

Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting

Minutes

April 9, 2026

The Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission met on April 9, 2026. The meeting, both in-person and virtually, was held at Whitley Hall – Gold Room on the campus of Troy University Montgomery. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Sam Blakemore at 1:00 P.M.

Mr. James Harwell led the Commission's invocation. Prior to the roll call, Vice Chairman Blakemore welcomed the newest Commission member, Mr. Dillon Turk, recently appointed to the commission by Speaker of the House of Representatives Nathaniel Ledbetter and confirmed by the Alabama Senate. Mr. Turk briefly introduced himself to the Commission.

The roll was taken with a quorum present.

Members Present

Vice Chairman Sam Blakemore (in-person)
Dr. William Saliski (virtual)
Mr. Dwight Gamble (virtual)
Dr. Angela Martin (virtual)
Dr. Eric Jensen (virtual)
Ms. Loree Skelton (virtual)
Judge Charles Price (in-person)
Ms. Taylor Hatchett (virtual)
Mr. James Harwell (in-person)
Dr. Jimmy Harvey (in-person)
Mr. Dillon Turk (in-person)
Mr. Dion Robinson (virtual)

Members Absent

Dr. Mac Barnes

Vice Chairman Blakemore presented the minutes from the February 12, 2026, Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission meeting. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Mr. Harwell and seconded by Judge Price. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion received approval from the Commission. Mr. Turk abstained.

Vice Chairman Blakemore moved to discuss the AMCC chairman vacancy, resulting from former Commissioner Rex Vaughn's resignation from the Commission. Vice Chairman Blakemore asked Director McMillan to preside over the selection of a new Chairman of the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission.

Director McMillan opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Harwell nominated Vice Chairman Blakemore for Chairman. That nomination was seconded by Ms. Hatchett. There were no other nominations and a motion to close nominations for Chairman of the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission was made by Mr. Gamble and seconded by Dr. Jensen. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to close nominations received approval from the Commission.

A roll call vote was then taken on the motion and second to elect Vice Chairman Blakemore as Chairman and Vice Chairman Blakemore's nomination received approval from the Commission.

Next, Director McMillan opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman to replace Chairman Blakemore following his election to Chairman. Mr. Gamble nominated Dr. Saliski for Vice Chairman. Judge Price seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and a motion to close nominations for Vice Chairman was made by Judge Price and seconded by Ms. Hatchett. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to close nominations received approval from the Commission.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion and second to elect Dr. Saliski to the office of Vice Chairman and Dr. Saliski's nomination received approval from the Commission.

Chairman Blakemore delivered opening remarks about his vision for the future of the program and the program's potential impacts on qualified patients. Chairman Blakemore emphasized four points of concern by most patients: price, education, access, and safety. Chairman Blakemore also recognized Vice Chairman Saliski for brief remarks. Dr. Saliski thanked his fellow commissioners for their confidence in him and he pledged his commitment to supporting Chairman Blakemore and the continued work of the Commission.

Next, Chairman Blakemore recognized former Chairman Rex Vaughn for brief remarks. Mr. Vaughn expressed his support for the Commission's mission. Mr. Vaughn thanked fellow Commission members and the AMCC staff for their commitment to Alabama's medical cannabis program.

Chairman Blakemore asked Mr. Mark Wilkerson to provide a legal update. Mr. Wilkerson mentioned a couple of developments. First, Mr. Wilkerson reminded the Commission of a decision by the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals a couple of months ago regarding an emergency rule adopted by the Commission. The Court of Civil Appeals ruled for the commission, reversing the Montgomery County Circuit Court on jurisdictional grounds. A motion for re-hearing was filed in the Court of Civil Appeals. The Court of Civil appeals denied that motion for re-hearing and the parties that supported the decision reached by the Circuit court filed a writ of certiorari with the Alabama Supreme Court. That petition is pending.

Mr. Wilkerson also mentioned an appeal by dispensary applicant, Capital Medical in Montgomery County Circuit Court, regarding the denial of a dispensary license. Capital asked for a temporary restraining order and the Circuit Court indicated that it does not intend to grant that TRO based on representations made at a March 23 hearing before Judge Anderson.

Mr. Wilkerson added that there is another lawsuit pending in the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals in an action brought by Trulieve, an applicant for an integrated facility license. Trulieve's issue relates to its request in Montgomery County Circuit Court to enjoin a process established by the Administrative Law Judge during the administrative hearings. The Commission's attorneys have defended the ALJ's order. The Circuit Court denied the injunction request and Trulieve immediately appealed to the Court of Civil Appeals. The Court of Civil Appeals stayed the Circuit Court's decision, thus freezing that decision until it had a chance to consider the case on the merits and adopted an expedited briefing schedule for the parties. Considering these legal developments, the administrative hearings have been continued by the ALJ.

Chairman Blakemore asked Mr. Aday to provide a program update. Mr. Aday updated the Commission on physician certifications by the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and physician registrations with the AMCC. Certified physicians are beginning to see patients and are making recommendations of medical cannabis to patients. Mr. Aday shared that four cultivators are growing plant materials, two processors are processing product, two secure transporters have passed pre-commencement inspections, and the licensed testing laboratory is testing product. Three dispensary licenses have been issued and the licensees are beginning to build out their facilities. Also, dispensary training will begin on April 15. These training courses will be in-person at the Commission's office.

Chairman Blakemore introduced the one decision item for today's meeting: At the Commission's last meeting, the Commission approved a set of proposed rule changes for publication and public comment pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. The public comment period opened on February 27, 2026, and closed on April 3, 2026. The Commission received six public comment submissions. Those public comments are posted on the AMCC website and were provided to each commission member to consider in advance of this meeting. Mr. Aday reported that in reviewing the proposed rule changes, a key word was missing. Mr. Aday indicated that the missing word was consequential to the intent of the rule. Chapter 4, at 538-X-4-.16, deals with changes in ownership. The missing word is in Subsection 11 of that rule. The language currently reads, *"notwithstanding any other provisions in these rules consent shall be required for a transfer of interest in the licensees provided the Commission, approval shall be required"* It should read: *"notwithstanding any other provisions in these rules, consent shall **not** be required for a transfer of interest in the licensees...."* The addition of the word "not" makes the rule read correctly, as intended. Mr. Aday recommends that the commission add the word "not." A motion was made by Ms. Skelton to approve this change and amend by inserting the word "not" in proposed rule Chapter 538-X-4-.16. Dr.

Jensen seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion to amend the change in the published version of the proposed rule Chapter 538-X-4-.16 received approval from the Commission. Mr. Turk abstained.

After no further questions or discussion from commission members, Chairman Blakemore stated that he would entertain a motion that the Commission approve, for certification, a final version of the proposed rule changes. This includes the following chapters of the Commission's rules:

- Chapter 538-X-1 – General Provisions, Scope and Construction of Rules
- Chapter 538-X-2 – Regulation of Patients and Caregivers
- Chapter 538-X-3 – Applications and Licensing Requirements – Generally
- Chapter 538-X-4 – Licensee Requirements – Generally
- Chapter 538-X-6 – Regulation of Processors
- Chapter 538-X-7 – Regulation of Secure Transporters

A motion to approve for certification a final version of the proposed rule changes was made by Judge Price and seconded by Ms. Skelton. A roll call vote was taken and the motion received approval from the Commission. Mr. Turk abstained.

There was no old business or new business on the agenda for this meeting.

Director McMillan reminded Commission members to file their ethics reports and to contact the office if they have questions or needed assistance.

Director McMillan also introduced Isabella Eagerton as the Commission's Patient/Caregiver Registry Coordinator.

Chairman Blakemore stated that the next Commission meeting, if necessary, is scheduled for May 14, 2026, at 1:00 P.M.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Harwell, seconded by Judge Price, and approved by the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 1:47 P.M.