



**Cannabis Control Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting  
MINUTES  
MAY 24, 2023  
1:00-3:00PM**

**Library of Virginia  
Conference Room A/B  
800 E. Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219**

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Keohane, Chair  
Michael Jerome Massie  
Bette Brand

MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Rasheeda Creighton

LEGAL COUNSEL: James Flaherty, Office of the Attorney General

PRESENTERS: Caroline D. Juran, RPh, Virginia Board of Pharmacy  
Annette S. Kelley, M.S.; C.S.AC., Virginia Board of Pharmacy  
Jeremy Preiss, Cannabis Control Authority

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Keohane called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

**2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

Mr. Keohane determined that the Board had a quorum given that three board members were physically present. Ms. Creighton participated remotely from Richmond, Virginia due to a personal matter.

**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 April 13, 2023, Board meeting.

## **5. BOARD OF PHARMACY- MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM UPDATE**

Ms. Juran and Ms. Kelley, staff for the Board of Pharmacy, presented on the current operations of the Medical Cannabis Program. They noted how the Board of Pharmacy staff is working with CCA staff to facilitate transition of the program's oversight to the CCA by January 1, 2024. The presentation included a brief history of the Medical Cannabis Program in Virginia. Ms. Juran and Ms. Kelley also gave the Board a comprehensive overview of all elements of the Medical Cannabis Program, including current software and records processes, guidance documents, and available metrics.

Ms. Juran and Ms. Kelley highlighted that the Board of Pharmacy and the CCA will work together to promulgate regulations that implement legislative changes passed during the 2022 and 2023 sessions of the General Assembly and to ensure a smooth and comprehensive transition between the two agencies. The Board of Pharmacy and the CCA will also work together in conjunction with the Attorney General's office to address the open pharmaceutical processor permit in Health Service Area 1.

## **6. INTRODUCTIONS- NEW CCA STAFF**

Mr. Preiss introduced two new CCA staff members who joined the Authority in April. Ms. Laura Georgiadis and Ms. Samantha Jenkins joined the CCA staff as Administrative Assistants.

## **7. TOWN HALL UPDATE**

Mr. Preiss gave an update on the town halls the CCA has held across the Commonwealth. Since March, the CCA has held town halls in Virginia Beach, Roanoke, Abingdon, and Fairfax. The events have drawn a combined audience of over 200 people in person and online and prompted 39 public comments. According to the post-event feedback surveys administered by CCA staff, overall satisfaction of the four town halls was 4.3 on a 5-point scale. The next two events will be held June 13 at Brightpoint Community College in Chester, and July 12 at Blue Ridge Community College in Harrisonburg. The CCA is also exploring the possibility of future outreach events in other forms, such as roundtables.

## **8. FINANCE AND BUDGET UPDATE**

Mr. Preiss provided a finance and budget update, including information on CCA expenditures and costs through April 30, 2023. The CCA anticipates that expenditures will continue to rise as the Authority adds staff and carries out statutory mandates. Mr. Preiss also noted that the transfer of the Medical Cannabis Program will result in new cash revenue sources for the CCA, and that fees associated with the Medical Cannabis Program are subject to change upon the CCA's assumption of regulatory authority.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mr. Keohane then opened the floor for comment from the public.



Mr. Fred Watkins suggested that the changes in Maryland state law regarding cannabis may impact the future trajectory of Virginia's own laws.

Mr. James Wells of Rockingham County encouraged the Board to consult with members of the cannabis community and encouraged the inclusion of a cannabis community member on the Board.

Mr. Wells also suggested the legislature create a pathway for a caregiver program for cultivation or other legal ways to create cannabis communal gardens.

Mr. Layton Fairchild of Five Leaves in Spotsylvania suggested the Commonwealth allow a pilot program to distribute medical cannabis in Health Service Area 1 which does not currently have a medical cannabis provider.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 2:56pm.