

Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 1:00 pm-4:00 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/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 Bereznyy, Desiree Hennessy, Misty Smith, PhD, Kent Andersen, Chris Morgan, APRN, and Cami Clark, CMHC

Board members excused: Jimmy Higgs

DHHS/UDAF staff attending: Richard Oborn, Abigail Hodgson, Trevor Eckhoff, Jeremiah Sniffin, Clover Meaders, Amanda Hovermale, Dr. Brandon Forsyth, Aimee Isom, Jesse Hawkley, Sarah Dash, Trevor Brown, and Cody James

Agenda

1. Welcome

Mr. Page acknowledged that there was a quorum so the meeting could proceed at approximately 1:02pm. He began the meeting by reading through the [introduction script](#).

2. Board approval of September 2024 minutes

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

3. Board administrative business

Mr. Page discussed the start time for board meetings and confirmed the 2:00pm start time for meetings for the remainder of the year.

4. DHHS and UDAF update

DHHS updates:

- Mr. Oborn of the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) updated the board on the following items:
 - current program statistics and auditing procedures;
 - presentation and outreach efforts, including quarterly medical cannabis provider meetings;
 - updates from the Cannabis Research Review Board quarterly meeting; and
 - the upcoming Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group meeting scheduled for later in the day.

UDAF updates:

- Mr. James and Dr. Forsyth of the Utah Department of Agriculture & Food (UDAF) updated the board on the following items:
 - discussions with the Utah Division of Finance regarding electronic payment providers;
 - the upcoming launch of the new inventory control system (ICS) Hub;
 - Upcoming meeting with the legislature's executive appropriations committee (EAC) meeting and plans to discuss additional medical cannabis pharmacy openings at that meeting; and
 - administrative rule updates.

5. Open and Public Meeting Acts training

Ms. Meaders from the Office of the Attorney General [presented](#) the Open and Public Meeting Acts training. Board members had no questions for Ms. Meaders.

6. UDAF draft rule R66-10: closed door pharmacy

Dr. Forsyth and Mr. James led a discussion on [UDAF's draft rule R66-10](#). The draft rule discusses closed door pharmacies.

The board discussed the following about the presentation:

- the difference between a medical cannabis pharmacy and medical cannabis pharmacy licensed for home delivery;
- process and delivery procedures under the draft rule;

- how an operator will indicate their willingness to carry all brands under the draft rule; and
- records that closed door pharmacies would be required to maintain, including conducting daily inventory and employee's schedules.

DHHS/UDAF staff clarified the following for the board:

- UDAF staff clarified the application process for closed door pharmacies.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Narith Panh with Dragonfly Wellness.

The board took the following action on this agenda item:

- Vote: Remove anything that relates to a daily inventory in R66-10-9-(5)(a), (5)(c), (10), and anywhere else in the draft rule, and replace it with a monthly inventory as required for medical cannabis pharmacies under R66-5.
 - Motioned: Mr. Lauritzen
 - 2nd: Dr. Smith
 - Roll call vote:
 - Kent Andersen: Yea
 - Nanette Berezhnyy: Yea
 - Cami Clark: Yea
 - Desiree Hennessy: Yea
 - JD Lauritzen: Yea
 - Chris Morgan: Yea
 - Matthew Page: Yea
 - Misty Smith: Yea
- Vote: Remove anywhere in draft rule R66-10-4 to remove the reference to work schedule.
 - Motioned: Mr. Lauritzen
 - 2nd: Ms. Hennessy
 - Roll call vote:
 - Kent Andersen: Yea
 - Nanette Berezhnyy: Yea
 - Cami Clark: Yea
 - Desiree Hennessy: Yea
 - JD Lauritzen: Yea
 - Chris Morgan: Yea

- Matthew Page: Yea
- Misty Smith: Yea

7. UDAF legislative priorities

Dr. Forsyth and Mr. James from UDAF presented their [priorities](#) for Utah's 2025 legislative session and answered questions from board members.

8. Medical cannabis statewide product inventory website

Mr. Page presented his [memo](#) proposing the development of a medical cannabis statewide inventory website. Board members also discussed letters from [WholesomeCo, Inc](#), [The Flower Shop](#), and [Dragonfly Wellness, Beehive Farmacy, Standard Wellness Utah, LLC., and Pure Utah](#).

The board discussed the following about this agenda item:

- the logistics of the proposed website;
- the cost of implementing and maintaining a website;
- current legislative efforts to create a statewide product inventory website; and
- how a statewide product inventory website would affect patients and the price of medical cannabis.

DHHS/UDAF staff clarified the following for the board:

- Mr. Oborn reported that the CMC will have approximately \$8 million in the qualified patient enterprise fund at the end of fiscal year FY 2025, and that lawmakers will consider how to use the fund balance during the 2025 legislative session.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Mindy Madeo with Beehive Farmacy;
- Alan Roth with Curaleaf;
- Blake Smith with Zion Pharmaceuticals;
- Narith Panh with Dragonfly Wellness;
- Bijan Sakaki with Beehive Farmacy;
- Tyler with Riverside Farm; and
- Paul Henderson with Pure Utah Processing.

The board took the following action on this agenda item:

- Vote: Table the medical cannabis statewide product inventory website item.
 - Motioned: Mr. Page

- 2nd: Ms. Clark
- Roll call vote:
 - Kent Andersen: Yea
 - Nanette Berezchnyy: Yea
 - Cami Clark: Yea
 - Desiree Hennessy: Yea
 - JD Lauritzen: Yea
 - Chris Morgan: Yea
 - Matthew Page: Yea
 - Misty Smith: Yea

9. Next meeting's agenda

Board members discussed the agenda for the Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group meeting scheduled for later in the day and the potential agenda items for the board's November meeting.

10. Adjourn

Ms. Hennessy 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 2:57pm.