

**CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD
TRB BOARD MEETING 2021-04-21**

1
2
3
4
5 Clare B.: [Okay 0:02]. Welcome, everyone. We are at the Wednesday, April 21st, Teacher
6 Retirement Board Meeting. Uh, we're going to open the session, um, with an
7 executive session and, uh, apologize for that as soon I could do that but it's a
8 rather important issue, so [the board] [inaudible 0:21] entertain a motion to move
9 into Executive Session? We need a motion?
10
11 Steve M.: [So moved 0:28].
12
13 Clare B.: Moved. Second?
14
15 Gregory M.: Second.
16
17 Clare B.: All those in favor, signify by sayin' aye.
18
19 Gregory M.: Aye.
20
21 Male: Aye.
22
23 Male: Aye.
24
25 Clare B.: Okay, um, Helen, are – is everyone else muted? I mean, is everyone else, um,
26 you know, everyone listening in? No longer a participant? Keith, uh, we just
27 have the board?
28
29 Keith P.: Uh, yes, the attendees are, are all muted. The board members should be able to
30 mute and unmute themselves as needed.
31
32 Clare B.: Okay. Very good. Um. Uh, the reason for the executive session, really, is a, uh,
33 security issue, um, and it deals...
34
35 Keith P.: Oh. Wait. I'm sorry. Hold on one second. We were going to step out into, um,
36 another meeting for that.
37
38 Clare B.: Okay, so tell us how to do that or...
39
40 Keith P.: Hold on.
41
42 Male: It's a separate, a separate [inaudible 1:32].
43
44 Keith P.: There, there should be a second link in the agenda for...
45
46 Clare B.: Okay.

1
2 Keith P.: ...the executive session that has a, um, password on it...
3
4 Clare B.: Okay.
5
6 Charlene H.: [Inaudible 1:42].
7
8 Keith P.: ...if everybody has their agenda up. So just go ahead and, and close out of this
9 meeting. I'll stay in it so that it stays open, um, you'll conduct the executive
10 session. Um, that's password protected so that no one else can go into it.
11
12 Clare B.: Okay.
13
14 Keith P.: And then...
15
16 Charlene H.: Does everyone have that email that I sent out with the link in it?
17
18 Steve M.: Yes.
19
20 Clare B.: Okay. That's the regular board meeting and that's the executive session.
21
22 Charlene H.: Okay. [Inaudible 2:29]. Everyone needs to log out of this one and go into the
23 other link.
24
25 Clare B.: Okay. Okay. Am I, am I on?
26
27 Keith P.: You're, you're still in, you're still in this one, Clare. Close, close out of this one
28 and then click into the other link and you should be good.
29
30 Clare B.: Okay.
31
32 Keith P.: It looks like most of the other, um – looks like most of the other board members
33 have, have dropped off.
34
35 Male: [Inaudible 5:06].
36
37 Clare B.: I'm not getting, uh, the picture. Ah. Webcams are coming in here but, but, uh,
38 just got Greg.
39
40 Keith P.: Sorry, Clare, it's just takin' me a minute to, uh, bring everybody in from the
41 waiting room.
42
43 Clare B.: I see. Thank you. Thank you, Keith. [Inaudible 22:00].
44
45 Keith P.: Clare, can you turn the volume down on your desktop? I think that's where we're
46 gettin' the feedback from. I believe I've let everybody in now, Clare, um, but I'll

1 keep an eye out just in case I missed somebody by accident. But everybody
2 should be in now from the board.
3
4 Clare B.: Okay. Very good. Okay. Is that me again? I'm, I'm trying to lower mine. Do
5 you need me to just – can you hear me?
6
7 Keith P.: I can, I can hear you. Um. I believe that's from your, uh, iPad. I'm getting the
8 audio and the video both from your iPad, so if you just turn the volume down on
9 your desktop, uh, we should be good.
10
11 Clare B.: Okay. I turned it almost down to nothing. Is that what you want?
12
13 Keith P.: Yeah, you can turn – yeah, you can turn it right down to nothing.
14
15 Clare B.: Okay.
16
17 Keith P.: 'Cause you [inaudible 24:09] hear us through [your iPad 24:10].
18
19 Clare B.: It is.
20
21 Keith P.: Okay. Perfect.
22
23 Clare B.: All right. Very good. Uh, could we, uh, uh, resume the board meeting? So we
24 need a, a motion to come out of executive session. Did we do – I mighta missed –
25 mighta been clicked off.
26
27 Helen S.: Yeah, Steve took care a that.
28
29 Clare B.: Okay. Helen, you're gonna have to speak up here 'cause I got my stuff down
30 low. Um. Okay, then, we're gonna go on to the first item, which is consideration
31 and approval of the February 10th board meeting minutes. Do you have those,
32 uh, in your attachment? [Inaudible 24:44] to entertain a motion to accept?
33
34 Charles H.: Move to approve.
35
36 Clare B.: Okay. Move to approve. Second?
37
38 Stephen M.: Second.
39
40 Clare B.: Discussion? All those in favor, signify by sayin' aye. Hand raised.
41
42 Male: Aye.
43
44 Gregory M.: Aye.
45
46 Stephen M.: Aye.

1
2 Male: Aye.
3
4 Lisa H.: I'm abstaining, Clare.
5
6 Clare B.: Right. Abstentions. People who, um, were not there? You understand?
7
8 John F.: Uh, John Flores. Yep.
9
10 Clare B.: Okay, we have all the, uh – Charlene, we all set on that? Okay, item number –
11 uh, okay, then all those in favor, signify by sayin' aye. We did that. Number 3,
12 new board members. We have 2 new board members. Um. We have a statutory
13 member, John Flores, who is a designee of, uh, the state treasurer, uh, replacing
14 [Lisa Martin 25:35]. Uh. John is, uh, on the legal side. I think he's a coun-, he's
15 the chief counsel, whatever, and we've – our treasurer people in the past have
16 been from the investment side, so we welcome you, John.
17
18 John F.: Thank you.
19
20 Clare B.: And Lisa Heavner, um, public member. Lisa is from Simsbury, I believe was, uh,
21 a selectman and mayor of Simsbury, so, uh, the Board welcomes you both. I
22 think you'll, uh, find your time here interesting, we hope challenging, um, and,
23 and we welcome you both.
24
25 Lisa H.: Thank you.
26
27 Clare B.: Okay, Agency Report, the fourth item on the agenda. Helen, you have about 3
28 items highlighted on there. You wanna start?
29
30 Helen S.: Yeah, I was just tryin' to help Bill get back in. Uh, staffing...
31
32 Male: I think you...
33
34 Helen S.: Did [inaudible 26:23] get back in, Murray?
35
36 William M.: [Inaudible 26:26].
37
38 Helen S.: Oh, good. Okay. Um, we [inaudible 26:30] bad news. Um. Loc Pho, our
39 financial manager, has taken a new position at the new FMLA agency that, uh, the
40 governor's team put together, so we are very, very excited for him. He'll be
41 leaving us May 6. Uh, we do have, uh – we filled another retirement examiner
42 position. That person should be starting in a couple a weeks. Uh, Keith is one of
43 our new IT folks. I may have introduced him in the past. Uh, so that's where we
44 are with staffing. Uh. Health insurance update. Everything is running fairly
45 smooth, uh, with our health plans. The, uh – on the website, we have, as you
46 know, information [up there 27:10] about the satisfaction reports and, and how

1 we're doing, so there's really n-, not much to announce about that. I will say that,
2 um, someone had a question about prior authorizations and they, uh – Anthem,
3 the Medicare Advantage, the, uh, approved first-contact rate is 92 percent,
4 inpatient, .6 and those are generally held up a little bit when they need more
5 information from the provider, um, or there's questions, uh, [inaudible 27:39]
6 more details. Outpatient authorizations are approved, uh, generally [inaudible
7 27:43] at 97.2 percent. Um. Diagnostic tests averaging about 94.2 percent. And
8 that's the first quarter of 2021. Again, uh, generally, if there is – and I think
9 Terry's on the line, too. If there is a question about a prior authorization, it's
10 generally because there's something – there may not be information from the
11 provider.
12

13 Uh, the Express Script plan, we've had a, a little influx of phone calls but, um,
14 other than that, they've managed that well. Uh, as you know, the Anthem
15 Medicare Supplement team moved to a new platform and their calls got – their
16 call time was, uh, a little slow there during, uh, the transition but they've also
17 improved, uh, so they are – uh, kudos to them. They're getting that platform up
18 and running. Um, that's all I have to really, uh, say. It was a very quick meeting
19 today. I wanted to let everybody know that, uh, technology enhancements, uh,
20 our FileNet, uh, program that we've been working on for a little over a year, is
21 going to go live in the next couple a weeks. That is gonna be, uh, instrumental for
22 staff. Um. As you know, we, we, uh, scanned all of our records, over 2000 ft² of
23 them and, uh, they're now into a, a file system that we're able to easily maintain.
24 Uh. Loc and the team have built some other, uh, programs to do some
25 workarounds to our so-, pension software system, so kudos to them. They're [out
26 on 29:15] the website. Um. I would share screens and jump around but today, I
27 think we'll just keep goin'. Um. So if you visit the website, you'll see that
28 there's a, a member statement section, uh, to help with the active teachers.
29 They've revamped the pension calculator. Um, it's much improved. Javiel did a
30 great job. It's up and running.
31

32 So everything that, that we've been able to do to work around, uh, you know, our,
33 our minor flaws here tech-, uh, with technology, um, we've been doing, uh, fairly
34 well. We've been working with the IT, uh, optimization team. We hope to
35 provide some self-service in the next, uh, several months so that, um, that will
36 alleviate some pressure from the agency, uh, staff. Uh, the elephant in the room is
37 our pension system that we would really like to get updated, uh, because I think
38 [we've done 30:07] as many workarounds as we possible can to keep it going.
39 Uh, so stayed tuned for that. I'm very positive. But, um, that's all we have. You
40 know. Loc's moving on. We're very excited for him. This is a great opportunity.
41 He'll be very, very missed. Um. But other than that, we – we're, we're doin'
42 okay over here. Clare, did you wanna pick up and just get [inaudible 30:42].
43

44 Clare B.: Okay. Unmuted?

45
46 Male: [Inaudible 30:44].

1
2 Keith P.: We can hear ya now.
3
4 Clare B.: Okay. Any questions from board members? Any, any questions from board
5 [audio cut out]. Says muted. Oh, unmuted. Okay. Anyone? All right, Helen,
6 we'll move on to the next item on the agenda then. Um. The consideration and
7 approval of the administrator's actions regarding the granting of service
8 retirement benefits for the months of February and March 2021; B, the survivor
9 benefits for the months of February and March 2021; and C, the reports and
10 recommendations of the Medical Review Committee regarding the applications
11 for disability payments as, um, as presented to the Medical Review Committee in
12 February – at the February and March 2021 meetings. Uh, the board entertained a
13 motion to accept'm all at once?
14
15 William M.: So moved.
16
17 Clare B.: Moved. Second?
18
19 Charles H.: Second.
20
21 Clare B.: Just by way of explanation because we have a few new board m-, board members,
22 this is a normal, uh, part a the board's, uh, obligations and these things are – will
23 be at, uh, pretty much every single board meeting. And those are people who are
24 f-, uh, retired and they've applied, uh, for benefits. These are people who have,
25 uh – members who have died and their survivors would be receiving benefits and
26 then the disability committee are, uh, a panel of doctors and s-, and I think we
27 also have a – well, doctors – psychiatrist would be a doctor, and they review
28 these. These come from individual teachers, um, and then they come to the
29 Medical Review Committee. They're not always approved, um, because
30 sometimes they need more information. The doctors may send them back both to
31 the teacher and, and say, you know, we, we don't have enough information here,
32 we don't have enough information there. And then when they are, when they are
33 approved and stuff, then they come to us as a part of this report so that these are
34 things that we are going to routinely examine and approve at every single
35 meeting. All right, so the board [inaudible 33:06]? Uh. All those in favor a s-,
36 of, uh, sec-, accepting all a these reports, say aye.
37
38 Male: Aye.
39
40 Gregory M.: Aye.
41
42 Steve M.: Aye.
43
44 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? All right. Thank you very much. Uh, you have attached
45 to your agenda, uh, the, um – back here to my agenda. Okay. Th-, the statistics.
46 Again, that's a, that's an ordinary part of what will always be done in a meeting.

1 Uh, you will be receiving those because, uh, we produce those every single month
2 here and those give you an opportunity also to kinda see, uh, what kind of activity
3 happens. Uh, it will become very heavy activity as we head, uh, into the end of a
4 school year, for instance, and then these become a lengthier report by the time we
5 head to June. All right, um, the, uh, comments from observers? I would ask the
6 observers to identify themselves. Now, just for the board members' sake,
7 particularly new board members too, these are comments from observers. It's not
8 a question-and-answer session with the board. Uh. People have a right to come
9 and to speak directly to the board and, uh, our job is to listen. So comments from
10 observers? Do we have some?
11
12 Keith P.: If anyone, uh, who's an attendee has a comment that they wish to make, please
13 use the raise hand icon and then you'll be recognized one at a time. I'll just give
14 them a second, Clare.
15
16 Clare B.: Thank you. Thank you, Keith.
17
18 Keith P.: There's a comment from Rita McDougald. I'll unmute you.
19
20 Clare B.: Rita, are ya all set?
21
22 Keith P.: Rita, you can go ahead and unmute now.
23
24 Rita M.: I would just like to thank the board, uh, for acknowledging my suggestion a
25 couple of months ago to try to have a video feed so that observers could see who
26 was in the meeting and any, uh, exhibits that you might be presenting. So I really
27 appreciate that you've gone to this format. Thank you.
28
29 Clare B.: Thank you, Rita. Other comments?
30
31 Keith P.: And there's also a comment request from Paula. Uh, I will unmute her now.
32 Paula, you can go ahead and unmute now.
33
34 Paula B.: I don't – oh, hi.
35
36 Keith P.: And if you could just state your name for the record, please.
37
38 Paula B.: Yes. This is Paula Bacolini. Can you hear me?
39
40 Keith P.: Yes. Go ahead.
41
42 Paula B.: Oh, I just wanted to thank you for having the video feed but to let you know that
43 it was very difficult to get on and to get the GoToWebinar installed in my
44 computer. And I think for the retirees, it would be very helpful if you could just
45 go to a plain old simple Zoom format that everybody's familiar with, um, and,
46 you know, do it the way the legislators do because this was very difficult and, um,

1 I am pretty savvy when it comes to technology but this gave me trouble, so I just
2 wanted you – to alert you to that. I am glad that you’re trying to do video but we
3 need a simpler, easier access and I would appreciate if you would try to do that
4 for the next meeting and thank you so much for y-, your service.
5
6 Clare B.: Thank you, Paula. Are there other, uh, comments from observers? Keith, you
7 have anybody in the queue?
8
9 Keith P.: Sorry, Clare. Um, yes, Bill Myers also has a comment.
10
11 Clare B.: Go ahead...
12
13 Keith P.: Uh, go ahead...
14
15 Clare B.: ...Bill.
16
17 Keith P.: ...and unmute, Bill.
18
19 Bill M.: Good afternoon. I just wanted to, uh, welcome, uh, our 2 new board members. I
20 think it’s great that you’ve, uh, agreed to serve. I know you will find it, uh,
21 encouraging and, and everyone on the board wants to hear what you say, so you
22 don’t have to be shy or timid. And I wanna thank the agency, Helen and the
23 entire crew, because, uh, we’ve been through some tough times but they’re gettin’
24 the work done, um, and the technology’s gonna be great. When, uh, retired
25 teachers can access their own records online rather than making phone calls and
26 playing tag, I think people will really appreciate that. So, um, I just wanna thank
27 the board. Thank you very much.
28
29 Clare B.: Thank you, Bill.
30
31 Keith P.: Clare, that’s all we have for public comment at this time.
32
33 Clare B.: Okay. [Inaudible 37:47] maybe we’ll give 60 seconds or so just in case somebody
34 else is – wants to get on. Okay. Our, our next, uh, board meeting will be in June.
35 Um. We have, a, a much fuller agenda than at this board meeting right now, uh,
36 so, uh, I think that you’ll find that that’s a – may take us a little more time. And
37 we will have exhibits, so, um, without anyone else online, the board would
38 entertain a motion to adjourn?
39
40 Stephen M.: So moved.
41
42 William M.: Second.
43
44 Gregory M.: Second.
45
46 Clare B.: Moved and seconded. Discussion? All those in favor, signify by sayin’ aye.

1
2 Male: Aye.
3
4 Female: Aye.
5
6 Clare B.: Aye? Raise your hand. Uh, yeah, a-, again, I'd like to welcome John, I'd like to
7 welcome Lisa. I'm sure you will, uh, you know, enjoy your time on the board,
8 um, and we look forward to seeing you in June. All right, Keith...
9
10 John F.: [Inaudible 38:00].
11
12 Clare B.: ...are we all set?
13
14 John F.: I just wanna confirm, uh, as a designee, I don't have a vote, right? I'm a – that's
15 what [Lorrie 39:08] told me and I just wanted to confirm that.
16
17 Clare B.: You, you do have a vote. Greg, you have a vote, right?
18
19 Gregory M.: That's right. I, I think you do, John.
20
21 Clare B.: You do have...
22
23 John F.: Oh, okay.
24
25 Clare B.: ...you do have one, John.
26
27 William M.: [Inaudible 39:22].
28
29 John F.: Maybe I better text Lorrie then [inaudible 39:24]. Did she ever vote? I don't
30 think she [inaudible 39:29].
31
32 Clare B.: She did. Actually, she did. I think we got a record of her voting.
33
34 John F.: All right.
35
36 William M.: Lorrie used to vote. Definitely.
37
38 Helen S.: [Yeah 39:36].
39
40 John F.: Okay.
41
42 Clare B.: All right, so, uh, are we all set here with the board? Okay. Hey, hey everybody,
43 uh, for the mothers, happy Mother's Day, and for the rest of you, hopef-, hope the
44 weather starts to get warmer. Be nice to have a springtime. Um. Okay, I, uh, I
45 thank all of you today and we look forward to seeing you in June. Thank you.
46

1 Female: [Inaudible 39:57].
2
3 Male: [Inaudible 39:58].
4
5 Gregory M.: Bye everyone.
6
7 Female: Bye.
8
9 John F.: Bye.
10
11 Charles H.: Thank you, Clare.
12
13 Clare B.: [Bye now 39:59] Keith, [inaudible 40:02].
14
15 Keith P.: Yeah, I'll end it for everyone now, Clare.
16
17
18 /ad