

MINUTES TO MEETING
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
Friday, May 1, 2026

A Meeting of the Medical Examining Board was held on Friday, May 1, 2026, at the Office of the State Comptroller, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, Connecticut, 06106. All Medical Examining Board meetings being conducted electronically.

PRESENT:

Nikolai Lieders, M.D., CHAIRPERSON
Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.
Manny Katsetos, M.D.

ABSENT:

Fielding Johnson, M.D.
Sokpoleak So, M.D.
Ralph Rosenberg, M.D.
Lynn Rudich, M.D.
Sachin Parekh, M.D.
Rita Ohene-Adjei, M.D.
Eric T. Shore, M.D.
Frank Gerratana, M.D.
Sohrab Zahedi, M.D.
Sheldon Nova, 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 9:02 am.

Dr. Lieders motioned to go into the Executive Session to discuss medical condition(s) related to the applications for Disability Retirement, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, at 9:03 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 Ment and Angel Aviles appeared on Zoom before the Board at 10:27 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 10:31 am.
2. Attorney Skuret and Donan Belade appeared on Zoom before the Board at 12:16 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 12:21 pm
3. Attorney Zimmerlin and Desmond Gregor appeared on Zoom before the Board at 12:22 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 12:25 pm
4. Attorney Raymond and Dwayne McBride appeared on Zoom before the Board at 12:26 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 12:31 pm
5. Attorney Zimmerlin and Angela Piela appeared on Zoom before the Board at 12:33 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 12:38 pm

Dr. Lieders motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld at 12:41 pm. Motion approved unanimously.

ANGEL AVILES SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of ANGEL AVILES for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

DONNA BELADE SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of DONNA BELADE for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LISA BENNETT SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny the entitlement of LISA BENNETT for a Service Connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MONICA BISHOP NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny the entitlement of MONICA BISHOP for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

DAMANY CHARLTON SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny the entitlement of DAMANY CHARLTON for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CHRISTINA DARLING SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny the entitlement of CHRISTINA DARLING for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SHELDON DAVIS SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of SHELDON DAVIS for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

FLORENCE EHBOR-COLE NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of FLORENCE EHBOR-COLE for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

DENICE FORTIN NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny the entitlement of DENICE FORTIN for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

DESMOND GREGOR SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of DESMOND GREGOR for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ALAN KOVACS NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of ALAN KOVACS for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LUZ MANSON SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of LUZ MANSON for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

DWAYNE MCBRIDE SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to table the entitlement of DWAYNE MCBRIDE for a Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ANDREA MICALIZZI NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of ANDREA MICALIZZI for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MICHELE MITCHELL SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny the entitlement of MICHELE MITCHELL for a Service Connected Disability Retirement, but the Board would look favorably upon Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved by majority decision, Dr. Katsetos abstains.

KATHY NOON NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of KATHY NOON for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

THOMAS O'BRIEN SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny the entitlement of THOMAS O'BRIEN for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ANGELA PIELA NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of ANGELA PIELA for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

TERRI-ANN RAGO NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of TERRI-ANN RAGO for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

KEITH SEVERANCE SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny the entitlement of KEITH SEVERANCE for a Service Connected Disability Retirement, but the Board would look favorably upon Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

KIMBERLY STEWART NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of KIMBERLY STEWART for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

JOEL TORRES SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny the entitlement of JOEL TORRES for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

JOHN TRYJADA SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny the entitlement of JOHN TRYJADA for a Service Connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

WILLIAM TUTTLE NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the entitlement of WILLIAM TUTTLE for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MICHELL WATERMAN SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to deny the entitlement of MICHELL WATERMAN for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

Continued Entitlement Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding of August 6, 2015

MARILETTE BENJAMIN CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the continued entitlement of MARILETTE BENJAMIN for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

CRYSTAL JONES CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the continued entitlement of CRYSTAL JONES for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

MARY MCCARTHY CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the continued entitlement of MARY MCCARTHY for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

FRANK MOORE CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the continued entitlement of FRANK MOORE for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

RAY RODRIGUEZ CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld, to approve the continued entitlement of RAY RODRIGUEZ for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Lieders moved, seconded by Dr. Gerstenfeld to adjourn the meeting at 12:54 pm. Motion approved unanimously.