

**Cannabis Control Authority
Board of Directors Meeting –**

MINUTES

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Dec. 8, 2021

12:00-2:00 PM

Patrick Henry Building - Conference Room 1

1111 E Broad St

Richmond, VA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Neil Amin, Chair
Michael Jerome Massie, Esq., Vice Chair
Bette Brand
Shane Emmett
Rasheeda N. Creighton

LEGAL COUNSEL: James M. Flaherty, Assistant Attorney General,
Office of the Attorney General

PRESENTORS: David E. Brown, DC, Director, Virginia Department of Health
Professions

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Amin called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Mr. Amin determined that with all members present, the Board had a quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Upon motion by Ms. Creighton, and duly seconded, the members unanimously voted to approve the draft minutes from the November 9, 2021 board meeting.

5. PRESENTATION ON VIRGINIA'S MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM

Mr. David E. Brown, DC, Director, Virginia Department of Health Professions provided a briefing on Virginia's medical marijuana program, known as the pharmaceutical processor program. The program was first authorized by legislation passed in 2017 and has significantly expanded in the years since – both in terms of what products may be sold and which patients qualify. Currently, the law allows one pharmaceutical processor to be authorized by in each of the five Health Service Areas (HSAs). At the moment, four of the HSAs have active licensees in operation. The Virginia Board of Pharmacy oversees the program, including permitting and inspecting the processors; registering products before they can be sold; licensing medical practitioners who wish to provide marijuana certifications to patients; and registering patients. As of November 14, 2021, Virginia has approximately 35,832 registered patients. The Board is currently receiving about 1-2,000 patient applications per week – a significant increase that has been difficult for staff to keep up with. Mr. Brown shared the challenges his team sees, including believing that recent legislative changes may be resulting in a de facto adult-use program, without the Commonwealth collecting any taxes on the sales; the need for more resources at the Board of Pharmacy to keep up with the increase in patient demand; complexities of working with vendors because of the federally illegality of cannabis; and concerns about legislation being discussed that would require the Board of Pharmacy to temporarily oversee an adult-use program. Mr. Brown fielded questions from the Board.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

At 12:39 PM, the Chair asked whether anyone in attendance from the public wished to provide comment.

Mr. Michael Krawitz, a member of the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council, disabled Air Force veteran, and cannabis legalization advocate, offered himself as a resource to the Board and emphasized the importance of continued existence of the medical program for patients.

At 12:44, seeing that no one else from the public wished to speak, the Chair closed the public comment period.

7. BOARD ACTIONS

a. Consideration of the Authority's Annual Report

Section 4.1-620 of the Code of Virginia requires the CCA to annually submit a report on its activities. Board members received a draft of the annual report ahead of the meeting, for their review and suggestions. Upon a motion by Ms. Brand, and duly seconded, the

Board unanimously approved the draft to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 15.

b. Hiring Action Items (Closed Session) – Mr. Amin

At 12:45 PM, Board Chair Amin moved that the Board enter closed session pursuant to 2.2-3711(A)(1) - discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment and 2.2-3711(A)(8) – consultation with legal counsel. Ms. Creighton seconded and the motion was unanimously approved on a roll-call vote. Attending the closed session in full were all five Board Members, as well as Deputy Secretary Shawn Talmadge, Mr. Jim Flaherty, and Ms. Megan Field.

Upon the Board's return from closed session at 2:05 pm, the Chair moved to certify that to the best of his knowledge nothing was discussed in the closed sessions but employment matters falling under 2.2-3711(A)(1) and 2.2-3711(A)(8) and only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements was discussed. Mr. Massie seconded; the motion passed on a roll-call vote of 5 - 0.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 2:07 PM.