Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 15, 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: Kent Andersen, Nanette Berezhnyy, Cami Clark, CMHC, Desiree Hennessy, Jimmy Higgs, J. D. Lauritzen, Chris Morgan, APRN, Matthew Page, and Misty Smith, PhD.

DHHS/UDAF staff attending: Kaira Bird, Sarah Dash, Trevor Eckhoff, Anna Ferrin, Dr. Brandon Forsyth, Cody James, Abigail Hodgson, Aimee Isom, Sara Lealos, Richard Oborn.

Agenda

1. **Welcome**

Mr. Page acknowledged that there was a quorum so the meeting could proceed at approximately 2:00pm and read the introduction script.

2. **Board approval of March 2025 minutes**

Mr. Page asked the Board if there were any proposed changes to the March 18, 2025 meeting minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Dr. Smith. The board voted unanimously to approve the March 2025 minutes as presented.

3. **Board administrative business**

There was no Board administrative business discussed.

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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 April 10, 2025;
        - The next meeting will be July 10 at 8 a.m.
            - Register for the meeting here: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qURooTe3TeCie0vB_clkmQ#/registration
        - Webpage for the Medical Provider Quarterly Meeting is live: https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/providers/quarterly-medical-provider-meeting/
        - Minutes from January 9, 2025 meeting: https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/Medical-Provider-Quarterly-Meeting-Minutes-Jan-2025.pdf
        - Google form to suggest topics for future meetings: https://forms.gle/oAgFiUDspEUyd5YeA;
    - other outreach and education efforts by DHHS;
    - the Cannabis Research Review Board (CRRB) sunsets in July 2025. Some CRRB members are transitioning to serve as advisors to the University of Utah Center for Medical Cannabis Research (CMCR), including MCPAB board member Dr. Smith, which will take over evidence-based guidance responsibilities;
    - legislative compliance updates; and
    - Electronic Verification System (EVS) updates and enhancements.

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:
    - Inventory Control System (ICS) updates; and
    - legislative implementation updates.

5. **UDAF draft rules**

Mr. James presented the draft rules—R66-1: Cannabis Cultivation and R66-2: Cannabis Processing—to the Board and responded to questions from Board members. R66-3:

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Quality Assurance Testing on Cannabis will be discussed at the May 2025 Board meeting following updates from UDAF.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Narith Panh with Dragonfly Wellness; and
- Scott Erickson with Standard Wellness.

6. Patient product information insert summary

Mr. Oborn outlined the Center for Medical Cannabis (CMC)'s plans to implement a product information insert for medical cannabis patients in Utah and responded to questions and input from the Board.

7. Removing requirement for caregiver/guardian background check

Ms. Hennessy presented a memo she co-authored with Ms. Berezhnyy and Mr. Lauritzen regarding the removal of background checks for caregivers and patients.

DHHS/UDAF staff clarified the following for the Board:

- Mr. Oborn answered questions on how often caregivers or guardians fail their background checks or have their cards revoked; and
- Mr. Oborn answered questions about CMC's fees.

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: Recommend that the legislature remove the background check requirements for caregivers and guardians in favor of an attestation that they have not committed a disqualifying felony or drug distribution offense; as those terms are defined in Utah's medical cannabis laws, to make the attestation subject to penalty of perjury, and that the application fee for caregivers and guardians are waived.
    - Motioned: Mr. Lauritzen
    - 2nd: Dr. Smith
    - Roll call vote:
        - Kent Andersen: Yea
        - Nanette Berezhnyy: Yea
        - Cami Clark: Yea
        - Desiree Hennessy: Yea

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        - Jimmy Higgs: Yea
        - JD Lauritzen: Yea
        - Matthew Page: Yea
        - Misty Smith: Yea

8. Job protections for medical cannabis patients

Ms. Hennessy presented a memo she authored on expanding employee protections for medical cannabis patients. She will draft a statutory proposal for consideration at next month's meeting. Mr. Andersen has contacted business associations to gather input from business owners on the topic.

9. Medical cannabis pharmacy carry-out bag requirements

Mr. Lauritzen presented a memo he authored regarding medical cannabis pharmacy carry-out bag requirements and answered questions from Board members.

The Board took the following action on this agenda item:

- Vote: Recommend removal of the requirement that a medical cannabis cardholder, when transporting medical cannabis in public, do so within an opaque bag or box, as required by UCA 4-41a-1102(3)(b).
    - Motioned: Mr. Andersen
    - 2nd: Ms. Berezhnyy
    - Roll call vote:
        - Kent Andersen: Yea
        - Nanette Berezhnyy: Yea
        - Cami Clark: Yea
        - Desiree Hennessy: Yea
        - Jimmy Higgs: Yea
        - JD Lauritzen: Yea
        - Matthew Page: Yea
        - Misty Smith: Yea

10. Next meeting's agenda

The Board discussed agenda items for the May 20, 2025 meeting.

11. Adjourn

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Ms. Hennessy motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Bereznhyy seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to end the meeting, and the meeting ended at approximately 4:45pm.

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