



Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission
Policy Committee Meeting
September 24, 2020: 2:00 pm
Conducted Online

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Brian Lopez, Commission Chairman
Tiffany Randolph, Committee Chair
Megan Dingus
Charles LoDico
Liz Hines
Scott Welsh

Commissioners Absent

None

MMCC Staff Present

Will Tilburg, Executive Director
Lori Dodson, Deputy Director
Taylor Kasky, Director of Policy and Government Affairs
Rebecca Jackson, Education and Research Analyst
Heather Nelson, Assistant Attorney General
Jamie Tansey, Assistant Attorney General
Christi Megna, Senior Regulatory Analyst
Farahath Dave, Director of Scientific Support
Mary-jo Mather, Director of Administration

Call to Order and Welcome

Chairwoman Randolph called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. A verbal roll call was conducted, which verified that a quorum was achieved as all members of the Policy Committee were in attendance. Ms. Randolph thanked the public for submitting very helpful comments, and asked Ms. Taylor Kasky, MMCC Director of Policy and Government Affairs to present her report.

Report of MMCC Director of Policy and Government Affairs: Taylor Kasky

Ms. Kasky reported that publication of draft regulations, which include a proposal for edible cannabis products, is expected to take place in late October. She then presented new draft regulations that contain technical corrections to COMAR which correct unintentional redundancies and omissions, and which do not impact operations. She offered the example of changing every instance of “certifying physicians” to “certifying provider”; changing “reporting to the Maryland State Police” to “any local law enforcement body within the jurisdiction; and eliminating references to a “quarterly report” that has been eliminated. Commissioner Randolph expressed her appreciation for the technical corrections, especially considering the tedium of the task. She also recognized the MMCC Policy staff, especially Christi Megna. There were no questions or comments from Commissioners. A Motion to approve the technical amendments was offered by Commissioner Hines and seconded by Commissioner LoDico. The Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendments to Organizational Policies

Executive Director Tilburg provided historical information about the Organizational Polices, which serve as the Commission’s bylaws. The original Organizational Polices were adopted in October 2015 by the previous members of the Policy Committee and Commission. Since a new Commission was appointed and House Bill 2 reduced the number of Commissioners serving, the following recommendations reflecting these changes include: (1) the combining of the Research and Education committees; and (2) removing the Compliance Committee from the list of standing committees, as this Committee now serves an exclusively quasi-judicial role. There was no further discussion. Commissioner Welsh offered a Motion to accept these recommendations, and the Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dingus. The Motion to accept the proposed amendments to the Organizational Policies passed unanimously.

Overview of Technical Authority: Lori Dodson

Ms. Dodson expressed her thanks to the numerous stakeholders who submitted feedback on the newest draft. She noted that since the original 2017 Technical Authority, the Commission is now able to make data-driven decisions which are reflected in the annual revision process with recommendations from accreditation groups, the public, and other stakeholders. Of the comments received for this meeting, there were three categories of revisions: clerical revisions; designation of heavy metals in inhaled products versus those ingested or applied topically; and batch and sample sizes. In this category, the new draft provides for a scalable model—if batch size increases, then the sample size must be increased. For sample size for

concentrates, strictly for non-edible products, there is concern about the amount, and also possible diversion. Ms. Dodson continued by discussing qPCR versus plating technologies, stating that the “gold standard” is not yet set, and that the Commission is in communication with AOAC and other national scientific bodies such as FDA and USP. Mr. Tilburg extended his thanks to Ms. Dodson for her extensive work on the Technical Authority in the last three years, and noted that MMCC wanted to publicly discuss the comments, lab workshop formation, and to thoroughly look at any gaps. As scientific developments in medical cannabis testing are constantly evolving, the Commission has communicated to legislators that it will continue to meet with other State regulators, stakeholders, self-regulating and accreditation groups to adapt the Technical Authority to the current scientific standards. Commissioner LoDico asked for more information about qPCR versus plating, such as speed and cost, and Ms. Shenaz Dave, Director of Science responded that each testing type has different results, and that qPCR, a testing method for only the last five years, is not yet vetted by the US Food and Drug Administration and other bodies that established laboratory standards and methods. Mr. Tilburg noted again that testing methodologies are very dynamic and that the Commission wanted to hold off voting on the approval of the newest Technical Authority until the Commission has another opportunity to receive oral and written comments at the next meeting of the Policy Committee on October 27, 2020. Commissioners LoDico and Hines continued a discussion on batch and sample sizes and micro-testing. Ms. Dodson noted that only Commission staff pulls batch and samples from a licensee. Commissioner Lopez noted that he would like to review the newest version of the recommended changes, which will be provided to all.

New Business

Chairwoman Randolph announced that the next meeting of the Policy Committee would take place virtually on October 27, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Adjournment

After Commissioner LoDico moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Welsh, Chairwoman Randolph adjourned the meeting at 2:51 pm.