

Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 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/>) 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, J. D. Lauritzen, Matthew Page, Misty Smith, PhD., Jimmy Higgs and Chris Morgan, DNP.

Board members excused: Kent Andersen

DHHS/UDAF staff attending: Richard Oborn, Shannon Thoman-Black, Trevor Eckhoff, Jeremiah Sniffin, Brandon Forsyth, PhD, Cody James, Aimee Isom, Clover Meaders.

Agenda

1. Welcome – Mr. Page

- a. [Intro Script](#)

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

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

Mr. Page asked the Board if there were any proposed changes to the June 17, 2025 meeting minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Lauritzen made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Berezhnyy. The minutes were approved unanimously by a voice vote.

3. Administrative Business – Mr. Page

a. Chair and vice-chair elections

Mr. Page opened up the election for chair and vice chair, noting the term length is one year. Mr. Page nominated Ms. Hennessy for chair. Ms. Hennessy was confirmed by a unanimous voice vote. Mr. Page then acknowledged Ms. Berezhnyy's self-nomination for vice-chair, which the board received by email. Ms. Berezhnyy was confirmed by a unanimous voice vote.

b. Conflict of interest forms – Mr. Eckhoff

Mr. Eckhoff will send updated forms to board members for electronic signature.

c. [OPMA training](#) – Ms. Meaders

Ms. Meaders presented Open and Public Meetings Act training. There were no questions.

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

a. DHHS updates:

Mr. Oborn with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) updated the board on and answered questions about the following items:

- Current program statistics from the June monthly report.
- Implementation of bills passed during the 2025 general session, including reductions in fees that came into effect on July 1. An increase in the recommending medical provider patient limit to 1,539 patients, which took effect on July 1.
- The launch of an improved Center for Medical Cannabis website on July 1.
- A meeting with medical cannabis processors regarding the patient product information insert
- A quarterly medical provider meeting was held on July 10th.
- An upcoming presentation to the Rotary Club of Millcreek rotary along with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and the Utah Patients Coalition.
- Center for Medical Cannabis patient and provider newsletters that will be released later in the week.

b. UDAF updates:

Dr. Forsyth with the Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) updated the board on and answered questions about the following items:

- Patient advocacy group member seat on the Cannabis Production Establishment and PharmacyLicensing Advisory Board) is open for applications.
- Mr. Lauritzen had a follow up question to UDAF regarding the launch of the

new Inventory Control System (ICS).

- Dr. Forsyth said that the original launch date for the new ICS is outdated. The launch date will likely be in September, but UDAF is still aiming for August.

5. R66-5 Medical Cannabis Pharmacy draft rule – Dr. Forsyth and Mr. James

a. [Draft rule](#)

Mr. James presented and answered questions on the draft rule changes to R66-5. This initiative aims at removing duplicative language in administrative rule that exists in statute and an avoidance on expanding regulatory requirements not listed in statute. Mr. James reiterated that if this rule, or any other rule, is approved and published, there will be opportunity for public comment 30 days after publication.

- The board discussed the following:
 - The need for pharmacies to have operating hours submitted to UDAF as a change to an operating plan; and
 - The appropriate amount of time a medical cannabis pharmacy should have to report a disparity of 10% or greater in the amount of cannabis received and what is indicated on the transport manifest.

6. University of Utah Center for Medical Cannabis Research updates – Ms.

Ahanonu

a. [Presentation](#)

Valerie Ahanonu gave a presentation about the University of Utah Center for Medical Cannabis Research. Ms. Ahanonu discussed leadership and staff, projects, grants, and academic research. The presentation included an update regarding a symposium hosted at the University of Utah on January 21, 2025. There were no questions for Ms. Ahanonu.

7. Recommending Medical Provider purchasing limit expansion – Dr. Morgan

a. [Memo](#)

Dr. Morgan presented his recommendation to allow a recommending medical provider (RMP) to increase the amount of medical cannabis a patient can purchase to 1.5 times the current monthly purchasing limit.

- The board discussed the following:
 - What indicators would allow an increase.
 - The providers should be able to decide what indicators are appropriate for each patient.
 - How these possible changes compared with other medical states.
 - The proposed purchasing limit increase would put Utah in a middle, slightly higher place of allowable amount of purchasable cannabis when compared to other states.

- If the amount was too high or too low.
 - More information may be needed on this topic.
- The need for a medical provider to amend this allowance.

The following public members gave public comments on this agenda item:

- Walter Plumb with Drug Safe Utah.
- Valerie Ahanonu with the University of Utah.
- Rob Morris with Beehive Farmacy.

The Board took the following action on this agenda item:

- Motion: Table the topic for next month's meeting.
 - Motioned: Mr. Lauritzen
 - Second: Dr. Smith
- Voice vote: 8-0-1
- Kent Andersen: Absent

8. THC potency levels in products – Mr. Page

- a. [Memo](#)
- b. [Presentation](#)

Mr. Page shared and answered questions on purchasing trends and THC potency data provided by UDAF.

- Mr. Page's observation is that heavy regulation on potency is seen more in adult use programs. He continued by stating his concern that if there is a potency cap or limit, it would impact the program because patients may leave the program to get the products with the desired potency elsewhere. Mr. Page stated that he does not have a specific recommendation but stressed that he wanted to get feedback from the Board and the public on this topic as it is likely to be a topic during the 2026 legislative session.
- Mr. Lauritzen commented that prohibition has not worked and any potency limit is a form of that. He advocated for education as an avenue for patients to understand the different potency and product types available in the program.
- Dr. Forsyth expressed concern about products that could be appealing to children and contain high-THC, like a gummy. He was additionally concerned that people are confusing the percentage of THC in a product with the dose being received by a patient. His second point is that decreasing the limit of one thing increases the limit of another, explaining that cannabis is already a complex mixture and adding or taking out components makes product analysis more difficult.

The following public members gave public comments on this agenda item:

- Walter Plumb with Drug Safe Utah.
- David Kyle Herring with Utah Eagle Forum.
- Alex Iorg with Wholesome Co. and Keep Utah Medical.
- Narith Panh with Dragonfly Wellness.
- Trent Meisenheimer with Pure Plan.
- Blake Smith with Zion Pharmaceuticals.

Mr. Page stated that he does not have a specific recommendation. He recommended that anyone on the board who is passionate about this subject to contact the incoming chair or co-chair in writing a memo to the board.

9. Next meeting's agenda – Mr. Page

Mr. Page said he does not have specific items for the next meeting's agenda.

10. Adjourn – Mr. Page

Mr. Page made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Dr. Smith. The board voted unanimously to end the meeting, and the meeting ended at approximately 4:55 pm.