

MCPAB Committees

To: Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board

From: J. D. Lauritzen, Matthew Page

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Subject: Discussion re: MCPAB Committees

Background:

As the Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board approaches its second year, it is becoming increasingly evident that the Board may benefit from the establishment of standing or ad hoc committees that are designed to assist and inform the Board with respect to the issues facing the Utah medical cannabis program. To that end, under Article IV, Section 3, of the Board's bylaws, "The board may establish standing or special committees and subcommittees. Any proposals of a committee or subcommittee will be brought to the board for a full vote."

Traditionally, board committees are composed of experts and are designed to assist the board to make better and more informed decisions in specific areas. These committees are adept at providing in-depth research/analysis and focused expertise, and when effective, they provide invaluable guidance for the board on complex issues. Committees can also better manage different aspects of the board while the board itself stays focused on the bigger picture of the board's work.

Other reasons for establishing board committees include:

- Delegating certain issues to committees can reduce the length of board meetings as the issues the committee has taken up have been previously discussed and resolved prior to a full board meeting.
- Committees oftentimes make better use of board member's individual skill and expertise, and they can alleviate board member burnout.
- Committees are capable of more than just informing the board on a particular issue. Instead, committees can broaden the collective knowledge and skills of board members, especially when one or more board members may not have a background in relation to the issues discussed and analyzed by the committee.
- Committees are also great places to develop leadership, which lends itself to the emergence of future board chairs or vice chairs.
- Committees help share the load, ensuring that all board members can remain engaged and have an active role.

- Finally, committees are a great way to build a better sense of camaraderie among board members and other committee members as committees generally operate less formally than the full board.

Proposal:

In order to support the Board, and to better streamline Board processes and meetings, we propose establishing one or more standing or ad hoc committees to head up particular agenda items or to research and analyze certain areas of the Utah medical cannabis program. As an example, the Board could vote to establish a standing pharmacy committee made up of the Board's pharmacy representative and other relevant Board members, as well as one Pharmacist in Charge from the 15 medical cannabis pharmacies around the state. Another example might be to establish an ad hoc committee that is tasked with addressing issues related to patient costs in the medical cannabis program. These committees would meet in between regularly scheduled board meetings to discuss and analyze their given issue. These committees would also be responsible to work with the Board's policy analyst and other DHHS staff to research and prepare proposals for upcoming board meetings. Those Board members involved in a given committee would then present to the full board during each monthly meeting, whether to introduce an issue, provide an update on committee efforts, or to bring an issue before the Board for a vote.

Recommendation:

Considering the many issues facing the Utah medical cannabis program, we recommend that the Board establish certain standing and ad hoc committees to assist the Board in its work. Not only will these committees assist the Board from month to month, but they will also ensure that the Board is making the best use of each individual Board member's skill and expertise. It will also serve as a way to develop greater Board leadership, ensuring a strong leadership succession plan as the Board operates over the next few years. Additionally, with the Board analyst's role changing somewhat, these committees will perform some of the work that was previously done by the analyst. This will include research, preparing presentations, and presenting to the full Board at a given board meeting. Through these effective committees, the Board can continue to operate at a high level, shaping cannabis policy for the more than 86,000 patients who rely on cannabis as a medicine.

As the Board's first committee, we would recommend establishing standing committees for each of the major areas of the Utah medical cannabis program. This would see the establishment of three committees: 1) pharmacy and home delivery; 2) cultivator and processor; and 3) recommending medical provider. In the event that the Board desires to establish other standing or ad hoc committees, then we support those efforts, and any Board may make a motion to that effect.