

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection
Medical Marijuana Program
Board of Physicians—Public Hearing
Minutes
June 25, 2018

Members Present: Michelle Seagull Commissioner
Dr. Mitchell Prywes
Dr. Andrew Salner
Dr. William Zempsky
Dr. Vincent Carlesi
Dr. Linda Barry
Dr. Jonathan Kost
Dr. Deepak Cyril D’Souza
Dr. Godfrey Pearlson

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 8:39 a.m. at the Department of Consumer Protection, 450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, North conference room C/D.

Commissioner Seagull stated that this is a continuation of the meeting initially held on 2/26/18. Two of the conditions from that meeting had been tabled until this date to allow the Board to gather and review more information. During this time, information was gathered from the public and specialists and the Board has reviewed it.

Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

After noting a correction regarding a date in the minutes, a motion was made by Dr. Pearlson and seconded by Dr. Zempsky and the draft minutes of the February 26, 2018 meeting are accepted.

Program Update

Commissioner Seagull reported that the program continues to grow. As of June 25, 2018, there are 26,641 patients. The number of providers certifying patients has grown to 913.

Commissioner Seagull stated that regulations have been submitted. These regulations include items concerning APRNs, research programs and hospice, along with 7 new conditions. The regulatory process was briefly explained.

Information regarding the RFA for new dispensaries was provided. There was discussion among the Board regarding the program and dispensaries.

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?

No public testimony was permitted at this meeting.

- **Opioid Use Disorder/Opiate Withdrawal**
 - No testimony from patients or public. Discussion from the Board members only.
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
 - 8 yes and 0 no
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
 - 0 yes and 8 no.
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
 - Board members would like to see more research.

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to not add Opioid Use Disorder/Opiate Withdrawal to the list of debilitating medical conditions by a vote of 0 for and 8 against.

- **Progressive Degenerative Disc Disease of the Spine**
 - No testimony from patients or public. Discussion among Board members focused on the clarification of the naming of this condition. It was voted to change the condition to Chronic Neuropathic Pain Associated with Degenerative Spinal Disorders.
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
 - 8 yes and 0 no
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
 - 8 yes and 0 no.
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
 - No discussion

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Chronic Neuropathic Pain Associated with Degenerative Spinal Disorders to the list of debilitating medical conditions for adults by a vote of 8 for and 0 against.

Next Meeting

To be scheduled at a later date.

Adjournment

Commissioner Seagull adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:40 a.m.