

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 Zimberlin 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.

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.

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.

## CONTINUED ENTITLEMENTS

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.

MINUTES TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD -3- [January 9, 2026]

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.

PРИBESH, 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.