

MINUTES TO MEETING
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
Friday, October 2, 2026

A Meeting of the Medical Examining Board was held on Friday, October 2, 2026, at the Office of the State Comptroller, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, Connecticut, 06106. All Medical Examining Board meetings being conducted electronically.

PRESENT:

Sokpoleak So, M.D., CHAIRPERSON
Nikolai Lieders, M.D.
Manny Katsetos, M.D.

ABSENT:

Fielding Johnson, M.D.
Lynn Rudich, M.D.
Rita Ohene-Adjei, M.D.
Eric T. Shore, M.D.
Sachin Parekh, M.D.
Sohrab Zahedi, M.D.
Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.
Ralph Rosenberg, M.D.
Sheldon Nova, M.D.
Frank Gerratana, 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 9:25 am.

Dr. So motioned to remove Mary Stagis from the agenda, seconded by Dr. Lieders at, 9:26 am. Motion approved unanimously.

Dr. So motioned to go into the Executive Session to discuss medical condition(s) related to the applications for Disability Retirement, seconded by Dr. Lieders, at 9:27 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. Gina Burns appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:30 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:34 am.
2. Attorney Russell Zimmerlin and Michael Franceskino appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:35 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:42 am.
3. Attorney Justin Raymond and Lisa Valenti appeared on Zoom before the Board at 11:46 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:57 am.
4. Attorney Russell Zimmerlin and Kristina Kaczorowski appeared on Zoom before the Board at 12:01 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 12:07 pm.

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

TINA MARIE BONNEAU SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to deny the entitlement of TINA MARIE BONNEAU for a Service Connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

GINA BURNS NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the entitlement of GINA BURNS for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

JULIAN CENTENO SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to deny the entitlement of JULIAN CENTENO for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

WILLARD COPELAND SERVICE CONNECTED

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

MILAGROS DEJESUS NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the entitlement of MILAGROS DEJESUS for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MICHAEL FRANCESKINO SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the entitlement of MICHAEL FRANCESKINO for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ASHLEY GIBSON SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to deny the entitlement of ASHLEY GIBSON for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

THOMAS NEBORSKY NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to table the entitlement of THOMAS NEBORSKY for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MARIA SILVA NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the entitlement of MARIA SILVA for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

TAMIKA TERRY NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to deny the entitlement of TAMIKA TERRY for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LISA VALENTI SERVICE CONNECTED

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

ANDREW WILSON SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to table the entitlement of ANDREW WILSON for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

TASHEENA WOMACK

NON-SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the entitlement of TASHEENA WOMACK for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CONTINUED ENTITLEMENTS

NANCY FLANIGAN

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the continued entitlement of NANCY FLANIGAN for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

TODD EVANGELISTI

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the continued entitlement of TODD EVANGELISTI for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

KHAI JOHNSON

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the continued entitlement of KHAI JOHNSON for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

KRISTINA KACZOROWSKI

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the continued entitlement of KRISTINA KACZOROWSKI for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

STEVEN MIDFORD

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the continued entitlement of STEVEN MIDFORD for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

HAYDEE SULLIVAN

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to table the continued entitlement of HAYDEE SULLIVAN for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

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

TALIA EAVES

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the continued entitlement of TALIA EAVES for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

KEBRAN MOSS SOLOMON

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders, to approve the continued entitlement of KEBRAN MOSS SOLOMON for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Lieders to adjourn the meeting at 12:21 pm. Motion approved unanimously.