

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection
Medical Marijuana Program
Board of Physicians—Public Hearing
Minutes
August 18, 2017

Members Present: Michelle Seagull Commissioner
Dr. Godfrey Pearlson
Dr. Mitchell Prywes
Dr. Andrew Salner
Dr. Jonathan Kost
Dr. Vincent Carlesi

DCP Staff Present: Xaviel Soto Health Program Supervisor
Karen Semmelrock Board Administrator

Call to Order

Commissioner Seagull called the meeting to order of the Board of Physicians for Connecticut's Medical Marijuana Program at 8:38 a.m. at the Department of Consumer Protection, 450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, North conference room D.

Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Dr. Salner and seconded by Dr. Kost, the draft minutes of the June 7, 2017 meeting are accepted.

Board of Physicians Introductions

Commissioner Seagull asked the Board members to briefly introduce themselves.

Program Update

Commissioner Seagull reported that the program is growing. As of August 18, 2017, there were 724 physicians who are certifying patients. The number of patients who have been certified in Connecticut has increased to 19,117.

Several of the Board members' appointments had expired. All of the doctors whose appointments had expired have accepted the request to remain on the Board. Dr. DeSouza, Dr. Pearlson, Dr. Carlesi and Dr. Kost have all been reappointed to another 4 year term.

Legislative Updates

There are no legislative updates to report as the legislature is not in session. We are working on updating the Medical Marijuana regulations.

New Conditions

At this meeting, the Board deliberated on two conditions, applying the required criteria from the regulations to each. For each 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?

Commissioner Seagull invited the general public to speak on any of the conditions. Only two people had signed up to speak in regard to the condition Intractable Headache Syndrome.

- **Intractable Headache Syndrome**

- Testimony from Taylor Dudek and her mother Sheila Dudek. Miss Dudek shared her lifelong struggle with this condition and how it has impacted her life. She went through all the procedures, treatments and therapies she has tried. Her mother testified how difficult it is to watch her child suffer and there is nothing she can do to help her.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
 - 5 yes and 0 no
- Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
 - 5 yes and 0 no.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
 - No discussion

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Intractable Headache Syndrome to the list of debilitating medical conditions for adults only by a vote of 5 for and 0 against.

- Dr. Salner moved to remove Intractable Migraines and replace it with Intractable Headache Syndrome. Dr. Kost seconded this motion and the Board unanimously voted for this.

- **Neuropathic Facial Pain**

- No testimony from patients or public. Discussion from the Board members only.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
 - 5 yes, 0 no
- Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
 - 5 yes, 0 no
- Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
 - No discussion

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Neuropathic Facial Pain to the list of debilitating medical conditions for adults only by a vote of 5 for and 0 against.

- Dr. Carlesi moved to remove Trigeminal Neuralgia and replace it with Neuropathic Facial Pain. Dr. Kost seconded the motion and the Board unanimously voted for this.

Next Meeting

Commissioner Seagull stated that another meeting will be scheduled to consider any new petitions that have been submitted. The date will be discussed and decided at a later date.

Adjournment

Commissioner Seagull adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:15 a.m.