



**Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission
Policy Committee Meeting
October 27, 2020: 2:00 pm
Conducted Online**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Brian Lopez, Commission Chairman
Tiffany Randolph, Committee Chair
Megan Dingus
Charles LoDico
Liz Hines
Scott Welsh

Commissioners Absent

None

MMCC Staff Present

Will Tilburg, Executive Director
Lori Dodson, Deputy Director
Taylor Kasky, Director of Policy and Government Affairs
Rebecca Jackson, Education and Research Analyst
Heather Nelson, Assistant Attorney General
Jamie Tansey, Assistant Attorney General
Christi Megna, Senior Regulatory Analyst
Farahath Dave, Director of Scientific Support
Mary-jo Mather, Director of Administration

Call to Order and Welcome

Chairwoman Randolph called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm. A verbal roll call was conducted, which verified that a quorum was achieved as all members of the Policy Committee were in attendance.

Approval of the July 30, 2020 and September 27, 2020 Minutes

Both of the meeting minutes were approved unanimously. There was no discussion.

Report of MMCC Director of Policy and Government Affairs: Taylor Kasky

Ms. Kasky reported that publication of draft regulations, which include a proposal for edible cannabis products, has been published in the *Maryland Register*, and the draft regulations are open for public comment for thirty days, with finalization expected in December 2020, or January 2021. She then explained that MMCC voted to approve fines in accordance with a fine schedule back in December, 2019. She noted that the MMCC considered many helpful comments received on the fine schedule at the September 24, 2020 Policy Committee meeting. Executive Director Tilburg noted that the impetus for the regulations authorizing a fine schedule would lay out a standardized process for all registrants and licensees, and to also put them on notice that fines will now be imposed for any infractions. Ms. Kasky also noted that these changes would provide licensees transparency as to the details of the fine schedule. While drafting the regulations, MMCC Policy staff's goals were to make the fines reasonable; comprehensive for COMAR 10.62; and to ensure consistency across all license types. The fines were based on internal discussion, industry input, and COMAR violations generally. The first draft of the fine schedule was considered at the Policy Committee meeting on July 20, 2020, and after feedback from the comments, staff incorporated these suggestions into an updated draft to be considered at this Policy Committee meeting.

Overview of Technical Authority: Lori Dodson

Ms. Dodson provided a basic summary of the Technical Authority, and again expressed her thanks to the numerous stakeholders who submitted feedback on the newest draft. These suggestions for the document will be supplements to COMAR, and will include standards of lab testing for all samples. She noted that cannabis lab testing has come a long way since the first version of the Technical Authority was drafted. She answered questions from Commissioner Hines regarding batch sizes, who suggested that MMCC consider a stepped or staged approach for batch sizes up to 25 pounds. Ms. Hines also asked for clarification of qPCR and plating methods in regard to AOAC's recommendations. There was further discussion on data related to safety issues for particular batch sizes, and Ms. Dodson noted that if the testing data show issues, batch size can be adjusted accordingly. Mr. Tilburg supplemented Ms. Dodson's comments by noting that MMCC has a statutory mandate in the Maryland Code, sections 13-3301 and 13-3302, which requires medical cannabis to be safe and effective, as well as affordable to qualifying patients. Shannon Hoffman of Steep Hill provided oral comment on restrictions on microbial testing, and provided suggestions to consider changes by collaborating between all stakeholders. Chairwoman Randolph asked Commissioners if there were other

questions. Due to further discussion and suggestions on edits to the Technical Authority, Ms. Randolph stated that this topic would be tabled for further clarification language on the testing methods. Commissioner LoDico requested a new document with the redlined proposed and agreed upon sections. Ms. Randolph noted that it would be helpful to leave the suggested changes as is to provide historical context. Further edits will be made to the Technical Authority, provided to Commissioners in advance, and presented at the next meeting of the Policy Committee.

New Business

Chairwoman Randolph announced that the next meeting of the Policy Committee would take place virtually on December 1, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

Adjournment

After Commissioner LoDico moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Welsh. Chairwoman Randolph adjourned the meeting at 2:51 pm.