

**Cannabis Control Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

MINUTES

June 26, 2024

1:00-3:00 PM

**Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission
Commissioner's Conference Room (Basement)
333 E. Franklin Street / Richmond, VA 23219**

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Keohane, Chair
Neil Amin, Vice Chair
Bette Brand
Michael J. Massie
Anthony Williams

LEGAL COUNSEL: James Flaherty, Office of the Attorney General

PRESENTERS: Gillian Schauer, PhD, MPH, Executive Director, Cannabis Regulators
Association (CANNRA)
Jamie Patten, Cannabis Control Authority
Isaac Wright, Cannabis Control Authority
Brianna Bonat, Cannabis Control Authority
Shawn Casey, Cannabis Control Authority

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Keohane called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Mr. Keohane determined the Board had quorum with all five board members present in person.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion by Ms. Brand and duly seconded by Mr. Amin, the members voted to approve the meeting's agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Williams and duly seconded by Ms. Brand, the members voted to approve the draft minutes from the May 8, 2024, Board meeting.

5. PROPOSED RULE ON RESCHEDULING MARIJUANA

Ms. Casey introduced virtual guest speaker, Dr. Gillian Schauer, Executive Director of the Cannabis Regulators Association (CANARA). CANNRA is an international, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that convenes government officials engaged in cannabis regulation and policy implementation across more than 45 states and US territories, Canada and the Netherlands. CANNRA is not an advocacy group, but rather is focused on sharing lessons learned and identifying best practices for regulation. Dr. Schauer presented an informal review of the draft rule on rescheduling marijuana that came out in May 2024, including a timeline for public comments. The Board thanked Dr. Schauer for her informative overview of the marijuana rescheduling process.

6. BUDGET AND FINANCE UPDATE

Ms. Patten provided a budget and finance update for the CCA. She reported the CCA has spent \$4.2 million of the \$5.3 million budgeted in fiscal year 2024. She then proposed a categorical breakdown of the CCA's fiscal year 2025 budget of \$6.2 million. After a discussion, Mr. Keohane asked for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2025 budget and to grant CCA staff the ability to vary line items by up to \$10,000 or 10%, whichever is greater, without further Board approval. Upon motion by Ms. Brand and duly seconded by Mr. Amin, the members voted to approve the budget with the delineated variances for staff discretion.

7. MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Wright provided updates on the Medical Cannabis Program (MCP). He reported on current MCP data, including patient numbers, written certifications, licensing updates, and product registrations. He also discussed data for staff resolution of received inquiries and MCP website visits.

Ms. Bonat introduced the Medical Cannabis Patient survey. The goal of the survey is to inform the CCA, medical cannabis businesses, legislators, and the public about patient perspectives of the MCP, including the program's benefits, shortcomings, and areas for potential improvements. The survey is the first CCA in-house patient survey. Ms. Bonat stated that the survey is anonymous, takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete, and all data will be aggregated and presented in a summarized form. The survey will be open for a 6-week period, and results should be available by the fall.

Ms. Casey updated the Board on the Notice of Open Applications for Health Service Area 1. The application period closed on April 30, and the CCA received 40 completed applications, totaling approximately 16,000 pages of material. The five-member review panel has completed their review and scoring of the applications. Staff and legal counsel are now finalizing a review of those scores and checking application materials to ensure compliance with all regulatory requirements and prohibitions. Ms. Casey stated that an updated

timeline will be shared when available.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Keohane invited comments from the public.

Mr. William Hill, a disabled veteran, stated that he is looking to the CCA Board to ensure the veteran population has an opportunity to participate in the program.

Beth Jojack asked the names of the five-panel review committee.

Tanner Johnson, CEO, Pure Virginia, thanked the CCA Staff, Board of Directors, and review committee for their work on the Notice of Open Applications for HSA 1.

9. CLOSED SESSION

At 2:12 pm, upon motion of Ms. Brand, and duly seconded by Mr. Amin, the members voted to enter closed session under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements under Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(8). In addition to the Board members, Mr. Preiss, Ms. Patten, Ms. Casey and Mr. Flaherty attended the closed session.

At the Board's return from closed session, upon motion of Ms. Brand and duly seconded by Mr. Amin the members voted to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only matters falling under Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(8) were discussed in closed session.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 3:29 PM.