

Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 2:00 pm-4:35 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, Anthony Griffiths, Desiree Hennessy, JD Lauritzen, Blake Smith, and Misty Smith, PhD.

Board members excused: N/A

DHHS/UDAF staff attending: Richard Oborn, Shannon Thoman-Black, Trevor Eckhoff, Jada Stelmach, Dr. Brandon Forsyth, and Cody James

Agenda

1. Welcome

Ms. Hennessy acknowledged that there was a quorum so the meeting could proceed at approximately 2:00 pm and read the [introduction script](#).

2. Board approval of November 2025 minutes

Ms. Hennessy asked the board if there were any proposed changes to the November 18, 2025 minutes. There were no changes proposed. Mr. Andersen motioned to approve the November 2025 minutes and Mr. Griffiths seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the November 2025 minutes.

3. Board administrative business

The board welcomed Sergeant Anthony Griffiths, the new law enforcement representative, and Jada Stelmach, a DHHS staff member who will provide administrative support to the board. Ms. Hennessy announced the resignation of Chris Morgan, the recommending medical provider on the board.

The board discussed adding a purpose, mission, and vision statement to its bylaws. The board agreed to continue editing language collaboratively rather than voting today.

4. DHHS and UDAF update

- a. DHHS updates: Mr. Oborn informed the board about:
 - i. Quarterly medical provider meeting held on January 4, 2026, with the next meeting on April 9, 2026 for recommending providers and pharmacists
 - ii. Current program statistics
- b. UDAF updates: Dr. Forsyth informed the board about:
 - i. ICS system go-live date delayed approximately 3-4 weeks
 - ii. A new program manager within the medical cannabis program

5. Legislative update

The board discussed the following bills for the 2026 legislative session.

- SB 121 Medical Cannabis Program Amendments
- SB 66 Medical Cannabis Pharmacy License Amendments
- HB 281 Workers' Compensation Cannabis Amendments

The board took the following action on this agenda item:

- Vote: The board voted to recommend that lawmakers amend subsection (4) of HB 281, Workers' Compensation Cannabis Amendments, to not include the currently drafted subsection (d) that sets a per se limit on THC in whole blood at 20 nanograms per milliliter and instead includes THC or THC analog under subsection (4)(b) that applies generally to controlled substances.
 - Motioned: Mr. Lauritzen
 - 2nd: Mr. Smith
 - Roll call vote:
 - Kent Andersen: Yes
 - Nanette Berezhnyy: Yes
 - Cami Clark: Yes
 - Desiree Hennessy: Yes

- Jimmy Higgs: Yes
- JD Lauritzen: Yes
- Blake Smith: Yes
- Misty Smith: Yes

6. Presidential executive order rescheduling cannabis

The board discussed the presidential executive order and the likely impacts of the rescheduling on each board member's respective field. Dr. Smith shared benefits and challenges to medical cannabis research.

7. 2025 board recommendations

The board reviewed prior board votes and recommendations since the 2025 general legislative session. It was recommended to compile a summary of board recommendations for lawmakers and to have the chair and vice-chair lead legislative outreach.

DHHS/UDAF staff clarified the following for the board:

- Executive-branch agencies remain neutral on bills unless authorized by the governor. DHHS/UDAF can educate but will not publicly support a bill absent executive approval.

8. Next meeting's agenda

Ms. Hennessy asked the board about the next agenda. The board decided to review the compiled recommendations and discuss active legislation.

9. Adjourn

Ms. Berezhnyy motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to end the meeting, and the meeting ended at approximately 4:33pm.