

Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 21, 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

This meeting was held in person and virtually and was recorded. An audio copy of this recording can be found on the Utah 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/medical-cannabis-policy-advisory-board/>).

Attendees

Board members attending: Kent Andersen, Nanette Berezhnyy, Cami Clark, CMHC, Anthony Griffiths, J. D. Lauritzen, Blake Smith, and Misty Smith, PhD.

Board members absent: Melissa Hinton

UDAF staff attending: Cody James, Desiree Hennessy, Mark Fitu, Veronica Goedhart, Trevor Eckhoff, and Jeremiah Sniffin

Agenda

1. Welcome

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

2. Specialized Product Authority Licensing Board Introductions

Desiree Hennessy, Mark Fitu, and Veronica Goedhart introduced as the new directors of the Specialized Product Authority Licensing Board.

3. Board approval of June 2026 minutes

Ms. Berezhnyy asked the board if there were any proposed changes to the June 19, 2026 minutes. There were no changes proposed. Mr. Andersen motioned to approve the May 2026 minutes and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the June 2026 minutes.

4. Board administrative business

- a. Ms. Berezhnny clarified with Mr. Eckhoff that new board bylaws will be presented at the next meeting and a draft will be sent to the board before the next meeting. Mr. Eckhoff said these bylaw changes are mostly technical to conform with changes brought by HB 389, 2026 General Session.
- b. Ms. Hennessy announced her resignation from the board.
- c. Ms. Berezhnny mentioned that she will send the board materials from representatives for “Ryan’s law.” The board discussed this law and if Ms. Berezhnny will pursue changing laws to match “Ryan’s law” in Utah.

5. UDAF update

- a. UDAF updates: Mr. James informed the board about:
 - i. Current program statistics
 - ii. Inventory control system (ICS) update
 - iii. Overview of the Specialized Product Authority Licensing Board
 - iv. Overview of reorganizing DHHS employees transferred to UDAF.
 - v. Independent pharmacy application.
 - vi. Meeting with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

6. Committee updates

The board provided updates from its committees.:

- Patient Access Committee: The committee did not have any updates besides needing to add another board member to the committee.
- Industry Committee: Mr. Lauritzen and Mr. Smith discussed meeting with other members of the medical cannabis industry.
 - The first topic they discussed was advertising. The committee may submit recommendations to the board on advertising regulation changes next month.
 - The second topic discussed was to review medical cannabis and rules to “rightsize” regulations to reduce burden to industry and to more align with the rescheduling of cannabis at the federal level to a schedule three. The committee mentioned positive attendance from members of vertically integrated and independent businesses representing different licensees.
 - The third topic that the committee discussed was testing and inquired with UDAF regarding when a second independent testing laboratory would be established.

- Research & Education Committee: Dr. Smith reported to the board that the committee met with Valerie Ahanonu of the University of Utah Center for Medical Cannabis Research (CMCR). They discussed shared interest with the CMCR Medical Cannabis Research and Education Committee
 - The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:
 - Jeff Achuleta, a medical cannabis patient, expressed interest in joining the committee.
- Policy & Rules Committee: No update provided as the committee does not currently have enough members. Ms. Berezhnyy discussed the possibility of working with the Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group and developing a plan before the next legislative session. Mr. Lauritzen clarified the committee's intent to present other committee's proposals to legislators Mr. Lauritzen asked Mr. James about the Specialized Product Authority Licensing Board having a process for recommending a new qualified condition to the legislature. Mr. James reiterated that the department is doing research on how to develop rules for this process. Mr. Griffiths made a suggestion to research medical cannabis and disciplinary action against police officers.

7. 2025 Utah medical cannabis market analysis

Dr. Cochran from the University of Utah presented on the 2025 Medical Cannabis Market Analysis. Dr. Cochran discussed the study's findings and policy recommendations addressing cost barriers, improving awareness among patients, simplifying enrollment, and addressing cannabis use outside of the program. The board discussed the results from the survey, including cannabis use outside of the program and medical cannabis cost as well as the need for education around medical cannabis safety vs. blackmarket safety.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

Jeff Achuleta, a medical cannabis patient, asked questions about how the survey was funded, and the frequency of the surveys.

8. Next meeting's agenda

Ms. Berezhnyy mentioned that advertising will be on the next meeting's agenda. The board also requested presenting what different medical cannabis card types look like.

The following public members gave comments on this agenda item:

Jeff Achuleta, a medical cannabis patient, made a comment about the medical cannabis card design.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Lauritzen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to end the meeting and the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:44 pm.

UNAPPROVED