

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING  
FOR THE CORRECTIONS OFFICER RETIREMENT PLAN LOCAL BOARD  
FOR THE JUDICIARY**

A Public Meeting of the Corrections Officer Retirement Plan Local Board for the Judiciary was convened Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom, Arizona State Courts Building, 1501 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

**Board Members Present by Conference/Video Call:** Kevin Kluge (Chair); Jason Hathcock; Jennifer Fish; Brandon Shimizu; Scott Mabery

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Also Present by Conference/Video Call:** Kayla Adkins, Board Secretary; Alexi Papalossi, Recorder; Nick Cornelius, Board Attorney; Yvonne Wong, AOC HR Officer; Leticia Chavez, AOC HR Supervisor; John Harris, Legal Counsel for Disability Applicant #25-01; Maria Land, Disability Applicant #25-01; John Meyers, Disability Applicant #26-01

**Call to Order:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

March 3, 2026 – Public Meeting Minutes

**MOTION: Brandon Shimizu moved to approve the public meeting minutes of the March 3, 2026, meeting.** The motion was seconded by Jason Hathcock and passed unanimously. The minutes stand approved. **CORP 2026-16**

**2026 Legislative Update**

During the March 3, 2026, CORP Local Board meeting, Jack Moody provided a legislative update to the Board. The Chair requested that Jack Moody continue to share updates on 2026 CORP-related legislation. The Board will receive updated information, and Jack Moody will attend future meetings where Board members have questions. He will also give a final update at the end of the 2026 Legislative session.

The Chair clarified that if any Board members had questions regarding updates, Jack Moody's attendance would be requested.

**Review of Total and Permanent Disability Application #25-01 - Maria Land**

The Board received amended application #25-01 from Maria Land dated March 12, 2025. The following information was provided to the Board.

- Request for Amended Application

- M. Land Narrative Statement
- Request for IME
- Member Applications
- Incident Report
- IME – Shoulder

**Discussion:**

The Chair summarized the events and actions related to Disability Case #25-01. The Chair stated that upon receiving Maria Land's total and permanent disability application, it was clear she was requesting accidental disability even though total and permanent was selected. The Board allowed Ms. Land to amend her application from total and permanent to accidental. The Chair stated that the three disabling conditions listed on the amended application were the right shoulder, left trigger finger, and PTSD.

The Chair stated that the amended application provided the dates of service as 9/30/2016 - 8/1/2024, with the date of the disabling condition as 5/20/2016. The Chair further explained that the Board determined that the right shoulder was a pre-existing condition and Ms. Land was not eligible for disability benefits for that disabling condition, since she refunded her contributions without repayment of the funds to PSPRS upon returning to employment with Maricopa County.

The Chair continued by explaining that the second amended application was an accidental application, with the disabling condition being PTSD, for which the Board made a determination.

The Chair stated that he believed the Board would not be opposed to allowing Ms. Land to amend her second application since she listed the left trigger finger as a disabling condition, however the Chair had concerns with the type of disability because accidental disability would require an incident report, which to date, the Board has not received.

The Chair then explained the types of disability that can be requested and the differences among the three. He then stated that the Board would be willing to send Ms. Land for another independent medical exam, but the Board needed direction on which type of disability the applicant is seeking in order to provide the correct corresponding documents and questions to the Board's IME doctor.

The Chair clarified that the Board would allow Ms. Land to amend the second application she had submitted, but the deadline for a new application had passed. He then asked John Harris, Ms. Land's legal counsel, whether he would like to make a statement.

Mr. Harris asked when the application deadline was. The Chair responded that it was one year after Ms. Land's termination date, 8/1/2025. Mr. Harris reiterated the disabling injuries, stating that the injury was to Ms. Land's left rotator cuff, not the right, as indicated on the application. Mr. Harris also stated that the right shoulder was diagnosed as an over compensatory injury. The Chair explained that it didn't qualify for accidental disability and that, even though it stemmed from the injury to the left shoulder, the shoulder injury was deemed a pre-existing condition because the original shoulder injury happened in May of 2016, and Ms. Land's service date started September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Mr. Harris disagreed, stating that, to his understanding, any on-duty injury would qualify for accidental disability. He further explained that the left shoulder injury occurred on the job and that the left shoulder and left trigger finger injuries stemmed from the original injury. He stated that he submitted a request for an additional IME to address all issues related to her physical injuries. Mr. Harris then told the Board that Ms. Land's injury occurred on the job and that the compensatory injuries would result in accidental disability.

Ms. Fish explained that the application received from Ms. Land indicated the opposite sides of her injuries. The right-side rotator cuff injury should be on the left side, and the left-side trigger finger should be on the right side, and Ms. Fish requested clarification.

Ms. Fish clarified the pre-existing determination regarding the left shoulder injury by citing the relevant statute, A.R.S. §38.886(E), which provides that a member does not qualify for an accidental disability pension or a total and permanent disability pension if the local board determines that certain criteria are met. She further explained that A.R.S. §3886 (E)(3) concerns the presence of a physical or mental condition or injury that existed or occurred before the member's date of membership in the plan. Ms. Fish acknowledged that Ms. Land's case is unique because she had two separate periods of service and refunded her contributions without repayment, effectively ending her service. That service was restarted when she was rehired in September 2016, making the shoulder injury sustained in May 2016 a pre-existing condition.

Nick Cornelius, Board Attorney, affirmed Ms. Fish's explanation, furthering that the Board can request that the IME only include the right shoulder and left trigger finger injuries. Mr. Cornelius also informed the Board that Ms. Land's legal counsel submitted an additional application and documentation, which he believed had passed the one-year deadline to file.

The Chair stated that the Board was willing to send Ms. Land for another IME, but they needed to clarify which type of disability she was applying for. He continued by stating that the Board sends specific questions to the IME doctor, depending on the type of disability. Mr. Cornelius, Board Attorney, affirmed and stated that it was up to the applicant to provide the Board with the necessary information.

Mr. Mabery confirmed with the Chair that the Board had not received an incident report for a right shoulder injury, and the Chair confirmed this. Mr. Mabery then asked for clarification on which side the trigger finger injury was, as well. Mr. Harris stated that it should be the right shoulder, right trigger finger, and carpal tunnel. Mr. Harris also confirmed that the trigger finger is an over compensatory injury.

Mr. Harris stated that he will provide the Board with the amended documents to review.

The Board agreed to table this item until clarifying information is received from Disability Applicant #25-01

**Application for Total and Permanent Disability #26-01 – John Meyers**

The Board received Application #26-01 for Total and Permanent Disability benefits from John Myers on March 9, 2026.

- The applicant is a Mohave County Juvenile Detention Supervisor with 16.255 years of service.
- The applicant identified the disabling condition as Cognitive Impairment, Epilepsy, and Substantial Brain Atrophy.
- Mr. Myers was notified via certified letter and email that the Board would consider his application at this meeting and of the applicant's right to attend.
- The applicant initialed the Waiver of Confidentiality provision to allow discussion of the medical condition in an open public meeting.
- The applicant provided medical reports of findings and treatment with the application. The application and medical reports are provided for the Board. The criteria for Total and permanent disability benefits per A.R.S. §38-881.01 are:
  - "Total and permanent disability" means a physical or mental condition that is not an accidental disability, that the local board finds totally and permanently prevents a member from engaging in any gainful employment, and that is the direct and proximate result of the member's performance of the member's duty as an employee of a participating employer.
- A copy of A.R.S. §38-886 governing Local Board consideration of applications for total and permanent Disability is included for reference purposes.

### **Pre-Existing Conditions:**

The applicant's physical exams were provided to the Board. The physical exam dated October 11, 2007, identified no pre-existing conditions. The physical exam dated December 9, 2009, identified the following pre-existing conditions: (R) broken fingers – pinned - reset; (L) ankle/foot injury – complex regional pain syndrome, type II.

### **Discussion:**

The Chair confirmed that applicant #26-01, Mr. Myers, was in attendance.

The Chair then stated that he believed the applicant was requesting the wrong type of disability, further noting that a total and permanent disability injury requires that the injury occur on the job, and the disabling conditions listed on the application didn't appear to be. The Chair explained that he believed that it would be ordinary disability and asked if the Board members had any questions.

Mr. Hathcock asked for clarification because the action item stated that Mr. Myers was an Adult Probation Officer, while his separation letter stated that he was a Juvenile Detention Officer. Mr. Myers confirmed that he was a Juvenile Detention Supervisor. Mr. Hathcock then asked Mr. Myers whether any of his disabling conditions were caused as a direct and proximate result of his job duties. Mr. Myers answered, No. Mr. Hathcock then stated that he agreed with the Chair and his belief that this should be an ordinary disability application.

The Chair asked Mr. Myers to amend the application to indicate ordinary disability, which he agreed to do. The Chair then asked the Board Secretary to provide Mr. Myers with another application and stated that the Board could move forward by requesting an IME.

The Chair asked Mr. Myers if he would like to make a statement. Mr. Myers responded by stating that he has not been able to get his seizures under control despite trying multiple medications and confirmed with the Board that he has been terminated from employment.

Mr. Hathcock sought clarification as to whether the three disabling conditions that were listed on the application were related and if they were all neurological. Mr. Harris explained that doctors don't know what is causing epilepsy, but his doctors believe the brain atrophy is potentially caused by the seizures and injuries endured.

**MOTION: Jason Hathcock moved to refer Applicant #26-01 for an Independent Medical Evaluation for Ordinary Disability.** The motion was seconded by Scott Mabery and passed unanimously. **CORP 2026-17**

**Board Attorney, Nick Cornelius disconnected at 10:44 a.m.**

#### **Notice of Retiree Return to Work – Donna Nez**

The Board received a Notice of Retiree Return to Work from the Navajo County Judicial Branch for Donna Nez, indicating that Ms. Nez retired from the Arizona Department of Corrections on April 28, 2017, with an effective CORP retirement date of May 1, 2017. She has since accepted an employment offer with the Navajo County Judicial Branch and returned to work on March 9, 2026, in a CORP-designated position as a Probation Officer.

Copies of A.R.S. § 38-884.N-O. and Ms. Nez's current position description were provided to the Board.

Finding that Ms. Nez returned to work in a CORP-designated position more than six months after retirement, so it appears she may continue receiving her CORP pension. Additionally, her employer is responsible for paying the CORP alternate contribution rate on her behalf because she returned to work in a CORP-designated position.

**MOTION: Scott Mabery moved that the Board received a Notice of Retiree Return to Work for Donna Nez and found that (1) Ms. Nez is eligible to continue receiving a CORP pension. (2) Ms. Nez’s employer, Navajo County Judicial Branch, is responsible for paying the CORP alternate contribution rate on her behalf because she returned to work in a CORP-designated position. The motion was seconded by Brandon Shimizu and passed unanimously. CORP 2026-18**

**Acknowledgment of CORP Physical Exam Final Letter:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Letter Issue Date</b>
Caden Castleberry	Apache	2/9/2026

The Chair noted for the record that the CORP physical examination report for Caden Castleberry was not received within 60 days of receiving their membership application and that a final letter requesting the examination report was sent via certified mail.

**Approval of Membership:**

The Board voted on the approval of the following requests for membership:

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Tier</b>
Caden Castleberry	Apache	2/28/2026		3
Cole Lentz	Coconino	11/24/2025		3
Hanna Burk	Coconino	2/22/2026		3
Tina Rittenhouse	Gila	3/15/2026		3
Michael Holtgrewe	Maricopa	3/22/2026		3
Aryanna Montoya-Espinoza	Maricopa	3/22/2026		3
Kenny St. Fleur	Maricopa	3/22/2026		3
Kahil Berry	Maricopa	3/22/2026		3
Clarissa Barraza	Pima	3/14/2026		3
Amber Russel	Pinal	11/24/2026		2
Teuta Dema	Pinal	11/24/2026		3
Penny Taylor	Pinal	11/24/2026		3
Richard Vandler	Pinal	2/22/2026		3
Anne Webber Pascua	Pinal	3/8/2026		3
Rosalyn Nunez	Pinal	3/22/2026		3
Jaime Gratzl	Yavapai	3/1/2026		3
Adriana Guzman McIntosh	Yavapai	3/8/2026		3
Tamrah Sandoval	Yavapai	3/10/2026		3
Emma Wason	Yavapai	3/15/2026		3
Corey Tovar	Yavapai	3/15/2026		3

**MOTION: Jennifer Fish moved to approve the 20 applicants listed on the agenda for this meeting for membership in CORP pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-893.D. and to note for the record that the physical examinations for Hannah Burk, Tina Rittenhouse, Michael Holtgrewe, Kenny St. Fleur, Amber Russel, Penny Taylor, Anne Webber Pascua, and Corey Tovar identified a physical or mental condition or injury that existed or occurred before their dates of membership in the plan. The motion was seconded by Scott Mabery and passed unanimously. CORP 2026-19**

### **Receipt of Medical Clarification for Pre-Existing Condition**

A CORP physical examination report for the members listed below showed pre-existing conditions. The Board staff received an explanation of these conditions from the members, and it was added to the members' file.

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date Letter Sent</b>	<b>Date of Response</b>
Penny Taylor	Pinal	12/3/2025	12/23/2025

Note for the record that the Board received an explanation of the listed pre-existing conditions for CORP member Penny Taylor.

### **Update on PSPRS Stars Completion**

During the final STARS webinar held on March 18, 2026, Board staff were informed that the program is expected to launch on April 13, 2026. Board Staff will meet with the CORP contact at PSPRS to further train on this Board's specific access.

### **Discussion:**

The Board Secretary advised that the Board staff will update the Board when the personalized training is complete.

### **Future Agenda Items:**

- Continued Review of Disability Case #25-01 – Maria Land
- Continued Review of Disability Case #26-01 – John Meyers
- Review of Disability Case #26-02 – Jay Drake
- Request of Retiree Returning to Work

### **Call to the Public:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Transcribed April 13, 2026