

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection
Medical Marijuana Program
Board of Physicians—Public Hearing
Minutes
February 3, 2023

Members Present: Michelle Seagull Commissioner

Dr. Linda Barry
Dr. Mitchell Prywes
Dr. Andrew Salner
Dr. Jonathan Kost
Dr. Godfrey Pearson
Dr. Vincent Carlesi

DCP Staff Present: Rodrick Marriott Director
Xavier 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 8:33 a.m. via Zoom.com.

Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Salner and seconded by Dr. Kost and the draft minutes of the July 7, 2022, meeting are accepted.

Program Update

Commissioner Seagull reported that the program continues to grow.

- We have approximately 49,000 medical marijuana patients
- We have over 1,600 certifying physicians and APRNs
- January 10th was the launch of the Adult Use market in Connecticut.
- At the time of launch of the Adult Use market, we had 9 approved hybrid retailers, 7 were ready to open on January 10th.
- Currently we have 10 approved hybrid retailers and 8 are open.
- In coming months, we will see more business open such as growers, more retailers, product manufacturers, delivery etc. Many of these will be the Social Equity applicants.
- Before any business could convert they were required to present a medical preservation plan that would protect medical patients.
- Some plans include delivery, online order, expedited lines for patients etc.
- Patients have benefits such as a greater product variety which will increase over time, higher THC, no sales tax on medicine, and being able to purchase more per transaction.
- Recently gummies have now been allowed into the medical market.

- The department has been monitoring sales and Medical Marijuana sales have been higher than adult use sales
- More robust packaging and labeling requirements were put in place with the launch of the adult market. These include, among other things, rules to prevent packaging from being appealing to children, additional warnings, clear labeling that the product contains THC and serving size demarcations for edible products.
- The department has also been working on education campaigns as well as our sister agencies, examples of topics covered are safe storage, what to do in the event of an accidental ingestion, health and addiction and impaired driving.

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?

- **Vulvar Lichen Sclerosus**
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
 - 6 yes and 0 no
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
 - 6 yes and 0 no.
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
 - Several board members opined that Vulvar Lichen Sclerosus is a condition that can be covered under chronic pain which is already on the list of debilitating conditions.

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Vulvar Lichen Sclerosus to the list of debilitating medical conditions for patients over the age of 18 by a vote of 0 for and 6 against.

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Vulvar Lichen Sclerosus to the list of debilitating medical conditions for patients under the age of 18 by a vote of 0 for and 6 against.

Next Meeting

To be scheduled at a later date.

Adjournment

Commissioner Seagull adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:37 a.m.