

MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING OF  
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS  
October 10, 2013

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois was held on Thursday, October 10, 2013, at 8:30 A.M. in the System's Springfield office at 2101 S. Veterans Parkway with videoconferencing in SERS Chicago Office.

Committee members present:

Loren Iglarsh, Chairperson  
Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary

Committee members absent:

Lori Laidlaw, Vice Chairperson

Others Present:

Dave Rolf, Attorney  
Kathy Yemm, Manager, Claims Division  
Michael Noblet, Supervisor, Pensions & Deaths Section  
Don Williams, Supervisor, Disability Section  
Kerry Walker, Assistant Supervisor, Disability Section  
Dawn Blakeman, Recording Secretary  
Jennifer Staley, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the September 12, 2013 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 Secretary Blair seconded by Chairman Iglarsh and by unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Routine Claims & Denial Report

The Routine Claims and Denials Report for the month of September, 2013 were presented. Following review and discussion, the Routine Claims and Denials Report for the period of September, 2013, as prepared by staff was received by the Executive Committee.

**Old Business**

Michelle Flowers

Occupational Disability

Michelle Flowers 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. Flowers works for a state agency, and was granted a medical leave of absence.

On June 10, 2012 the System's medical consultant reviewed the entire file. The review indicated the medical information in the file failed to substantiate a disability.

Pursuant to the denial of disability benefits, Michelle Flowers requested and previously attended a personal hearing with the Executive Committee.

Ms. Flowers explained the job duty statement was incorrect and that she would get more medical information.

The Committee agreed to have Ms. Flowers complete a new job duty statement. SERS also agreed to have her supervisor do the same. The information would then be sent to the Disability Supervisor for review. Ms. Flowers also agreed to send additional medical records for review. The Committee agreed to defer this matter at this time in order to obtain the additional information. Additional information was received and reviewed.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to refer this matter to 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 for the Committee's review. Following discussion, on motion by Secretary Blair, seconded by Vice Chairperson Laidlaw, and by unanimous vote, the Committee accepted Recommendation No. 2013-001.A copy of this recommendation has been made a part of the member's file.

Ms. Flowers had a personal appeal on October 11, 2012. She was appealing the denial of her future occupational benefits. Her claim was deferred so additional evidence could be obtained. The additional medical was submitted and reviewed by the System's medical consultant on December 16, 2012 who determined that the medical information failed to substantiate a disabling condition. On February 14, 2013, the Executive Committee reviewed the appeal of the denial and denied her claim. Ms. Flowers is now requesting a re-appeal of the denial.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Vice Chairperson Laidlaw moved to approve Ms. Flowers request to re-appeal the denial. Chairman Iglarsh seconded the motion and all were in favor.

On February 14, 2013, the Executive Committee reviewed the appeal of the denial and denied her claim.

Ms. Flowers is now requesting another re-appeal of the denial as she has new medical to present.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Vice Chairperson Laidlaw moved to approve Ms. Flowers' request to re-appeal the denial of the re-appeal. Chairman Iglarsh seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Ms. Flowers attended another personal hearing with her Attorney Jim Vainikos on August 15, 2013. She is appealing the denial of her future occupational benefits. Her claim was previously deferred so additional evidence could be obtained. The additional medical was

submitted and reviewed by the System's medical consultant on July 4, 2013 who determined that the medical information failed to substantiate a disabling condition.

Ms. Flowers completed another job duty statement and the committee agreed to have the SERS medical consultant review the complete file.

Michelle Flowers had a personal appeal on August 15, 2013. She is appealing the denial of her future occupational benefits. Her claim was deferred so additional evidence could be obtained. The additional medical was submitted and reviewed by one of the System's medical consultant's on September 17, 2013 who determined that the medical information failed to substantiate a disabling condition.

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

Rosilyn Hall Temporary Disability Overpayment

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 Chairman Iglarsh, seconded by Secretary Blair, and by unanimous vote, the Committee accepted Recommendation No. 2013-06.

A copy of this recommendation has been made a part of the member's file.

**New Business**

Monika Szaflarska Non-Occupational Disability

Ms. Szaflarska works for a state agency and was granted a medical leave of absence.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Ms. Monika Szaflarska is a state employee and was granted a medical leave of absence.

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

Her file was reviewed by the System's medical consultant on May 15, 2013. Based on the medical documentation available, Ms. Szaflarska's claim for disability benefits was denied.

Ms. Szaflarska requested a written appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits.

After discussion the Committee recommended denial of the appeal of Ms. Monika Szaflarska for non-occupational disability benefits. Secretary Blair moved that the appeal be denied. Chairman Iglarsh seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Kelly Davis Occupational Disability/12 month

Kelly Davis works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

Ms. Davis' claim for disability benefits was denied due to failure to apply for occupational disability benefits within the proper time frame.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Kelly Davis works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

The System did not receive the employee's application for disability benefits within the time limitation pursuant to occupational disability benefits as noted in 40 ILCS 5/14-123, therefore the application was denied.

Ms. Davis submitted a written appeal of the denial of disability benefits due to late filing.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted, Chairman Iglarsh moved approval of the appeal of Kelly Davis for a waiver of the twelve month filing limitation for occupational disability. Secretary Blair seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

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Loren Iglarsh  
Chairman

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Timothy Blair  
Executive Secretary