

Cannabis Research Review Board

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 9:00am-11:00am

This meeting was held in person and virtually.

This meeting was recorded. An audio copy of this recording can be found on the Utah Public Notice Website (<https://www.utah.gov/pmnl/>).

Visit the board's website for more information on past meeting minutes and agendas (<https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/>).

Attendees

Board members attending: Matthew McIlff, M.D., Michael Moss, M.D., Misty Smith, PH.D, Russell Cashin, Ph.D., and Melissa Chan, M.D.

DHHS/UDAF staff attending: Lauren Heath, Dr. Michelle Hofmann, Ashley Moretz, Abigail Hodgson, Sarah Dash, Trevor Eckhoff, Dr. Brandon Forsyth, Aimee Isom, Trevor Brown, and Cody James

Agenda

1. Welcome & introduction

Dr. McIlff acknowledged that there was a quorum so the meeting could proceed at approximately 9:02am.

2. Board approval of January 9, 2024 minutes

Dr. McIlff asked the board if there were any proposed changes to the [January 9, 2024](#) minutes by the board. There were no changes proposed. Dr. Smith motioned to approve and Dr. Cashin seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the January 9, 2024 minutes.

3. Muscle spasms/spasticity experimental evidence review

Ms. Heath gave a [presentation](#) to the board members on this agenda item which included referencing the [evidence review report](#) for cannabis for persistent muscle spasms or spasticity. Her presentation included the following:

- Brief evidence report objective and methods
- Included trials
- Overview of SCI/SCD trials
- SCI/SCD trial efficacy results
- SCI/SCD trial safety results
- ROB or quality assessment of SCI trials by SR
- Overview of ALS/PLS or post-stroke trials
- ALS/PLS or post-stroke trial efficacy results
- ALS/PLS or stroke safety results
- ROB or quality assessment for ALS/PLS and post-stroke trials by SR
- Overview of CP/TBI trials
- CP or TBI trial efficacy results
- CP or TBI trial safety results
- ROB or quality assessment for CP or TBI trials by SR
- Evidence review discussion and summary
- ROB and heterogeneity
- Conclusions from SRS and a 2018 Canadian primary care guideline
- Current Utah CRRB guidance
- Considerations for spasms/spasticity guidance by the CRRB
- Considerations for spasms/spasticity guidance by the CRRB
- References
- National academies LOE ratings
- Overview of studied CBPS
- Outcomes of excluded trials with SCI patients

The board discussed the following about the presentation:

- Nature and efficacy of the referenced studies presented by Ms. Heath.
- Following Ms. Heath's proposed recommendations for treatment documents.
- The challenges in studying medical cannabis.

The board took the following action on this agenda item:

- Board members will review the recommendations from Ms. Heath offline and will vote on the recommendations at the next board meeting.

4. Discussion on the THC-O-acetate rule change

Dr. McIlff and Dr. Forsyth of the Utah Department of Agriculture & Food's (UDAF) discussed changes to [R68-29](#) in regards to THC-O-acetate (THC-OAc). The following was discussed by the board:

- Dr. Forsyth from UDAF gave an overview of the need for a rule change and what the change entailed.
- The process of testing for THC-OAc and how Utah is at the forefront of testing in the nation.
- Connections that Dr. Forsyth has made through the Cannabis Regulators Association (CANNRA) on the issue of testing for THC-OAc.
- Efficacy and safety for patients as a result of the rule change.
- Dr. Smith gave an overview of the discussions had by the Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board (MCPAB) on this issue.
- Dr. Smith cited a case report of negative outcomes in Oklahoma.

The public made the following comments on this agenda item:

- Dr. Mark Viner commented that his concerns on this issue were answered during the board's discussion. He noted that future testing of cannabis should include an organic chemistry panel, but that any concerns on public health and safety were addressed.

5. Patient assessment screening tool

Dr. McIlff and Ms. Dash discussed the [Cannabis Patient Assessment Tool](#) with board members. The board members discussed previously proposed changes to the document. Ms. Dash was directed to update the discussed changes and present the changes to the board members for the next board meeting.

6. Memo to MCPAB next steps

Ms. Dash discussed next steps in regards to the Cannabis Research Review Board's (CRRB) memo to the MCPAB on collaboration on application programming with Utah Poison Control and other entities. The following was discussed by the board:

- Board members agreed that collaboration between independent state entities is essential.
- Dr. Smith will present the memo to MCPAB board members at their upcoming board meeting.

7. Legislative updates

Mr. Eckhoff with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) gave an update to board members regarding the 2024 Utah Legislative Session. His update include the following:

- Senate Bill 233
- House Bill 389

The board discussed the following about the updates:

- Dr. McIlff discussed the change of stewardship of the CRRB from DHHS to the University of Utah Center for Medical Cannabis Research.

8. Research & education updates

Ms. Dash gave an update to board members on the Center for Medical Cannabis' (CMC) research and education efforts. Her updates included the following:

- A survey was sent out by the CMC to Qualified Medical Providers (QMPs) in December to determine the nature of the conversations being had with patients. Results of the survey can be found [here](#).
- CMC's efforts on educating QMPs and other members of the public.
- Updates on the CMC's forthcoming newsletter.
- Upcoming presentations that board members can attend.

9. Discuss next meeting and board transition

Dr. McIlff discussed the June 11, 2024 CRRB meeting details including changes to board leadership. Dr. Moss will take over the position of Board Chair and board members will elect a new Vice Chair.

10. Board comment

There were no remaining items that board members wished to discuss.

11. Public comment

There were no comments made by members of the public.

12. Adjourn

Dr. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Cashin seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to end the meeting, and the meeting ended at approximately 10:39pm.