

Medical Cannabidiol Board Meeting

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024 - 10:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Mike McKelvey, Chair

The August 23, 2024, Iowa Medical Cannabidiol Board meeting was called to order at 10:09 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 March 1, 2024, Board meeting, seconded by Dr. Mokadem. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Carl Olsen: Carl requested the Board to carry forward recommendation from the Board’s 2022 and 2023 Annual Report into the 2024 Annual Report. This recommendation acknowledges the need for federal protection for patients to prevent patient discrimination from federally funded programs.

Tyson Allchin: Tyson is a hemp cultivator licensee, and former grower at one of Iowa’s original medical cannabis manufacturers. He spoke to his experience growing hemp and the quality of his product. He spoke in support of adding flower as an allowed form in the medical cannabis program.

Jennifer Husmann: Jennifer thanked the Board for the opportunity to comment. Jennifer is a part of a coalition in Iowa to reduce youth substance use, adult substance

misuse, and improve mental health for all. She expressed thanks for the changes in the consumable hemp program to protect children. She elaborated on some of her concerns around advertising and marketing in the medical cannabis program.

Mary Fala: Mary is a medical cannabis patient. She spoke in support of having improved education on product selection for patients in dispensaries, as many providers are not knowledgeable on medical cannabis. Mary does not vape, and would like to see more diversity in product offerings. She spoke about CBG and CBN having different uses, and would like to see those available in oral form.

Lucas Nelson: Lucas is group president of Bud & Mary's, one of Iowa's medical cannabis manufacturers and 2 of Iowa's medical cannabis dispensaries. He spoke to requesting meetings with the Board about challenges facing the program. He spoke about consumable hemp potencies being restricted, but also the broad access Iowans have to more potent forms of cannabis. He spoke about his group's submission of vaporizable flower petitions which were denied, as well as new product proposals the department couldn't approve; he spoke to how these products could be provided by the medical program with additional safeguards. He stated that program data is showing attrition of participation in the medical program.

5. Program Updates

Andrea Hoyt

Data Update:

- The Bureau is processing approximately 1,500 applications per month, and the number of active patients is remaining steady as opposed to increasing.
- Dispensary visits have been relatively unchanged in the past year, while the average transaction price has dropped to \$104.76, versus \$123.35 in February of 2024.

2nd Manufacturer Update:

Aaron Boshart from Iowa Cannabis company provided an update on their operations. Vaporizable products came to market in April. Aaron expressed some struggles with lab testing delays. Iowa Cannabis Company is excited to continue to grow the medical cannabis program in Iowa and to provide products to Iowa patients. Dr. Richards asked Aaron where Iowa Cannabis Company's dispensaries are, to which Aaron responded Iowa City, Council Bluffs, and Waterloo.

Administrative Rule Update:

The schedule of when hearings and adoptions were reviewed. The effective date of the updated rules is September 11, 2024. Updates in advertising and marketing and packaging and labeling are highlights up this update, as well as removing duplicative language.

6. Provider Education Subcommittee**Andrea Hoyt**

Andrea showed the rough draft of the provider education document that the subcommittee has been working on. The subcommittee next will look at individual handouts for different qualifying medical conditions put together by University of Iowa pharmacy students.

7. 2024 Annual Report Introduction**Andrea Hoyt**

Andrea reviewed the 2023 Annual Report recommendations. She encouraged Board members to review these recommendations and consider what changes the Board would like to see in the 2024 Annual Report prior to the November 2024 meeting.

Dr. Richards posed having a member of the public or a patient on the board as a potential recommendation for the next meeting. Dr. Shreck agreed that it should be a patient or caregiver as a member of the board. Dr. Shreck also brought up that medical cannabis is a cash-paying business, and that he'd like to see Iowa permit use of traditional banking in the industry and to make businesses able to deduct expenses. He acknowledged some federal action may be required to permit this.

8. Board Vacancies**Andrea Hoyt**

Nick Crawford from the HHS Government Relations team shared that the pharmacy position on the Board has been filled. Dr. Corey Garvin has been appointed for this position and is in the process of completing paperwork. Dr. Garvin will join the Board at the November meeting. Nick encouraged Board members to invite those that may be interested in any of the three other vacancies (pain management, pediatrics, neurology) to apply. Dr. Richards shared that it has been a difficult process to recruit new members and postulated it may be easier to recruit if the specialty requirements were changed. Dr. Shreck agreed with the difficulty of recruiting. He noted that a Des Moines Register reporter was logged into the meeting and wondered if the Des Moines Register or the Gazette could provide some publicity regarding recruitment.

Dr. Shreck encouraged other Board members to visit a dispensary to observe. He shared that there products for sale that are outside of the medical cannabis program, including consumable hemp products. He reaffirmed public commenter Mary Fala's comment that it would be beneficial for patients to have access to education in the dispensaries. He stated that on his dispensary visit, the only coaching he heard was informing patients of the THC waiver process. He also requested Andrea send Board members the updated administrative rules, once effective.

Dr. Richards noted that the Board has previously recommended a pharmacist be required for education at dispensaries but expressed an awareness of issues with a practitioner's Federal license.

Cpt. McKelvey asked if any movement has been made federally to reclassify cannabis as a Schedule III. Andrea stated that it was unlikely any movement would be made on reclassification until after the election.

Dr. Weber inquired about advertising and marketing and licensee websites. She noted that the websites contain problematic or noncompliant information. Andrea responded that rules going into effect on September 11 will provide clarification. Andrea shared that the Bureau of Cannabis Regulation welcomed a new legal counsel, Katie Madson, to assist with enforcement and compliance projects.

Dr. Shreck clarified that while discussing advertising and marketing, the discussion only applies to the medical cannabis products and not consumable hemp products.

9. Future Meetings

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Future Medical Cannabidiol Board meetings will be held in 2024 on the following dates

- 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.

10. Adjourn

Mike McKelvey, Chair

A motion was made by Dr. Shreck and seconded by Dr. Mokadem to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. This meeting is officially adjourned at 11:00 am.

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