

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

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October 6th, 2022

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Commissioner’s Conference Room (Basement)

Virginia Workers’ Compensation Commission

333 E. Franklin St.

Richmond, VA 23219

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Keohane, Chair
Neil Amin, Vice-Chair
Michael Jerome Massie
Bette Brand
Rasheeda N. Creighton

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

PRESENTERS: Jeremy Preiss, Cannabis Control Authority
Brianna Bonat, Cannabis Control Authority
Shawn Casey, Cannabis Control Authority
Kayla Soltis, Cannabis Control Authority
Jamie Patten, Department of Juvenile Justice

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Mr. Keohane determined that, with five members present in person, the Board had a quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING’S MINUTES

Upon a motion by Ms. Creighton, and duly seconded by Ms. Brand, the members unanimously voted to approve the draft minutes from the August 17, 2022, board meeting.

5. INTRODUCTIONS – NEW CCA STAFF

Mr. Preiss introduced a new CCA staff member, Manuel “Manny” Liban, Senior Manager, Public Affairs.

6. RECAP OF SEPT 12TH CANNABIS PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Ms. Bonat presented on the September 12, 2022, meeting of the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council Meeting (CPHAC). The Advisory Council last met in December 2021, and the September meeting served to reintroduce CPHAC and provide informative presentations on various topics of interest in the public health realm. Ms. Bonat briefly noted the presentations at the CPHAC meeting, which included an update on cannabis legislative changes from the 2022 session, current statistics from the medical cannabis program, current prevention efforts on youth cannabis use, and cannabis related poison center calls.

6.a. Safe Driving Poll- Summary of Initial Findings

Ms. Bonat then gave a summary of initial findings from the CCA’s recently conducted safe driving poll, some of which were also presented at the CPHAC meeting. The safe driving survey had 738 respondents ages 16 years and older. The respondents were representative of Virginia’s driving age population, including regional, age, and racial distribution of the Commonwealth based on census data. Ms. Bonat noted that the full detailed report from Stratacomm, the company who conducted the survey, is forthcoming, but these early results represent accurate preliminary numbers.

The results indicate that 23% of respondents used cannabis in the three months prior to the late August/early September survey. While other hazardous driving behaviors were perceived by a greater number of respondents as extremely dangerous—such as texting (60%), alcohol (49%), and other illegal drugs (53%)—fewer respondents perceived marijuana as extremely dangerous (26%). Ms. Bonat noted that this statistic provides the CCA with opportunities to address attitudes and behaviors in its upcoming safe driving campaign. The findings also indicated that 47% of marijuana users do not make plans for a sober drive home, and 30% of Virginians believed marijuana made them a safer driver. The weighted data, including break downs based on respondents’ ages, is expected in the coming full report. Following receipt of the full data, Ms. Bonat and Mr. Preiss noted the CCA intends to release a press release to the public highlighting the findings and providing access to the full survey results.

7. UPDATE ON WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Preiss presented on the status of the ongoing creation of the CCA website. The CCA has partnered with two organizations to develop the new website: 903 Creative, for design and creative elements, and the webservices operation Virginia Interactive / NIC. 903 Creative has finalized design aspects of the website, and those aspects have been approved and shared with the technology partner Virginia Interactive / NIC. All the initial content that will be hosted on the website will be curated by October 26. Mr. Preiss noted the CCA will aim to have staff trained to use the web content management system by November 7, with the goal of a website launch by November 18.

8. UPDATE ON CCA EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Ms. Casey and Ms. Soltis presented on the educational resources created by the CCA. Ms. Casey stated that the General Assembly directed the Authority to create four documents, and the CCA has created additional educational resources beyond those documents as part of its mission to be a credible, expert resource for information on cannabis in the Commonwealth. These documents will be accessible to download from the currently available CCA website, as well as uploaded on the new website when it is launched.

a. Statutorily- Required Resources

Ms. Casey provided an overview of two of the statutorily required documents. The first, a guidance document on home cultivation, will be subject to a 30-day period of public comment. The home cultivation document includes guidance regarding compliance and safe practices for those who wish to cultivate marijuana at home. The second document provides information about “responsible” consumption of cannabis, such as distinguishing between product types, dosing information, paying attention to personal limitations, and providing warnings for use by those under 21 years old, breastfeeding, or driving.

Ms. Soltis then presented on the last two statutorily required documents. The document on health risks associated with cannabis identifies ways in which cannabis use can cause health challenges. The guidance provides information on mental and physical health risks, such as mood challenges, brain function, lung, and heart performance. Finally, Ms. Soltis shared details from an educational resource on the “ancillary effects” of cannabis use, or additional consequences that can arise from the use of cannabis. These include potentially missing out on employment opportunities, complications with firearm ownership, limits on access to educational and housing opportunities, and more.

b. Additional Fact Sheets

Ms. Soltis also detailed a series of informational documents called fact sheets. These single page documents are brief and meant to deliver targeted information on a single topic. The current fact sheets include the following topics: “Hemp v. Marijuana”, “THC v. CBD”, “Do’s and Don’ts of Medical Cannabis Use”, “How to Register for Virginia’s Medical Cannabis Program”, “Pesticide Use on Cannabis Plants”, and “Cannabis Mail & Travel Laws.” Ms. Soltis emphasized that the CCA intends the fact sheet library to continue to expand and be responsive to common questions and concerns of the public and the Board.

9. FINANCE AND BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Patten gave a finance and budget update for the CCA. She spoke to the unused funds from the FY 2022 budget and the expected carryover of a portion of those funds, the current fiscal year budget and expenditures, and the anticipated FY 2024 budget. Ms. Patten noted that the CCA anticipates there may be a significant shortfall in the budget FY 2024. Mr. Preiss added the carryover funds are one-year appropriations that cannot be used for recurring salaries, while Ms. Patten indicated she has already requested additional funds for the FY 2024 budget based on these estimates.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

At 1:58 PM, Mr. Keohane invited comments from the public. Calvin Hogg from the Secretary of Health and Human Resources Office commented that the Secretary would like to receive agenda materials before any CCA Board meeting and any public affairs materials produced by the CCA. Carter Whitelow with Williams Mullen gave a public comment thanking Mr. Amin for his previous service as the Board's Chair, and welcoming Mr. Keohane to the Board.

11. CLOSED SESSION

At 2:05 PM, Mr. Keohane moved that the Board enter closed session under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(1). The motion was duly seconded, and the members unanimously voted to enter closed session. Attending the closed session were the five Board Members present, and Ms. Patten and Mr. Preiss from CCA Staff.

Upon the Board's return from closed session at 3:30 PM, Mr. Keohane moved to certify that to the best of his knowledge only matters falling under 2.2-3711(A)(1) were discussed in the closed session. Ms. Creighton seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 3:35 PM.