

# Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 10:00am-1:00pm.

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/pmn/>).

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, Jimmy Higgs, and Cami Clark, CMHC.

**Board members excused:** Misty Smith, PhD, Chris Morgan, APRN, and Kent Andersen.

**DHHS/UDAF staff attending:** Richard Oborn, Abigail Hodgson, Trevor Eckhoff, Jeremiah Sniffin, Aimee Isom, Clover Meaders, Anna Ferrin, Sara Lealos, Jesse Hawkley, Kaira Bird, Shannon Thoman-Black, Ashley Moretz, and Cody James.

## Agenda

### 1. Welcome

Mr. Page acknowledged that there was a quorum and the meeting proceeded at approximately 10:00am. He began the meeting by reading through the [introduction script](#).

### 2. Board approval of July 2024 minutes

Mr. Page asked the board if there were any proposed changes to the July 2024 minutes by the board. There were no changes proposed. Mr. Lauritzen motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Berezhnyy seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the July 2024 minutes.

### **3. Board administrative business**

Mr. Page discussed the updates that board leadership and regulators have made for when board meetings are canceled in the future. Mr. Page also discussed changing October's meeting start time to 1:00pm rather than 2:00pm. Board members agreed to start the meeting an hour early.

### **4. DHHS and UDAF update**

DHHS updates:

- Mr. Oborn of the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) updated the board on the following items:
  - process and software updates;
  - presentation and outreach efforts;
  - educational videos being produced by the University of Utah Center for Medical Cannabis Research;
  - current program statistics and auditing procedures; and
  - [draft rule R383-16 on updated Qualified Medical Provider \(QMP\) marketing](#).

UDAF updates:

- Mr. James of the Utah Department of Agriculture & Food (UDAF) updated the board on the following items:
  - the upcoming launch of the new inventory control system; and
  - administrative rules.

### **5. UDAF product cost analysis**

Mr. James gave a [presentation](#) analyzing the cost of Utah medical cannabis products. Board members discussed future analyses and desired data breakdowns.

DHHS/UDAF staff clarified the following for the board:

- Mr. Oborn clarified that board members can request more specific data and how the new software system that DHHS and UDAF are implementing will make data collection easier.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Narith Panh with Dragonfly Wellness;
- Alex Iorg with WholesomeCo Cannabis; and
- Bijan Sakaki with Beehive Farmacy.

## **6. Patient cost**

Ms. Berezhnyy and Ms. Hennessy led a discussion with board members on studying patient costs, recommending that a legislatively commissioned third-party study to study patient cost and economic factors influencing the cost of medical cannabis products. Ms. Berezhnyy noted a study could provide data on patient involvement in the program and bolster program credibility and trust with existing patients. Board members and regulators also discussed patient education efforts.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Bijan Sakaki with Beehive Farmacy;
- Alex Iorg with WholesomeCo Cannabis;
- Narith Panh with Dragonfly Wellness; and
- Blake Smith with Zion Medicinal.

The board took the following action on this agenda item:

- Vote: Recommend to lawmakers to commission a study of Utah's medical cannabis operating and patient cost by an unbiased third party.
  - Motioned: Ms. Hennessy
  - 2nd: Ms. Berezhnyy
  - Roll call vote:
    - Nanette Berezhnyy: Yea
    - Cami Clark: Yea
    - Desiree Hennessy: Yea
    - Jimmy Higgs: Yea
    - JD Lauritzen: Yea
    - Matthew Page: Yea

## **7. Medical cannabis pharmacy relocation**

This agenda item was moved up and Mr. Page read the [UDAF statement on The Forest medical cannabis pharmacy relocation](#). Board members discussed the statement, the reasons that UDAF ultimately approved the request, and the process for potential pharmacy relocation in the future.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Bijan Sakaki with Beehive Farmacy;
- Narith Panh with Dragonfly Wellness; and
- Blake Smith with Zion Medicinal.

## **8. Medical cannabis pricing transparency**

Mr. Page and Ms. Hennessy introduced Representative Jennifer Dailey-Provost and discussed the request by lawmakers to increase transparency of medical cannabis pricing. Representative Dailey-Provost proposed a state sponsored website on cannabis products in Utah, and board members discussed the proposal. Board members also discussed the process of discussing pricing transparency legislation with Representative Dailey-Provost. Board members also discussed the [medical cannabis cost comparison website](#).

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Bijan Sakaki with Beehive Farmacy;
- Narith Pahn with Dragonfly Wellness; and
- Alex Iorg with WholesomeCo Cannabis.

## **9. Next meeting's agenda**

Board members discussed potential agenda items for October's meeting.

## **10. Adjourn**

Mr. Higgs motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Lauritzen seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to end the meeting, and the meeting ended at approximately 12:25pm.