

**Cannabis Control Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES
March 26, 2025
1:00-3:00 PM**

**9954 Mayland Drive, Deep Run III
Conference Room A/B (1st Floor)
Henrico, VA 23233**

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Keohane, Chair
Michael J. Massie
Roxann Robinson
Anthony Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Neil Amin

LEGAL COUNSEL: James Flaherty, Office of the Attorney General

PRESENTERS: Colleen Hughes, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Services
Jake Shuford, 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 given that four board members were present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Upon motion by Ms. Robinson, and duly seconded by Mr. Williams, the members voted to approve the draft minutes from the January 29, 2025, Board meeting.

5. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE¹**

Mr. Shuford updated the Board on cannabis-related legislation introduced during the 2025 legislative session, including Senate Bill 970, House Bill 2485, House Bill 1989, and House Joint Resolution 497.

Mr. Shuford then reviewed the Governor's actions on other bills related to the following:

- youth possession of inhalable products;
- modifying sentences for cannabis-related offenses; and
- expungement and sealing of criminal records.

6. **2024 VIRGINIA YOUNG ADULT SURVEY**

Colleen Hughes, Director, Office of Behavior Health Wellness, within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, presented key findings of the 2022 and 2024 Virginia Young Adult Survey (YAS). She noted YAS is a biennial, state-wide survey of young adults ages 18-25, developed to address gaps in the continuum of prevention and epidemiological data to focus on young adults and to strengthen data-driven prevention planning. She noted that the purpose of YAS is to better understand young adults' experience with substance use, mental health, and related topics to provide targeted prevention planning. Approximately 6,000 participants completed the 2024 survey compared to 5,000 in 2022, and 133 out of 135 Virginia localities had at least one response.

She then presented on the Substance Use section of the survey, which included cannabis. Lifetime cannabis use-rates between 2022 and 2024 have decreased. She also noted 2024 YAS results showing nearly half of young adults who used cannabis in the past 30 days reported using it to help manage mental health related symptoms. According to Ms. Hughes, 1 in 3 survey respondents perceived no risk or slight risk of people harming themselves by smoking cannabis regularly, and over half saw no or slight risk with occasional use. She also highlighted that despite lack of a retail market, most young adult cannabis users perceive cannabis as easy to access, with most accessing cannabis through friends or family.

7. **DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

Mr. Keohane expressed his thanks to Jeremy Preiss, Acting Head and Chief Officer of Regulatory, Policy, and External affairs, who recently announced his departure from the CCA. Mr. Keohane read a statement from Vice Chair, Mr. Amin, and opened the floor to other board members. Mr. Preiss addressed the Board and read a statement

¹ Mr. Keohane requested a new order of business due to the guest speaker's availability. Agenda item 5 and 6 were swapped from the originally approved agenda.

thanking the Board and CCA staff.

Mr. Keohane then made a motion to delegate the duties of the agency head to the Chief Administrative Officer, Jamie Patten. Pursuant to this delegation, Ms. Patten will serve as the acting head of the CCA effective April 2, 2025. Upon motion by Mr. Massie, and duly seconded by Mr. Williams, the members voted to approve the designation of Ms. Patten as the new Acting Head.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Keohane opened the public comment period.

Pharmacist Dr. Benjamin Sypniewski expressed his gratitude for being able to dispense medical cannabis in Virginia and he also commented that patients frequently ask him questions regarding medical cannabis certifications and firearms.

Mr. Joe Domino, a hemp company employee, associated with the Cannabis Small Business Association (CSBA), cited public safety as a number one concern regarding out of state hemp products coming into Virginia. He added that as a member of the CSBA, he would like to learn more about the opportunity to be involved in the Cannabis Regulators Association.

9. CLOSED SESSION

At 2:17 PM, upon motion made and duly seconded, 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; outside counsel, Billy Tunner; and CCA staff Mr. Preiss, Ms. Patten, and Ms. Casey.

After the Board's return from closed session and upon motion of Mr. Williams and duly seconded by Ms. Robinson, the members voted to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only matters falling under Virginia Code sections 2.2-3711(A)(7) and 2.2-3711(A)(8) were discussed in closed session. The closed session ended at 3:04 PM.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 3:04 PM.