

Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 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, Clover Meaders, Dr. Brandon Forsyth, Cody James, Alyssa Smailes, Anna Ferin, Brenda Holt, Mark Fitu, Kaira Bird, Paula Azbury, Sarah Dash, and Shannon-Thoman Black.

Agenda

1. Welcome

Mr. Page acknowledged that there was a quorum so the meeting could proceed at approximately 2:05pm and read the [introduction script](#).

2. Board approval of January 2025 minutes

Mr. Page asked the board if there were any proposed changes to the [January 2025](#) minutes by the board. There were no changes proposed. Mr. Anderson motioned to approve the minutes and Dr. Smith seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the January 2025 minutes.

3. Board administrative business

Board members discussed the [Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board \(MCPAB\) conflict of interest policy and disclosure statement](#). DHHS will prompt board members to sign the statement annually in July.

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;
 - potential DHHS fee changes;
 - outreach and education efforts; and
 - Electronic Verification System (EVS) updates.

UDAF updates:

- Dr. Forsyth and Mr. James of the Utah Department of Agriculture & Food (UDAF) updated the board on, and answered questions about, the following items:
 - legislative session updates; and
 - Inventory Control System (ICS) project updates.

5. H.B. 203 Cannabis Amendments, 3rd Substitute

Board members discussed the [H.B. 203 bill summary](#) and desired changes to the bill. There were no public comments made on this agenda item.

6. H.B. 357 Medical Cannabis Modifications, 1st Substitute

Board members reviewed the [summary of H.B. 357](#) and its [amendment](#), discussing potential modifications to the bill.

The board discussed the following about the presentation:

- Dr. Smith emphasized the need for increased education on medical cannabis among practitioners and advocated for expanding educational opportunities in the field.
- Mr. Oborn explained the DHHS process for selecting continuing education providers and outlined the steps for requesting modifications to the selection criteria.
- Mr. Lauritzen requested that DHHS clarify its position on continuing education and stated his frustrations with the 2025 legislative session.

There were no public comments made on this agenda item.

7. H.B. 343 Cannabis Production Amendments

Board members discussed the [summary of H.B. 343](#), its amendment, and potential changes to the bill.

8. Next meeting's agenda

The board discussed agenda items for the March 18, 2025, meeting and topics the board would like to discuss before the next meeting of the Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group during the 2025 legislature interim. Dr. Smith provided updates from the Cannabis Research Review Board (CRRB) meeting held on February 11, 2025.

9. Adjourn

Dr. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to end the meeting, and the meeting ended at approximately 3:15pm.