

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT COMMISSION

MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

DATE: January 23, 2026

LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Ralph Rosenberg, M.D. - Chairperson

Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.

Eric Shore, M.D.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division

Alexandra Cipolla, Retirement Services Division

Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose  
Kallor, LLP

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(Proceedings began at 0:00 a.m.)

DR. ROSENBERG: Good morning, everybody. My name is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I am the Chairperson of today's January 23rd of 2026 meeting of the Medical Examining Board, which is now in session. Present today is Dr. Mike Gerstenfeld, Dr. Eric Shore, and myself, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. Present from the Office of the State Comptroller's Office and Retirement Division are staff members Alexandra Cipolla, Patrick Fairbanks, and Robert Helfand.

General Counsel for the Retirement Commission and Medical Examination Board, today, present is Michael Rose.

Do I have a motion to go into Executive Session?

DR. SHORE: Yes. Motion to move into Executive Session.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of going into Executive Session, say aye.

DR. SHORE: Aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

1 DR. ROSENBERG: And Rosenberg, aye. We are  
going into Executive Session.

2 ATTORNEY ROSE: And the purpose of that motion,  
3  
4 sir, is to discuss confidential medical information  
5 exempt from open meetings.

6 DR. ROSENBERG: Yes, we're going into Executive  
7 Session, and I make a motion -- and I request that  
8 members of the disability -- individuals -- I'm  
9 sorry, I'm going to do that again.

10 Go into Executive Session. Motion is made to  
11 go into Executive Session for the purposes of  
12  
13 discussing individual members' disability health  
14 issues.

15 I request that the members of Retirement  
16  
17 Services and Counsel be allowed to remain in  
18  
19 Executive Session with us, and those members are  
20  
21 Alexandra Cipolla, Patrick Fairbanks and Robert  
22 Helfand from the Retirement Services Division, and  
23 Michael Rose, Counsel for our Medical Examination  
24 Board.

25 All those in favor say aye.

DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. The motion is

1 passed.

2 PATRICK FAIRBANKS: All right, so what that  
3 means, everyone, is you'll be going back into the  
4 guest -- into the waiting room until the doctors  
5 have completed. They'll come back into public  
6 session, where they will read the decisions, let you  
7 know what motions were made. And then about two  
8 weeks afterwards, you'll get the written decisions  
9 with the actual information and why they made their  
10 decisions. But for now, you'll go into the waiting  
11 room while the doctors discuss in Executive Session,  
12  
13 and then we will reconvene and you'll hear those  
14 decisions.

15 PATRICK FAIRBANKS: It could take a couple  
16 hours sometimes, so, you know, just -- just to be  
17 patient.

18 ALEXANDRA CIPOLLA: And those of you who are on  
19 for reconsideration will be able to come in and  
20 address the Board.

21 PATRICK FAIRBANKS: That's true. Yep.

22  
23 (Executive session from 0:00 to 0:00)

24  
25 ALEXANDRA CIPOLLA: Okay.

1           PATRICK FAIRBANKS: Because the recording just  
went in progress, Dr. Rosenberg, do you want to  
2  
reread that? Sorry, just so it's on the public  
3  
part. We just started the recording.  
4

5           DR. ROSENBERG: Not a problem. Sorry,  
6  
everybody. I will be repeating the same statement.

7           The Board will be making determinations and  
8  
voting on those determinations, but would like to  
9  
remind members that only the final vote will be  
10  
given today and not the reasons for the vote.

11           In some instances, there may not have been  
12  
enough medical information to make a determination  
13  
or perhaps a non-service-connected disability is  
14  
more likely a service-connected disability.

15           You may seek reconsideration of an initial  
16  
denial. You will receive the Board's written  
17  
determination within two to four weeks, which will  
18  
provide you with that additional information.

19           So I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to  
20  
approve Philip Hamilton for a non-service-connected  
21  
disability. Is there a second?  
22

23           DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

24           DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
25  
a non-service-connected disability for Philip

1 Hamilton, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

2

DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

3

DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

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I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to  
5 approve service-connected disability for Sherese  
6 Valico. Is there a second?  
7

8

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

9

DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
10 service-connected disability for Sherese Valico, say  
11 aye. Rosenberg, aye.  
12

12

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

13

DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

14

DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

15

I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to

16

approve non-service-connected disability for Jill

17

Vessella. Is there a second?

18

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

19

DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
20 non-service-connected disability for Jill Vessella,  
21 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.  
22

23

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

24

DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

25

DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

1 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to table  
the application of Cynthia Cassada. Is there a  
2 second?

3  
4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

5 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
6 tabling the application for Cynthia Cassada, say  
7 aye. Rosenberg, aye.

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

9 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

10 DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

11 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny  
12 continued entitlement for Shari Chan. Is there a  
13 second?

14  
15 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

16 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of denying  
17 application for Shari Chan, say aye. Rosenberg,  
18 aye.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

20 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

21 DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

22 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny  
23 application for reconsideration of continued  
24 entitlement to Mark Clinton. Is there a second?

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

1 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of denying  
application for Mark Clinton for continued -- for  
2 reconsideration of continued entitlement, say aye.

3  
4 Rosenberg, aye.

5 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

6 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

7 DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

8 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to  
9 approve continued entitlement for Lleidy Deleon. Is  
10 there a second?

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

12  
13 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
continued entitlement for Lleidy Deleon, say aye.

14 Rosenberg, aye.

15 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

16 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

17 DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

18  
19 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny  
20 application for Debra Dorso for continued  
21 entitlement. Is there a second?

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

23 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of denying  
24 application for continued entitlement to Debra  
25 Dorso, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

1 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

2 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

2

DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

3

4 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to  
5 approve continued entitlement for Barbara Fritz. Is  
6 there a second?

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

8 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
9 continued entitlement for Barbara Fritz, say aye.  
10 Rosenberg, aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12

DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

13

DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

14

15 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to  
16 approve continued entitlement for Tahishia Lewis.

16

Is there a second?

17

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

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19 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
20 continued entitlement for Tahishia Lewis, say aye.  
21 Rosenberg, aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

24 DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

25 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to

1 approve continued entitlement for Keith Lukasiewski.  
2 Is there a second?

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

4 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
5 continued entitlement for Keith Lukasiewski, say  
6 aye. Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

9 DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

10 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny  
11 continued entitlement for Scott Owens. Is there a  
12 second?

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

14 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
15 denial for Scott Owens, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

16 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

17 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

18 DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

19 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to deny  
20 application for continued entitlement for Elizabeth  
21 Pierscinski. Is there a second?

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

23 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of denying  
24 continued entitlement to Elizabeth Pierscinski, say  
25

1 aye. Rosenberg, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

2

DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

3

DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

4

I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to  
5 approve continued entitlement for reconsideration  
6 for Charles Revere. Is there a second?  
7

8

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

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DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
10 continued entitlement reconsideration for Charles  
11 Revere, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.  
12

12

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

13

DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

14

DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

15

I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to table  
16 application for Diane Rogers. Is there a second?  
17

17

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

18

DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
19 -- tabling contingent entitlement for  
20 reconsideration for Diane Rogers, say aye.  
21 Rosenberg, aye.  
22

23

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

24

DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

25

DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

1 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to  
approve application for continued entitlement for  
2 Jessica Silano. Is there a second?

3  
4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

5 DR. ROSENBERG: The mo -- sorry, Dr. Shore?

6 DR. SHORE: No.

7 DR. ROSENBERG: Oh, I'm sorry. I, Dr. Ralph  
8 Rosenberg -- sorry. I make a motion to approve  
9 application for continued entitlement for Jessica  
10 Silano. All those in favor say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12

DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

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DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

14

15 DR. GERSTENFELD: I, Dr. Mike Gerstenfeld, make  
16 a motion to approve Lisa Suarez's application for  
17 continued entitlement to non service connected  
18 disability retirement. Is there a second?

18

19 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

19

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: All in favor say aye.  
21 Gerstenfeld, aye.

21

22 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

22

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: All opposed say nay.

23

24 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, nay.

24

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: The motion passes.

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1 DR. ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a  
2 motion to deny continued entitlement for Angelo

3 Velez. Is there a second?

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

5 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of denying  
6 continued entitlement for Angelo Velez, say aye.  
7 Rosenberg, aye.

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

9 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

10 DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes. I, Dr.  
11 Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to approve -- I don't  
12 have the first name here for --

13 PATRICK FAIRBANKS: For John Krawshuk.

14 DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you. John Krawshuk. I  
15 make a motion to approve application for continued -  
16 -

17 PATRICK FAIRBANKS: No, for initial approval.

18 DR. ROSENBERG: Right. Thank you -- for  
19 initial approval for John Krawshuk. Is there a  
20 second?

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

22 DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
23 application for John Krawshuk, say aye. Rosenberg,  
24 aye.  
25

1 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

2 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

2

DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

3

4 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion for  
5 continued entitlement pursuant to Memorandum of  
6 Understanding of August 6th, 2015, to approve Maria  
7 Beverly, Misty Burgess, Monique Burpee, Regina  
8 Chambers, Jason Collins, Michael Darden, Jacqueline  
9 DeMarco, Jessica Fernandes, Robert Hohman, George  
10 Kazimierczak, Carrie Levesque, Philip Myette,  
11 Sherene Nelson, Jolene Nemeth, Eric Sawyer, Maya

12

Thornton. Is there a second?

13

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

14

DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of approving  
15 those as listed, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

16

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

17

DR. SHORE: Shore, aye,

18

DR. ROSENBERG: The motions passes.

19 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make a motion to  
20 adjourn the meeting. Is there a second?

21

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

22

DR. ROSENBERG: All those in favor of  
23 adjourning the meeting, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

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DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

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DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

DR. ROSENBERG: The motion passes and the  
meeting is adjourned. We thank everybody for their  
attendance.

(Meeting adjourned at 0:00)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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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 held on



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Wendy Malitsky, Notary Public

My Commission Expires March 31, 2030