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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

DATE: March 6, 2026

LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Nikolai Lieders, M.D., Chairperson

Rita Ohene-Adjei, M.D.

Eric T. Shore, M.D.

ABSENT:

Fielding Johnson, M.D.

Sokpoleak So, M.D.

Frank Gerratana, M.D.

Sheldon Nova, M.D.

Sohrab Zahedi, M.D.

Ralph Rosenberg, M.D.

Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.

Lynn Rudich, M.D.

Sachin Parekh, M.D.

Manny Katsetos, 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

1 (Proceedings began at 9:02 a.m.)

2 CINDY CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, you can proceed
3 when you're ready.

4 DR. LIEDERS: Good morning. Meeting called to
5 order. The March 6, 2026 meeting of the Medical
6 Examining Board is now in session. My name is Dr.
7 Lieders, I'm going to be chairing this meeting.

8 The other members of the Medical Examining
9 Board are Dr. Ohene and Dr. Shore.

10 Present also from the Office of the State
11 Comptroller, Retirement Services Division staff members
12 from the Retirement Services Division, Alexander Cipolla,
13 Patrick Fairbanks and Mr. Robert Helfand.

14 Also present is General Counsel for the
15 Retirement Commission and Medical Examining Board, Cindy
16 Cieslak.

17 We don't need to amend the agenda, I believe,
18 so I'm gonna make a motion for the Medical Examining
19 Board to go into Executive Session.

20 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second.

21 DR. LIEDERS: Is there any discussion?

22 PATRICK FAIRBANKS: Dr. Lieders, usually the
23 Board also invites counsel and staff to also join. If
24 that's your intention, you need to add it to the motion.

25 DR. LIEDERS: Okay, I'm gonna add to the

1 motion. Yes. I was gonna do that after the motion, but
2 I think I was wrong. I also ask staff members of the
3 Retirement Services Division as well as General Counsel,
4 I mentioned their names, to stay during our executive --
5 to participate also during our executive meeting.

6 So now I may make a motion for us to go into
7 executive meeting -- Executive Session, I'm sorry, is
8 there a second?

9 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second.

10 DR. LIEDERS: Is there any discussion? So
11 there is no discussion. All in favor say aye.

12 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Aye.

13 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

14 DR. LIEDERS: Okay, the motion passes. So we
15 are now in Executive Session.

16 CINDY CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Lieders. This is
17 Cindy Cieslak. All of the applicants and the members of
18 the public and any of the applicants' counsel, I'm going
19 to place you in the waiting room. This is because the
20 doctors are discussing your private and confidential
21 medical information.

22 If you are on reconsideration, you'll be
23 invited in to make a statement once the doctors are ready
24 to hear from you. This process can take a little bit of
25 time. We have a long agenda today, so it might be a

1 couple hours. So, if you're in the waiting room for a
2 while, just bear with us.

3 And then once the doctors re-enter public
4 session, you will be welcomed back in. So thank you.
5 I'm going to now put everyone in the waiting room.

6 (Executive Session from 9:04 a.m. to 12:29
7 p.m.)

8 DR. LIEDERS: Are you ready to proceed?

9 CINDY CIESLAK: Just give me a minute. Dr.
10 Lieders.

11 DR. LIEDERS: Okay.

12 CINDY CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, you can proceed
13 when you're ready.

14 DR. LIEDERS: Okay, so I'll make a motion to
15 deny Cathleen Adamczyk's request for service connected
16 disability retirement but approve for non service
17 connected disability retirement.

18 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

19 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
20 being none, all in favor say aye.

21 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

22 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

23 CINDY CIESLAK: Dr. Ohene, I didn't hear you.

24 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

25 CINDY CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The

1 motion passes unanimously.

2 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve
3 Terrence Anderson's application for service connected
4 disability retirement.

5 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

6 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
7 There being none, all in favor say aye.

8 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

9 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

10 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

11 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

12 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve Jose
13 Aponte's application for service connected disability
14 retirement.

15 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

16 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
17 There being none, all in favor say aye.

18 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

19 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

20 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

21 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

22 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve Lance
23 Battersby's application for service connected disability
24 retirement.

25 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

1 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

2 There being none, all in favor say aye.

3 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

4 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

5 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

6 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

7 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny David
8 Bracetti's application for service connected disability
9 retirement.

10 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

11 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

12 There being none, all in favor say aye.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

14 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

15 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

16 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

17 Dr. Lieders, before you continue, I don't think

18 I -- did you guys do a motion on Peter

19 Bertolini?

20 DR. LIEDERS: I believe so. No? Did I miss
21 him?

22 PATRICK FAIRBANKS: Yeah, you missed him.

23 DR. LIEDERS: Again, I'm sorry, but these lines

24 are so confusing. Okay. I make a motion to approve

25 Peter Bertolini's application for service connected

1 disability retirement. Sorry about that.

2 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

3 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

4 There being none, all in favor say aye.

5 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

6 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

7 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

8 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

9 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny Jerry
10 Delaire's application for service connected disability
11 retirement.

12 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

13 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

14 There being none, all in favor say aye.

15 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

16 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

17 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

18 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

19 DR. LIEDERS: Let me make sure here. I make a
20 motion to deny service connected disability retirement
21 for Katherine Galezowski, but approve for non service
22 connected disability retirement.

23 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

24 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

25 There being none, all in favor say aye.

1 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

2 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

3 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

4 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

5 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny Sharon
6 Gray's application for non service connected disability
7 retirement.

8 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

9 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
10 There being none, all in favor say aye.

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

12 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

13 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

14 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

15 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny Brian
16 Higney's application for non service connected disability
17 retirement.

18 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

19 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
20 There being none, all in favor say aye.

21 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

22 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

23 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

24 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

25 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to table Charlene

1 Jenkins' application for non service connected disability
2 retirement.

3 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

4 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

5 There being none, all in favor say aye.

6 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

7 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

9 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

10 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny service
11 connected disability retirement for Victoria Masterson
12 but to approve non service connected disability
13 retirement.

14 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

15 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

16 There being none, all in favor say aye.

17 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

18 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

19 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

20 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

21 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve
22 Richard Minfield's application for service connected
23 disability retirement.

24 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

25 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

1 There being none, all in favor say aye.

2 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

3 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

4 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

5 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

6 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to table Sheila
7 Pardee's application for non service connected disability
8 retirement.

9 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

10 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

11 There being none, all in favor say aye.

12 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

13 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

14 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

15 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

16 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny Ivonne
17 Ramirez's application for service connected disability
18 retirement.

19 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

20 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

21 There being none, all in favor say aye.

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

23 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

24 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

25 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

1 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve Alicia
2 Rostkowski's application for non service connected
3 disability retirement.

4 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

5 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
6 There being none, all in favor say aye.

7 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

8 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

9 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

10 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

11 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny Michal
12 Szczycinski's application for service connected
13 disability retirement but the Board will look favorably
14 upon a non service the connected disability retirement.

15 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

16 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
17 There being none, all in favor say aye.

18 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

19 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

20 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

21 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

22 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve
23 Jennifer Torres' application for service connected
24 disability retirement.

25 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

1 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

2 There being none, all in favor say aye.

3 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

4 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

5 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

6 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

7 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve Alicia
8 Kelly-Brown's application for non-service connected
9 disability retirement.

10 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

11 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

12 There being none, all in favor say aye.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

14 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

15 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

16 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

17 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to accept non-
18 service connected -- I'm sorry. I make a motion to
19 approve Daniel Lunn's request to change his application
20 to non-service connected disability retirement.

21 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

22 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

23 There being none, all in favor say aye.

24 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

25 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

1 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

2 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

3 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve
4 Jennifer Busse's application for continuation of
5 entitlement to, I believe, a service connected disability
6 retirement.

7 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

8 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
9 There being none, all in favor say aye.

10 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

11 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

12 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

13 CINDY CIESLAK: Dr. Shore, you said aye, right?

14 DR. SHORE: Yes. Shore, aye.

15 CINDY CIESLAK: Okay, the motion passes
16 unanimously.

17 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve
18 Orlando Ramirez's application for continued entitlement
19 to, I also believe it's service. I don't have it in
20 front of me. Service connected disability retirement.

21 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene. Non-service.

22 DR. LIEDERS: It's a non-service. I am sorry.

23 BERT HELFAND: And I thought we're not using
24 that terminology with --

25 DR. LIEDERS: But this is a continuation -- I

1 just --

2 PATRICK FAIRBANKS: Dr. Lieders, all you have
3 to do for these motions is, you know, historically, is
4 just say whether you're approving for continued
5 entitlement. You don't have to mention the type of
6 disability.

7 DR. LIEDERS: The type of -- okay, sorry about
8 that. Should I mention it again? Should we make a
9 motion to approve Orlando Ramirez's application for
10 continued entitlement to disability benefits?

11 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

12 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
13 There being none, all in favor say aye.

14 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

15 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

16 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

17 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

18 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve
19 Stephen Sullivan's application for continued entitlement
20 to disability retirement.

21 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

22 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
23 There being none, all in favor say aye.

24 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

25 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

1 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

2 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

3 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve the
4 several -- I will list the names of these applicants to
5 approve the continued entitlement based on the Memorandum
6 of Understanding dated 8-6-2015.

7 The people are; Michael Ardizzone, Robert
8 Carrillo, Nayda Concepcion, James Gronowski, Tara Lewis,
9 Clifton Perkins, and Kellye Wood.

10 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

11 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
12 There being none, all in favor say aye.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

14 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

15 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

16 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

17 DR. LIEDERS: Okay, so, we --

18 CINDY CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, all that's left is
19 a motion to adjourn.

20 ATTORNEY ZIMBERLIN: No, no, no, no. Oh, I'm
21 sorry. Is it -- is it possible for Galezowski? She
22 would like to request the opportunity to appeal the
23 denial of service connection. We sent an email because
24 on her initial application, she opted into the non-
25 service if service was denied.

1 DR. LIEDERS: Yeah, she was approved for non --

2 ATTORNEY ZIMBERLIN: She still wants to approve

3 --

4 PATRICK FAIRBANKS: So you're -- so, you're --
5 so I -- to understand, Attorney Zimmerman, you know,
6 under our current process, we would, you know, if we
7 accept non-service today, they don't have the ability to
8 appeal service connected. So, the question is whether
9 you want to amend the original motion to look favorable
10 on non-service since she withdrew her app -- but she
11 wanted to accept non-service right away?

12 ATTORNEY ZIMBERLIN: Right. She just wants the
13 opportunity to appeal the service connected denial.

14 DR. LIEDERS: I don't. Yeah, she will have an
15 opportunity to do that. Not today though.

16 PATRICK FAIRBANKS: So not --

17 ATTORNEY ZIMBERLIN: No, the Board --

18 DR. LIEDERS: She's not -- she's not accepting
19 the non-service. Is that what you mean?

20 PATRICK FAIRBANKS: Right. So we would have --
21 Dr. Lieders would have to amend his motion to say that he
22 would deny service connected but would look favorable on
23 non-service.

24 DR. LIEDERS: Oh, I see. Okay.

25 CINDY CIESLAK: So, in order to do this, we're

1 going to need a 2/3 vote to reconsider Katherine
2 Galezowski. And so you're going need to --

3 DR. LIEDERS: We did -- we did approve for non-
4 service, because on the original application she -- she
5 chose both, is that right?

6 ATTORNEY ZIMBERLIN: That's correct. But I
7 sent an email follow up on October 31st, requesting us to
8 have the ability to appeal the service connected denial
9 and for the Board to just look favorably if it believes
10 that she's disabled due to a non-work incident.

11 BERT HELFAND: In other words, if she is
12 approved for service connected disability today, she
13 would be precluded from making that appeal based on our
14 procedures, and Attorney Zimmerman requested that we not
15 follow that procedure in this case.

16 So, as Cindy said, we need a motion to
17 reconsider the previous decision to approve her for non-
18 service connected and then a motion to deny her
19 application for service connection with a statement that
20 you'll look forward -- favorably upon a non-service
21 connected application. So we need two motions.

22 DR. LIEDERS: The first motion to disregard or
23 cancel our first vote.

24 CINDY CIESLAK: Reconsider.

25 DR. LIEDERS: Reconsider the first vote. And

1 then second motion to deny service connection. But look
2 favorable upon non-service connection.

3 CINDY CIESLAK: If that's what the doctors want
4 to do, yes.

5 BERT HELFAND: If you want to move to
6 reconsider.

7 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

8 DR. LIEDERS: Okay, so, I'll make a motion to
9 reconsider our original vote to deny service connection
10 but approve non-service connection.

11 BERT HELFAND: Is there a second?

12 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

13 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
14 being none, all in favor say aye.

15 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

16 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

17 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

18 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.
19 Now, if there's a second motion, go ahead, Dr. Lieders.

20 DR. LIEDERS: Yes. So, now I make a new motion
21 to deny service connected disability retirement to
22 Katherine Galezowski, but the Board will look favorably
23 upon a non-service connected disability retirement.

24 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

25 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There

1 being none, all in favor say aye.

2 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

3 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

4 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

5 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

6 Thank you, doctors. Now, I think we're ready
7 for a motion to adjourn.

8 ATTORNEY ZIMBERLIN: Sorry about being a
9 headache. Thank you.

10 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to --

11 BERT HELFAND: Adjourn.

12 DR. LIEDERS: Sorry about that. To adjourn
13 today's meeting.

14 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second, Ohene.

15 CINDY CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

16 There being none, all in favor say aye.

17 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

18 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Ohene, aye.

19 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

20 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

21 Thank you, everyone. Please have a nice
22 weekend.

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(Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.)

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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 _____

Wendy Malitsky, Notary Public

My Commission Expires March 31, 2030