



MARYLAND
MMCC

Natalie M. LaPrade
Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission

**Medical Cannabis Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2015
University of Maryland Medical School
Medical Student Teaching Facility
2:00 pm**

Commissioners Present:

Dario Broccolino
John Gontrum
Robert Lavin
Deborah Miran
Shannon Moore
Tina Paul
Harry (Buddy) Robshaw
Eric Sterling
Jon Traunfield

Commissioners Present by Telephone:

William (Chris) Charles
Michael A. Horberg
Nancy Rosen-Cohen

Staff Present:

Patrick Jameson, Executive Director, MMCC
Mary-jo Mather, MMCC
Myeshia McQueen, MMCC
Precious Wells, MMCC
Michael Weinfeld, MMCC
Heather Nelson, Assistant Attorney General

Absent:

Allison Taylor

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Davies called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm. He welcomed the attendees present in the auditorium, and those streaming the meeting. Chair Davies asked each member of the Commission to introduce themselves, and to state their statutory authority to serve on the Commission. Following the introductions by Commission members, Dr. Davies then introduced Heather Nelson, Assistant Attorney General, who was recently appointed as Counsel to the Commission. Ms. Nelson thanked Dr. Davies and stated that she was looking forward to working with the Commission.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Davies briefly reviewed the significant changes in executive leadership at the Commission. Hannah Byron, the former Executive Director, left in January, and Richard Proctor served as Interim Executive Director until the recent appointment of Patrick Jameson as the new Executive Director. Dr. Davies briefly summarized Mr. Jameson's extensive career in Public Safety, Business and Technology Management. Mr. Jameson was the former National Director for Homeland Security with Oracle, and former President of the State Law Enforcement Officers, as well as a Maryland State Trooper for over 10 years. Patrick also has an MBA from Johns Hopkins University. After the approval of the minutes, Dr. Davies turned the meeting over to Patrick Jameson for the presentation of his Executive Director's Report.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Davies asked if all Commissioners had had an opportunity to review the Minutes from the previous meeting on October 27, 2015. There was no further discussion, and he asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes. It was offered, and appropriately seconded, and the Minutes were approved, including by Commissioners Charles, Horberg and Rosen Cohen, who attended the meeting via telephone.

Executive Director's Report: Patrick Jameson

Mr. Jameson first thanked the Commission Members for getting us to this point, and the Commission staff for maintaining the process during the transition. He informed the media that he would be unable to take questions today, but that he looked forward to meeting all of them and giving interviews in the future. He also greeted the advocacy groups and gave them the same message. Mr. Jameson then turned to his role which, as he sees it, is to implement what the Legislature has passed into law; to make sure public health and safety is the Commission's number one priority; to help facilitate sick people getting medicine; and to help, where possible, businesses achieve success in this new industry.

He summarized where the Commission is in respect to the licensing process. Grower and Processor rankings will be provided to the Commission by RESI sometime in July. The Commission will then have two weeks to review and select the Growers and Processors that can move forward and receive Stage 1 licenses. Ranked Dispensary application rankings should be received sometime in the fall, and as for the Grower and application

rankings, a similar process will ensue. Licensees could become operational prior to, or around the summer of 2017. He reminded Processor and Grower applicants, that for those who are not selected at this time, they may have additional chances in 2018, when demand and supply are examined and more licenses could potentially be issued.

Mr. Jameson reported that the Patient Registry is being load tested. The Registry will be secure and HIPPA-compliant from the start. The Physician Registry is also being updated to accommodate podiatrists, dentists, nurse practitioners, and midwives to certify medical cannabis when House Bill 104 which was signed by the Governor on May 10th becomes effective in July, 2017. Mr. Jameson announced that the Commission will implement a comprehensive web, social media and communication strategy.

Mr. Jameson stated that the Commission will learn from other states and strive to implement “best practices”. He announced that the Commission will implement a statewide tracking system which is essential to public health, public safety, and help us monitor supply and demand issues, and provide statistical analysis as we move forward. He then emphasized the Commission’s focus on “diversion” which is defined as stealing, obtaining medical cannabis fraudulently, recreational use, and improper resale. The Commission will follow the eight federal guidelines outlined in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Cole Memorandum, which must be adhered to by all states. The eight federal priorities are:

1. Preventing marijuana distribution to minors;
2. Preventing money from sales from going to criminal groups;
3. Preventing the diversion of marijuana from states where it is legal to states where it is illegal;
4. Preventing criminal groups from using state laws as a cover for trafficking of other illegal drugs;
5. Preventing violence and the use of illegal firearms;
6. Preventing drugged driving and marijuana-related health problems;
7. Preventing the growing of marijuana on public lands;
8. Preventing marijuana possession or use on federal property.

Mr. Jameson concluded by acknowledging the desire of businesses, patients and others to see the process move as quickly as possible so that medical cannabis is available to all of those in need. He stated that this is his goal as well, but the medical cannabis must be provided in the safest way possible, and in conformance to state and federal laws and regulations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee: Deborah Miran, Chair

Commissioner Miran reported that there have been many important conferences, many which were attended by one or more Commissioners. These conferences included the ASA Unity Conference in March, CannaMed Conference-Research on Neurologic Diseases, the MedChi lecture featuring Dr. Raphael Mechulam in April, and the Patients

Out of Time Conference in April. Ms. Miran announced an upcoming ICRS Conference in Bukovina, Poland in June.

Ms. Miran also reported that the Commission had received one application from an entity seeking registration as an Independent Testing Laboratory prior to the Education meeting, and one additional application since that time. She also reported that the Testing Guidance is currently being revised regarding the 25(b) compounds and it should be reposted soon.

Research Committee: Michael Horberg, Chair

Dr. Horberg attended the meeting via telephone, and submitted the Research Committee's Report Chair to Chairman Davies. The Report follows the Minutes.

DISCUSSION: POST-RANKING-COMMISSION PROCEDURES TASK GROUP

Chairman Davies announced that he was going to jump ahead one item on the Agenda and talk about the informal task group that was established to look at proposed procedures to be followed after the Regional and Economic Studies Institute ("RESI") completes their rankings and evaluates the applications. He noted that one of the recommendations that came out of the first meeting of that group was that the Commission will award up to 15 processor licenses initially and then increase those number of licenses as demand requires. He stated that as this was relatively new to all the Commissioners, other than those who were at the meeting, he would like to open the matter for discussion, and asked Commissioner Buddy Robshaw, who attended the meeting, to add some more clarity to the situation.

Commissioner Buddy Robshaw thanked Chairman Davies, and stated that as many members of the Commission knows, RESI is preparing a graduated list based on their analysis, of people and a rating for growers, processors and ultimately for dispensaries as well. He stated that a small task group met last week as a subcommittee to talk about how the Commission would accept those recommendations, and ultimately, because it is the job of the Commission to choose who gets the original licenses, how we would go about and make those choices. He stated that one of the questions that came up during that discussion was, the group looked at the limitation that was proposed and enacted in the legislation on growers. Commissioner Robshaw stated that he was making the assumption that the Legislature chose that number based not only on economic reasons, at least at the initial stages and start of this program, but also for pragmatic reasons, allowing, if nothing else, this group to get together and enforce and enact regulations in a steady pace so that everything would work in a reasonable fashion instead of haphazardly choosing. He further stated that a post-rating document was developed for all three of license categories, the grower, the processor and the dispensary. As a result of looking at all the applications [sic] (post-ranking documents), he would like to make a proposal, based on the same reasoning that the Legislature did, for pragmatic and economic reasons, that we limit our choices, at least in the short term, for processors, to that same number of fifteen. He added further that it makes sense in terms of how the

Commission developed the regulations, and how the Commission plans to incorporate these, that that 15 processor licenses fits in with that, and it also leaves open the possibility later on, if the necessity and the market bears out the fact that we can have more or many more, that the Commission would be prepared to not only to put that into the pipeline of action but also set up the inspections and everything else that will be necessary. He then stated that, as a result of that meeting, he would like to propose, that, at least for the short term, that the Commission limit the number of initial processor licenses to fifteen, for the same reason as the Legislature, to ensure that when these processors become online, the Commission has the capabilities and wherewithal to know how to inspect and the process is in good working form before the Commission determines later on to add more processors.

Commissioner Eric Sterling seconded the motion.

Commissioner Shannon Moore added that she wanted to state that the number of processor licenses, though coincident with the number of growers, will be evaluated separately on their own.

Buddy noted that there are three sets of licenses as most people are aware. Each one of those choices and individual decisions just because you are a grower that you become a processor. There is also the possibility for a grower to also be a dispensary.

Eric stated to the Chairman that he strongly supported the proposal and creating a limit maximizes the Commission staff to manage and carry out the proper Compliance for the program to work, and he thought that the task force had brought forth is a very useful concept.

Chairman Davies asked if there were any more questions, and receiving none, asked for a vote. The proposal was approved unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

Dr. Davies announced that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, July 12, 2016, and suggested that everyone watch the website, mmcc.maryland.gov, since the date might change or be extended out given the ongoing work being conducted by the Commission.

New Business

Chairman Davies asked if there was any new business to discuss. Commissioner Shannon Moore asked if autism could be considered at the next Commission to be added as a new “qualifying condition”. Dr. Davies responded that he thought there was a mechanism for evaluating new conditions, and that he would work with Heather Nelson and the Executive Director regarding the question, and if appropriate, would discuss the issue at the next Commission meeting.

The Chair recognized Delegate Dan Morhaim, who thanked the Commission members for their hard work, and also thanked Patrick Jameson for accepting the new Executive

Director position. Delegate Morhaim then acknowledged Delegate Cheryl Glenn, who was a member of the audience, and stated that the Commission, its statute and regulations are named in memory of Delegate Glenn's mother, Natalie M. LaPrade. He acknowledged the Delegate's work as well as the many others whose hard work resulted in the legislation being passed. Delegate Morhaim, a physician, further emphasized that cannabis ought to be thought of as any other medication, including medicines which provide benefits and possible side effects. Delegate Glenn then expressed her thanks as well to the Commission and to those in the audience.

A number of audience members offered comments at the podium. The Commission did not discuss any comments received.

Adjournment

Chairman Davies requested a Motion to Adjourn, which was appropriately offered and seconded, and after a unanimous affirmative vote, the meeting adjourned at 3:51 pm.

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