

Medical Cannabidiol Board Meeting

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025 - 10:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Mike McKelvey, Chair

The November 14, 2025, Iowa Medical Cannabidiol Board meeting was called to order at 10:02 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, Katie Madson, and Andrea Hoyt facilitated the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Dr. Richards motioned to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2025, Board meeting, seconded by Dr. Shreck. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Keelin Shannon: Keelin is a current medical cannabis patient with concerns over the currently available products, particularly the lack of suppositories. She has spoken with Bud & Mary's about this.

Maggie Ballard: Maggie shared her experience about a visit to a conference with Dr. Jason Kilmer. He spoke about “low risk” options available with alcohol, but only “lower risk” options for cannabis. Maggie stated that smoking cannabis is the highest risk due to the health effects.

Carl Olsen: Carl shared that President Trump signed legislation that will essentially shut down the consumable hemp program, and he suspects it is a segue into rescheduling cannabis to schedule III. He stated that a schedule III classification does not make the program legal, and encouraged the board to continue to have the recommendation of applying for a federal waiver as part of the annual report.

Earl Ramey: Earl shared some history of cannabis in the United States. He stated that plant matter is less potent than currently available medical cannabis products. He urged the Board to allow patients a less potent, safer option, such as dry vaporizable flower. He encouraged the board to have a patient or multiple patients within its makeup.

Tyson Allchin had requested to speak but was not available. Tyson Allchin submitted his comment below via email:

“I was recently given an opportunity to move to Malta to participate in their legal cannabis system. The EU Club system; far superior to our systems in the US. Chief Officer Foitt helped guide me through the system and legalities, but unfortunately my children's education prevented us from moving. I bring this up because the entire ARUC (authority for the responsible use of cannabis) office on how any system had no place for flower. "But that is where everything comes from" they would say, to which I could only respond that some people didn't want flour allowed because it could be smoked or vaporized. I'll spare you the most common rebuttal, but it had to do with our unwillingness to address gun control in the United States. Arguably a more dangerous thing to ban based on potential misuse. Got people are already smoking and vaporizing flour, but so many people would follow consumption laws for using flower if they existed. Edibles, tinctures, balms, oils, they are all made by extracting from flower. The board is completely against vaporizable flower, and even as a farmer and supporter, I hate the smell of combustion, but by eliminating access to the flower, you are taking away all other means of consumption for self-care. I would ask the board to consider dropping "vaporizable" and recommend using only "raw" flower instead. Please consider the other consumption methods that you are eliminating.”

5. End of Year Updates

Owen Parker

Owen shared an overview of 2025 for the Bureau of Cannabis Regulation projects. BCR automated the dispensary transfer intake process. The management of consumable hemp products was also completely overhauled to create a “Master Product List,” providing added transparency for the public and placing the compliance burden on manufacturers of products. He also shared an update on the organizational chart for the Bureau.

Owen shared that the legislation to reopen the federal government included language that will limit consumable hemp products to less than 0.4 mg THC per container, effect November 12, 2026.

He also gave an update for 2025 program data. There was a decrease in new practitioners certifying for the program. Renewal rates are around 50% and patient population has been steady at 18,000 for the last three years. Dr. Weber asked if the dispensary transaction data included consumable hemp products, which it does not. Vaporization remains the most popular product category. The amount of active THC waivers continues to increase linearly, resting at around 25% for 2025.

6. New Board Member Training

Katie Madson

Katie stated that new board members after July 1, 2025, are required to do a webinar with the Iowa Public Information Board. Board members appointed prior to this date are encouraged to sign up for and participate in the webinar.

7. Subcommittee Report

Owen Parker

Drs. Shreck, Weber, and Garvin were in a subcommittee discussing literature on vaporizable or raw cannabis as an update to a 2023 board opinion. Dr. Shreck reported that while some of the studies reported favorable results, euphoria was present or there was a lack of long-term safety data in cited studies.

The conclusion from the evidence-based literature review is that there is not sufficient evidence to support dried, raw cannabis in a vaporized form of medical treatment. Additionally, dried, raw cannabis may be readily diverted for combustion.

The subcommittee recommended the board affirm its prior opposition to dried, raw cannabis in any form as a medical treatment of qualifying medical conditions, and specifically opposes vaporization as a form in the Iowa Medical Cannabis Program.

Dr. Mokadem questioned the growth of CB2 agents and if the board had the oversight over these products. He also asked if Iowa dispensaries carried these products, which Owen responded that the dispensaries did not have products of this nature.

A motion was made that the conclusions and recommendation of the subcommittee be added to the annual report by Dr. Shreck. The motion was seconded by Dr. Richards. The memorandum was voted on and unanimously adopted by the board.

8. 2025 Annual Report

Owen Parker

Owen discussed the Annual Report recommendations. Based on previous years, the following were recommended/changed:

- Amending the name of Chapter 124E to “The Medical Cannabis Act.”
- Additional Medical Cannabis Dispensaries
- Removing sales tax from patient purchases at dispensaries
- Iowa Tax Status: Licensee Equality with Traditional Businesses
- Provide Patient Purchasing Information Back to Certifying Providers
- Improve Oversight of Certifications via Telemedicine
- Seek a Federal Exemption for Iowa’s Program

Owen proposed removing “addition of PAs and/or ARNPs in the Medical Cannabis Board” as a recommendation from past years due to alternative interpretation and the appointment of an ARNP to the Board in the last year. Dr. Richards made a motion affirming this removal, and Dr. Shreck seconded the motion.

Dr. Shreck suggested that the subcommittee work on raw or vaporized cannabis be included in the annual report and made a motion of such. Dr. Richards seconded the motion. Both motions were voted on simultaneously and passed unanimously.

9. Board Vacancies

Owen Parker

There are vacancies for pediatrics and neurology. With the Talent Bank being updated, Owen is hopeful it may bring candidates for those positions.

10. Future meetings

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Meetings for 2026 have not yet been set. The public will be notified when 2026 meetings are scheduled.

11. Adjourn

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Dr. Weber made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Dr. Mokadem. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.

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