



Board of Administration

Agenda Item 9a2

April 22, 2020

Item Name: Proposed Decision – In the Matter of the Appeal of Reinstatement from Industrial Disability Retirement of SABRINA R. CARTER, Respondent, and DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, PORTERVILLE STATE HOSPITAL, Respondent.

Program: Disability and Survivor Benefits Division

Item Type: Action

Parties' Positions

Staff argues that the Board of Administration should adopt the Proposed Decision, as modified. Respondent Sabrina R. Carter's (Respondent Carter) position is included in Attachment C, if any.

Strategic Plan

This item is not a specific product of either the Strategic or Annual Plans. The determination of administrative appeals is a power reserved to the Board of Administration.

Procedural Summary

Respondent Carter submitted an application for industrial disability retirement on or about September 19, 2001. CalPERS approved the application for industrial disability retirement based on orthopedic (upper extremities and back) conditions, and Respondent Carter retired for industrial disability effective September 6, 2002. In 2009, Respondent Carter was reevaluated and CalPERS determined that Respondent Carter was no longer incapacitated from performing the duties of a Psychiatric Technician Assistant. Respondent Carter appealed this determination and the matter was heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) on August 14, 2012. A Proposed Decision was issued on September 20, 2012, affirming CalPERS' determination and denying Respondent Carter's appeal. The CalPERS Board of Administration adopted the Proposed Decision as its own Decision on November 15, 2012. No appeals or petitions for reconsideration were submitted to CalPERS. The Decision became final on January 15, 2013. However, Respondent Carter was never removed from CalPERS industrial disability retirement roll because CalPERS never received a return-to-work date for Respondent Carter.

After discovering this in 2018, Respondent Carter was reevaluated again and CalPERS determined that Respondent Carter was again no longer incapacitated from performing the duties of a Psychiatric Technician Assistant. Respondent Carter appealed this determination and the matter was heard by OAH on January 14, 2020. Due to Respondent DDS' failure to appear, the case proceeded as a default under Government Code section 11520 as to that party only. A Proposed

Decision was issued on February 11, 2020, affirming CalPERS' determination and denying Respondent Carter's appeal.

Alternatives

A. For use if the Board decides to modify and adopt the Proposed Decision as its own Decision:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, pursuant to Government Code section 11517 (c)(2)(C) which authorizes the Board to "make technical or other minor changes in the proposed decision," hereby modifies the Proposed Decision, by inserting the word "industrial" before "disability retirement" on page 17, paragraph 2, line 5 of the Proposed Decision, and hereby adopts as its own Decision the Proposed Decision dated February 11, 2020, as modified, concerning the appeal of Sabrina R. Carter; RESOLVED FURTHER that this Board Decision shall be effective 30 days following mailing of the Decision.

B. For use if the Board decides to adopt the Proposed Decision as its own Decision:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System hereby adopts as its own Decision the Proposed Decision dated February 11, 2020, concerning the appeal of Sabrina R. Carter; RESOLVED FURTHER that this Board Decision shall be effective 30 days following mailing of the Decision.

C. For use if the Board decides not to adopt the Proposed Decision, and to decide the case upon the record:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, after consideration of the Proposed Decision dated February 11, 2020, concerning the appeal of Sabrina R. Carter, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision and determines to decide the matter itself, based upon the record produced before the Administrative Law Judge and such additional evidence and arguments that are presented by the parties and accepted by the Board; RESOLVED FURTHER that the Board's Decision shall be made after notice is given to all parties.

D. For use if the Board decides to remand the matter back to the Office of Administrative Hearings for the taking of further evidence:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, after consideration of the Proposed Decision dated February 11, 2020, concerning the appeal of Sabrina R. Carter, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision and refers the matter back to the Administrative Law Judge for the taking of additional evidence as specified by the Board at its meeting.

E. Precedential Nature of Decision (two alternatives; either may be used):

1. For use if the Board wants further argument on the issue of whether to designate its Decision as precedential:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System requests the parties in the matter concerning the appeal of Sabrina R. Carter, as well as interested parties, to submit written argument regarding whether the

Board's Decision in this matter should be designated as precedential, and that the Board will consider the issue whether to designate its Decision as precedential at a time to be determined.

2. For use if the Board decides to designate its Decision as precedential, without further argument from the parties.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, hereby designates as precedential its Decision concerning the appeal of Sabrina R. Carter.

Budget and Fiscal Impacts: Not applicable

Attachments

Attachment A: Proposed Decision

Attachment B: Staff's Argument

Attachment C: Respondent(s) Argument(s)

Anthony Suine
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Customer Services and Support