

## Utah Cannabis Research Review Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

9:00-11:00 am

### Utah Department of Health and Human Services

This meeting was held 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/>) and on the Cannabis Research Review Board YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJW8IN0h7wQ3ojY33gZC8cw>

Visit the Board's website for more information on past meeting minutes and agendas (<https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/cannabinoid-product-board/>)

Meeting minutes approved on:

### Attendees

**Board Members Attending:** Katherine Carlson, Perry Fine, Matt McIlff, Misty Smith, Brian Zehnder, Mike Moss, Jennifer Norris

**DHHS and AAG Staff Attending:** Rich Oborn, Rachel Devine, Sarah Ponce, Lauren Heath, Danielle Conlon, Jeremiah Sniffin, Jesse Hawkley

**Members of the Public and UDAF Employees:** Mark Viner, Deanna April Valle, Zach Chase, Emily Tucker, Taylor, David Jolley, J.D. Lauritzen, Michael Burten, Christine Stenquist, Elisha C, Jill Marriott, Zac Newel King, Tamara Hampton, Blake Smith, Nate Kizerian, Chirine Touati, Chirine Touati, Michelle Scharf, Kyle, Lori.

### Minutes

1. Welcome – Dr. Carlson

Dr. Carlson acknowledged that there was a quorum so the meeting could proceed with actions from the board.

2. Approval of July 2022 minutes – Dr. Carlson

Dr. McIlff moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Zehnder seconded.

3. Approval of the updated Bylaws - Dr. Carlson

Dr. Fine moved to eliminate Bylaws Article IV, section 1(5).

Article VII, Section 4 (a)(1) was updated to remove the requirement for people who make public comments from having to submit a COI (Conflict of Interest) form, but simply be allowed to verbally disclose their COI in the meeting.

Dr. Carlson asked for a vote to approve the updated bylaws, Dr. Norris moved to make the amendment to the bylaws, Dr. McIlff seconded.

4. Highway Safety Committee update - Dr. Moss

Dr. Moss asked guidance from the board about what he can do to discuss driving impaired on cannabis.

Dr. Fine suggested scheduling an interview for Dr. Moss to make recommendations about driving and cannabis. Dr. Moss agreed that an interview could be a good forum to discuss the issues, and described the difficulty to test for cannabis the same way enforcement tests for alcohol.

5. Overview of the Living Systematic Review on Cannabis for Chronic Pain–  
Lauren Heath

Ms. Heath presented a slideshow on “Living Systematic Review on Cannabis and Other Plant-Based Treatments for Chronic Pain, An AHRQ review conducted by the

Pacific Northwest Evidence-based Practice Center.” At the conclusion of the slideshow, she recommended the CRRB consider revising the level of evidence required for the pain recommendations. Dr. McIlff suggested pursuing how the peripheral effects (such as better sleep, decreased stress, etc.) of cannabis use could help benefit those with chronic pain. Dr. Carlson suggested that Ms. Ponce and Ms. Heath continue to update the board on these kinds of studies throughout the month via email.

#### 6. Public Health Outreach Efforts - Danielle Conlon

Ms. Conlon reviewed the following educational fliers: Cannabis use during pregnancy and breastfeeding, Gray Matters Fact Sheet, Health effects of using medical cannabis, Safe storage of medical cannabis. These fact sheets are available on the Center for Medical Cannabis website.

DHHS will work to expand efforts for public outreach campaigns.

Dr. Carlson suggested that DHHS consider the Department of Transportation to help provide educational outreach as well.

#### 7. Center for Medical Cannabis updates – Rich Oborn

In accordance with the Medical Cannabis Act 26-61a-201 (13), the Center for Medical Cannabis is required to record the issuance or revocation of a medical cannabis card in Utah's [Controlled Substance Database](#) (CSD). This information is now available in the CSD for licensed practitioners with controlled substance licenses who have access to the CSD.

DHHS is in the process of reviewing submissions for the Utah Medical cannabis system study RFP (request for proposal). The purpose of the study is to evaluate the patient's experience in Utah's medical cannabis program.

The medical cannabis market analysis public input meeting was hosted by DHHS on September 1, 2022. Deadline for the public to submit input is this Friday, September 16.

DHHS presented to the Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group on August 8. DHHS and UDAF presented a proposal for changes to the medical cannabis governance structure. If accepted by lawmakers, the proposal moves responsibility over medical cannabis pharmacy regulation from DHHS to UDAF. It also creates a medical cannabis advisory board composed of patient rep, rep from pharmacy, cultivator, processor, QMP, law enforcement, and public member. The DHHS will soon file amendments to administrative rules prompted by SB 190 and SB 195. The DHHS will present to the Utah Homecare and Hospice Association Oct. 17 regarding Utah's medical cannabis program.

## 8. Public Comment

Zac Newel King commented that he hopes patients can have more equitable access to cannabis, information about products related to organic farming, reducing pesticides, ingredients in vapes, and more freedom. It's been very challenging for him to afford cannabis.

Christine Stenquist represents TRUCE, a patient advocacy group. Ms. Stenquist requested that the Board consider more information from pro-cannabis medical professionals and organizations. She recommended Dr. David Bearman, Dr. Russo, and several other names. Dr. Smith confirmed that Dr. Russo has been a valuable resource for research and clinical practice. Ms. Stenquist was encouraged to follow up via email with recommendations.

Jill Marriott is a medical cannabis patient and she indicated that she disagreed with the part of the study that Ms. Heath presented that dizziness is a significant side-effect. Ms. Marriott's experience has been that her pain medications create far more dizziness than cannabis, and she was disappointed that the CRRB had concerns based on these claims.

Blake Smith is the CEO of Zion Pharmaceuticals. He asked that the CRRB clarify their standards for research review. Mr. Oborn stated that the statute sets the standards that the study must be FDA approved or utilize similarly scientific rigor if from out of the country. Mr. Oborn invited Mr. Smith to share studies with DHHS that he felt were important for review as long as they were conducted using solid methodology.

Zach Chase indicated that he was affiliated with TRUCE as a patient advocate. Zach said the Board needs to evaluate more positive studies about cannabis. He suggested that the Board listen to patients as well as the data. Zach also expressed concern about the length of the terms of Board members.

Dr. McIlff motioned to adjourn, Dr. Smith seconded. Meeting adjourned.