

Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting

Minutes

September 8, 2022

The Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission met on September 8, 2022, in the RSA Dexter Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steven Stokes at 1:01 P.M.

Mr. Dwight Gamble 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 Mr. Dion Robinson.

Chairman Stokes presented the minutes from the August 11, 2022, Commission meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Hatchett, seconded by Dr. Jensen, and received unanimous approval by the Commission.

Chairman Stokes then moved into the committee reports portion of the meeting. Dr. Saliski, chair of the Physicians Committee, Mr. Vaughn chair of the Agricultural Committee, Dr. Jensen chair of the Processors Committee and Mr. Robinson chair of the Law Enforcement and Legal Committee did not have any new information to report.

Chairman Stokes then recognized Dr. Blakemore to provide an update on behalf of the Dispensaries Committee. Dr. Blakemore began by providing an update on adjacent states with medical cannabis programs. He also reviewed the AMCC regulations relating to certified dispensers and discussed Ohio's foundational training requirement for dispensary staff. Dr. Blakemore also outlined a draft certified dispenser education course to include modules related to cannabis pharmacology, patient care, continuing education, dispensary operations, and dispensary security and compliance. Dr. Blakemore concluded his report by highlighting standard operating plans, workflows, and resources for dispensaries.

Mr. Gamble provided a financial update on behalf of the Budget Committee and all members were provided a copy of current and future expenditures. Additionally, Mr. Gamble stated that Director McMillan has authority to oversee Commission activities and staff, including salaries and raises as allowed by the State of Alabama. However, he stated that the Commission has the authority to establish salary and raises for the Director. This year the Alabama legislature is providing a four percent cost-of-living salary increase for all State Employees including Director McMillan. Also, Mr. Gamble made a motion that the Commission approve a five percent merit increase for Director McMillan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vaughn and received unanimous approval from the Commission.

Following the conclusion of subcommittee reports, Mr. Autrey recognized Mr. Geoff Wilson of the Alabama Alarm Association to present on the types of protection offered through the alarm industry. Mr. Wilson discussed the types of protection offered, to include burglar, fire, life safety, access control and video surveillance systems. He also highlighted how the systems can

integrate and provide greater efficiency and safety. He concluded his report by taking questions from the Commission.

With Mr. Wilson's report complete, the Commission moved into staff reports. Director McMillan notified members that the Commission is looking to hire an accountant.

Upon the completion of Mr. McMillan's report, he recognized Mr. Daniel Autrey to give an administrative update. Mr. Autrey noted that the staff is exploring the options available to the Commission for evaluating applications by looking to other states. He explained that the Commission's rules allow flexibility for the Commission, a third party, or a combination of the two to conduct the evaluations.

Mr. Autrey then introduced Attorney Will Webster to discuss the previously adopted rules. Mr. Webster notified members that the rules adopted at the previous Commission meeting were submitted to the Legislative Services Agency on August 17, 2022, for final publication. He also reminded members that the rules would not become effective prior to October 17, 2022.

Chairman Stokes then recognized Mr. Justin Aday to provide a legal update. Mr. Aday discussed a memo sent to all members concerning the application offering timeline and the importance of limiting communication with applicants. He reminded the public that questions should be submitted via the email address provided on the website and any direct communication with Commission members is strictly prohibitive.

Ms. Brittany Peters was then recognized to report on communication and technology. Ms. Peters provided an update on the number of Request for Application received by license type and provided a map detailing the location of the requests by county. She also highlighted the new page available on the Commission's website dedicated to business applicants and discussed the resources that are available. Ms. Peters concluded her report by providing an update on the seed-to-sale tracking system.

With the conclusion of staff reports and there being no decision items before the Commission, Chairman Stokes moved to discuss new business. Chairman Stokes echoed Mr. Autrey's remarks concerning the complexity and importance of application review. The Chairman encouraged the staff to work with Commission members and draw from their expertise in formulating a plan for scoring applications.

With there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Judge Price, seconded by Ms. Skelton, and unanimously approved by the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 2:23 P.M.

Approved on: _____

Secretary: _____