

OCERS Board Charter

Disability Committee Charter

Introduction

1. The Board of Retirement (Board) has established the Disability Committee to assist the Board in overseeing the review of disability retirement applications. The Disability Committee is an advisory committee to the Board, and its recommendations are subject to final approval by the Board.

Purpose

2. Under applicable law, the Board must act upon all applications for disability retirement filed by OCERS members. The purpose of the Disability Committee is to ensure diligent analysis of specialized medical records, careful evaluation of applications for disability retirement, and an efficient process for applicants for disability retirement. The Disability Committee will review the administrative record relating to applications for disability retirement, the recommendations of OCERS staff, and the findings and conclusions of the administrative hearing officer, where applicable and will thereafter make recommendations to the Board on approval or denial of applications. In most circumstances, recommendations from the Disability Committee will be placed on the Board's consent agenda for final action in accordance with the Board Policy on Disability and Non-Disability Adjudication.

Duties and Responsibilities

3. The Disability Committee shall:
 - a. Review applications for disability retirement when the Staff recommendation is to deny all or part of the Application, and make recommendations to the Board to grant or deny said applications;
 - b. Periodically review the disability application and review process with OCERS staff and recommend any changes as necessary or advisable;
 - c. Provide oversight for searches for outside consultants and advisors including hearing officers and medical experts, and recommend the appointment of such parties to the Board;
 - d. With OCERS staff, coordinate continuing education for the members of the Board on disability-related topics as required; and
 - e. Perform any other duties that may be assigned to it by the Board or that are necessary to discharge the Committee's responsibilities with respect to the disability application process.

Membership

4. The Disability Committee shall be composed of three members. The Board Chair shall appoint members of the Disability Committee as provided in the OCERS By-Laws and designate one member to serve as the Committee Chair.

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5. The Board Chair shall appoint an alternate member of the Disability Committee, who may be any member of the Board, including the alternate seventh member. The alternate member of the Disability Committee shall attend meetings of the Disability Committee only in the event that a regular member of the Disability Committee is unable to attend.

Meetings

6. The Disability Committee shall meet at least monthly and otherwise on an as needed basis as determined by the Committee Chair in consultation with the Board Chair.
7. All regular Disability Committee members are expected to attend all meetings of the committee, but the alternate member is expected to attend only when a regular member of the Disability Committee cannot attend a meeting.
8. A quorum to conduct business shall consist of two members of the Disability Committee, including the alternate member.
9. The Assistant CEO for External Operations (or their designee), the General Counsel (or their designee), and whatever staff deemed necessary shall attend all Disability Committee meetings. Meeting notices will be provided to interested parties in conformance with applicable laws, regulations, customs, and practices.
10. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act. Meeting agendas will be prepared and provided in advance to members of the committee, along with appropriate briefing materials. Minutes of meetings will be prepared and will contain a record of persons present, decisions taken, and a high-level summary of the discussion. Disability Committee members shall not discuss disability applications with other Board members outside of the Disability Committee or Board meetings.
11. The Disability Committee shall adjourn to a closed session, Cal. Gov't Code § 54957(b), to discuss the application of any member for disability benefit.
 - a. Closed Session With the Parties Present. The Disability Committee shall conduct any discussion of an application as a closed session. Attendance at the closed session will be limited to 1) the parties; 2) counsel for the parties; 3) any OCERS disability staff members and/or attorneys acting as advocates for the staff initial determination; 4) any witnesses called to present testimony before the Disability Committee; 5) OCERS staff necessary to facilitate the hearing (including the clerk of the Board and IT Staff); 6) the CEO or Assistant CEO or their designee; and 7) the OCERS General Counsel (or his/her designee) to provide legal advice to the Disability Committee.
 - b. Closed Session Without Parties. Following the Disability Committee's hearing of a matter in a closed session with the parties present, the Disability Committee may adjourn to a closed session including only the CEO or the Assistant CEO or their designee and the OCERS General Counsel (or his/her designee) to provide legal advice to the Board in order to consider the merits of the case and the Board's legal obligations.

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Monitoring and Reporting

12. The Disability Committee shall:
- Make its minutes available to all Members of the Board;
 - Periodically report to the Board on its activities;
 - Monitor compliance with and the effectiveness of the disability application process, and report to the Board on the committee's findings, as appropriate; and
 - Periodically review and, when necessary, amend standardized materials used in the disability application process, as recommended by OCERS staff.

Charter Review


13. The Disability Committee shall review this charter at least once every three (3) years and recommend any amendments to the Board for approval as necessary to ensure that the charter remains relevant and appropriate.

Charter History

14. This charter was adopted by the Board of Retirement on January 16, 2018 and amended on April 17, 2023.

Secretary's Certificate

I, the undersigned, the duly appointed Secretary of the Orange County Employees Retirement System, hereby certify the adoption of this policy.



Steve Delaney, Secretary of the Board

04/17/23

Date

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CHANGE LOG EDITOR	CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS VERSION	DATE

REVIEWED BY	SIGNATURE	DATE