

Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting

Minutes

June 9, 2022

The Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission met on June 9, 2022, in the RSA Dexter Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steven Stokes at 1:00 P.M.

Dr. Sam Blakemore 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, Mr. James Harwell, Dr. Jerzy P. Szaflarski, and Special Agent Dion Robinson. Members absent from the meeting were Ms. Taylor Hatchett.

Chairman Stokes presented the minutes from the May 12, 2022, commission meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Harwell, seconded by Mr. Vaughn, and received unanimous approval by the Commission.

The Commission considered the minutes from the rules and regulations workshops that were held May 18, 2022, and May 20, 2022. A motion to approve the minutes en masse was made by Mr. Gamble, seconded by Dr. Blakemore, and received unanimous approval.

Chairman Stokes then moved into the committee reports portion of the meeting by calling on Mr. Vaughn to provide an update for the Agricultural Committee. Mr. Vaughn and Mr. Harwell discussed the recently published rules and regulations relating to medical cannabis cultivation published by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. They noted that the Board of Agriculture and Industries will act on those rules at their next meeting, scheduled for July 12, 2022.

Dr. Blakemore then introduced Attorney Sharon Maerten-Moore of the Ohio Medical Cannabis Control Program to present on behalf of the Dispensaries Committee. Ms. Maerten-Moore discussed the three Ohio state agencies that assume regulatory responsibility of their cannabis industry, the procedures relating to patient registration, and the unique reporting of cannabis use into the Ohio automated Rx reporting system. Ms. Maerten-Moore concluded her report by sharing photos of Ohio dispensary facilities and taking questions from the Commission.

Dr. Blakemore then introduced the Executive Director of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, Mr. Malcom Broussard. Mr. Broussard presented on topics that included the legislative history of the program, regulatory oversight, production and distribution of medical cannabis, the role medical providers play and patient access. Mr. Broussard concluded his report by noting the most recent legislative changes and accepting questions from the Commission.

Dr. Jensen was recognized to report on behalf of the Processors Committee. Dr. Jensen addressed questions concerning testing protocols and acceptable detection levels that were discussed at the previously held State Testing Laboratories Workshop. He shared the necessity of testing for microbiological materials for products to be considered pharmaceutical grade. He also noted the complexity of testing plant materials as they are more variable than synthetically produced pharmaceuticals.

Chairman Stokes recognized Special Agent Senior Dion Robinson to give a report on behalf of the Law Enforcement and Legal Committee. Mr. Robinson noted that the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) is working closely with the Commission to ensure that the future patient and caregiver registry system will interface with necessary law enforcement technology.

Mr. Gamble provided a financial update on behalf of the Budget Committee. All members were provided a copy of current and future expenditures.

Chairman Stokes recognized Dr. Saliski to report on behalf of the Physicians Committee. Dr. Saliski provided an update to the discussion that began at the Certifications and Registration of Qualified Patients and Caregivers Workshop concerning dosage recommendations by medical providers.

With subcommittee reports complete, the Commission moved into staff reports. Director John McMillan notified members that an ethics/honor code will be circulated in the coming weeks and shared its relevance as the Commission moves into rule publication and the application phase.

Upon the completion of Mr. McMillan's report, he recognized Mr. Daniel Autrey to give a legal and legislative update. Mr. Autrey shared the upcoming public comment opportunities for the Commission's proposed rules and regulations. He explained that in addition to the 35-day written public comment period, that the Commission will host an in-person public hearing at the next meeting scheduled for July 14, 2022.

Mr. Autrey introduced Mr. Will Webster, legal counsel for the Commission, to provide an update on the draft rules and a timeline for administrative rulemaking. Mr. Webster began by thanking members for their contributions at the workshops and explained that he is working to incorporate the changes and adjust the formatting for submission to the Legislative Services Agency at the end of June. He also reviewed the anticipated timeline of rule publication, the public comment period, and procedures for future final adoption.

Ms. Brittany Peters was recognized to report on communication and technology. Ms. Peters provided an update on the multiple databases required for program implementation. She noted that the evaluation team for the seed-to-sale tracking system request for proposal (RFP) was still finalizing their scores and that the staff was working on the upcoming RFP for the patient and caregiver registry. She concluded her report by noting that staff is working with NIC Alabama on

the cannabis business licensing solution that will allow for individuals to begin applying for a business license this Fall.

With the conclusion of staff reports and no decision items before the Commission, Chairman Stokes moved to discuss new business. He reminded and encouraged members to attend the upcoming public hearing in July.

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 2:08 P.M.