

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection
Medical Marijuana Program
Board of Physicians—Public Hearing
Minutes
October 15, 2021

Members Present: Michelle Seagull 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

Commissioner Seagull called the meeting to order of the Board of Physicians for Connecticut’s Medical Marijuana Program at 8:35 a.m. via Zoom.com

Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Pearlson and seconded by Dr. Kost and the draft minutes of the November 20, 2020 meeting are accepted.

Program Update

We have about 54,000 patients currently and that number has been holding steady the last couple of months. There are about 1,500 certifying practitioners.

Adult Use Cannabis Bill Update

There is a focus in preserving the medical program.

- The Bill allows the current medical businesses to convert to serve adult consumers.
 - Part of the conversions means they need to have a medical preservation plan.
 - The plan needs to show how are they going to continue to have products for patient and how will patients have access to the dispensary facilities.
 - The plan will be approved by DCP prior to the facilities entering the adult market.
 - Some products will only be available for Medical Marijuana patients.
 - Medical products will not be taxed.
 - A new feature is as of October 1, 2021 patients can grow their own product.

- The bill allows a higher monthly amount for patients but gives the department the authority to consider the market conditions to determine how to increase the allotments. There will be an increase from 2.5 oz to 3.0oz.
- Dispensary facilities are allowed to deliver to patients, currently no dispensary has started this service.
- Patients can now also transfer facilities without a limit, this allows patients to move more freely.
- DCP will have the authority to monitor supply and demand. This means DCP will be able to limit the amount of purchase per transaction to help ensure access to medical marijuana for patients.
- There is also a real focus on social equity.
- Another focus of the bill is protecting public health and safety.
 - We will be implementing a seed to sale system so we can have a closed loop system to track products.
 - Also, consumer packaging will be clearly delineated so there is no confusion on intake and products are not designed to attract children.
- Adult use creates many more licensing types: hybrid retailers, cultivator, micro cultivator, food and beverage manufacturer product manufacturer, delivery, and transporter.
 - The first step to starting the license process is the Social Equity putting together details on who qualifies for social equity consideration.
- This bill also covers other issues such as expungement of criminal records, driving under the influence and employment. These areas are not regulated by DCP.

New Conditions

At this meeting, the Board deliberated on two conditions, 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?

- **Movement disorders associated with Huntington Disease**
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
 - 7 yes and 0 no
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
 - 7 yes and 0 no.
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
 - Approved specifically for movement disorders associated with Huntington Disease

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Movement disorders associated with Huntington Disease to the list of debilitating medical conditions for patients over the age of 18 by a vote of 7 for and 0 against.

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Movement disorders associated with Huntington Disease to the list of debilitating medical conditions for patients under the age of 18 by a vote of 0 for and 7 against.

- **Anorexia Nervosa**
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
 - 0 yes and 7 no
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
 - 0 yes and 7 no.
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
 - The evidence is not compelling to treat Anorexia Nervosa, there are too many adverse consequences.

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Anorexia Nervosa 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 Commissioner to add Anorexia Nervosa 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 0 for and 7 against.

Recommendations for medical content for inclusions on DCP's Medical Marijuana page

Postponed for the next meeting.

Next Meeting

To be scheduled at a later date.

Adjournment

Commissioner Seagull adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:01 a.m.