

Minutes:

Medical Cannabidiol Board Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024 - 10:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Mike McKelvey, Chair

The March 1, 2024, Iowa Medical Cannabidiol Board meeting was called to order at 10:01 by Cpt. McKelvey.

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	

3. Approval of Minutes

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Dr. Richards motioned to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2023, Board meeting, seconded by Dr. Mokadem. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Mike McKelvey, Chair

- **Carl Olsen:** Carl expressed concerns about the implications of a state-legal cannabis program while cannabis remains federally illegal.
- **Tyson Allchin:** Tyson is licensed hemp cultivator in Iowa. He shared his thoughts on some of the analytes required for a flower product for human consumption. He shared that education for the hemp industry could be improved.
- **John Fenner:** John expressed support for the addition of a vaporizable or smokeable flower product to the list of approved forms for the program.
- **Maggie Ballard:** Maggie expressed appreciation for keeping the program as medically-focused as possible.
- **Shane Swords:** Shane expressed support for the addition of a flower form to the program, and his experience with being a medical cannabis patient in states that allow it. He expressed concern with the restrictive nature of Iowa's program in comparison to

others.

- **Earl Ramey:** Earl shared his experience as a licensed hemp cultivator. He requested more transparency and opportunities for inclusion for the hemp and consumable hemp industry participants.

5. Program Updates

Owen Parker, Bureau Chief

- **Data Review:** Owen shared that more providers are joining the program (12% increase). Waivers are slowly going up, but not dramatically. There has been a plateau in the patient population, and in 2023 the Bureau approved an average of 1,521 applications per month. Dispensary sales increased 24% in 2023 versus 2022. Dr. Shreck shared appreciation for the comprehensive data. Dr. Shreck commented that a possible reason for increase in waivers may be to reduce the number of trips that patients may have to make to dispensaries, particularly those in rural areas.
- **Session and Bill Update:**
 - Currently Live Bills:
 - HF 2605 (consumable hemp)
 - SF 2335 (dispensary licensing)
 - HF 2573 (standards of practice for telemedicine)
 - Bills that failed to make funnel
 - HSB 532 (vaporizable flower)
 - HSB 683 (state-level 280E tax exemption for licensees)
 - HSB 524 (prohibition of registration cards for those under DOC supervision)
 - SF 2225 (Patient affirmative defense for OWI)
 - SF 2234 (Marijuana cost study)

Dr. Weber inquired if there was an advisory board proposed in the consumable hemp bill. Owen responded that there is not.

- **Red Tape Review Update:** HHS presented chapter revisions to the HHS Council at a November 9, 2023 meeting. Public hearings were held November 28, 2023. Regulatory analyses were submitted shortly after. Public hearing was held February 14, 2024 for notice of intended action, and rules were open for comment February 5-14, 2024. Updates being made for filed and amended version.
- **2nd Manufacturer Update:** Iowa Cannabis Company will have products to market in next 1-2 months. The facility inspections and IT integration are in progress.
- **Miscellaneous:** The Bureau is in the process of backfilling the Analyst and Inspector position and hiring legal counsel to support compliance. Cpt. McKelvey asked about data regarding ER visits for cannabis related adverse events. Owen responded that the Bureau and HHS are looking to understand this data better and the reporting mechanisms that can be used. Dr. Shreck expressed concern for how the consumable hemp program, and the cheaper prices of products, may impact the medical cannabis program. Dr. Mokadem shared Dr. Shreck's concerns, and spoke in support of additional regulations for the consumable hemp marketplace in Iowa

6. Provider Education Subcommittee**Owen Parker, Bureau Chief**

Dr. Mokadem spoke in support of creating educational documentation for providers that are as neutral as possible, so that the providers can make the decision based on the patient in front of them. These documents need to be broad and may or may not include dosage or titration-specific information. Dr. Weber suggested specific documentation for the most-certified conditions. The subcommittee discussed the best means of distribution, as well as their plans to work with Andrea on these documents over the coming months.

7. Board Vacancies**Owen Parker, Bureau Chief**

The Bureau will be in contact with the Governor's office about updates or applications that have been submitted. Owen encouraged the Board to engage their network for prospective members, and request that prospects reach out directly to Owen and Andrea.

8. Future Meetings**Mike McKelvey, Chair**

Future Medical Cannabidiol Board meetings will be held in 2024 on the following dates (below):

- Friday, May 24, 10:00 AM
- Friday, August 23, 10:00 AM
- Friday, November 8, 10:00 AM

The public will be made aware of whether these meetings will be virtual and if there are any changes to this schedule.

9. Adjourn**Mike McKelvey, Chair**

A motion was made by Dr. Richards and seconded by Dr. Shreck to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. This meeting is officially adjourned at 11:41 am.

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