

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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IN RE: MEDICAL MARIJUANA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

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BEFORE: Debra L. Bogen, M.D., FAAP, Chair  
Colonel Christopher Paris, Member  
Matthew Eaton, Member  
Michael Lynch, M.D., Member  
Brittney Rodas, MPH, Member  
Christine Roussel, PharmD, BCOP, BCSC,  
Member  
Chief Royce Engler, Member  
DA John Adams, Member  
Diana Briggs, Member  
Bhavini Patel, MPH, Member

Reporter: Jacob Hill

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1 HEARING: Wednesday, September 18, 2024

2 10:30 a.m.

3 LOCATION: Capitol Media Center

4 State Capitol Room 1

5 East Wing

6 Harrisburg, PA 17126

7 WITNESSES: None

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SANDRA ADAMS, ESQUIRE  
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Department of Health  
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Counsel for The Board

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DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES	6 - 19
CERTIFICATE	20

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DR. BOGEN: Good morning, everyone and welcome. I will officially call this meeting to order. This is the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board meeting being held at 10:30 a.m. on September 18, 2024. And these meetings are broadcast live. So first I will take a roll call. For your reference, you were provided with a Board member list in your packet. When I read your name, please acknowledge that you're present for the record. All right.

Colonel Christopher Paris?

Not here yet.

Dr. Roussel?

DR. ROUSSEL: Good morning and present.

DR. BOGEN: Matthew Eaton?

MR. EATON: Present.

DR. BOGEN: Chief Royce Engler?

CHIEF ENGLER: Present.

DR. BOGEN: John Adams?

MR. ADAMS: Present.

DR. BOGEN: Dr. Shahoud let us know he was not going to be at the meeting today.

Bhavini Patel?

MS. PATEL: Present.

1                   DR. BOGEN: Also, Dr. Kambic let us  
2 know he will not be at the meeting today.

3                   Michael Lynch? Dr. Lynch?

4                   DR. LYNCH: Present.

5                   DR. BOGEN: Brittany Rodas?

6                   MS. RODAS: Present.

7                   DR. BOGEN: Diana Briggs?

8                   MS. BRIGGS: Present.

9                   DR. BOGEN: And has Colonel Paris come  
10 back on? Not yet. Okay.

11                   Ms. Adams, can you confirm that we  
12 have a quorum for today's meeting?

13                   ATTORNEY ADAMS: Yes, we have a quorum  
14 and that's without Colonel Paris on at the time.

15                   DR. BOGEN: Okay, wonderful. Then  
16 we'll keep moving.

17                   Before proceeding with the rest of the  
18 full agenda, I have a few announcements. Today we  
19 have Sandy Adams as our assistant counsel to assist  
20 with today's Board meeting. All Board meetings are  
21 held on Wednesday in the same timeframe of 10:30 to  
22 12:30 here in the Capitol Media Center with a virtual  
23 option. Today's agenda reflects items that have been  
24 identified by the Board for discussion.

25                   The next order of business is approval

1 to approve the corrected minutes from the May 22,  
2 2024 meeting. May I get a motion? Hope you all had  
3 a chance to review those. May I get a motion to  
4 approve the meeting minutes from May 22, 2024?

5 DR. LYNCH: I'll make a motion.

6 DR. BOGEN: Thank you.

7 DR. ROUSSEL: Roussel second.

8 DR. BOGEN: Thank you so much. All in  
9 favor of the motion, please say aye or raise your  
10 hand so we can see on those of you online.

11 AYES RESPOND

12 DR. BOGEN: Are there any abstentions  
13 and any opposed?

14 All right. Okay. The minutes from  
15 May 22, 2024 are approved. Minutes will be posted on  
16 the website very soon.

17 The next agenda item is the Bureau of  
18 Medical Marijuana program update. So I'm going to  
19 turn things over to Laura Mentch, our Director for  
20 the Bureau of Medical Marijuana, to provide program  
21 updates. Thank you, Laura, for being here.

22 MS. MENTCH: Thank you, Dr. Bogen.  
23 And good morning, everyone. September will mark my  
24 two year anniversary as Director of the program. I  
25 am proud of the progress we have made and humbled by



1 the team that I am surrounded by and how they  
2 advocate for this program and constantly strive to  
3 improve patient care and access.

4                   It's been a few months since our last  
5 meeting and we are happy to state that we are at full  
6 complement in the Bureau as well as announce the  
7 approval of several more positions that will be  
8 coming thanks to the generosity of the Governor  
9 recognizing are needed. These positions will be -  
10 are being worked on for posting and we welcome and  
11 encourage anyone to apply who would like to join the  
12 Bureau's team.

13                   Next slide. The Bureau is excited to  
14 announce that it has expanded the footprint of the  
15 medical marijuana program in Pennsylvania. The first  
16 phase of Act 63 of 2023 applications have been  
17 submitted, assessed and received approval or denial.

18 Ten applications were received. At this time, the  
19 following eight medical marijuana organizations were  
20 deemed independent and awarded dispensary permits  
21 PennAlt Organics Incorporated, Standard Farms, LLC,  
22 Pharmaceutical Rx, LLC, Prime Wellness of  
23 Pennsylvania, LLC, Power Plant Medicinal  
24 Incorporated, Whole Plants, LLC, Calypso Enterprises,  
25 LLC and Hanging Gardens, LLC.

1                   The Bureau will be posting phase one  
2 application information on the website after it's had  
3 a chance to review the proposed redactions by the  
4 applicants. The second phase is scheduled for  
5 January 13, 2025 to February 13, 2025. After this  
6 phase, a new application window is scheduled every  
7 nine months thereafter as needed. As for two  
8 available clinical registrant permits, two applicants  
9 submitted applications and are currently being  
10 reviewed by the Bureau.

11                   Next slide. In response to feedback  
12 from MMOs, or the medical marijuana organizations,  
13 the Bureau has made improvements to system  
14 communication between the seed-to-sale system and the  
15 medical marijuana organizations in the form of a pre  
16 order function and additional available endpoints.  
17 We anticipate additional improvements such as lab  
18 endpoints and inventory reservations being added very  
19 shortly and encourage anyone with interest in the  
20 details to visit the website at pa-  
21 [api.mjplatform.com](http://api.mjplatform.com).

22                   While the impact on Pennsylvania's  
23 medical marijuana program are not concrete at this  
24 time, the Bureau is tracking the rescheduling of  
25 marijuana to a class three controlled substance under

1 the Controlled Substance Act and will provide its  
2 caregivers, patients, practitioners, and medical  
3 marijuana organizations notice of any changes to the  
4 program and stakeholder responsibilities. At last  
5 glance, the 60 day public comment period garnered  
6 over 43,000 comments, including one from the  
7 Pennsylvania Department of Health. The comments  
8 appeared to largely favor rescheduling or  
9 de-scheduling. The DEA's discussion on the  
10 rescheduling of marijuana is currently scheduled for  
11 December 2, 2024.

12                   Onto program metrics. As of September  
13 1, 2024, the program had 441,945 active patient  
14 certifications, 1,962 approved practitioners. The  
15 program has given out \$779,709 in MMAP phase three  
16 financial benefits and currently has 32 operational  
17 grower processors and 184 operational dispensaries.

18                   This bar graph on the next slide shows  
19 the continued increase in sales month over month from  
20 January of 2020 through August of 2024. Of note,  
21 May, July, and August had significant increases from  
22 those same months in prior years. The last slide  
23 shows the dry leaf retail and wholesale pricing  
24 details from January of 2021 through August of 2024,  
25 the retail price program averaged at \$7.90, down from

1 a high of \$14.90 in January of 2021 and \$8.26 in  
2 April of 2024. The wholesale price program averaged  
3 at \$2.78, down from a high of \$10.65 in January of  
4 2021 and \$3.73 in April of 2024. That concludes my  
5 program update.

6 DR. BOGEN: Wonderful. Thank you,  
7 Laura. Does any member of the Board have questions  
8 regarding the information presented by Laura today?

9 MS. MENTCH: Thank you.

10 DR. BOGEN: All right. Hearing -. I  
11 also want to acknowledge that we do have Colonel  
12 Paris joining us for this meeting. He's been on for  
13 that presentation as well. So thank you for joining  
14 us, Colonel Paris. So, hearing no questions, I'm  
15 going to move on to old business.

16 As we've discussed at previous  
17 meetings, each subcommittee chair, and we're going to  
18 - our subcommittee chair will provide an update at  
19 the Board meeting regarding activities since the  
20 previous meeting. So I'm going to start this morning  
21 with the Medical Review Subcommittee.

22 I'll remind folks, in July of 2022,  
23 the Board approved a policy that established a  
24 process for accepting recommendations from academic  
25 clinical research centers, also known as ACRCs, for a

1 qualifying serious medical condition to be added for  
2 Chapter 20 research purposes only. And this policy  
3 is posted on the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board  
4 website. That said, I will turn things over to the  
5 Medical Review Subcommittee for discussion on serious  
6 medical condition to be added for Chapter 20 research  
7 application. Dr. Shahoud is absent today, so our  
8 Medical Review Subcommittee member, Dr. Lynch, will  
9 provide updates. Thank you, Dr. Lynch.

10 DR. LYNCH: Thank you very much. Yes,  
11 we were in receipt of a Chapter 20 application for  
12 the evaluation of cannabis impact on diabetes  
13 management. There was some background data presented  
14 by the group that discussed some modulation of  
15 insulin and insulin sensitivity through CBD receptor  
16 activation. So based upon that, they are proposing  
17 both retrospective preclinical and clinical studies  
18 evaluating the potential impact of cannabis on  
19 individuals with diabetes. And as I said, they  
20 submitted background data to support their hypotheses  
21 and had a research plan that seemed appropriate for  
22 the question at hand. So we have, I think Siri  
23 (phonetic) has attached the report that we have  
24 developed, and I'm happy to answer questions and I am  
25 prepared to make a motion to accept the application

1 and the report as written.

2                   DR. BOGEN: Thank you so much, Dr.  
3 Lynch. This is open for discussion by the Board.  
4 Does anyone have questions or comments or discussion  
5 they'd like to have?

6                   Looks like we don't have any questions  
7 at this time, Dr. Lynch.

8                   DR. LYNCH: Okay.

9                   DR. BOGEN: If you'd like to make a  
10 motion, that's great.

11                   DR. LYNCH: Sure. So I'll proceed  
12 with a formal motion. So for the record, the Medical  
13 Review Subcommittee was in receipt of Chapter 20  
14 application for type two diabetes mellitus from Penn  
15 State College of Medicine in January 2024. These  
16 applications conduct clinical preclinical studies to  
17 document potential value of cannabinoids monitoring,  
18 glucose, insulin regulation, and pain associated with  
19 type two diabetes. The subcommittee agrees with the  
20 findings as noted in the application and drafted a  
21 formal report with justification to approve this  
22 application. On behalf of the Medical Review  
23 Subcommittee, I would like to make a motion to  
24 approve this report stating subcommittee's approval  
25 of the serious medical condition Chapter 20 research

1 application from Penn State College of Medicine  
2 regarding type two diabetes.

3 DR. ROUSSEL: And this is Christine  
4 Roussel. I'd like to second that motion.

5 DR. BOGEN: Thank you so much. So I  
6 will - we have a motion and we have a second. So I  
7 will now do a roll call on the vote. Give me one  
8 second to get my little sheet out.

9 All right. Colonel Paris?

10 COLONEL PARIS: Yes.

11 DR. BOGEN: Dr. Roussel?

12 DR. ROUSSEL: Yes.

13 DR. BOGEN: Matthew Eaton?

14 MR. EATON: Yes.

15 DR. BOGEN: Chief Engler?

16 CHIEF ENGLER: Yes.

17 DR. BOGEN: John Adams?

18 MR. ADAMS: Yes.

19 DR. BOGEN: Bhavini Patel?

20 MS. PATEL: Yes.

21 DR. BOGEN: Dr. Lynch?

22 DR. LYNCH: Yes.

23 DR. BOGEN: Brittany Rodas?

24 MS. RODAS: Yes.

25 DR. BOGEN: And Diana Briggs?

1                   MS. BRIGGS: Yes.

2                   DR. BOGEN: Wonderful. Thank you.

3 Yeah, and I will abstain at this point. Thank you  
4 very much. So - and again, noting for the record  
5 that Dr. Shahoud and Dr. Kambic are absent. So the  
6 eyes have it. As I'm being confirmed, I'm looking to  
7 our attorney to make sure she agrees. The report is  
8 approved.

9                   The report will be distributed to the  
10 Governor, the Senate, the House of Representatives,  
11 and to me, and will be public record under the Right  
12 to Know Law. Adoption of the report does not mean  
13 that the condition is automatically added as a  
14 serious medical condition. The Board's  
15 recommendation will be taken under review and  
16 consideration and may or may not be effectuated by  
17 the Secretary with reason. Effectuation of any  
18 recommendation will be done via publication of a  
19 notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Upon  
20 effectuation of a recommendation, the condition will  
21 be deemed approved for Chapter 20 research studies.  
22 Upon approval, ACRCs that wish to conduct a research  
23 study must comply with the Bureau of Medical  
24 Marijuana's policies and procedures for Chapter 20  
25 research studies on the approved research condition.



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All right, next, is there anything else from your committee, Dr. Lynch?

DR. LYNCH: No, thank you.

DR. BOGEN: Okay, great.

The next is the Patient and Caregiver Subcommittee, chaired by Diana Briggs.

MS. BRIGGS: Good morning. The Patient Caregiver Subcommittee met last month where we discussed some issues and questions that we had been receiving from the patient community. Most were or could have all been answered on the website. So we highly recommend that anyone in our medical marijuana program go to [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov) and click the link for the medical marijuana program. There's a ton of information there, and as I stated, most of the questions that we saw could have been answered there. So we hope that people take that suggestion and find what they need there, but certainly open to receiving emails and questions whenever the patient community, you know, is looking for answers. We also want to just say thank you for all that's been done moving forward, and we look forward to the continued growth of our program.

DR. BOGEN: Thank you so much. Are

1 there any questions for Diana at this time?

2 All right, our next is the Regulatory  
3 Subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Christine Roussel. Dr.  
4 Roussel?

5 DR. ROUSSEL: Good morning. At the  
6 May 22, 2024 Medical Marijuana Advisory Board  
7 meeting, the Regulatory Subcommittee brought forth a  
8 discussion on medical marijuana protections in  
9 healthcare facilities as a new business item. Our  
10 next step will be providing a formal written report  
11 for voting at the November meeting. It's not on the  
12 agenda today for discussion, but hopefully it will be  
13 on the agenda for November for a vote. And that is  
14 the activities of our subcommittee. Thank you.

15 DR. BOGEN: Thank you so much. And  
16 our last subcommittee report is from the Medical  
17 Research Subcommittee, chaired by Bhavini Patel.  
18 Bhavini?

19 MS. PATEL: The Medical Research  
20 Subcommittee has nothing to report.

21 DR. BOGEN: Thank you so much.

22 Are there any discussions from the  
23 Board or questions for any of the subcommittees?

24 All right, hearing none, I want to  
25 thank all the subcommittees for their work and their

1 updates. Next is new business discussion or  
2 questions from Board members.

3                   No? Okay. All right. We don't have  
4 any new business, so if there's no discussion or  
5 questions for the Board, I think that is the end of  
6 our agenda. So I want to thank everyone for your  
7 participation, for joining the Board meeting today.  
8 I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting,  
9 which again is November 13th. Our remaining 2024  
10 meeting dates and the proposed 2025 proposed dates  
11 are listed on this slide. Please, again, as always,  
12 check your calendars and let Ms. Reddy know if there  
13 are any conflicts.

14                   So with that, may I have a motion to  
15 adjourn the meeting?

16                   COLONEL PARIS: Motion, Paris.

17                   DR. BOGEN: Second?

18                   DR. LYNCH: Second, Lynch.

19                   DR. BOGEN: Great. All in favor say  
20 aye.

21 AYES RESPOND

22                   DR. BOGEN: Any opposed? I've never  
23 gotten an opposed to this, but I always ask. Any  
24 opposed? No? All right, so thank you so much. This  
25 meeting is officially adjourned.

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MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:50 A.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings,  
a meeting was reported by me on September 18, 2024  
and that I, Jacob Hill, read this transcript and that  
I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate  
record of the proceeding.

Dated the 25th day of September, 2024



Jacob Hill,

Court Reporters