Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 2:00 pm-3:30 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: Nanette Berezhnyy, Cami Clark, CMHC, Anthony Griffiths, Desiree Hennessy, Melissa Hinton, J. D. Lauritzen, Blake Smith, and Misty Smith, PhD.

Board members excused: Kent Andersen

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 April 2026 minutes**

Ms. Hennessy asked the board if there were any proposed changes to the April 21, 2026 minutes. There were no changes proposed. Ms. Berezhnyy motioned to approve the April 2026 minutes and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the April 2026 minutes.

3. **Board administrative business**

Ms. Hennessy announced that next month's meeting will be hosted at the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food in the Bonneville Room on the third floor of the Taylorsville State Office Building. Additionally, it was noted that a Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group meeting was scheduled to take place immediately following the board meeting at 5:00 pm.

4. DHHS and UDAF update

a. DHHS updates: Mr. Oborn informed the board about:
   i. Implementing 2026 legislative changes.
   ii. Enhancements to the EVS software and website.
   iii. New DHHS and state logos.
   iv. Ongoing controlled substance database integration project status.
   v. Current program statistics.

b. UDAF updates: Dr. Forsyth informed the board about:
   i. New licensing board director position postings.
   ii. Upcoming staff and facility transition to the TSOB campus.
   iii. Preparations for releasing the 17th independent pharmacy license.
   iv. Upcoming regulatory fee structure updates taking effect July 1.

5. Draft administrative rules

The board discussed upcoming drafts and changes to administrative rules:

- R66-2-2 (Quality Assurance Testing Rule): A new rule lets processors test the cannabinoid levels of concentrated products in large batches before they are divided up. Full safety checks for contaminants are still strictly required after the product is put into its final packaging.
- R66-6 (Home Delivery and Courier Rule): Text was updated to remove old agency references. The rule clarifies that any pharmacy offering home delivery must be officially approved as a home delivery pharmacy. Couriers are now required to have a backup plan for safely storing products if bad weather or traffic stops a delivery from being completed the same day. Additionally, the time limit for holding onto these undelivered items was changed from 10 business days to 14 regular calendar days.
- UDAF is utilizing rulemaking authority granted by SB 121 to seek industry and RMP input regarding label terminology for physiological effects and grower remediation equipment. Feedback is requested by May 26th, with a target implementation window around September or October. Rules are also being drafted alongside DHHS staff.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Jeff Archuleta, a patient and consultant, expressed interest in collaborating with the board to reduce decision-making friction for patients and align plant chemistry with patient variables.

6. Cannabis rescheduling

The board reviewed the Department of Justice's final rule and press release regarding the federal shift of cannabis to Schedule III. Narith Panh with Dragonfly Wellness presented to the board regarding the latest updates from the American Council for Cannabis Medicine. He highlighted that Utah's medical cannabis program is positioned for federal compliance. He outlined the financial relief from removing the 280E tax burden and noted how this pivot allows clinical trials to use real-world market products.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

- Justin (last name not given) inquired if a clear checklist would be provided to local businesses on how to handle federal DEA registration, shipping products across state lines, and dealing with demands from nearby states that do not grow their own cannabis. The board explained that any official policy changes will have to be decided by lawmakers during the next legislative session.

7. Board committee assignments and logistics

Ms. Hennessy reviewed the newly established board committees and confirmed that all board members had received their respective assignments based on their skill sets. The board discussed logistical operations for these groups, including inviting the public to attend certain meetings.

8. Next meeting's agenda

The board agreed that the upcoming meeting agenda should transition away from general brainstorming and lead with formal status reports from each committee chair. Each presentation will outline the subcommittee's explicit goals, their next three target initiatives, and finalized strategies for public integration.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting so that board members could break into smaller unrecorded groups to coordinate initial subcommittee assignments. Mr. Lauritzen seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to end the recorded session, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:20 pm.