Medical Cannabidiol Board Meeting

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026 - 10:00 AM

1. Call to Order — Mike McKelvey, Chair

The July 24, 2026, Iowa Medical Cannabidiol Board meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by Chief McKelvey.

2. Roll Call Mike — McKelvey, Chair

Board Members Present	Not Present
Chief Mike McKelvey - Law Enforcement	Dr. Corey Garvin - Pharmacy
Dr. Stephen Richards - Family Medicine	Morgan Brown, ARNP - Pain Management
Dr. Robert Shreck - Oncology	Neurology (Vacant)
Dr. Andrea Weber - Psychiatry	Pediatrics (Vacant)
Dr. Mohamad Mokadem - Gastroenterology	

Owen Parker and Katie Madson participated on behalf of the Bureau of Cannabis Regulation. Additional staff supported meeting facilitation.

3. Approval of Minutes — Mike McKelvey, Chair

Dr. Richards motioned to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2026, Board meeting, seconded by Dr. Shreck. The motion carried with no opposition voiced.

4. Public Comment Period — Mike McKelvey, Chair

- *Tyson Allchin:* Mr. Allchin encouraged the Board to consider a harm reduction approach to cannabis policy. He discussed international cannabis models and emphasized testing requirements, product quality, and reducing illicit market activity through regulation.
- *Carl Olsen:* Mr. Olsen discussed federal marijuana rescheduling, the separate federal rulemaking pathways, and pending litigation. He asked the Board to continue recommending a legal task force to explore a federal exemption under 21 U.S.C. § 822(d).
- *Steve Poisel:* Mr. Poisel referenced studies reporting associations between cannabis use and reductions in opioid use or overdose. He discussed a family member's experience with pain and opioid treatment and encouraged consideration of cannabis access, including inhaled products, as a harm reduction measure.

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- *Earl Ramey:* Mr. Ramey identified himself as an Iowa medical cannabis patient and hemp producer. He advocated for a coordinated regulatory approach to cannabis and hemp, discussed similarities among products sold in medical and nonmedical markets, and expressed support for a state exemption approach to federal regulation.
- *Maggie Ballard:* Ms. Ballard expressed appreciation for the Board's emphasis on medical evidence and public safety. She raised concerns about vaporized THC and other product forms, supported restrictions on products appealing to children, and encouraged continued consideration of patient access alongside safety concerns.

5. 2026 Bureau Updates — Owen Parker

6. Federal Updates — Owen Parker

7. 2026 Annual Report Recommendations — Owen Parker

Items 5, 6, and 7 on the agenda were combined into one presentation and discussion.

- *Iowa legislative implementation:* Mr. Parker reviewed legislation signed by the Governor allowing nonresidents to apply for Iowa medical cannabis registration cards and authorizing up to five additional dispensary licenses. He explained that nonresident applicants must still obtain certification from an Iowa-licensed practitioner and receive an Iowa registration card to purchase products. The application changes were implemented July 1, and fewer than 50 nonresident applications had been received at the time of the meeting. Planning for additional dispensary licensing remained preliminary, with no timeline announced. Board members discussed geographic access, economic viability, ownership limits, and the unavailability of mail-order medical cannabis sales.
- *Federal marijuana rescheduling:* Mr. Parker described the federal final order addressing state-licensed medical marijuana and the separate traditional rescheduling process. He discussed DEA registration, potential tax implications, research opportunities, possible interstate commerce, and litigation. Board questions addressed medical and recreational operations, liability, the future relationship between dispensaries and pharmacies, practitioner involvement in patient care, and potential appeals. Mr. Parker and Ms. Madson emphasized that implementation details and litigation timelines remained uncertain. Dr. Shreck requested the presentation slides, and Mr. Parker agreed to distribute them following the meeting.
- *Federal hemp developments:* Mr. Parker provided an update on the CMS/CMMI hemp cannabinoid pilot initiative, including limited reported participation by accountable care organizations and product compliance considerations. He discussed the potential conflict between products contemplated by the initiative and the upcoming federal hemp THC container

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limit. He also reviewed the 0.4 mg THC per-container limit discussed as taking effect November 12, 2026, and congressional proposals to repeal, delay, or replace the changes. Board members discussed concerns about high-potency products permitted under the prior federal hemp definition.

- *Annual report recommendations:* Mr. Parker introduced the prior year's recommendations for preliminary discussion, noting legislative action on additional dispensaries and potential federal developments affecting tax treatment and exemption recommendations. He invited members to submit ideas or research requests before the November meeting. No new recommendations were proposed during the discussion, and no vote was taken. The recommendations would be revisited for final consideration at the November meeting.

8. Board Vacancies — Owen Parker

Mr. Parker reported that no applications had been received, to his knowledge, for the longstanding neurology and pediatrics vacancies. He noted changes to the Governor's Office application process and confirmed that Chief McKelvey, Dr. Richards, and Morgan Brown had been reappointed for another term. He thanked members for their participation and support in maintaining a quorum.

9. Future Meetings — Mike McKelvey, Chair

The final Board meeting of 2026 is scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2026. The public will be notified of any changes.

10. Adjourn — Mike McKelvey, Chair

Dr. Shreck made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Weber. The motion carried with no opposition voiced, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.

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