

**Cannabis Control Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

MINUTES

December 9, 2024

1:00-3:00 PM

****Virtual Meeting****

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Keohane, Chair
Neil Amin, Vice Chair
Roxann Robinson
Anthony Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael J. Massie

LEGAL COUNSEL: James Flaherty, Office of the Attorney General
Val Southall, Office of the Attorney General
Rachel Adams, outside counsel

PRESENTERS: Robin Hollenbeck, Cannabis Control Authority
Brianna Bonat, Cannabis Control Authority
Jake Shuford, Cannabis Control Authority
Shawn Casey, Cannabis Control Authority
Jeremy Preiss, Cannabis Control Authority

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Keohane called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Mr. Keohane determined the Board had a quorum with three board members present virtually.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Amin and duly seconded by Mr. Williams, the members voted to approve the draft minutes from the October 9, 2024, Board meeting.

5. NEW BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Mr. Keohane introduced the Honorable Roxann Robinson as a new member of the Cannabis Control Authority's (CCA) Board of Directors. The Hon. Roxann Robinson replaces Ms. Bette Brand, who completed her 3-year term on the Board. Mr. Keohane thanked Ms. Brand for her excellent service to the Board. The Hon. Roxann Robinson is a retired optometrist and former member of the Virginia General Assembly. She served in the Virginia House of Delegates for 14 years (from 2010-2024), where she chaired the House Finance Committee. She also served on the Education, General Laws, Health, Welfare, and Institutions, Public Safety, Science and Technology, and Space committees during her tenure. He welcomed The Hon. Roxann Robinson to the Board.

6. NEW CCA STAFF INTRODUCTION

Ms. Hollenbeck introduced new staff member Madelyn Figgers as the CCA's full-time accounting specialist.

7. SAFE DRIVING SURVEY UPDATE

Ms. Bonat provided an overview of the CCA's safe driving survey conducted online from August 30, 2024, through September 12, 2024. This is the second safe driving survey issued by the CCA in collaboration with an outside firm, SSSR. A demographically representative group of 783 Virginia drivers, age 16 and older, were surveyed. Ms. Bonat stated the survey aimed to gauge the attitudes of Virginians towards driving after using cannabis. She stated the survey results revealed changes in attitudes towards cannabis-impaired driving over the last two years. The survey results also measured the effectiveness of the safe driving campaign the CCA began implementing at the start of 2023. Ms. Bonat reviewed with the board the recommendations the CCA derived from the survey data. She noted that survey findings will be used to inform messaging for future safe driving campaigns. Lastly, she stated that behavior modification takes time, and occurs only after consistent, longstanding efforts. For that reason, she observed that the CCA is committed to continuing its safe driving campaign. The full report can be found on the CCA website: cca.virginia.gov/reports.

8. UPDATE TO PROPOSED REGULATORY CHANGES

Ms. Casey provided an overview of the process for proposed regulatory changes. She reiterated that CCA staff engaged in significant stakeholder outreach before presenting the proposed regulatory changes to the Board at the October 9, 2024, meeting. She noted that the proposed regulatory changes are still in the official 60-Day public comment period, and CCA staff are not in the position to do a comprehensive overview or make comprehensive recommendations for next steps at this time.

Mr. Shuford stated that six comments had been submitted on Virginia Regulatory Town Hall. All six comments were generally supportive of the proposed updates. He noted that

several specific issues raised in these public comments could be addressed only through legislative changes outside of the scope of the CCA's rulemaking authority. Mr. Shuford also shared stakeholder comments from pharmaceutical processors and advocacy groups' members. Ms. Casey added that when the 60-day comment period concludes, all the comments will be compiled and sent to the Board with recommendations for board action.

9. ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Preiss discussed the CCA's Annual Report for fiscal year 2024, which covers July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. The report highlights the CCA's busy and productive fiscal year on the regulatory, policy, and educational fronts. Mr. Preiss asked the Board to approve the Annual Report. Upon motion by Mr. Keohane and duly seconded by Hon. Roxann Robinson, the 2024 Annual Report was unanimously approved. The report will be filed prior to the December 15, 2024, deadline.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Keohane opened the public comment period, and he discussed the CCA's new process, which requires people interested in speaking to the board to submit their intent to do so via a form on the CCA website. The form also allows the submission of written comments.

Carolyn Allen submitted the lone request to make a public comment. She was not present online, so Mr. Keohane read Ms. Allen's public comment, which addressed two issues -- the proposed regulatory changes for medical cannabis deliveries to patients and the need for a pharmaceutical processor in Health Service Area (HSA)1. [See Appendix A.] Mr. Preiss responded by explaining that the CCA did award conditional approval for a pharmaceutical processor permit in early September 2024, and that current litigation challenging that award risks delaying the time when a processor will be up and running in HSA1.

11. CLOSED SESSION

At 2:05 PM, upon motion of Hon. Roxann Robinson and duly seconded by Mr. Williams, 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 sections 2.2-3711(A)(7) and 2.2-3711(A)(8). In addition to the Board members, the following people attended the closed session: CCA legal counsel, Mr. Flaherty; Val Southhall, from the Attorney General's office; outside counsel, Rachel Adams; and CCA staff Mr. Preiss, Ms. Casey, and Ms. Patten.

After the Board's return from closed session and upon motion of Mr. Williams 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 2.2-3712(D) were discussed in closed session. The closed session ended at 2:58 PM.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 2:59 PM.

Appendix A:

Email received from Carolyn Allen on 12/7/2024 at 9:13 AM.

Subject: Regulatory Action

Please don't restrict delivery access for patients. What's is the point? And how about awarding HSA1? I thought you were supposed to help this program not kill it. Please consider that this is a far better approach than opioids. And with medical we can be assured of a product that meets certain standards. Thank you.