

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DISABILITY PROCEDURES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE
and
Board of Retirement**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
GATEWAY PLAZA - 300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 810, PASADENA, CA 91101

Wednesday, August 2, 2017 11:12 A.M. – 11:54 A.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT: Vivian H. Gray, Chair
Marvin Adams, Vice Chair
Alan Bernstein
Ronald Okum
David Muir, Alternate

ABSENT: NONE

ALSO ATTENDING:

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Anthony Bravo
Keith Knox

STAFF, ADVISORS, PARTICIPANTS

JJ Popowich
Steven Rice
Vincent Lim
Eugenia Der
Mike Herrera
Allison E. Barrett
Frank Boyd
Angie Guererro
Maria Muro
Michelle Yanes

Ricki Contreras
Vickie Neely
Anna Kwan
Robert Hill
Kerri Wilson
Mario Garrido
Marco Legaspi
Marilu Bretado
Thomas Wicke
Hernan Barrientos

Maria Silva
Jason Waller
Tamara Caldwell
Ruby Minjares
Shamila Freeman
Darren Huey
Justin Stewart
Danny Hang
Russell Lurina

ATTORNEYS
Thomas J. Wicke

GUEST SPEAKER
Mark Ganjianpour, M.D.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gray at 11:12 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of July 5, 2017

Mr. Bernstein made a motion, Mr. Adams seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 5, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Late-Filed Applications – Government Code Section 31722

Mr. Muir made a motion, Mr. Okum seconded that the Disability Procedures & Services Committee instruct staff to forward the proposed changes to terminate LACERA's Late-Filed Application Policy to the Board of Retirement for final adoption. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Boyd stated that upon reviewing LACAERA's Late-Filed policy, it was determined that the policy does not comply with Government Code Section 31722. Mr. Boyd also stated that the recommendation will allow staff to make the determination case by case.

IV. FOR INFORMATION

A. Distinguishing Normal Degenerative Changes Vs Cumulative Trauma Injuries in Patients with Arduous Vs Sedentary Jobs – Presentation as submitted by Mark Ganjianpour, M.D.

Dr. Ganjianpour referenced different case studies to include sedentary and arduous work. Dr. Ganjianpour states that there are many factors that are looked at when distinguishing normal degenerative changes and cumulative trauma. Dr. Ganjianpour stated that these factors include type of job, age, years working in the type of job, medical records, and interactive process notes.

Medical records are crucial because they will allow the physician to ask about previous injuries and obtain any additional information needed. Dr. Ganjianpour also discussed the substantial and measurable contribution in CT, reliance on neutral physician evaluators (AME/QME), and not having medical records.

Dr. Ganjianpour stated that there are arthritic markers in our bodies and stated that if CT or MRI scan shows arthritis in more than one area, it is usually degenerative and not cumulative. If it is a single joint with arthritis, it will most likely be cumulative trauma from arduous work. Ms. Gray asked how can arthritic degenerative markers be determined? Dr. Ganjianpour stated that DNA sample testing, CT's, and MRI's can be done to determine this.

Dr. Campese stated that there are cases where the member may have been injured but the question is "did this happen at work?" Dr. Ganjianpour stated that this is why it is important to look at medical records and any documentation; however, if there is no documentation, it will be difficult to make that determination.

V. REPORT ON STAFF ACTION ITEMS

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Disability Procedures and Services Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

**The Board of Retirement has adopted a policy permitting any member of the Board to attend a standing committee meeting open to the public. In the event five (5) or more members of the Board of Retirement (including members appointed to the Committee) are in attendance, the meeting shall constitute a joint meeting of the Committee and the Board of Retirement. Members of the Board of Retirement who are not members of the Committee may attend and participate in a meeting of a Board Committee but may not vote on any matter discussed at the meeting. The only action the Committee may take at the meeting is approval of a recommendation to take further action at a subsequent meeting of the Board.