



**Cannabis Control Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES
July 20, 2023
2:00-3:00PM**

VIRTUAL

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY: John Keohane, Chair (Joined Meeting at 2:10pm)
Neil Amin, Vice Chair
Michael Jerome Massie
Bette Brand

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anthony D. Williams

LEGAL COUNSEL: Josh Laws, Office of the Attorney General

PRESENTERS: Jeremy Preiss, Cannabis Control Authority
Shawn Casey, Cannabis Control Authority
Jake Shuford, Cannabis Control Authority

1. CALL TO ORDER

The all-virtual meeting was called to order at 2:08pm. Mr. Amin agreed to run the meeting until Mr. Keohane could connect virtually.

2. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Mr. Amin determined that the Board had a quorum given that three board members were present virtually.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Upon motion by Ms. Brand, and duly seconded by Mr. Massie, the members voted to approve the draft minutes from the May 24, 2023 Board meeting.

5. NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Mr. Preiss announced the expiration of Rasheeda Creighton's term as a board member on June 30, 2023. Mr. Preiss noted that Governor Youngkin appointed Anthony D. Williams of Virginia Beach to



the Board effective July 1, 2023. Mr. Williams, the former chief of operations at the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, was unable to make this meeting but plans to attend the next board meeting on September 7, 2023.

6. MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM TRANSITION

CCA Staff discussed the ongoing cooperation between the Board of Pharmacy (BoP) and the CCA on the regulatory transition of the Medical Cannabis Program (MCP). Ms. Casey informed the board that CCA staff has continued to hold regular meetings with Board of Pharmacy staff and is in the process of establishing contracts with the software companies currently responsible for helping to administer MCP licensing operations. Ms. Casey also shared that CCA staff has “shadowed” BoP investigators on several inspections.

Ms. Casey also updated the Board on the opening for a pharmaceutical processor in Health Service Area (HSA) 1. BoP staff notified current applicants that the BoP will vote at its September meeting on whether to cancel the existing Request for Application (RFA). If the BoP votes to cancel the existing RFA, the CCA will issue a new RFA, and CCA staff is coordinating with the BoP staff to be prepared for that process.

Mr. Shuford updated the Board of the timeline to adopt regulations governing the MCP. The regulations will reflect the BoP’s existing regulations and updates resulting from legislative changes adopted in the 2022 and 2023 sessions of the General Assembly. Ms. Casey further noted the CCA’s plans to increase application and licensing fees to ensure the fees cover the costs of overseeing the MCP. The CCA is a stand-alone agency and will hire dedicated compliance and enforcement staff. Ms. Casey also explained that Virginia’s current licensing fees are among the lowest in the country and any fee increases will better align with the fees assessed in other states.

Finally, Mr. Preiss discussed an upcoming study on the medical cannabis market in Virginia. He informed the board that Delegate Orrock, the chair of the House Committee on Health, Welfare, and Institutions, has asked the CCA to assess the “necessity and feasibility of adding licenses” to the MCP. Mr. Preiss also shared the criteria Chair Orrock would like the CCA to consider in the assessment. Chair Orrock has directed the CCA to complete the study by November 30, 2023. Chair Orrock also has asked that the study’s results be shared with him and the Secretaries of Public Safety and Health, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the Chair of the Virginia Cannabis Oversight Commission.

Earlier this month, the CCA contracted with a consulting group to assist with the study.



7. TOWN HALL UPDATE

Mr. Preiss provided the board with an update on the CCA’s successful initiative to hold town halls in each of the Commonwealth’s five HSAs in the first half of 2023. He reported that between March 8 and July 18, the CCA held seven town halls in Virginia Beach, Roanoke, Abingdon, Fairfax, Chester, Weyers Cave, and Falls Church. Roughly 300 people attended the events (online and in-person). The town halls have been an effective platform for introducing the CCA, sharing public safety and public health information about cannabis, and learning community perspectives, concerns, and priorities regarding cannabis. In the post-event survey, responding attendees have provided the CCA with a 4.1 satisfaction rating (on a scale of 1-5).

The CCA is planning further community-focused events.

8. FINANCE AND BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Preiss provided an update on the agency’s budget and finances. He noted that fiscal year 2023 has concluded and fiscal year 2024 is underway. Mr. Preiss also observed that, because of ongoing additional hires and investments in items such as technology, the CCA is experiencing a reasonable and expected acceleration in expenditure. This increased “run rate” is in line with the building out of the CCA’s capacities and is a trend that should continue for the foreseeable future.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Keohane then invited comments from the public.

Mr. Powers commented that it is his opinion that it is in the best interest of the state of Virginia to have language specifying Virginia farmers should get priority for cannabis licenses.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 2:47pm.