

MINUTES TO MEETING
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
Friday, July 10, 2026

A Meeting of the Medical Examining Board was held on Friday, July 10, 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
Sohrab Zahedi, M.D.
Frank Gerratana, M.D.

ABSENT:

Fielding Johnson, M.D.
Ralph Rosenberg, M.D.
Lynn Rudich, M.D.
Manny Katsetos, M.D.
Nikolai Lieders, M.D.
Rita Ohene-Adjei, M.D.
Eric T. Shore, M.D.
Sheldon Nova, M.D.
Sachin Parekh, 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 9:00 am.

Dr. So motioned to amend the agenda to remove Teresa Brown and Steven Midford, seconded by Dr. Zahedi.

Dr. So motioned to amend the agenda to add Christopher Carlson, seconded by Dr. Zahedi.

Dr. So motioned to go into the Executive Session to discuss medical condition(s) related to the applications for Disability Retirement, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, at 9:09 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 Justin Raymond and Vicki Blumberg appeared on Zoom before the Board at 9:10 am. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 9:18 am.
2. Lisa Loeser appeared on Zoom before the Board at 1:01 pm. They made a statement and then they were excused by the Board at 1:24 pm

Dr. So motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Zahedi at 1:24 pm. Motion approved unanimously.

DEBORAH BAER NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of DEBORAH BAER for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MARIA BAUTISTA SERVICE CONNECTED

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

MATTHEW BLAIR SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to deny the entitlement of MATTHEW BLAIR for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously

ROBERT BURKE SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of ROBERT BURKE for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CHRISTOPHER CARLSON SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to table a decision on the entitlement of CHRISTOPHER CARLSON for a Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

NATHANIEL COTTON NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to deny the entitlement of NATHANIEL COTTON for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

DAVID DZIALO NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of DAVID DZIALO for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

KRISTINE GREENE NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of KRISTINE GREENE for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

HEIDI HICKCOX SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of HEIDI HICKCOX for a Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

ROBERT HOFFMAN NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the entitlement of ROBERT HOFFMAN for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LAUREN KIMBRO NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to deny the entitlement of LAUREN KIMBRO for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LISA LOESER NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to deny the entitlement of LISA LOESER for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

JOSE LOPEZ NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to deny the entitlement of JOSE LOPEZ for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

JAMES PARIZO SERVICE CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to table a decision on the entitlement of JAMES PARIZO for a Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

TARA REMILLARD NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to deny the entitlement of TARA REMILLARD for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

SHAUN ROBINSON SERVICE CONNECTED

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

SALVATORE TORDONATO NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to deny the entitlement of SALVATORE TORDONATO for a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

LYNN TURNER NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to table a decision on the entitlement of LYNN TURNER for a Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

DANIEL VELEZ NON-SVC CONNECTED

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to table a decision on the entitlement of DANIEL VELEZ for a Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

MARK WRIGHT SERVICE CONNECTED*

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to deny the entitlement of MARK WRIGHT for a Service Connected Disability Retirement, but approve entitlement to Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement. Motion approved unanimously.

CONTINUED ENTITLEMENTS

ALESHIA CAPLE CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to deny the continued entitlement of ALESHIA CAPLE for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

LISA DAVINO CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the continued entitlement of LISA DAVINO for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

CHRISTOPHER DEVANNEY CONT'D ENTITLEMENT-MERS

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the continued entitlement of CHRISTOPHER DEVANNEY for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

SHEILA JENKINS

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to table a decision on the continued entitlement of SHEILA JENKINS for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

ANN MODENA

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the continued entitlement of ANN MODENA for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

VICKI BLUMBERG

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the continued entitlement of VICKI BLUMBERG for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

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

MEGHAN GLEASON

CONT'D ENTITLEMENT (SSD)

Dr. So moved, seconded by Dr. Zahedi, to approve the continued entitlement of MEGHAN GLEASON for Disability Retirement benefits. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

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