

Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 17, 2:00 pm-4:00 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/pmnl/>).

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.

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 February 2026 minutes

Ms. Hennessy asked the board if there were any proposed changes to the February 17, 2026 minutes. There were no changes proposed. Ms. Clark motioned to approve the February 2026 minutes and Ms. Berezhnyy seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the February 2026 minutes.

3. Board administrative business

Ms. Hennessy discussed the vacancy for the recommending medical provider position on the board. Mr. Eckhoff confirmed that applications are currently under review.

4. DHHS and UDAF update

- a. DHHS updates: Mr. Oborn informed the board about:
 - i. A new online training course for recommending medical provider proxies.
 - ii. Dr. Matt McIlff presented at the Utah Osteopathic Medicine Association winter conference.
 - iii. Current program statistics.
- b. UDAF updates: Dr. Forsyth informed the board about:
 - i. A new medical cannabis pharmacy that is slated to open before the end of the year.
 - ii. Pending date for ICS launch.

5. 2026 legislative session

The board reviewed the impact of several legislative bills and the upcoming transition of Center of Medical Cannabis to UDAF effective July 1, 2026.

- HB 389 Medical Cannabis Amendments
- SB 66 Medical Cannabis Pharmacy Amendments
- HB 281 Workers' Compensation Cannabis Amendments
- SB 121 Medical Cannabis Program Amendments

6. Advisory Board goals

The board discussed establishing strategic goals for the remainder of 2026. The discussion included:

- Cost and access
- Increasing patient count
- Education
- Research integration
- Legislative strategy

The board agreed to return at the next meeting to discuss its goals further.

7. Law enforcement medical cannabis card verification

Mr. Griffiths presented a detailed overview of the Utah Criminal Justice Information System and the "MMJL" (medical marijuana) transaction tool used by law enforcement

The board took the following action on this agenda item:

- Vote: Recommend the following changes to the Utah Criminal Justice Information System (UCJIS):
 - Align the MMJL transaction with other UCJIS criminal investigations;
 - Retain MMJL transaction histories for 6 months;
 - Add audit purpose and audit reason to MMJL transaction to mimic transactions for criminal history; and
 - Encourage the Bureau of Criminal Identification to ensure law enforcement agencies have an updated version of the Medical Marijuana Search Query presentation that includes updated electronic verification system access penalties, as amended by S.B. 233, 2024 General Session, and to update the hyperlink to an outdated presentation in the "Click here to see more information on how to use this transaction." text in MMJL.

- Motioned: Ms. Berezchnyy
- 2nd: Mr. Smith
- Roll call vote:
 - Kent Andersen: Yes
 - Nanette Berezchnyy: Yes
 - Cami Clark: Yes
 - Anthony Griffiths: Yes
 - Desiree Hennessy: Yes
 - JD Lauritzen: Yes
 - Blake Smith: Yes
 - Misty Smith: Yes

8. Next meeting's agenda

Ms. Hennessy proposed to finalize board mission and vision statements and to review the board's agenda item tracker. Mr. Smith recommended providing a summary of the current legislative session and to pair it with the review of the board's strategic goals. Ms. Hennessy requested that Mr. Griffiths presents an overview of the established protocols for patient interactions and card verification.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Berezchnyy seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to end the meeting, and the meeting ended at approximately 4:30 pm.