

MINUTES TO MEETING
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
Friday, January 9, 2026

A Meeting of the Medical Examining Board was held on Friday, January 6, 2026, 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
Rita Ohene-Adjei, M.D.
Sohrab Zahedi, M.D.

ABSENT:

Fielding Johnson, M.D.
Manny Katsetos, M.D.
Nikolai Lieders, M.D.
Eric T. Shore, M.D.
Sachin Parekh, M.D.
Sokpoleak So, M.D.
Michael Gerstenfeld, 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. Zahedi, at 9:06 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 and Orrette Salmon appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:01 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:07 am.

Dr. Rudich motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Zahedi at 11:12 am.

BENJAMIN, MARILETTE NON-SERVICE CONNECTED (CONT'D)

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of Benjamin Marilette for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

COLON, MARIA SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to Deny Maria Colon's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

COTTON, NATHANIEL NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to table the entitlement of Nathaniel Cotton for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

HARRISON, JANICE SERVICE CONNECTED* (RECON)

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to Deny Janice Harrison's entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

KIMBRO, LAUREN NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to table the entitlement of Lauren Kimbro for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

O'ROURKE, CYNTHIA SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to deny the entitlement of Cynthia O'Rourke for a Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SALMON, ORRETTE SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of Orrette Salmon for a Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

STREET, JOHN NON-SERVICE CONNECTED (CONT'D)

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of John Street for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

TAPIA, SANDRA NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to deny the entitlement of Sandra Tapia for a Non-Service Connected Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

RODRIGUES, MARIO SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to Deny Mario Rodrigues' entitlement to Service Connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to non-service connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CONTINUED ENTITLEMENTS

ANTIGNANI, JAMES CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to continue the entitlement of James Antignani for Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

DELANEY, KEVIN CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to table the entitlement of Kevin Delaney for Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously, Dr. Ohene-Adjei abstained.

GOMEZ, ROBERTO

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to continue the entitlement of Roberto Gomez for Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

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HIGGINSON, DAWN

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of Dawn Higginson for Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LEY, JONATHAN

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of Jonathan Ley for Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

NOTT, DEANA

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to table a decision on the continued entitlement. Motion approved unanimously.

PHIPPS, STEPHEN

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of Stephen Phipps for Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

PRIBESH, MELODY

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of Melody Pribesh for Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Rudich moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 am. Motion approved unanimously.