

MINUTES
MEDICAL CANNABIDIOL BOARD
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Friday, November 18, 2022
10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order

Mike McKelvey, Chair

The November 18, 2022 Iowa Medical Cannabidiol Board meeting was officially called to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Cpt. Mike McKelvey – Law Enforcement	Vacant – Neurologist
Dr. Bob Shreck – Oncology	Dr. Michael Colburn - Pediatrics
Dr. Stephen Richards – Pharmacist	
Dr. Jacqueline Stoken – Pain Management	
Dr. Andrea Weber - Psychiatry	
Dr. Mohamad Mokadem - Gastroenterology	
Owen Parker – Bureau Chief	

3. Approval of Minutes

Mike McKelvey, Chair

Dr. Richards made a motion to approve the August 12, 2022 minutes, with a second by Dr. Stoken.

A verbal vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Mike McKelvey, Chair

- **Peter Komendowski** - Peter spoke to concerns with youth access and pregnant mothers as it relates to medical cannabis. Peter also requested that the Board keep safeguards to public health and safety, and unintended consequences in-mind, in-mind when considering additional access.
- **Jennifer Huseman** - Jennifer is a certified prevention specialist, and also spoke to her concerns as a mother. She shared additional restrictions that states have implemented around obtaining a registration card.
- **Maggie Ballard** - Maggie is a certified prevention specialist, and thanked the Board for their work. She spoke about the Board's recommendations, and encouraged more restrictions around the waiver for THC above the 4.5g/90-day limit.
- **Carl Olsen** - Carl thanked the Board for their work, and introduced his request for a legal task force to be created to request the proper exceptions for IA's program from Federal agencies. He requested that it be included in the Board's 2022 Annual Report.

- **John Fenner** - John thanked the industry for bringing additional products to market. John spoke to concerns with IA's zero-tolerance laws around THC and operating a vehicle, regardless if someone is a patient. John thanked the Board for their work.
- **Michele Servadio** - Michele thanked the Board for their work, and spoke to her experience with treating her PTSD with medical cannabis. She also encouraged the Board to consider vaporized flower as an approved form, and remove sales tax from purchases.
- **Karen Dorrans** - Karen has been a patient since the program's inception, and has been able to eliminate her dependence on opiates. She encouraged the Board to allow for natural forms of product, and reduce some of the barriers and costs to becoming a patient.
- **Tyson Alchin** - Tyson encouraged the Board to allow vaporizable flower as an approved form, and allow patients to grow their own cannabis to reduce costs.
- **Earl Ramey** - Earl thanked the Board for their work, and encouraged them to allow vaporizable flower as an approved form to reduce costs and allow patients more treatment options.
- **Macklin Briggs** - Maclan is a patient in the program who treats his chronic pain from many childhood surgeries with medical cannabis. He encouraged the Board to allow for vaporizable flower as an approved form.

5. **Presentation: DCI Crime Lab, Testing Challenges** **Kelly Flanagan, DCI Crime Lab**
Kelly Flanagan is from the DCI Crime Lab, and does testing on cannabis samples that come in from the field. She spoke to the current landscape of her work, and issues with identification and quantifying cannabinoids due to the myriad of product matrices and novel synthetic cannabinoids.
6. **Discussion: Telehealth Certifiers, THC-Waivers** **Owen Parker, Bureau Chief**
The Board expressed concerns with the proliferation of telehealth certifiers who may not be starting or maintaining a traditional or compliant patient-provider relationship. The Board also expressed concern, and continues to monitor, the percentage of THC waivers issued to the population. The Board discussed solutions to both topics. The Board voted unanimously to assemble a subcommittee of the Board to make recommendations to the Department and Legislature on how to improve the patient-provider relationship and make it more robust.
7. **Discussion: Vaporizable Flower** **Owen Parker, Bureau Chief**
The Board was made aware of a petition for the addition of vaporized flower that will be discussed at the February, 2023 meeting. The Board discussed how similar programs to IA had implemented vaporizable flower, and the restrictions that are placed around its sale and access.

8. **Recommendations: 2022 Annual Report to the Legislature** Owen Parker, Bureau Chief
- a) **Amending the name of the program to “The Medical Cannabis Act”**
 - b) **Additional Dispensaries**
 - c) **Exemption of Medical Cannabidiol products from sales tax**
 - d) **Addition of New Board Seats, reflection of new disciplines under HF2589**
 - e) **Iowa Tax Status: Licensee equality with traditional businesses**
 - f) **Provide a mechanism for certifying practitioners to receive patient purchasing data upon request to the Department**
 - g) **Additional Recommendations Discussion**

Many of the Board's recommendations are those which were proposed in previous Annual Reports, but have not been adopted. The Board took roll call votes on items a-g, and all were approved unanimously. Additionally, a motion was made to assemble a legal task force to assist the Department in requesting an exemption for IA's program from necessary Federal agencies, which was approved unanimously. The Board's final list of recommendations and context can be found here: [2022 Medical Cannabidiol Board Annual Report](#).

9. **Future Meetings**

Mike McKelvey, Chair

- a) Friday, February 10, 2023 - In-Person, Ankeny
- b) Friday, May 12, 2023 - TBD
- c) Friday, August 11, 2023 - TBD
- d) Friday, November 10, 2023 - TBD

10. **Adjourn**

Mike McKelvey, Chair

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Stoken, seconded by Dr. Weber. A verbal vote was taken: Motion carried unanimously. The meeting officially adjourned at 12:10 p.m

All meetings held by the Iowa Department of Public Health are accessible to everyone. If you have special needs to participate, please call deaf Relay (Health or Speech Impaired) 1-800-735-941; Internet: www.idph.iowa.gov