

Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting

Minutes

July 11, 2024

The Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission met on July 11, 2024, at the Alabama State House, room 200. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rex Vaughn at 11:01 A.M.

Dr. Sam Blakemore led the Commission's invocation. The roll was taken with a quorum present. Commission members present for the meeting were Chairman Rex Vaughn, Vice Chairman Sam Blakemore, Mr. Dwight Gamble, Dr. Angela Martin, Dr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Taylor Hatchett, Mr. James Harwell, Dr. Mac Barnes, Dr. Jimmie Harvey, and Mr. Dion Robinson. Dr. William Saliski, Ms. Loree Skelton, and Judge Charles Price were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Vaughn presented the minutes from the May 9, 2024, Commission meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Harwell, seconded by Dr. Blakemore, and received approval by the Commission.

Chairman Vaughn recognized the Commission's new member, Dr. Mac Barnes, an oncologist from Montgomery. Dr. Barnes shared about his practice and expressed his readiness to serve as a resource on the Commission.

Chairman Vaughn recognized the Commission's legal counsel Mr. Mark Wilkerson to discuss recent court proceedings. Mr. Wilkerson broadly discussed pending litigation matters, including motions before the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals and Montgomery Circuit Court.

Chairman Vaughn moved to discuss decision items before the Commission. He noted that the Commission had not received any requests from licensees, therefore he moved to discuss proposed revisions to existing rules. He explained that the changes were necessary due to the passage of HB390 which removed the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries' responsibilities as it relates to medical cannabis. Mr. Justin Aday noted that the revisions track the statutory authority of the Commission regarding cultivation and are structurally consistent with AMCC's rules regarding other license categories. He also explained that the revisions, upon approval, would be published in the Alabama Administrative Monthly and available for public comment.

Chairman Vaughn presented the consideration of revisions to 538-X-1, 538-X-3, 538-X-4, 538-X-5, 538-X-9, and 538-X-10 of the Commission's rules. A motion to revise the existing rules was made by Mr. Gamble, seconded by Mr. Harwell, and received approval from the Commission.

Chairman Vaughn moved to discuss clarifications to the dispensary and integrated facility administrative stays imposed by the Commission on April 11, 2024. He explained that the intent of the stays was to ensure that licenses would not be issued until investigative hearings were completed. Chairman Vaughn reviewed the clarification document and noted the following:

No Dispensary/Integrated Facility license awarded by the Commission shall issue during the pendency of the Administrative Stay.

The Commission shall not conduct inspections of any Dispensary/Integrated Facility applicant during the pendency of the Administrative Stay.

The Administrative Stays shall remain in full force and effect until investigative hearings have been completed in the Dispensary/Integrated Facility license categories and final orders of the Commission have been entered in such license categories.

The Commission shall not consider amending or revising the Administrative Stays until such time final orders of the Commission have been entered in the Dispensary/Integrated Facility license categories.

Chairman Vaughn moved to consider approval of the clarified administrative stay in the dispensary license category. A motion to adopt the clarifications was made by Dr. Blakemore, seconded by Dr. Jensen and received approval from the Commission.

Chairman Vaughn moved to consider approval of the clarified administrative stay in the integrated facility license category. A motion to adopt the clarifications was made by Mr. Gamble, seconded by Mr. Harwell and received approval from the Commission.

Mr. Aday updated members as to the status of administrative hearings for the cultivator and secure transporter license categories. He noted that Commissioners would have the opportunity to review the recommended orders from the administrative law judges, as well as all other documents in the record, prior to the next meeting.

Chairman Vaughn recognized Ms. Amanda Taylor to discuss her patient advocacy group. Ms. Taylor explained that her group was formed in collaboration with patients and healthcare providers to advocate for medical cannabis access. Chairman Vaughn also recognized former Representative Mike Ball. Mr. Ball expressed his readiness to see the program operational for the benefit of patients.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Harwell, seconded by Mr. Gamble, and approved by the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 A.M.