

**Cannabis Control Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

MINUTES

January 31, 2024

1:00-3:00 PM

**Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission
Commissioner's Conference Room (Basement)
333 E. Franklin Street / Richmond, VA 23219**

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Keohane, Chair
 Neil Amin, Vice Chair
 Bette Brand
 Anthony Williams
 Michael J. Massie

LEGAL COUNSEL: James Flaherty, Office of the Attorney General

PRESENTERS: Jeremy Preiss, Cannabis Control Authority
 Robin Hollenbeck, Cannabis Control Authority
 Jake Shuford, Cannabis Control Authority
 Isaac Wright, Cannabis Control Authority
 Jamie Patten, Cannabis Control Authority

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Keohane called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Mr. Keohane determined the Board had a quorum given that all board members were present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Williams, and duly seconded by Ms. Brand, the members voted to approve the draft minutes from the December 13, 2023, Board meeting.

5. CCA NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Hollenbeck introduced the CCA's newest staff member, Dominica McGowen, Administrative Proceedings Coordinator.

6. MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Wright updated the Board on the status of the Medical Cannabis Program (MCP). He reported on product registrations through the product portal and the processing of one renewal application through the MCP's pharmaceutical processor licensing portal. Mr. Wright reported approximately 6,985 written certifications were processed in January.

Mr. Wright also updated the Board on current MCP staffing. He stated that there are currently two MCP associates and an additional MCP associate position has been posted.

7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Shuford provided an overview of key cannabis legislation in the General Assembly. He stated that three bills had been introduced regarding the commercial, adult-use cannabis market:

- Senate Bill 448;
- Senate Bill 423 (which was incorporated into Senate Bill 448); and
- House Bill 698.

Mr. Shuford noted that one piece of legislation, House Bill 815 had been proposed regarding the Medical Cannabis Program.

He then reported on additional cannabis-related legislation addressing topics such as criminal penalties, the THC concentration for hemp, and employee protections for the medicinal use of cannabis.

8. DISCUSSION OF PROCESS FOR SOLICITING AND REVIEWING APPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICE AREA 1

Ms. Patten updated the Board on the Notice of Open Applications (NOA) for a pharmaceutical processor in Health Service Area 1 (HSA1). She reviewed the NOA process and proposed timeline, which should enable the Board to issue conditional approval to the selected applicant in late June. Ms. Patten stated that the CCA is fully committed to issuing the NOA as soon as possible and selecting a pharmaceutical processor to operate in HSA 1.

9. BUDGET AND FINANCE UPDATE

Ms. Patten reported that the CCA is halfway through the fiscal year. She stated that CCA expenditures have been approximately \$1.8 million. She noted that CCA expenditures are steadily rising. She also reported that the CCA has prepared ten fiscal impact statements

related to cannabis legislation during the legislative session so far.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Keohane invited comments from the public.

Mark Tavares, Owner of Commonwealth Canna, shared that his company has farmed hemp since 2020 and invited the CCA to visit Commonwealth Canna.

Myra Payne of Chesapeake requested clarification on licensing for HSA 1 and asked about licenses for people who want to farm hemp.

Julio Soriagalvarro, Founder and Managing Partner of BV, a Richmond-based marketing agency, asked questions about the scoring and approval process for applications to become the pharmaceutical processor in Health Service Area 1 (HSA 1). Ms. Patten clarified that the review panel has not been selected and she does not anticipate a third-party agency involved in the Notice of Open Application process.

Layton Fairchild of Fredericksburg commented on the lack of a cannabis processing facility in HSA 1 and asked the CCA to clarify. Mr. Preiss explained that the original pharmaceutical processor license that was approved by the Board of Pharmacy was rescinded. He stated that the litigation over the rescinded license ended in May of 2023. Mr. Preiss confirmed that the Notice of Open Applications will be publicly posted.

Amy Brannan of McKinney Specialty Labs asked about the controlled substance registration process.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 1:42 PM.