

Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting

Minutes

May 12, 2022

The Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission met on May 12, 2022, in the RSA Dexter Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steven Stokes at 1:00 P.M.

Mr. Rex Vaughn 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. William Saliski, 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.

Chairman Stokes presented the minutes from the April 14, 2022, commission meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Hatchett, seconded by Ms. Skelton, and received unanimous approval by the Commission.

The Commission considered the minutes from the rules and regulations workshops that were held April 21, 2022, April 26, 2022, April 27, 2022, April 28, 2022, May 4, 2022, and May 5, 2022. A motion to approve the minutes en masse was made by Mr. Gamble, seconded by Dr. Jensen, and received unanimous approval.

Chairman Stokes then moved into the committee reports portion of the meeting by calling on Dr. Blakemore to provide an update for the Dispensaries Committee. Dr. Blakemore recognized Mr. Dean Crader to discuss his research of the medical cannabis market in Missouri. Mr. Crader provided insight into the paper he authored and concluded his report by taking questions from the Commission.

Additionally, Dr. Blakemore introduced Ms. Keoki Allen and Ms. Kara Cronkhite of the Nevada Cannabis Compliance Board to present. Ms. Allen discussed topics including the historical timeline of their program, regulation and rulemaking, facility types, statistics, and inventory control and tracking. Ms. Allen and Ms. Cronkhite concluded their reports by taking questions from the Commission.

Chairman Stokes then recognized Dr. Saliski to report on behalf of the Physicians Committee. Dr. Saliski highlighted the work that he and other members of the Committee had committed to reviewing the draft rules that relate to patient and caregiver registration.

Mr. Vaughn, chair of the Agricultural Committee, recognized Mr. Harwell to provide an update. Mr. Harwell shared with the Commission that the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries had completed their draft rules relating to cultivation and shared their anticipated timeline for adoption.

Dr. Jensen was then recognized to report on behalf of the Processors Committee. Dr. Jensen noted the work he and the committee members had done in reviewing draft rules pertaining to applications and licensing of medical cannabis processors.

Chairman Stokes then recognized Special Agent Senior Dion Robinson to give a report on behalf of the Law Enforcement and Legal Committee. Mr. Robinson introduced his colleague Mr. Tim McCollum, of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA). Mr. McCollum discussed ALEA's role in ensuring safety both in product production and on the roadways. He also discussed the partnership between the Commission and ALEA in the drafting of rules and regulations.

Mr. Gamble provided a financial update on behalf of the Budget Committee. All members were provided a copy of current and future expenditures. Mr. Gamble noted that the financial document reflects the addition of the supplemental appropriation.

With subcommittee reports complete, the Commission moved into staff reports. Director John McMillan discussed the efforts of many organizations to improve access to banking for cannabis related businesses.

Upon the completion of Mr. McMillan's report, he recognized Mr. Daniel Autrey to give a legal and legislative update. Mr. Autrey began by thanking members for their contributions to the rules and regulations workshops. He also noted that two workshops remained relating to State testing laboratories and integrated facilities. Mr. Autrey also provided a tentative timeline for administrative rulemaking.

Ms. Brittany Peters was then recognized to report on communication and technology. Ms. Peters shared a timeline relating the request for proposal for the seed-to-sale tracking system. She noted that the evaluation team would likely have a recommendation in the coming weeks.

With the conclusion of staff reports, Chairman Stokes moved to the decision item of issuing a request for proposal for Alabama's Patient and Caregiver Registry System. A motion was made by Mr. Vaughn, seconded by Dr. Jensen, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

With there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Skelton, seconded by Dr. Blakemore, and unanimously approved by the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 1:57 P.M.