

Medical Cannabidiol Board Meeting

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025 - 10:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Mike McKelvey, Chair

The May 16, 2025, 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	Neurology (Vacant)
Dr. Stephen Richards – Family Medicine	Pain Management (Vacant)
Dr. Robert Shreck - Oncology	Pediatrics (Vacant)
Dr. Corey Garvin - Pharmacy	
Dr. Andrea Weber - Psychiatry	
Dr. Mohamad Mokadem - Gastroenterology	

Bureau of Cannabis Regulation staff members Owen Parker (Bureau Chief) and Andrea Hoyt (Compliance Program Manager) facilitated the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Dr. Richards motioned to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2024, Board meeting, seconded by Dr. Shreck. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Mike McKelvey, Chair

- **Earl Ramey:** Earl is a licensed hemp cultivator and manufacturer. He spoke to HHS's review of HF950 and H1083, bills adding vaporizable raw cannabis as an approved form. He urged the board to be open minded about inhalable flower and spoke to its benefits over traditional vapes. He urged Iowans to also support

the addition of a raw cannabis form.

- **Carl Olsen:** Carl started by addressing legislative updates and how several bills would amend Chapter 124E. He expressed that several bills, including the proposed Iowa Code 124F, would violate federal drug laws. He spoke about the prospect of subsequent, new Iowa Code chapters for various intoxicating compounds, like psilocybin. He proposed the formation of a legal board to consider how proposed legislation in Iowa may conflict with federal drug law and compliance.
- **Frank Carmenate:** Frank is a patient certified for chronic pain. He shared that he has been prescribed different medications that did not allow him to function, and that medical cannabis has been the only treatment that has not left him incapacitated or with serious side effects. He thanked the board for their work removing barriers to patients, including provider education and removing sales tax. He also encouraged a permanent board position for a patient.
- **John Fenner:** John shared his experience as a medical cannabis patient in Iowa. He shared how Iowa has adult use cannabis programs in three bordering states and that Iowa should also consider adult use cannabis. He stated that he is a Navy veteran, and the issues presented by a patient possessing a firearm.
- **Steve Poisel:** **Written comment provided due to technical issues** - I am in support of vaporized cannabis, using the oils (RSO) I was able to have cancer free CT scans after 5 radiation treatments and 4 chemotherapy treatments. We stopped the six treatments that were scheduled, due to my low platelets and blood pressure. I was sent to the university hospital emergency room in Iowa City where I was diagnosed with COVID. I was released, returned home. Thanks to my wife for her support and instance. I returned to the local emergency hospital where they confirmed that I had severe COVID and that my blood oxygen levels were below 82%. I was put on oxygen, given a blood transfusion to bring my platelets and blood pressure back up. They used the Remdesivir treatment and steroids. I was in the hospital for approximately 6 days. The next week I went down to Iowa City to let the doctors have another look. I had another CT scan and there was no cancer visible. Since then, every three months I've been going in for a CT scan, they've been coming back negative. So now I'm on every 6 months CT scan checkup. I have a Oregon medical license and a caregiver license from Iowa. I need to recommend that out of state card holders be allowed legal status while in Iowa is necessary due to all the states that have medical

cannabis. 38 states, the District of Columbia, and 3 territories.

- **Maggie Ballard:** Maggie is a prevention specialist and shared that she is relieved that flower was not permitted by the legislature. She shared concern with the industry's desire and work to add additional forms to program. She shared her concern with an potentially smokeable cannabis product being considered medicine. She spoke to second-hand tobacco smoke being recognized as dangerous, but that marijuana smoke was not recognized in the same way.
- **Jason Karimi:** Jason thanked prior speaker Frank for his articulate comment and encouraged him to join a patient advocate group. Jason voiced his concern about the incarceration of ill or debilitated people for their use of cannabis.
- **Kevin O'Connor:** Kevin is the Iowa Market President for Bud & Mary's. He wanted to share Bud & Mary's ongoing commitment to Iowa's 18,000 patients and caregivers. He expressed disappointment that vaporizable flower and board recommendations did not pass this legislative session. He expressed that there is still much work to be done to help patients. He requested a meeting between the board and Bud & Mary's to understand how they could work together for the benefit of patients.

5. Program Updates

Owen Parker, Bureau Chief

2025 Legislative Session Update: The following proposed legislation was discussed:

- SF399: Bill to add five additional dispensaries. This was a board recommendation and passed a Senate subcommittee.
- SF 1693: Bill to add vaporizable flower as an approved form. Passed senate subcommittee.
- HF995: Out-of-state patient registration cards: Bill allowing for non-residents of Iowa to have registration cards, and purchase at dispensaries. Referred to ways and means.

Relating to HF995, Dr. Weber asked if it would have to be an Iowa provider certifying the patient, to which Owen responded that the provider would need to be licensed in Iowa.

Dr. Shreck inquired if HF950 was a companion to SF163, which it was. HF950 did make it through committee but was not set for a floor vote. He reinforced previous statements about the absence of medical research supporting

smokeable cannabis, and that medicine should not be smoked. Dr. Richards spoke in support of Dr. Shreck's comments.

Consumable hemp had legislation was also discussed.

- HF181: Bill to prohibit open containers of THC beverages. Passed and signed by Governor.
- HSB279: Bill to increase current product potency potency limits. Passed house subcommittee.
- HF8: Bill to provide student access to CBD products in schools by nurses. Introduced.

Related Legislation

- HF978: Bill to implement a Medical Psilocybin program. Passed house.
- HF612: Bill to implement Kratom Regulation. Passed house subcommittee.

Dr. Mokadem inquired if psilocybin would fall under the board's purview if implemented. Owen stated the bill calls for a separate board to be created. Additionally, the legislation as proposed was only for PTSD.

Dr. Weber inquired about HF612. Owen explained that there was a prohibition bill, but HHS reviewed the bill for regulation. Dr. Weber also asked if there were any public health components in bill analysis. Owen explained that HHS does not propose specific amendments to active legislation, but rather analyze it as it is.

Additional Updates: The annual report was recently released and contains updated program data on numerous metrics. Owen reviewed BCR's organization chart. He stated that the Bureau's priority projects are IT System Vendor Procurement, allowing for independent testing labs for medical cannabis, and re-architecture of product management in consumable hemp.

6. Board Vacancies

Owen Parker, Bureau Chief

Owen stated that with the end of the legislative session, he is hopeful to have recruitment efforts this summer to fill existing Board vacancies.

7. Future Meetings

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Future Medical Cannabidiol Board meetings will be held in 2025 on the following dates:

- August 22, 2025

- November 14, 2025

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

8. Adjourn

Mike McKelvey, Chair

A motion was made by Dr. Shreck and seconded by Dr. Garvin to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. This meeting is officially adjourned at 10:52 am.