

# **Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting**

## **Minutes**

**September 9, 2021**

A meeting of the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission was held in Room 807 of the Alabama State House on September 9, 2021. The meeting was convened by Chairman Steven Stokes, at 1:00 pm.

Attendance roll call was taken. Commission members present for the meeting were Dr. William Saliski Jr., Dr. Jerzy P. Szaflarski, Mr. Sam Blakemore, Mr. Dwight Gamble, Dr. Angela Martin, Dr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Loree Skelton, Mr. Rex Vaughn, Judge Charles Price, Dr. Steven Stokes, Ms. Taylor Hatchett, Mr. James Harwell, and Special Agent Dion Robinson. Members absent from the meeting were Ms. Katherine Robertson.

Chairman Stokes and Vice Chairman Vaughn each made opening remarks. Following their remarks, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and adopted. Chairman Stokes nominated Mr. Gamble to Chair the Standing Committee on Audits, along with Ms. Hatchett, Mr. Blakemore, and Mr. Harwell. Ms. Skelton motioned to approve the four appointments and Mr. Vaughn seconded that motion. The Commission voted on and unanimously approved the new Standing Committee on Audits.

Dr. Saliski provided a report on the Medical Society and also noted three points of consideration, as well as the subcommittee's work with Mr. Matt Hart and Mr. Mark Jackson of the Medical Board of Examiners to stay on time and draft the rules by the deadline.

Following Dr. Saliski's report, Dr. Jensen provided a report on Processor Permits. Dr. Jensen noted the subcommittee's review of surrounding states and their cultivation and processing programs. Dr. Jensen cited Louisiana and Ohio in particular as potential resources for processor permits.

Following Dr. Jensen's report, Chairman Stokes noted the Commission's focus on the Open Meetings Act and his work to clarify research visits to dispensaries and CBD processors.

Mr. Blakemore provided a report on dispensary permits and he noted the primary agenda is to have contact with fifteen surrounding states to receive insight into how states such as Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana have set up their medical cannabis laws, commission, and dispensary programs.

Mr. Gamble, prior to his report, thanked the State Personnel Department for its aid in searching for an Executive Director. Mr. Gamble then announced the subcommittee's selection, State Treasurer John McMillan. Mr. Gamble then motioned to appoint Mr. McMillan as Executive Director to which Vice Chair Vaughn seconded, and the Commission unanimously voted in favor of approval. Chairman Stokes congratulated Mr. McMillan and Mr. Gamble emphasized the huge task ahead of him.

Following the announcement, Mr. Gamble reported the annual salary for the Executive Director to be approximately \$209,877.60. Ms. Skelton made the motion to approve and adopt the salary, and Mr. Blakemore seconded that motion. The Commission unanimously voted in favor of approval of the new Director and salary.

Following the adoption and approval, Commission Vice Chair Vaughn noted the Commission is working with Senator Melson and the Legislature on legislation to move up the timeline for cannabis cultivation to Spring 2022 with sales beginning as soon as Fall 2022. Dr. Szaflarski also mentioned his concerns in regard to the Patient Registry and Medical Cannabis Cards processes, which led to a discussion.

The next meeting of the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission will take place on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 1:00 PM in Room 200 of the Alabama State House. There being no further business of the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 1:28 pm.