

# Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 2:00 p.m.-4:05 p.m.

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/>) and the Center for Medical Cannabis youtube page (<https://www.youtube.com/@utahmedicalcannabis>)

Visit the board's website for more information on past meeting minutes and agendas (<https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/medical-cannabis-policy-advisory-board/>).

## Attendees

**Board members attending:** Nanette Berezhnyy, Cami Clark, CMHC, Desiree Hennessy, JD Lauritzen, Matthew Page, Jimmy Higgs and Chris Morgan, APRN.

**Board members excused:** Kent Andersen, Misty Smith, PhD.

**DHHS/UDAF staff attending:** Richard Oborn, Trevor Eckhoff, Jeremiah Sniffin, Brandon Forsyth, PhD, Cody James, Aimee Isom, Brenda Holt, Clover Meaders, and Sara Lealos.

## Agenda

### 1. Welcome – Mr. Page

#### a. [Intro Script](#)

Mr. Page welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the intro script.

### 2. Approval of [May 2025 minutes](#) – Mr. Page

Mr. Page presented the minutes from the May meeting. A roll call vote was proposed to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### 3. Administrative Business – Mr. Page

Mr. Page mentioned meeting with the Office of Legislative Auditor General (OLAG). He discussed the assistance that the board receives from DHHS and UDAF. He mentioned that OLAG may reach out to board members for an interview on board operations.

#### **4. DHHS and UDAF update – Mr. Oborn and Dr. Forsyth**

DHHS: Mr. Oborn discussed the May monthly report. There are 101,200 active medical cannabis patient cards, 986 qualified medical providers, and 87 pharmacy medical providers. He discussed the implementation of bills passed during the 2025 general session. DHHS will send an e-mail to medical cannabis pharmacies with a reminder about the uniform transaction fee reducing from \$3 to \$1.50. Starting July 1, medical providers will no longer be required to pay a registration fee. Mr. Oborn discussed upcoming changes to the CMC website and the electronic verification system (EVS) software. The EVS changes include being able to print cards and better accessibility on mobile phones.

- Mr. Page inquired about what type of communication will be emailed to patients regarding the fee changes. Mr. Oborn mentioned that an e-mail will be sent out to patients and medical providers about these changes.

UDAF: Dr. Forsyth opened by discussing the Cannabis Regulators Association External Stakeholder Meeting that UDAF and DHHS attended in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Forsyth mentioned that judging from discussions with other attending states, the Utah program is doing well. Specifically, the patient focus of the Utah program and an industry that cares about patients. In addition, Dr. Forsyth stated a new pharmacy license application will open July 1 and close on August 1. This license will be awarded later in the year. Mr. Lauritzen inquired about the new inventory control system launch and Dr. Forsyth said it may go live in August.

#### **5. UDAF draft rules – Mr. Page**

##### **a. [R66-3 Quality Assurance Testing on Cannabis](#)**

Mr. James began with emphasising UDAF's direction of changing rules to reflect relying on statute more than administrative rules. He discussed the changes to the definitions section and proposed changes to R66-3-3(5) being a request from WholesomeCo. This subsection discusses batch processing requirements. Mr. James continued with subsection (14) about cannabis production establishment remediation requirements. He concluded discussing R66-3-13, which requires terpene testing. Dr. Forsyth explained that this subsection was added to accommodate testing laboratory capabilities.

- Mr. Page inquired about the bulk testing changes. He asked about how that is different from the testing done today.
- Dr. Forsyth explained that the new language on bulk testing formalizes this process.

- Mr. Lauritzen mentioned that processors couldn't use the final package testing for potency as final package testing. It will make processing and packaging easier. He then discussed the remediation stipulations and his concern. He asked if a product fails remediation, will it be destroyed?
- Mr. James clarified that at a high level that is correct, but in statute if radiation is used for microbials it may be different. He will double check the statute.
- Mr. Lauritzen inquired about microbials and other types of contamination.
- Mr. James clarified that the processor can petition UDAF to approve a specific remediation method.
- Dr. Forsyth emphasized that they are following the statute as closely as possible. He also said that UDAF would work with processors on remediation moving forward.
- Mr. Lauritzen followed up with a question about flower remediation and conducting extraction with remediated flower.
- Dr. Forsyth said that this is not allowed but UDAF would be willing to work with processors on potentially changing this law moving forward.

b. [R66-4 Independent Cannabis Testing Laboratory](#)

Mr. James began by explaining the changes to the definitions section. He then explained that R66-4-3(4)-(7) and (9)-(11) are being moved to R66-9. Mr. James discussed the other changes to the rule such as formatting changes and removal of duplicative language already in statute.

- Mr. Lauritzen commented that he would like UDAF to publish something to processors and labs about these changes, such as a guide.
- Jonathan H. Peterson made a public comment.

**6. Medical cannabis purchasing limits – Mr. Page**

a. [Presentation](#)

b. [Memo](#)

Mr. Page presented on purchasing trends for unprocessed flower and composite THC products a presentation detailing how close patients came to the purchasing limit for flower and composite THC. He discussed how to address purchasing limits moving forward.

- Ms. Berezhnny mentioned how the presentation shows that product cost is an issue for patients, given the percentage of patients that didn't make any purchase.
- Ms. Hennessy commented that the data show patients and providers are working together on finding a balance of how much product is needed for their treatment.
- Ms. Berezhnny mentioned that a reason why flower purchasing limits are rarely met is that flower combustion is illegal. Ms. Hennessy followed up in agreement and stated that patients have to buy a vaporizing device to consume flower, which adds cost.

- Mr. Morgan made a comment that as a provider, it would be nice to get a notification from EVS when a patient has reached their maximum recommendation limit or the state purchasing limit. He would like to know this information as it may be an indication that the patient may need to visit the provider for a follow-up appointment.
- Bijan Sakaki made a public comment.
- Jonathan Peterson made a comment.
- Narith Panh made a comment.
- Mr. Lauritzen made a comment that compared to other states, Utah is in the middle in terms of purchasing limits and that no matter the limit, individuals will still find a way to purchase cannabis. He doesn't want patients to have to resort to the black market or traveling out of state to get their cannabis.
- Mr. Page emphasized that he is not advocating for an increase or decrease to the existing limits. The data indicate that a majority of patients do not meet the purchase limits.

## **7. Next meeting's agenda – Mr. Page**

Mr. Page commented that the items on the MCPAB agenda tracker are lean. During the next meeting, the board will vote on the next chair and vice-chair. Open and Public Meetings Act training will be conducted. He emphasized that the MCPAB needs to pay attention to and provide the medical cannabis governance structure working group with recommendations, as they will likely meet in August.

- Ms. Berezhnyy wants to see an increase to the existing medical cannabis purchasing limit.
- Mr. Oborn commented that there are exceptions to the patient product limit for patients who've been diagnosed with a terminal illness, have a life expectancy of six months or less, and need the waiver for palliative purposes, per 26B-4-245.
- Mr. Morgan is working on an agenda item regarding the possibility of a provider being able to increase their patient's purchasing limit without DHHS approval.
- There was a discussion about the University of Utah Center for Medical Cannabis Research (CMCR) having meetings as it absorbs the sunseting Cannabis Research Review Board's duties and if there can be more collaboration between the CMCR and the MCPAB.
- Mr. Oborn clarified that the CMCR facilitates research and does not conduct research.

## **8. Adjourn – Mr. Page**

Ms. Clark motioned to adjourn the meeting and Nanette Berezhnyy seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously to end the meeting, and the meeting ended at approximately 3:10 p.m.

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UNAPPROVED