

# Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 2:30pm - 5:00pm

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, J.D. Lauritzen, Blake Smith, and Misty Smith, PhD

**Board members excused:** Chris Morgan, DNP

**DHHS/UDAF staff attending:** Shannon Thoman-Black, Richard Oborn, Trevor Eckhoff, Cody James, and Brandon Forsyth, PhD

## Agenda

### 1. Welcome

Ms. Hennessy acknowledged that there was a quorum so the meeting could proceed at approximately 2:31 pm and read the introduction script.

### 2. Board approval of October 2025 minutes

Ms. Hennessy asked the board if there were any proposed changes to the October 21, 2025 minutes. There were no changes proposed. Mr. Andersen motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the October 2025 minutes.

### 3. Administrative Business

- The board reviewed its revised bylaws. After agreement, Ms. Smith motioned to adopt the revised bylaws. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to adopt the revised bylaws.

- Ms. Hennessy announced a new board position opening for a law enforcement officer.
- The board welcomed a new board member, Blake Smith, representing cannabis cultivation facilities.

#### **4. DHHS and UDAF update**

- DHHS updates: Mr. Oborn informed the board about:
  - i. Medical cannabis card application improvements
  - ii. Medical provider survey and the medical cannabis market survey
  - iii. Rules that were filed on November 15
  - iv. Current program statistics
- UDAF updates: Dr. Forsyth informed the board about:
  - i. Upcoming rule changes and the public comments received
  - ii. ICS System launch in February
  - iii. Governor's tour of the cannabis licensee facilities

#### **5. DHHS and UDAF legislative proposals**

- Mr. Oborn presented DHHS' legislative proposals for the 2026 general session and answered questions from the board.
- Dr. Forsyth and Mr. James presented UDAF's legislative proposals for the 2026 general session and answered questions from the board.
- The board requested the departments return at the next meeting with proposed language for their respective legislative proposals.

#### **6. Expanding qualifying conditions**

Mr. Lauritzen discussed his memo on expanding qualifying conditions and discussed multiple recommendation options for the board's consideration. The board discussed the proposals.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Chase Angelo Giles, representing himself

The board took the following action on this agenda item:

- Vote: To recommend Mr. Lauritzen's first proposal as written in his memo:  
Lawmakers remove the requirement that minors, adults 18-20, and adults 21+ without a qualifying condition go through the Compassionate Use Board process to

gain approval to access medical cannabis as required under Utah Code section [26B-1-421](#), and replace the current Utah Code section [26B-4-203](#)(2)(q) with the language below:

(q) any other medical condition not otherwise specified in this section for which the potential benefits of using medical cannabis would, in the recommending medical provider's professional judgment and opinion, likely outweigh the potential health risks for the patient.

- Motioned: Ms. Berezhnyy
- Second: Ms. Hennessy
- Roll call vote:
  - Kent Andersen: Yes
  - Nanette Berezhnyy: Yes
  - Cami Clark: Yes
  - Desiree Hennessy: Yes
  - JD Lauritzen: Yes
  - Blake Smith: Yes
  - Misty Smith: Yes

## **7. Medical cannabis use in hospitals**

Ms. Hennessy discussed the adoption of Ryan's Law in California and its potential adoption in Utah. Ms. Thoman-Black informed the board about how health facility inspections conducted by the DHHS Office of Licensing relate to the proposal. The board continued discussion and desired more information before taking any action.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Chase Angelo Giles, representing himself

## **8. Future topics for board discussion**

Ms. Hennessy asked the board about the next agenda. Ms. Hennessy proposed discussing Ryan's Law with more information. Ms. Smith desired to draft a letter addressing concerns about THC potency. Mr. Smith advocated that the board participate in education events and discuss the effects of minor cannabinoids.

## **9. Adjourn**

Ms. Clark motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to end the meeting. The meeting ended approximately at 5:05pm.