

Minutes

Iowa Medical Cannabidiol Board

Friday, September 15, 2023

10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order

Mike McKelvey, Chair

The September 15, 2023, Iowa Medical Cannabidiol Board meeting was officially called to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Board Members Present	Not Present
Cpt. Mike McKelvey - Law Enforcement	Pharmacist (Vacant)
Dr. Stephen Richards – Family Medicine	Neurology (Vacant)
Dr. Robert Shreck - Oncology	Pediatrics (Vacant)
Dr. Andrea Weber - Psychiatry	Pain Management (Vacant)
Dr. Mohamad Mokadem - Gastroenterology	
HHS Members Present	
Owen Parker – Bureau Chief, HHS	
Andrea Hoyt – Compliance Program Manager, HHS	

3. Approval of Minutes

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Cpt. McKelvey requested a correction to a grammatical error to page 2. Dr. Shreck also requested clarification if the pharmacy or family medicine role was vacant, pending which position Dr. Richards was officially in at the time of the meeting. Dr. Richards made a motion to approve the minutes for June 16, 2023. Dr. Shreck seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Carl Olsen - Carl voiced concern over lack of state exemption for federal law. SF 69 would create a legal taskforce to move forward with federal exemption and may be introduced in the 2023 legislative session. Federal actions, such as the possibility of re-

scheduling of cannabis, show that public health and safety are being prioritized on the federal level. He expressed concern over Federal illegality of Iowa's medical program.

Joseph Shoemaker - Joseph is a Davenport resident who cares for his medically complex daughter, including fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis. He expressed she found relief of her symptoms using medical cannabis. Every two months he drove to Iowa City or Waterloo to visit a dispensary, and he believes we need more dispensaries. He doesn't support full legalization of cannabis, but voiced a concern over the high cost of medical cannabis in Iowa. He encouraged the program to become more accessible via lower costs and more dispensaries.

John Fenner - John lives in southeast Iowa near several consumable hemp registrants, and 45 minutes from the nearest Missouri dispensary. He is approximately two hours from Des Moines, and drives to Des Moines for products. He knows several people who are not renewing their medical cards because it is easier and cheaper to go to Missouri. He stated he thinks Iowa needs more dispensaries. He voiced that medical cannabis has helped significantly and allows him to remain opioid free.

Shane Swords- Shane shared that business growth is prohibitive in the cannabis space in Iowa. He spoke to his experience with the negative stigma regarding cannabis use.

Peter Komendowski - Peter spoke to the risks of the high-potency products and the amounts of THC available to purchase. He encouraged the Board to roll back some of the program changes considering the risk factors with cannabis use.

Earl Ramey - Earl thanked the board for all their work, especially with alignment. He spoke in support of Iowans being able to grow their own cannabis at home. He expressed that the hemp act and 2018 Farm Bill have effectively legalized some forms of cannabis. He wants those who can't afford cannabis to be able to grow their own, and that a raw plant form approved for the medical program.

Tyson Allchin - Tyson has been a cultivator hemp with two hemp growers licensed with IDALS, as well as with a licensed manufacturer in the medical cannabis program. He would like to grow for the medical program in Iowa again, and would like to see the program expanded.

Maggie Ballard - Maggie stated that she is glad this is still referred to as the medical cannabidiol board as opposed to medical cannabis. She expressed concern that pregnant patients are using medical cannabis, and would like HHS to regulate with more warnings and continue to make this program medically focused. She expressed specific concern for some of the marketing being done by practitioners certifying patients by telehealth.

5. Program Updates

Owen Parker, Bureau Chief

Owen provided updates to program data, including providers, patients, sales, and product selection.

The Bureau of Cannabis Regulation was one of the pilot groups to submit its Red Tape Review pursuant to Gov. Reynolds Executive Order 10. Owen gave an overview of the areas for change, and discussed how redundancies or duplicative language have been removed for easier understanding for all stakeholders.

Consumable hemp is not under the purview of this Board, but is now within the Bureau of Cannabis Regulation as of July 1. Owen provided an overview of the program, as well as some of the public health and safety issues posed by program in light of the availability of intoxicating products or those containing large amounts of THC. Dr. Weber asked if the consumable hemp program has an oversight or advisory board, which it does not.

This board will not be changed as a result of the Board Alignment Panel.

Owen answered several questions from Dr. Mokadem regarding how providers certify patients.

Dr. Shreck expressed concern for the medical program creating a market for euphoria, and proposed addition education for providers regarding appropriate dosing and operation of the waiver for the 4.5g THC purchase limit. He proposed the board develop a position paper or guidance document for Iowa's certifying providers. Owen suggested forming a subcommittee to develop a guidance document. Dr. Richards made a motion to form a subcommittee, and was seconded by Dr. Weber. A verbal vote was taken and carried unanimously. Dr. Weber also stated she would be on the subcommittee. Dr. Mokadem will also be on the subcommittee. Subcommittee will be assisted by BCR staff member Andrea Hoyt.

Dr. Shreck expressed concern for marketing and advertising activities done by licensees. Although he expressed the website content had improved, he felt there was still work to be done.

6. Intro: 2023 Annual Report to the Legislature

Owen Parker, Bureau Chief

There have been no legislative changes to Chapter 124E or the medical cannabis program since 2020. Dr. Mokadem proposed repeating the unadopted recommendations from the 2022 Annual Report. Dr. Weber agreed. A motion was made by Cpt. McKelvey and seconded by Dr. Shreck, to update the 2022 report and resubmit it for 2023. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Board Vacancies

Owen Parker, Bureau Chief

Owen reminded the Board that it is at minimum quorum and has four vacant positions. Formal advertisement or outreach has not been done for these vacancies. He encouraged Board members to consider recommendations in their network, and he would seek an update from IGOV on any applicants.

8. Future Meetings (2023)**Mike McKelvey, Chair**

Friday, November 10, 2023 - TBD: will be virtual but needs to be rescheduled

9. Adjourn**Mike McKelvey, Chair**

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Mokadem, seconded by Dr. Weber. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

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