VENTURA COUNTY EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF RETIREMENT

DISABILITY MEETING

MARCH 11, 2019

AGENDA

PLACE: Ventura County Employees’ Retirement Association
Second Floor Boardroom
1190 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93003

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

Members of the public may comment on any item under the Board’s jurisdiction by filling out a speaker form and presenting it to the Clerk. Unless otherwise directed by the Chair, comments related to items on the agenda will be heard when the Board considers that item. Comments related to items not on the agenda will generally be heard at the time designated for Public Comment.

ITEM:

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. RECEIVE AND FILE PENDING DISABILITY APPLICATION STATUS REPORT

IV. APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY RETIREMENT

A. Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement - Manley, Holly A.; Case No. 16-026. 39 – 192


B. Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement - Barajas, Humberto Jr.; Case No. 16-031. 193 – 303
IV. APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY RETIREMENT (continued)


C. Application for Service-connected Disability Retirement - Kissane, Kevin R.; Case No. 17-005.


V. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of 2018 Board Member Education Compliance.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve.

1. Staff Letter.


B. Consideration of Request by Trustee Johnston for Independent Review of his Service-Connected Disability Application.
VI. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

1. Staff Letter. 438

C. SACRS 2019 Spring Voting Proxy.

1. Staff Letter. 439

VII. INFORMATIONAL

A. Memorandum from General Counsel - Litigation Status Report of K. Dean v. Board of Retirement. 440–449

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. STAFF COMMENT

X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

XI. ADJOURNMENT
March 11, 2019

Board of Retirement
Ventura County Employees’ Retirement Association
1190 South Victoria Avenue, Suite 200
Ventura, CA 93003

SUBJECT: BOARD EDUCATION COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR 2018

Dear Board Members:

Per Government Code Section 31522.8, the Board has an education policy that requires trustees to receive at least 24 hours of Board member education during the first two years after becoming a trustee, and during each subsequent two-year period. The code further requires the Board to maintain a record of compliance and to post the information annually on the website.

Provided is a summary of the Board’s education compliance for 2018 with this information. Most Trustees have a current measurement period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018, with a few exceptions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR 2018 AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO POST TO WEBSITE IN COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 31522.8

VCERA staff will be pleased to respond to any questions you may have on this matter at the March 11, 2019 business meeting.

Sincerely,

Linda Webb
Retirement Administrator
## VCERA Board of Retirement
### Annual Education Compliance Report
#### Calendar Year 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trustee Name</th>
<th>Board Position</th>
<th>Deadline to Complete 24 Education Hours</th>
<th>Education Hours Completed During Current Two-Year Period</th>
<th>Remaining Education Hours Required by Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Hintz</td>
<td>Treasure (Ex Officio)</td>
<td>Dec. 31, 2018</td>
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<td>Craig Winter</td>
<td>General Member 1</td>
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<td>Dan Shapiro</td>
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<td>William Wilson</td>
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<td>Peter Foy</td>
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<td>Steve Bennett</td>
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<td>Michael Sedell</td>
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<td>Chris Johnston</td>
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<td>Arthur Goulet</td>
<td>Retired Member</td>
<td>Dec. 31, 2018</td>
<td>63.25</td>
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<td>Robert Bianchi</td>
<td>Appointed Member 4</td>
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<td>Tracy Towner</td>
<td>Alternate Safety</td>
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<td>Wilbur Hoag</td>
<td>Alternate Retiree</td>
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<td>Edward McCombs</td>
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**Measurement Period Ends**

- [ ] 2018
- [ ] 2019
- [ ] 2020

Per Government Code Section 31522.8, and the Board of Retirement’s education policy, trustees are required to receive at least 24 hours of Board member education during the first two years after becoming a trustee, and during each subsequent two-year period.
March 11, 2019

Board of Retirement
Ventura County Employees’ Retirement Association
1190 South Victoria Avenue, Suite 200
Ventura, CA 93003

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM TRUSTEE JOHNSTON FOR INDEPENDENT PROCESSING OF HIS SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATION

Dear Board Members:

Trustee Johnston has recently filed an application for service-connected disability. He has requested that his application be processed independently by another CERL system, and not through County Risk Management.

Because of his position as trustee of the VCERA Board, neither staff nor County Risk Management objects to this request. Barring any objection on the part of the Board, staff will proceed in engaging LACERA for the processing of Trustee Johnston’s application.

Staff will be pleased to answer any questions at the March 11th business meeting.

Sincerely,

Linda Webb
Retirement Administrator
March 11, 2019

Board of Retirement
Ventura County Employees’ Retirement
Association 1190 S. Victoria Avenue, Suite 200
Ventura, CA 93003

SUBJECT: SACRS VOTING DELEGATE FOR 2019 SPRING CONFERENCE

Dear Board Members:

Staff recommends the appointment of a voting delegate and alternate voting delegate for the SACRS (State Association of County Retirement Systems) 2019 spring conference, scheduled for May 7 - 10.

As you are aware, each member retirement system is expected to participate and vote at the SACRS Business Meeting. Staff will provide the voting proxy form to SACRS to reflect Board’s direction.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Linda Webb
Retirement Administrator
MEMORANDUM
VENTURA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

March 5, 2019

TO: Members, Board of Retirement

FROM: Lori A. Nemiroff, General Counsel

RE: LITIGATION STATUS REPORT: KARLA DEAN v. BOARD OF RETIREMENT, VENTURA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION; VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 56-2014-0049197-CU-WM-VTA

Attn: Linda Webb, Retirement Administrator

As set forth in the Pending Disability Retirement Status Report ("Status Report"), the Ventura County Superior Court upheld your Board's denial of the application for service-connected disability retirement filed by Karla Dean. Attached for your information is a copy of the Notice of Entry of Judgment Denying Petition for Peremptory Writ of Mandamus filed on February 13, 2019.

On January 17, 2019, the court entered judgment denying Dean's petition for peremptory writ of mandate as to the County's complaint in intervention. Notice of entry of judgment was filed by the County on January 24, 2019. On February 7, 2019, the court entered judgment denying Dean's petition for peremptory writ of mandamus and notice of entry of judgment was filed by VCRERA on February 13, 2019. Petitioner has agreed not to appeal the judgments in exchange for agreement by VCRERA and the County to waive costs. The Status Report on the March 11, 2019, agenda has been updated to reflect that this matter is now closed.
KARLA DEAN,

Petitioner,

vs.

BOARD OF RETIREMENT,
VENTURA COUNTY EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION,

Respondent.

VENTURA COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION,
Real Party in Interest.

COUNTY OF VENTURA/RISK MANAGEMENT,

Plaintiff-in-Intervention,

vs.

KARLA DEAN, AND DOES 1 through 30,

Defendant-in-Intervention and Respondent.

No. 56-2017-00497538-CU-WM-VTA
NOTICE OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT DENYING PETITION FOR PEREMPTORY WRIT OF MANDAMUS
Ctcm 20
Judge: Honorable Matthew Guasco
Petition filed: 6/12/2017
Notice is hereby given that Judgment Denying Petition for Peremptory Writ of
Mandamus was entered by the Court on February 7, 2019. A true and correct copy of the
Judgment is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Dated: February 12, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Nemiroff, General Counsel
Attorney for Respondent

BOARD OF RETIREMENT OF THE
VENTURA COUNTY EMPLOYEES’
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT DENYING PETITION
FOR PEREMPTORY WRIT OF MANDAMUS
LORI A. NEMIROFF, State Bar No. 131706
General Counsel, Ventura County
Employees' Retirement Association
1190 South Victoria Avenue, Suite 200
Ventura, California 93003
Telephone: (805) 339-4263
Facsimile: (805) 339-4269
E-mail: lori.nemiroff@ventura.org

Attorney for Respondent Board of Retirement of the Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF VENTURA

KARLA DEAN, Petitioner,

vs.

BOARD OF RETIREMENT, VENTURA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION, Respondent.

VENTURA COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION, Real Party in Interest.

COUNTY OF VENTURA/RISK MANAGEMENT,

Plaintiff-in-Intervention,

vs.

KARLA DEAN, AND DOES 1 through 30, Defendant-in-Intervention and Respondent.

JUDGMENT DENYING PETITION FOR PEREMPTORY WRIT OF MANDAMUS

No. 56-2017-00497538-CU-WM-VTA
JUDGMENT DENYING PETITION FOR PEREMPTORY WRIT OF MANDAMUS

Ctgm 20
Judge: Honorable Matthew Guasco
Petition filed: 6/12/2017
This matter came on regularly for hearing before this Court on October 10, 2018 in Department 20 of the Ventura County Superior Court, the Honorable Mathew P. Guasco, Judge, presiding. Timothy Ehritt appeared as attorney for Petitioner and Defendant-in-Intervention, Karla Dean. Lori Nemiroff, General Counsel for Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association appeared on behalf of Respondent, Board of Retirement of the Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association ("Respondent") and Stephen D. Roberson appeared as attorney for Plaintiff-in-Intervention, County of Ventura/Risk Management.

The record of the administrative proceedings having been received into evidence and reviewed by the Court, the Court having considered the legal memoranda filed in support of and in opposition to the Petition for Peremptory Writ of Mandamus, and oral arguments having been made by the parties through their respective attorneys of record,

IT IS ORDERED that:

The Court’s November 26, 2018 Ruling on Submitted Matter, Minute Order, attached hereto and made a part hereof, is adopted as the Court’s final ruling.

The Petition for Peremptory Writ of Mandamus is denied and judgment shall be entered in favor of Respondent.

Respondent is awarded statutory costs of suit.

Dated: FEB 05 2019

Honorable Mathew P. Guasco
Judge of the Superior Court

MATTHEW P. GUASCO

Judgment entered on FEB 07 2019

Clerk

By Deputy Clerk

JUDGMENT DENYING PETITION FOR PEREMPTORY WRIT OF MANDAMUS
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF VENTURA
VENTURA
MINUTE ORDER

DATE: 11/26/2018
TIME: 02:05:00 PM
DEPT: 20

JUDICIAL OFFICER PRESIDING: Matthew P. Guasco
CLERK: Art Alvaro
REPORTER/VerM:

CASE NO: 56-2017-00497538-CU-WM-VTA
CASE TITLE: Dean vs Board of Retirement
CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited
CASE TYPE: Writ of Mandate

EVENT TYPE: Ruling on Submitted Matter

APPEARANCES

Nature of Proceeding: Hearing on Petition for Writ of Mandate/Prohibition (Code Civ. Proc., § 1094.5.)

On October 10, 2018, 8:20 a.m., the matter came before the Court for a hearing on the petition of petitioner, Karla Dean ("Dean"), for a writ of mandate and/or prohibition against respondent, Board of Retirement, Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association ("Board of Retirement"), real party-in-interest, Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association ("VCERA"), and for a hearing on the complaint-in-intervention of plaintiff-in-intervention, County of Ventura, Risk Management ("County"), against respondent-in-intervention, Dean. The parties appeared as indicated in the minutes. After receiving and reviewing the administrative record and the briefs of the parties, and at the conclusion of the arguments of counsel, the Court took the matter under submission. The following is the Court's ruling on that submitted matter.

Request for Judicial Notice

The Court GRANTS the unopposed request of County for the Court to take permissive judicial notice of the published "Disability Hearing Procedures" of the Board of Retirement.

Legal Standards Governing Ruling on Administrative Writ Petition

In an administrative writ proceeding such as this, the Court reviews the record of the proceedings before the Board of Retirement and exercises its independent judgment in deciding whether the weight of the evidence supports the Board of Retirement's decision to deny Dean's disability retirement claim. (Code of Civ. Proc., § 1094.5, subd. (c); Fukuda v. City of Angels (1999) 20 Cal.4th 805, 811-12, 85 Cal.Rptr.2d 696, 977 P.2d 693 ("Fukuda").) Although the trial court exercises its independent judgment in reviewing whether the agency's decision is supported by the weight of the evidence, the court "... should be assisted by the findings of [the agency]. The findings of [the agency] come before the court with a strong presumption of their correctness, and the burden rests on the complaining party to convince the court that [the agency's] decision is contrary to the weight of the evidence." (Fukuda, supra, 20 Cal.4th at p. 812, 85 Cal.Rptr.2d 696, 977 P.2d 693, emphasis in original.)

"Such a procedure... gives the reviewing court the power and duty of exercising an independent
CASE TITLE: Dean vs Board of Retirement  
CASE NO: 56-2017-00497538-CU-WM-VTA

judgment as to both facts and law, but contemplates that . . . the burden shall rest upon the petitioner to support his [or her] challenge affirmatively, competently, and convincingly. In other words, rarely, if ever, will a board determination be disturbed unless the petitioner is able to show a jurisdictional excess, a serious error of law, or an abuse of discretion on the facts." (San Diego Unified School Dist. v. Commission on Professional Competence (2013) 214 Cal.App.4th 1120, 1141, 154 Cal.Rptr.3d 751, internal quotation marks and citations omitted.)

Ruling on Writ Petition

Exercising its independent judgment based upon the administrative record, the Court DENIES the writ petition for the following reasons:

1. The Court finds there was no irregularity in the proceedings before the Board of Retirement.

2. The Court rejects Dean's argument that the hearing officer abused his discretion by receiving Dr. Dorman's opinion because of an irregularity in his administration of the MMPI examination. Dean did not raise this objection to the admission of Dr. Dorman's report and opinions at the hearing, even though the underlying fact of how the MMPI was administered was known to Dean prior to the hearing. In fact, Dean stipulated to the admission of Dr. Dorman's report and opinions. Thus, Dean has expressly and impliedly waived any issue of the appropriateness or admissibility of Dr. Dorman's opinions premised upon his administration of the MMPI to Dean. Further, even if this issue had not been waived by Dean, the facts of the administration of the MMPI are not newly discovered evidence which could not with due diligence have been presented by Dean at the hearing. (Code of Civ. Proc., § 1094.5, subd. (e).)

3. The Court has reviewed the record concerning the opinions of Dr. Malik and Dr. Dorman. The hearing officer's decision to accord Dr. Dorman's opinions concerning Dean's psychological and emotional issues and limitations is well-supported by the weight of the evidence and was not an abuse of discretion. Dr. Malik gave a somewhat general and conclusory assessment that Dean is psychologically disabled from substantially performing the duties of her job as a Behavioral Health Clinician III. Dr. Dorman, on the other hand, supported his opinion that Dean is not disabled from performing the substantial duties of her job by specific examples of her daily activities. Dr. Dorman's opinions are far more factually supported than are Dr. Malik's. Accordingly, the hearing officer did not abuse his discretion by according Dr. Dorman's opinions more weight than Dr. Malik's. That decision is supported by the weight of the evidence. The Court finds Dr. Dorman's opinions are more credible than Dr. Malik's.

4. Accordingly, Dean has failed to meet her burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the Board of Retirement's decision to deny her claim of psychiatric disability is not supported by the weight of the evidence. The Court expressly finds that decision is supported by the weight of the evidence.

5. The Court rejects Dean's argument that Dr. Dorman's opinions are conclusory and unworthy of acceptance or weight as a matter of law. As stated above, the Court expressly finds that Dr. Dorman's opinions are well-supported by the totality of the evidence of Dean's psychological functioning and her treatment record. The hearing officer did not abuse his discretion by accepting Dr. Dorman's opinions and rejecting Dr. Malik's on the issue of whether Dean is disabled from performing the substantial functions of her job.

6. As a result of the above findings and conclusions, the Court enters JUDGMENT for County and against Dean on the complaint-in-intervention.

The Clerk shall give notice of the above rulings.

Counsel for the Board of Retirement shall serve and file a proposed order and judgment on the petition.

DATE: 11/26/2018  
DEPT: 20  
MINUTE ORDER  
Page 2
CASE TITLE: Dean vs Board of Retirement

and counsel for County shall serve and file a proposed order and judgment on the complaint-in-intervention, all consistent with the above. A copy of the above ruling may be attached and incorporated by reference in any such order or judgment in lieu of copying the above verbatim in the body of the document.
PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF VENTURA

The undersigned declares: I am a citizen of the United States and I am employed in the County of Ventura, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association, 1190 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California 93003.

On December 21, 2018, I served the within JUDGMENT DENYING PETITION FOR PEREMPTORY WRIT OF MANDAMUS on

Timothy Ehrtt
Law Offices of Timothy M. Ehrtt
1445 Donlon Street, Suite 8
Ventura, CA 93003

Stephen D. Roberson
Law Offices of Roberson & Kimball
3251 Old Conejo Road
Newbury Park, CA 91320

[X] by addressing an envelope to the above-named person(s) as indicated above, and placed in the envelope a true copy of each of said documents, and by then sealing and depositing said envelope, with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States mail at Ventura, California, where is located the office of the person by and for whom said service was made.

[ ] by an express service carrier, (a guaranteed next day delivery service), a true copy of the above-stated document in an envelope or package designated by said carrier and addressed to the person(s) on whom it is to be served.

[ ] by facsimile transmission of said document(s) from fax telephone number (805) 654-2185 to the above-named person(s) at the fax number(s) as indicated above. This transmission was reported as complete and without error.

[ ] by personal service. I delivered said document by hand to the above-named person(s) as indicated above in the manner provided in FRCivP 5(b) or CCP §1011.

[ ] (STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on December 21, 2018, at Ventura, California.

[ ] (FEDERAL) I declare under penalty of perjury that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made. Executed on __________, 2018, at Ventura, California.

[ ]

Lori Nemiroff

JUDGMENT DENYING PETITION FOR PEREMPTORY WRIT OF MANDAMUS
PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF VENTURA

The undersigned declares: I am a citizen of the United States and I am employed in the County of Ventura, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is Ventura County Employees’ Retirement Association, 1190 South Victoria Avenue, Suite 200, Ventura, California 93003.

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[ ] (STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on February 13, 2019, at Ventura, California.

[ ] (FEDERAL) I declare under penalty of perjury that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made. Executed on __________, 2019, at Ventura, California.

Suzanne Park

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT DENYING PETITION FOR PEREMPTORY WRIT OF MANDAMUS