

MINUTES TO MEETING
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
INVESTIGATION
Friday, June 26, 2026

A Meeting of the Medical Examining Board was held on Friday, June 26, 2026, at the Office of the State Comptroller, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, Connecticut, 06106. All Medical Examining Board meetings being conducted electronically.

PRESENT:

Frank Gerratana, M.D., CHAIRPERSON
Sheldon Nova, M.D.
Lynn Rudich, M.D.

ABSENT:

Fielding Johnson, M.D.
Ralph Rosenberg, M.D.
Sachin Parekh, M.D.
Rita Ohene-Adjei, M.D.
Eric T. Shore, M.D.
Sohrab Zahedi, M.D.
Nikolai Lieders, M.D.
Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.
Manny Katsetos, M.D.
Sokpoleak So, M.D.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division
Alexandra Cipolla, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
Michael Rose, 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 9:11 am.

Dr. Gerratana motioned to go into the Executive Session to discuss medical record(s) related to the applications for Disability Retirement, seconded by Dr. Nova.

Paul Cicarella and Attorney Zimmerlin advised that they had understood the review of his application would be conducted during the public meeting. Division Counsel noted that the Retirement Services Division had received no request for a public discussion of Mr. Cicarella's application. Mr. Cicarella was advised by Division Counsel and Commission Counsel that a public discussion of his application by the doctors would be seen and heard by the public in attendance at the meeting, that the discussion would be recorded, and that this recording would also be a record accessible to the public. Attorney Zimmerlin asked whether the underlying medical records would also be made public. Commission Counsel and Division Counsel explained that the Division had no intention to make the records public, and that it would afford Mr. Cicarella the opportunity to oppose any request for their disclosure in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Counsel could not, however, advise Mr. Cicarella about the outcome of any such request, which would be determined by the Freedom of Information Commission. Attorney Zimmerlin asked the Board amend the agenda and consider Mr. Cicarella's application later in the meeting, so that Mr. Cicarella could consider how to proceed.

Dr. Gerratana withdrew his original motion.

Dr. Gerratana then moved to amend the agenda so that Mr. Cicarella would be considered after Carmelo Ortiz, seconded by Dr. Nova. Motion approved unanimously.

Dr. Gerratana motioned to go into Executive session to discuss the medical condition(s) related to the applications of Matthew Morrisette and Carmelo Ortiz at 9:23 am. Members of the Retirement Services Division and the General Counsel to the Commission were invited to stay during Executive Session. Motion approved unanimously.

There was a brief break taken during the executive session

1. Attorney Zimmerlin and Matthew Morrisette appeared on Zoom before the Board at 10:14 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 10:47 am.
2. Attorney Blakeman and Carmelo Ortiz appeared on Zoom before the Board at 10:58 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 11:07 am.

Dr. Gerratana motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Nova at 11:23 am. Motion approved unanimously.

MORRISSETTE, MATTHEW

INVESTIGATION

Dr. Gerratana moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to table Matthew Morrisette's entitlement to Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ORTIZ, CARMELO

INVESTIGATION

Dr. Gerratana moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to discontinue Carmelo Ortiz's entitlement to Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

Attorney Zimmerlin and Paul Cicarella advised that they wished to have the MEB conduct its discussion of Mr. Cicarella's continued entitlement during executive session. Attorney Zimmerlin also confirmed that he had not submitted a request that the discussion be held in public before the meeting had begun.

Dr. Gerratana motioned to go into the Executive Session to discuss medical condition(s) related to the applications for Disability Retirement, seconded by Dr. Nova, at 11:28 am. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Attorney Zimmerlin and Paul Cicarella appeared on Zoom before the Board at 12:14 pm. They made a statement and answered any questions presented and then they were excused by the Board at 1:28 pm.

Dr. Gerratana motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Nova at 1:35 pm.

CICARELLA, PAUL

INVESTIGATION

Dr. Gerratana moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to discontinue Paul Cicarella's entitlement to Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Gerratana moved, seconded by Dr. Nova, to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 pm. Motion approved unanimously.