

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS
July 12, 2012

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois was held on Thursday, July 12, 2012, at 8:30 A.M. in the System's Springfield office at 2101 S. Veterans Parkway.

Committee members present:

Loren Iglarsh, Chairman
Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary
Lori Laidlaw, Vice Chairperson

Others Present:

Dave Rolf, Attorney
Kathy Yemm, Manager, Claims Division
Joseph Maggio, Manager, Service & Refund Division
Nicholas Merrill, Manager, Accounting Division
Chris Silver, Supervisor, Disability Section
Michael Noblet, Supervisor, Pension & Death Section
Kerry Walker, Assistant Supervisor, Disability Section
Cory Mitchell, Assistant Supervisor, Pension & Death Section
Dawn Blakeman, Recording Secretary
Vickie Blandford, Hearing

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the June 14, 2012 meeting of the Executive Committee were presented by Chairman Iglarsh for approval. Copies of the minutes were previously mailed to Committee members for review. There being no additions or corrections, on motion by Executive Secretary Blair seconded by Vice Chairperson Laidlaw and by unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Routine Claims & Denial Report

The Routine Claims and Denials Report for the month of June, 2012 were presented for approval. Following review and discussion, Vice Chairperson Laidlaw moved acceptance of the Routine Claims and Denials Report for the period of June, 2012. On motion by Chairman Iglarsh seconded by Executive Secretary Blair and by unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Old Business

Robert Ruiz _____ Pension

Robert Ruiz requested a personal hearing with the Executive Committee in a letter dated November 19, 2009, regarding the reciprocal agreement be cancelled so he can still collect his pension benefits from the County Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago pension fund.

Mr. Ruiz through a telephone conversation in December, 2011 with Michael Noblet, Supervisor of the Pension and Death Division has requested another hearing continuance. Accordingly, this case continues to be deferred.

Jill Gordon

Non-occupational Disability

Jill Gordon works for a state agency. She began a medical leave of absence on 06/25/10. Disability benefits were suspended based upon the results of an independent medical examination performed at the Retirement Systems request. On March 28, 2011, Ms. Gordon participated in an independent medical examination at the Retirement Systems request. Based upon the results of this examination, disability benefits being paid to Ms. Gordon were suspended on June 30, 2011.

Ms. Gordon requested a personal appeal pursuant to the suspension of disability benefits. On May 9, 2011 the file was reviewed by the Retirement Systems Medical Consultant. This review indicated there was no objective evidence of a disability. The Committee agreed to defer this matter at that time in order to obtain additional medical records. On June 20, 2011, SERS medical consultant reviewed the entire file with the new medical information and concluded that the additional information failed to substantiate a disabling condition.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to refer this matter to the SERS Attorney for a recommendation based on the facts and findings in file for presentation at the next meeting.

The System's attorney submitted a recommendation to deny based on the facts and findings on file in this case for the Committee's review. Following discussion, on motion by Executive Secretary Blair, seconded by Chairman Iglarsh, and by unanimous vote, the Committee accepted Recommendation No. 2011-12 in the matter of Jill Gordon. However, the file was not sent to the SERS Board to be ratified because Jill Gordon's attorney wished to submit additional information and requested another opportunity to appear. A hearing was accomplished at this meeting with Ms. Gordon and her attorney, Steve Berg. Additional information was presented at this time. Mr. Berg discussed at length Ms. Gordon's medical and work history.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved that the appeal of Jill Gordon be deferred so that the additional information could be reviewed by SERS medical consultant. After that review the recommendation will be reconsidered based on the new information presented Vice Chairperson Laidlaw seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

On June 25, 2012 the file was again reviewed by the Retirement Systems Medical Consultant. This review indicated there was no objective evidence of a disability. Therefore, following discussion, the Committee agreed to refer this matter to the SERS Attorney for a recommendation based on the facts and findings in file for presentation at

the next meeting.

Vicki Chambliss

Non-occupational Disability

Vicki Chambliss works for a state agency and a medical leave of absence was granted.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Ms. Chambliss works for a state agency, and was granted a medical leave of absence.

Medical data was obtained from sources listed in the employee's file and then reviewed by the System's medical consultant on May 7, 2012. Based on the information in Vicki Chambliss' file, a disabling condition was not documented. Therefore the request for disability was denied.

Vicki Chambliss requested an appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted, the Committee recommends deferring the appeal of Vicki Chambliss until additional information can be obtained and reviewed by the system's medical consultant.

Letitia Chappell

Non-occupational Disability

Letitia Chappell works for a state agency and a medical leave of absence was granted on 10/03/2009.

Ms. Chappell's disability benefit was suspended on 02/29/2012 based on the results of an independent medical evaluation on 12/21/2011 and medical data from treating sources listed in file.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Letitia Chappell works for a state agency, and was granted a medical leave of absence.

Medical data was obtained from sources listed in the employee's file. On 12/21/11 the employee participated in an independent medical evaluation at the System's request. Based on the results of the independent medical evaluation and the medical data from the treating sources, disability benefits were suspended.

Ms. Chappell requested an appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits. Additional information was received with the appeal request. Ms. Chappell is also questioning the job duty description that was submitted to SERS on 12/8/2009. For clarification purposes, SERS submitted a new job duty description form to her supervisor. The form was completed on 05/15/2012.

On 05/24/2012, her entire file was reviewed by the System's medical consultant. Based on information in file, a disabling condition was not documented beyond 02/29/2012.

Ms. Chappell is questioning the job duty statement supplied by her agency. Therefore she will be given the opportunity to review the Job duty statement supplied to the System and make changes to the points she disagrees with.

It will be explained that the original job duty statement and her comment would be forwarded to her retirement coordinator to obtain clarification.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved that the appeal of Letitia Chappell be deferred so additional information can be submitted. Trustee Laidlaw seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

A new job duty statement along with the entire file was again reviewed by the System's medical consultant, who found that the information failed to substantiate a disabling condition.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Executive Secretary Blair moved to deny the appeal of Letitia Chappell for non-occupational disability benefits. Chairman Iglarsh seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Medical Consultant Request for ID number

SERS Medical Consultants have expressed concerns about having their names on medical reports for members who are evaluated for disability benefits through SERS. Due to privacy concerns they are requesting to be identified by Identification numbers.

The Executive Secretary Blair expressed the Executive Committees concerns and agreed to defer so additional information can be obtained. Vice Chairperson Laidlaw seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Following a review of the request and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved to approve the request to put in place a policy to let SERS Medical Consultant's use an ID number instead of a name unless their names were specifically requested by an individual. Executive Secretary Blair seconded the motion and all were in favor.

New Business

Laura Garza Non-occupational Disability/90day

Laura Garza works for a state agency. She was granted a medical leave of absence on September 16, 2010.

Ms. Garza's application was denied due to the application not being received within the ninety day time frame.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Executive Committee finds the employee's job description and work location are as stated and Ms. Garza was removed from her agency's payroll on September 16, 2010.

In October, 2010 the Retirement System received a Claim Notification from Laura Garza's agency for non-occupational disability forms. These forms were sent but, never returned.

Ms. Garza's application for non-occupational disability benefits was received on June 14, 2012. This was subsequent to the ninety-day time limit for applying for non-

occupational disability benefits. Since the application was received beyond the ninety day filing limitation as noted in 40 ILCS 5/14-124, the application was denied.

Laura Garza subsequently requested a written appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits due to the late filing. Information was received with the appeal request which lists the reasons the employee did not file on a timely basis.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted, the Executive Committee recommends approving Ms. Laura Garza's appeal for disability benefits.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved approval of the appeal of Laura Garza for non-occupational disability benefits. Vice chairperson Laidlaw seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Tina Cox Service Credit

Tina Cox requested that the Executive Committee review her request to have the service credit from her unpaid sick leave, vacation, and personal days, calculated individually, rather than in aggregate. Her original request to the Accounting Division was denied. These days are reported to SERS from the employing state agency on the SERS Form 1404 (Retirement Contributions on Lump Sum Pay for Sick Leave, Vacation, and/or Personal Days).

The Illinois Compiled Statutes (40 ILCS 5/14-104.3) permit the granting of additional service credit upon payment of the required employee contributions. SERS has an established procedure which utilizes the information contained on the Form 1404 as the basis for the additional employee contributions and service credit. The standard form does not provide for a calculation of service credit for each benefit type individually, rather, the service credit is granted based upon the aggregate of the benefit time reported.

The Executive Committee reviewed the request. It was denied based upon the established procedure which SERS has consistently followed since the statute was enacted.

Doreen Rainey Non-occupational Disability

Doreen Rainey works for a state agency. She was granted a medical leave of absence.

Ms. Rainey's claim for disability benefits was denied based on a review of medical documentation from treating medical sources.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Ms. Rainey works for a state agency, and was granted a medical leave of absence.

Medical records were obtained and reviewed by the SERS medical consultant on 4/15/12, 5/15/12, 5/26/12 and 6/9/12. The medical consultant concluded that the medical information on file failed to substantiate a disability.

Based upon the facts of this case and information submitted, the Committee recommends denying Ms. Rainey's appeal for non-occupational disability benefits.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Vice Chairperson Laidlaw moved that the appeal of Doreen Rainey be denied. Executive Secretary Blair seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Amy Bolen Non-occupational Disability/90day

Amy Bolen works for a state agency. She was granted a medical leave of absence on February 9, 2012.

Ms. Bolen's application was denied due to the application not being received within the ninety day time frame.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Executive Committee finds the employee's job description and work location are as stated and Ms. Bolen was removed from her agency's payroll on February 9, 2012.

On March 14, 2012, the Retirement System received a request from Ms. Bolen's agency requesting non-occupational disability forms be sent to Ms. Bolen. These forms were sent on March 14, 2012 and a second set of forms on April 24, 2012. Her application for non-occupational disability benefits was received on May 23, 2012. This was subsequent to the ninety-day time limit for applying for non-occupational disability benefits. Since the application was received beyond the ninety day filing limitation as noted in 40 ILCS 5/14-124, the application was denied.

Amy Bolen subsequently requested a written appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits due to the late filing. Information was received with the appeal request which lists the reasons the employee did not file on a timely basis.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted, the Executive Committee recommends approving Ms. Bolen's appeal for disability benefits.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Vice Chairperson Laidlaw moved that the written appeal of Amy Bolen be approved. Chairman Iglarsh seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Lois Hanson Pension Service Credit on Paid Time

Lois Hanson retired May 31, 2011 and started drawing her pension on June 1, 2011. She wanted to have 20 years of service credit in order to have free insurance. Based on information she received she was under the impression she had 20 years. It had just recently come to her attention that she was just short of twenty years. Upon review of her file it was determined she had another 4.97 paid vacation days she could purchase service credit on which would give her the 20 years total service.

Ms. Hanson requested a written appeal asking the Executive Committee to allow her account to be adjusted so that she would have 20 years.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved that Ms. Hanson be allowed to purchase the service credit on the additional 4.97 vacation days to bring her up to 20 years. Vice Chairperson Laidlaw seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Vickie Blandford Optional Service Purchase

Vickie Blandford requested and appeared before the Executive Committee on July 17, 2012. She is requesting that \$10,793.71 that she paid for a 22 month layoff be applied to a 90.50 month refund.

Ms. Blandford stated there was a misunderstanding on her part regarding what period she was paying for. She thought the purchase of this time was for a 90.50 month refund which would let her retire earlier.

Mr. Maggio, Manager of the Service and Refunds Division explained to Ms. Blandford and the Executive Committee that at the time of the request she was not eligible to repay the refund. However, by the time she started the time payments she would have been able to purchase the refund.

Based upon the facts of this case and the information submitted, the Executive Committee recommends approving Vickie Blandford's request to switch the purchase of the 22 month layoff to purchase the 90.50 month refund.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved that the written appeal of Vickie Blandford be approved. Vice Chairperson Laidlaw seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30AM. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Thursday August 9, 2012, in the Springfield office, with video conferencing in Chicago if needed.

Loren Iglarsh
Chairman

Lori Laidlaw
Vice Chairperson

Timothy Blair
Executive Secretary