 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

14 DR. RUDICH: Motion passes.

15 I make a motion to table the non-service-
16 connected disability retirement of Tara Remillard.

17 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

18 DR. RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor say
19 aye. Rudich, aye.

20 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

22 DR. RUDICH: Motion passes.

23 I make a motion to deny service connection but
24 approve the non-service-connected disability
25 retirement of Ryan Hawthorne.

1 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

2 DR. RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor say
3 aye. Rudich, aye.

4 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

5 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

6 DR. RUDICH: Motion passes.

7 I make a motion to approve the non-service-
8 connected disability retirement of Heidi Hickcox.

9 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

10 DR. RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor say
11 aye. Rudich, aye.

12 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

14 DR. RUDICH: Motion passes.

15 I make a motion to adjourn this meeting of the
16 Medical Examining Board.

17 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

18 DR. RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor say
19 aye. Rudich, aye.

20 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

22 DR. RUDICH: Motion passes. We are adjourned.

23

24 (Adjourned at 12:27 p.m.)

25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Wendy Malitsky, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and accurate transcript of the State Employees' Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board



Wendy Malitsky, Notary Public

My Commission Expires March 31, 2030

0	approve 4:16	cipolla 1:18 2:9	dr 1:13,14,15
00001 1:1	5:24 6:7	commenced 2:1	2:2,4,6,6,18,19
1	attorney 2:22	commission 1:3	2:21,22,24 3:2
12:23 3:17	3:4	2:12 7:6,11	3:3,19 4:10,11
12:27 6:24	attorneys 3:5	comptroller 2:8	4:13,14,15,18
19 1:6 7:7	audio 2:24	connected 3:25	4:19,21,22,23
19th 2:2	aye 2:20,20,21	4:1,8 5:16,24	5:1,2,4,5,6,9,10
2	4:12,12,13,14	6:8	5:12,13,14,17
2025 1:6 2:2	4:20,20,21,22	connecticut 1:2	5:18,20,21,22
7:7	5:3,3,4,5,11,11	connection	6:1,2,4,5,6,9,10
2030 7:11	5:12,13,19,19	5:23	6:12,13,14,17
3	5:20,21 6:3,3,4	counsel 2:11,16	6:18,20,21,22
31 7:11	6:5,11,11,12,13	d	e
35502 1:1 7:8	6:19,19,20,21	date 1:6	employees 1:3
9	b	davis 4:9	7:5
9:04 2:1	basilio 4:25	denial 4:4	examining 1:4
9:05 3:17	best 7:4	deny 4:7,24	2:3,12 6:16 7:6
a	bit 3:12	5:23	executive 2:14
a.m. 2:1 3:17	board 1:4 2:3	determination	3:8,17
ability 7:4	2:12 3:19 6:16	3:25 4:5	expires 7:11
accurate 7:5	7:6	determinations	f
additional 4:6	board's 4:4	3:20,20	fairbanks 1:17
adjourn 6:15	c	disability 4:1,2	2:9
adjourned 6:22	carmelo 5:8	4:9,17,25 5:8	favor 2:19 4:11
6:24	certificate 7:1	5:16,24 6:8	4:19 5:2,10,18
alexandra 1:18	certify 7:3	discuss 3:7	6:2,10,18
2:9	chairperson	discussion 2:19	figure 2:23
allowed 2:16	2:5	4:11,19 5:2,10	final 3:22
applicants 3:5	cieslak 1:19	5:18 6:2,10,18	foregoing 7:4
application	2:13,22 3:1,4,5	division 1:16	four 4:5
3:10	cindy 1:19 2:12	1:17,18 2:8,16	
	3:1,4	doctors 3:7	

g	k	n	please 3:14
general 2:11	kallor 1:19	name 2:4	present 1:11
gerstenfeld	l	non 3:25 4:8	2:7
1:15 2:6,22,24	likely 4:1	5:15,24 6:7	proceedings
4:14,14,22,22	little 3:12	notary 7:10	2:1
5:5,5,13,13,21	llp 1:19	november 1:6	provide 4:6
5:21 6:5,5,13	location 1:8	2:2 7:7	public 3:6 7:10
6:13,21,21	long 3:14	o	r
given 3:22	lynn 1:13 2:4	o'leary 4:17	raise 2:23
go 2:14	m	office 2:7	raising 2:24
going 3:6	make 2:14 3:11	oh 3:2	reasons 3:22
h	3:24 4:7,16,24	okay 2:2	receive 4:4
hand 2:23,25	5:7,15,23 6:7	ortiz 4:25 5:8	reconsideration
hawthorne	6:15	p	3:9 4:3,8
5:25	making 3:19	p.m. 3:17 6:24	remain 2:16
hear 2:23	malitsky 7:3,10	parekh 1:14	remillard 5:16
heidi 6:8	march 7:11	2:7,18,18,21,21	remind 3:21
held 7:7	medical 1:4 2:3	4:10,10,13,13	reporter's 7:1
helfand 1:16	2:12 3:8,24	4:18,18,21,21	request 2:15
2:10	6:16 7:6	5:1,1,4,4,9,9,12	retirement 1:3
hickcox 6:8	meeting 2:3	5:12,17,17,20	1:16,17,18 2:8
i	6:15	5:20 6:1,1,4,4,9	2:11,15 4:9,17
information	members 2:15	6:9,12,12,17,17	4:25 5:8,16,25
3:8,24 4:6	3:6,21	6:20,20	6:8 7:6
initial 3:10 4:3	michael 2:6	passes 3:2,3	right 3:1,4
instances 3:23	4:17	4:15,23 5:6,14	robert 1:16 2:9
investigation	mike 1:15	5:22 6:6,14,22	room 3:7,13
3:10 4:7,16,24	motion 2:14 3:2	patient 3:14	rose 1:19
5:7	3:3 4:7,15,16	patrick 1:17	rudich 1:13 2:2
invited 3:11	4:23,24 5:6,7	2:9	2:4,19,20 3:2,3
	5:14,15,22,23	place 3:6	3:19 4:11,12
	6:6,7,14,15,22		4:15,19,20,23
			5:2,3,6,10,11

5:14,18,19,22 6:2,3,6,10,11 6:14,18,19,22 ryan 5:25	today 3:22 transcript 7:5 trinene 4:9 true 7:4 two 4:5
s	v
sachin 1:14 2:7 second 2:17,18 4:10,18 5:1,9 5:17 6:1,9,17 see 2:24 seek 4:3 seems 3:13 service 3:25 4:1 4:8 5:15,23,24 6:7 services 1:16 1:17,18 2:8,16 session 2:4,14 3:9,17 signature 1:1 7:8 skill 7:4 sorry 3:2 state 1:2,3 2:8 7:5 statement 3:11	vote 3:22,23 voting 3:20 w waiting 3:7,13 weeks 4:5 wendy 7:3,10 written 4:4 z zoom 1:8
t	
table 5:7,15 take 3:12 tara 5:16 thank 3:14 time 3:12,14	