

Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

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: JD Lauritzen, Matthew Page, Nanette Berezhnyy, Desiree Hennessy, Misty Smith, PhD, Jimmy Higgs, and Cami Clark, CMHC.

Board members excused: Kent Andersen and Chris Morgan, APRN

DHHS/UDAF staff attending: Richard Oborn, Abigail Hodgson, Ashley Moretz, Trevor Eckhoff, Jeremiah Sniffin, Dr. Brandon Forsyth, Sara Lealos, Cody James, Clover Meaders, Amber Brown, Sarah Dash, Melissa Ure, Greg V, and Trevor Brown.

Agenda

1. Welcome

Mr. Lauritzen acknowledged that there was a quorum so the meeting could proceed at approximately 2:01pm.

2. Board approval of April 2024 minutes

Mr. Lauritzen asked the board if there were any proposed changes to the [April 2024 minutes](#) by the board. There were no changes proposed. Dr. Smith motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the April 2024 minutes.

3. Board administrative business

Mr. Lauritzen discussed the election process for June's board Chair and Vice Chair elections. He also discussed the potential federal rescheduling of cannabis

4. DHHS and UDAF update

DHHS updates:

- Mr. Oborn of the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) gave the following updates:
 - Medical cannabis card expiration survey.
 - Process and software updates.
 - Current medical cannabis studies and surveys being conducted.
 - Presentation and outreach efforts.
 - Current program statistics and auditing procedures.

UDAF updates:

- Dr. Forsyth and Mr. James of the Utah Department of Agriculture & Food (UDAF) gave the following updates to the board:
 - Process and software updates.
 - Reduction in THC-O-acetate (THC-OAc) in medical cannabis products tested by UDAF.
 - Testing and rule procedure updates.

5. UDAF rules update

Dr. Forsyth and Mr. James updated board members on draft rules [R66-5](#) and [R66-9](#). Dr. Forsyth and Mr. James answered questions on these rule changes. Mr. James noted that many changes reflected in both rules were as a result of statutory changes.

6. Patient cost in the medical cannabis program

Ms. Hennessy and Ms. Berezhnyy led a discussion which addressed a [presentation](#) by Mr. Eckhoff and Mr. James to the board members on patient cost in the medical cannabis program.

The board discussed the following on this agenda item:

- A questionnaire for medical cannabis licensees and qualified medical providers regarding business costs and the impact of operating costs on patients. Ms. Hennessy asked for board members or any industry members to send herself and Ms. Berezhnyy any input for what to include in the survey.

- Mr. Lauritzen asked about the cost comparison for other state's medical cannabis programs.
- Cost of purchasing medical cannabis devices and how to bring the cost of purchasing them down.

The public gave the following comments about this agenda item:

- Lucy, a patient and pharmacy agent with WholesomeCo, asked why DHHS would not be emailing a PDF of patient's medical cannabis cards to patients anymore.
 - Mr. Oborn responded to this question and explained the new software process.

7. MCPAB subcommittees

Mr. Lauritzen and Mr. Page discussed their [memo](#) on MCPAB subcommittees.

The board discussed the following about subcommittees:

- Mr. Lauritzen encouraged board members to create subcommittees on specific topics of interest and noted that this would be an excellent way for board members to utilize their specific areas of expertise.
- Dr. Smith wanted to create a subcommittee to work with the University of Utah Center for Medical Cannabis Research.

The board took the following action on this agenda item:

- Vote: Approve the creation of a pharmacy representation subcommittee.
 - Motioned: JD
 - 2nd: Matt
 - Roll call vote:
 - Nanette Berezhnyy: Yea
 - Cami Clark: Yea
 - Desiree Hennessy: Yea
 - Jimmy Higgs: Yea
 - JD Lauritzen: Yea
 - Matthew Page: Yea
 - Misty Smith: Yea
- Vote: Approve the creation of a cultivator and processor sub committee.
 - Motioned: Mr. Page
 - 2nd: Mr. Lauritzen
 - Roll call vote:

- Nanette Bereznhyy: Yea
- Cami Clark: Yea
- Desiree Hennessy: Yea
- Jimmy Higgs: Yea
- JD Lauritzen: Yea
- Matthew Page: Yea
- Misty Smith: Yea

8. Next meeting's agenda

Mr. Lauritzen discussed the next meeting's agenda and encouraged board members and members of the public to submit recommendations for agenda items.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Page motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Smith seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to end the meeting, and the meeting ended at approximately 3:46.