

Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting

Minutes

November 18, 2021

The Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission met on November 18, 2021, in the RSA Dexter Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steven Stokes at 1:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Stokes presented the minutes from the October 14, 2021, commission meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Jensen, seconded by Mr. Harwell, and received unanimous approval by the Commission.

Chairman Stokes then moved into the reports portion of the meeting by calling on Mr. Mark Jackson (Executive Director of the Medical Association) to provide an update for the Physicians' Committee. Mr. Jackson informed the Commission that they are continuing to work to develop an education curriculum for physicians by reviewing other states' practices. Mr. Matt Hart (Board of Medical Examiners) reported that the Board of Medical Examiners approved draft rules for physicians that include provisions on the registration and training required for physicians to certify or recommend patients for the use of medical cannabis. Mr. Hart concluded the report by explaining that the proposed rules would be open to public comment until January 4, 2022.

Mr. Rex Vaughn gave an update for the Agricultural Committee which included potential volume projections for medical cannabis consumption. He explained that data from other states suggest between two to three percent of the state's population will use medical cannabis. He also noted that production can be accomplished in an eleven-week grow cycle if cultivated in a facility with prime lighting cycles.

The Processors Committee did not have any new information to report.

Dr. Sam Blakemore then reported on behalf of the Dispensaries Committee. He began by reviewing the acceptable dosage forms and maximum daily dosages that are outlined in the law. He also reviewed product mixes that range from THC dominant to CBD dominant and products that are equal parts THC:CBD. He also shared with the Commission information surrounding cost per unit and how this information can provide transparency to the user as well as ensure cultivated products are not wasted. In closing, Dr. Blakemore discussed the importance of utilizing an international cannabis warning symbol and universal cannabis information labels.

Dr. Stokes then recognized Ms. Charla Doucet to report on behalf of the Audit Committee. Ms. Doucet provided an update on the request for a supplemental appropriation to provide funding

for the remainder of the 2022 fiscal year. She also noted that the budget request for the next fiscal year had been submitted. In addition to funding updates, she reminded Commission members to submit any travel reimbursement forms from the previous fiscal year by November 30, 2021.

With subcommittee reports complete, the Commission moved into staff reports. Mr. John McMillan began by updating the members of the upcoming legislative session. He noted that staff would work to secure supplemental funding and an annual appropriation by the legislature. Staff will also work with the Alabama Senate to confirm commission appointments.

Upon the completion of Mr. McMillan's report, he recognized Mr. Autrey to give a legal and legislative update. Mr. Autrey began his report by noting that Alabama is not the first state to legalize medical cannabis and that our counterparts in other states can be an invaluable resource to the Commission. He recognized Mr. Chris Ferguson, Director of the Florida Office of Medical Marijuana Use, who joined by Zoom to give an overview of their program.

In Mr. Ferguson's report, he included a history of the Florida program from its inception in 2014, office structure, the industry landscape, and implementation strategy. Ferguson also addressed questions from Commission members concerning the shelf life of cannabis products, destruction of expired products, and labeling requirements.

Mr. Autrey continued his report by introducing Mr. William Webster of Webster Henry - legal counsel for the Commission. He explained that Webster Henry will assist the Commission in the development of administrative rules and regulations. Mr. Webster addressed the Commission and thanked them for the opportunity.

Ms. Brittany Peters was then recognized to report on communication and technology. She highlighted that the Commission website had received over 6,000 visitors in the last month and noted staff members worked to respond to over 100 questions that were submitted via the website. She also provided Commission members with a summary report of Alabama Act 2021-450.

With the conclusion of staff reports, Chairman Stokes moved into the decision items.

Chairman Stokes presented a recommendation to establish a Rules Committee that will serve in an advisory/review role during the drafting of the Commission's administrative rules and regulations. He recommended the committee be comprised of himself, Dr. Saliski, Mr. Vaughn, Dr. Jensen, Dr. Blakemore, Mr. Gamble, Ms. Skelton, Judge Price, and Mr. Robinson. A motion was made to approve the resolution by Dr. Blakemore, seconded by Dr. Jensen, and was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Consideration of establishing a Law Enforcement/Legal Committee was then presented by Chairman Stokes. With recommended members comprising of Mr. Robinson, Judge Price, Ms. Skelton, Dr. Blakemore, and Mr. Harwell. A motion to establish the committee was made by Mr. Vaughn, seconded by Dr. Jensen, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

With there being no further decision items to come before the Commission, Chairman Stokes moved into new business. He informed the Commission that they are required by law to provide

an annual written report to the legislature no later than January 1, 2022, tracking the implementation of the statute. He broke down the report sections and assigned members to applicable sections.

With there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Vaughn, seconded by Dr. Blakemore, and unanimously approved by the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 2:11 P.M.

Approved on: _____

Secretary: _____