

MINUTES TO MEETING  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD  
Friday, September 4, 2026

A Meeting of the Medical Examining Board was held on Friday, September 4, 2026, at the Office of the State Comptroller, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, Connecticut, 06106. All Medical Examining Board meetings being conducted electronically.

PRESENT:

Ralph Rosenberg, M.D., CHAIRPERSON  
Sheldon Nova, M.D.  
Frank Gerratana, M.D.

ABSENT:

Fielding Johnson, M.D.  
Lynn Rudich, M.D.  
Manny Katsetos, M.D.  
Nikolai Lieders, M.D.  
Rita Ohene-Adjei, M.D.  
Eric T. Shore, M.D.  
Sachin Parekh, M.D.  
Sokpoleak So, M.D.  
Sohrab Zahedi, M.D.  
Michael Gerstenfeld, 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. Rosenberg motioned to go into the Executive Session to discuss medical condition(s) related to the applications for Disability Retirement, seconded by Dr. Nova, at 9:03 am. Members of the Retirement Services Division and the General Counsel to the Commission were invited to stay during Executive Session. Robert Helfand left the meeting at 11:29 am and returned to the meeting at 2:03 pm. A brief break was taken

1. Attorney Russell Zimmerlin and Evangelista Contreras appeared on Zoom before the Board at 10:39 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 10:45 pm.
2. Attorney Russell Zimmerlin and Scott Ferguson appeared on Zoom before the Board at 1:48 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 1:53 pm.
3. Attorney Colleen Casini appeared on behalf of Sheila Jones on Zoom before the Board at 1:54 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 2:02 pm.
4. Melissa Smith appeared on Zoom before the Board at 2:15 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 2:19 pm.
5. Attorney Russell Zimmerlin and Jennifer Tartaglia appeared on Zoom before the Board at 2:20 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 2:27 pm.

Dr. Rosenberg motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Nova at 2:33 pm. Motion approved unanimously.

DAMIAN BENTLEY NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to table the entitlement of DAMIAN BENTLEY for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CATHERINE BLINDER NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to deny the entitlement of CATHERINE BLINDER for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ANN BRADLEY SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the entitlement of ANN BRADLEY for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MONIQUE COATES NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to deny the entitlement of MONIQUE COATES for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

EVANGELISTA CONTRERAS SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to deny the entitlement of EVANGELISTA CONTRERAS for a Service Connected Disability Retirement, but the Board would look favorably upon Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CHERYL DISHAROON SERVICE CONNECTED\*

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to deny the entitlement of CHERYL DISHAROON for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SCOTT FERGUSON SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to deny the entitlement of SCOTT FERGUSON for a Service Connected Disability Retirement, but the Board would look favorably upon Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

YAURIMAR GUARAMATO SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the entitlement of YAURIMAR GUARAMATO for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

STEPHANNIE HUMBLE NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to table the entitlement of STEPHANNIE HUMBLE for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CHARLENE JENKINS NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to deny the entitlement of CHARLENE JENKINS for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SHEILA JONES SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the entitlement of SHEILA JONES for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MARIA LAGASSE NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the entitlement of MARIA LAGASSE for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

TANYA LANGE SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to deny the entitlement of TANYA LANGE for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SHEILA PARDEE NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the entitlement of SHEILA PARDEE for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MELISSA SMITH SERVICE CONNECTED\*

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the entitlement of MELISSA SMITH for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

JENNIFER TARTAGLIA SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the entitlement of JENNIFER TARTAGLIA for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SARA VERA NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to deny the entitlement of SARA VERA for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

JASON HARRISON SERVICE CONNECTED\*

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the entitlement of JASON HARRISON for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **CONTINUED ENTITLEMENTS**

JOANNA MECHLINSKI CONT'D ENTITLEMENT-MERS

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of JOANNA MECHLINSKI for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

RONALD REED CONT'D ENTITLEMENT-MERS

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of RONALD REED for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

SHONTEL HARRIS CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to table the continued entitlement of SHONTEL HARRIS for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

ALICIA PRONOVOST CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to table the continued entitlement of ALICIA PRONOVOST for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

ORRETTE SALMON CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of ORRETTE SALMON for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

RANDOL ABELLI CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of RANDOL ABELLI for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

JOSE APONTE II CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of JOSE APONTE II for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

BRENDA BAERGA CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of BRENDA BAERGA for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

KIMBERLY BRISTOL CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of KIMBERLY BRISTOL for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

MARIA COLON CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of MARIA COLON for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

KRYSTYNA DZIERLATKA CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of KRYSTYNA DZIERLATKA for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

SCOTT ELLIOTT CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of SCOTT ELLIOTT for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

KATHLEEN FLETCHER CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of KATHLEEN FLETCHER for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

KATHLEEN MULDOWNNEY CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of KATHLEEN MULDOWNNEY for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

BETH SHAW CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of BETH SHAW for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

DONNA WOVIOTIS CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of DONNA WOVIOTIS for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

NADINE WYLIE CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to approve the continued entitlement of NADINE WYLIE for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Dr. Nova to adjourn the meeting at 2:49 pm. Motion approved unanimously.