

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection
Medical Marijuana Program
Board of Physicians—Public Hearing
Minutes
August 14, 2020

Members Present: Arunan Arulampalam Deputy Commissioner
Dr. Linda Barry
Dr. Mitchell Prywes
Dr. Andrew Salner
Dr. William Zempsky
Dr. Jonathan Kost
Dr. Godfrey Pearlson
Dr. Deepak Cyril D’Souza

DCP Staff Present: Rodrick Marriott Director
Xaviel Soto Program Supervisor
Tiffany Araujo Board Administrator

Call to Order

Deputy Commissioner Arulampalam called the meeting to order of the Board of Physicians for Connecticut’s Medical Marijuana Program at 8:37 a.m. via Zoom.com

Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by the Deputy Commissioner Arulampalam moved by Dr. Salner and seconded by Dr. Zempsky and the draft minutes of the September 27, 2019 meeting are accepted.

Program Update

Deputy Commissioner Arulampalam reported that the program continues to grow. We have a total number of 18 open dispensaries facilities, 38 approved debilitating conditions for adults and 10 for minors.

New Conditions

At this meeting, the Board deliberated on one condition, applying the required criteria from the regulations. For this condition, the three questions posed in the regulations were reviewed by the physicians individually. The three questions posed in the regulations are as follows:

1. Is the medical condition, medical treatment or disease debilitating?
2. Is marijuana more likely than not to have the potential to be beneficial to treat or alleviate the debilitation associated with the medical condition, medical treatment or disease?
3. Are there other matters that seem relevant to the approval or the denial of the petition?

- **Acute Pancreatitis**

- Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
 - 7 yes and 0 no
- Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
 - 0 yes and 7 no.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
 - Dr. Barry mentioned the ideology of the disease interfacing with the medical system is all reasons that go against approving Acute Pancreatitis.

Vote to recommend to the Deputy Commissioner to add Acute Pancreatitis to the list of debilitating medical conditions for patients over the age of 18 by a vote of 0 for and 7 against.

Vote to recommend to the Deputy Commissioner to add Acute Pancreatitis to the list of debilitating medical conditions for patients under the age of 18 by a vote of 0 for and 7 against.

- **Chronic Pancreatitis**

- Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
 - 7 yes and 0 no
- Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
 - 5 yes and 2 no.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
 - Dr. Barry mentioned concern with etiology. Dr. D'Souza expressed concerns that the risks outweigh the benefits. Dr. Pearlson seconds Dr. Souza on the concern of the risk benefit ratio. Dr. Zempsky comments that we have not approved general chronic pain for minors, due to his concern with the exposure of use in minors with cannabis. However, the few patients that are minors have been difficult to control their pain and are on and off opioids. Dr. D'Souza asked if there is any supporting data that the use of cannabis would relieve pain for minors. Dr. Zempsky states that the risk of cannabis would be lower or the same then the risk of opioids and other drugs. Dr. D'Souza explains his concern is the irreversible damage in the brain of minors from use of cannabis that is backed up by studies and data. Dr. Zempsky in return says we do not know the long-term effect on the brain for opioids if it is worse or better then cannabis. Dr. Barry says that there is value to it if approved since the population is so small and it can be controlled. Dr. Salner asks Dr. Zempsky what he thinks about approving the language for chronic pancreatitis in minors to recalcitrant to standard medical management versus conventional treatment. Dr. Zempsky agrees that cannabis for minors should be treated recalcitrant and the conventional approach should be taken first.

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Chronic Pancreatitis to the list of debilitating medical conditions for patients over the age of 18 by a vote of 5 for and 2 against.

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Chronic Pancreatitis whose pain is recalcitrant to standard medical management to the list of debilitating medical conditions for patients under the age of 18 by a vote of 4 for and 3 against.

Next Meeting

To be scheduled at a later date.

Adjournment

Deputy Commissioner Arulampalam adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:42 a.m.

DRAFT