

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

Medical Marijuana Program - Public Act 12-55

Board of Physicians

Minutes

September 12, 2012

Members Present:

William M. Rubenstein	Commissioner
Dr. Jonathan Kost	
Dr. Godfrey Pearlson	
Dr. Robert Siegel	

DCP Staff Present:

Michelle Seagull	Deputy Commissioner
Gary Berner	Legislative Program Manager
Claudette Carveth	Director of Communications
John Gadea, Jr.	Director of Drug Control
Gerry Garcia	Chief of Operations
Elisa Nahas	Legal Director
Xaviel Soto	Health Program Associate
Robert Rickenback	IT Analyst
Frank Scalia	IT Supervisor

DAS:

Dan Sears
Maureen Blackburn

Call to Order:

Commissioner Rubenstein convened the meeting of Public Act 12-55, Medical Marijuana Program, and Board of Physicians at 8:40am at the Department of Consumer Protection, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Room G38.

Swearing-In

The Oath of Office to appointed physician members of the panel.

Overview:

The statute creates this board of physicians under Public Act 12-55 where there are to be eight physician members, plus the Commissioner of Consumer Protection. The statute provides that a quorum shall be three members. To date three members have been appointed and others are expected to be appointed in the near future.

Under the statute there are certain medical specialties in which members are required to be board-certified. The Department of Consumer Protection's intent in appointing members to the board is to have a diversity of the various specialties that are specified in the statute.

Introduction of Board Members:

A brief introduction of members and their board certifications was given. Commissioner Rubenstein will serve as the board chair until the full complement of physicians is appointed.

Agenda:

Commissioner Rubenstein provided an overview of Public Act 12-55. Under this statute, the Department of Consumer Protection is obligated to begin to register patients and caregivers as of October 1, 2012 and is on target to do that.

Overview:

- Understanding the various pieces of the Law
 - Physicians Perspective
 - Patients Perspective
 - Production/Distribution Perspective

- Role of the Board of Physicians
- Patient Registration Process
- Important Dates

MMP Presentation Summary

- **Understanding the Law**
 - Public Act 12-55, An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana, signed into law on May 31, 2012.
 - Designed to Prevent Misuse and Diversion

- **Debilitating Medical Conditions Recognized by Law**
 - Over time would like to develop a protocol to expand debilitating medical conditions.
- **Physicians are the Gatekeepers**
- **Qualified Patient Must be an Adult With a Debilitating Medical Condition**
- **Not Everyone Can Register as a Caregiver**
- **Patients and Caregivers Must Act Responsibly**
- **Producers will be Limited and Tightly Regulated**
- **Marijuana will be Dispensed Consistent with its Status as a Controlled Substance.**
- **Immunity is Only for Those Acting Responsibly.**
- **Scope of Immunity.**
- **The Board of Physicians will Ensure the Medical Integrity of Connecticut's Program.**
- **Patient and Caregiver Registration.**
- **Registration Process Overview.**
- **Physician Certificate**
 - Prerequisites to Assessing the Registration System
- **Patient Registration**
- **Caregiver Registration**
- **Registration Fees**

Important Dates:

October 1, 2012

Qualified patients and caregivers can begin applying for temporary registration certificates.

July 1, 2013

On or before this date, the Department of Consumer Protection will submit regulations implementing the Act to the legislative regulation review committee.

Discussion of Tasks

There was a discussion of the Board's role in recommending additional debilitating conditions for which the palliative use of marijuana would be permitted. There was agreement that the Board should recommend the petition process to be used including the information that should be included in any petition so that the Commissioner can include the process in proposed regulations.

There was discussion about development of protocols for determining the amount of marijuana that would constitute a one month's supply. An ultimate goal would be to have sufficient data so that amount could be expressed in quantity of any active ingredients or chemical compounds rather than gross weight. While such protocols are being developed, it was recommended that the Department of Consumer Protection look to protocols used in other states and select an amount in the mid-range after excluding outlier States.

There was a discussion of the potential to collect data to further research that could inform dosage issues, efficacy, usage protocols and consistency and replication of product attributes, among other scientific and medical questions.

Future Meetings:

Commissioner Rubenstein stated the following expectations for next meeting:

- More board members with range of specialties
- Fuller discussion of process for evaluating petitions regarding additions of debilitating conditions
- Fuller discussion about research potential, data collection and usage protocols

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2012 @ 8:30am, Room G38.