

Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 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/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, Misty Smith, PhD, Kent Andersen, Jimmy Higgs, Chris Morgan, APRN, and Cami Clark, CMHC.

DHHS/UDAF staff attending: Richard Oborn, Abigail Hodgson, Trevor Eckhoff, Jeremiah Sniffin, Amanda Slater, Shannon Thoman-Black, Sara Lealos, and Cody James.

Agenda

1. Welcome

Mr. Page acknowledged that there was a quorum so the meeting could proceed at approximately 2:06pm and read the [introduction script](#).

2. Board approval of December 2024 minutes

Mr. Page asked the board if there were any proposed changes to the [December 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 December 2024 minutes.

3. Board administrative business

No board administrative business was discussed.

4. DHHS and UDAF update

DHHS Updates:

- Mr. Oborn of the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) updated the board on, and answered questions about, the following items:
 - current program statistics and program metrics;
 - the quarterly medical cannabis provider meeting that was held on January 9, 2025. Information on these meetings can be found at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/providers/quarterly-medical-provider-meeting/>; and
 - DHHS outreach and education efforts.

UDAF updates:

- Mr. James of the Utah Department of Agriculture & Food (UDAF) updated the board on, and answered questions about, the following items:
 - Medical Cannabis Production and Pharmacy Licensing Board meeting that will be held on February 5, 2025. Information on these meetings can be found at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/cannabis-production-establishment-licensing-advisory-board/>; and
 - the launch of the new Inventory Control System (ICS).

5. DHHS presentation on purchasing trends

Mr. Oborn gave a [presentation](#) on medical cannabis patient purchasing trends and answered questions from board members. Board members discussed the presentation and brainstormed ways that DHHS can educate medical cannabis patients.

6. Medical cannabis licensing framework

Mr. Lauritzen gave a [presentation](#) on a proposal to change the criteria for when an additional medical cannabis pharmacy license can be issued. His presentation referenced his [memo](#) and board members discussed changes to the proposal including:

- the proposal;
- how additional pharmacies get licensed;
- why the existing process is challenging;
- how should the process be changed or supplemented; and
- recommendation options.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

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

The board took the following action on this agenda item:

- In addition to the criteria HB0203S01 requires the medical cannabis ombudsman to consider for the issuance of additional medical cannabis pharmacies in lines 949 through 953, the board recommends that those criteria in 4-41a-1005(2)(c) be more specifically outlined in statute or that lawmakers grant rule making authority to the licensing authority so additional details about the criteria can be established in administrative rule.
 - Motioned: Mr. Lauritzen
 - 2nd: Mr. Andersen
 - Roll call vote:
 - Kent Andersen: Yea
 - Nanette Berezhnyy: Yea
 - Cami Clark: Yea
 - Desiree Hennessy: Yea
 - Jimmy Higgs: Yea
 - JD Lauritzen: Yea
 - Chris Morgan: Yea
 - Matthew Page: Yea
 - Misty Smith: Yea

7. S.B. 64 Medical Cannabis Amendments

Mr. Page led a discussion on S.B. 64 Medical Cannabis Amendments and the board discussed the [bill summary](#).

8. H.B. 203 Cannabis Amendments

Mr. Page led a discussion on H.B. 203, 1st substitute and the board discussed a [bill summary](#) from the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel and supplemental handouts [one](#) and [two](#) prepared by Mr. Page. Board members discussed various amendments proposed in the bill, including:

- administrative changes;
- advertising changes;
- enforcement changes;

- licensing changes;
- operations changes;
- product information changes;
- funding changes;
- Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board changes;
- medical cannabis ombudsman establishment;
- medical cannabis sales website changes;
- product information changes;
- state central patient portal changes; and
- sunset changes.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Valerie Ahanonu with The University of Utah Center for Medical Cannabis Research (CMCR).

9. Next meeting's agenda

The board discussed agenda items for the February 18, 2025 meeting.

10. Adjourn

Mr. Lauritzen motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Hennessy seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to end the meeting, and the meeting ended at approximately 4:30pm.