Utah Department of
Health & Human Services
Center for Medical Cannabis

Utah Cannabis Research Review Board

Tuesday, November 8, 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/pmn/) 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/)

Attendees

Board Members Attending: Katherine Carlson, Matt McIff, Misty Smith, Brian Zehnder, Mike Moss, Jennifer Norris

DHHS and AAG Staff Attending: Rich Oborn, Rachel Devine, Sarah Ponce, Danielle Conlon, Jeremiah Sniffin

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome – Dr. Carlson

At 9:00 AM Dr. Carlson acknowledged that there was a quorum so the meeting could proceed with actions from the board.

2. Approval of October 2022 Minutes – Dr. Carlson

Dr. Fine motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the October board meeting. Dr. Zehnder seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. Synthetic and derivative cannabinoids - Brandon Forsyth

Dr. Forsyth addressed the following questions from Board members about synthetic and derivative cannabinoids.

- Can you explain plant processing, assaying, and cannabinoid constituents that are then allowed into medical cannabis products?
- What happens between plant testing and extraction processes for commercialization?
- What is the scope and what are the limitations of the current testing protocol?
- Which synthetic/derivative cannabinoids are they detecting and how much?
- What is the process for identifying new/unknown compounds; are they strictly limited to targeted analysis?
- Have any patterns been detected in the frequency and or concentrations of the derivative or synthetic cannabinoids?
- Is there a comparison to expected, naturally occurring amounts and the synthetic/unexpected amounts?
- Are these processed hemp products or “regular” cannabis?
- If there is any testing in products sold in pharmacies, is there anything that assures no additives to the more than 1000 various products?
- Can you clarify the difference between banning a substance vs. disallowing synthetic or derivative substances in products obtainable and distributed by Utah medical cannabis pharmacies?

4. Public health outreach efforts - Danielle Conlon

Some of the first Facebook and Instagram posts on medical cannabis are up on the DHHS Facebook and Instagram pages. The monthly newsletter will include public health education efforts. This month will include tips on waiting to drive after consuming medical cannabis.

5. Public comment

Kelly Lake is a patient advocate with TRUCE. Ms. Lake asked what weight DHHS and UDAF is giving to the information submitted by subject matter experts. She expressed concern about products that are contaminated, moldy, or has hot hemp?

Clinton Young is a patient. Clinton thanked the team for the data. He expressed concern about the impact regulations have on the cost of a patient participating in the program.

Christine Stenquist is the President of TRUCE (Together for Responsible Use in Cannabis Education) a patient advocacy group. Ms. Stenquist drew attention to Utah laws and urged the DHHS to use regulatory power to give patients the best quality products they can offer without synthetic or derivative ingredients.

Mark Viner is a physician. Dr. Viner suggested that the DHHS is overemphasizing the synthetic or derivative cannabinoids and asked DHHS to focus on minor cannabinoids such as THCV that is hemp derived. Dr. Viner suggested that providers and patients review a certificate of analysis for products.

Zac Newel King is a patient advocate with TRUCE. Mr. King described that he wants pharmacy websites with full panel COAs including terpenes, cannabinoids, pesticides, and if the product is organic or not. Mr. King described that patients need access to affordable products.

Drew Howells is affiliated with Utah Veterans for Medical Cannabis, State Veterans Caucus Chairman, and Board Member for TRUCE. Mr. Howells reported that he

received a medical cannabis delivery that contained Delta 6 alpha-10 in it. The derivative and synthetic ingredients were not posted on the website. Even inside pharmacies, patients cannot see the labels because they are behind a counter. Mr. Howells called on DHHS and UDAF to recall, retest, and relabel these products.

Chirine Touati is a patient advocate with TRUCE. Ms. Touati described that she has been instructed by her doctors to avoid these synthetic and derivative cannabinoids. She is concerned that patients will get sick from these ingredients. She encouraged the state to make a better effort to regulate this program.

Lezli Engelking is the founder of FOCUS (Foundation of Cannabis Unified Standards, www.focusstandards.org), a cannabis health and safety nonprofit. Ms. Engelking stated that the key to addressing synthetic or derivative ingredients is process control. Ms. Engelking suggested that FOCUS could provide training, education, and improve processes.

Emily Tucker is a patient and patient advocate with TRUCE. Ms. Tucker stated that she appreciated the presentation, and agreed with Ms. Stenquist's comments.

Kristen Larsen is a patient and active member of TRUCE. Ms. Larsen described that there is significant financial pressure on patients. She also mentioned that she wishes that she could return products to pharmacies.

6. Close

At 10:59 AM, Dr. Carlson asked the board for a motion to end the meeting. Dr. McIff motioned to adjourn and Dr. Smith seconded.