

**Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission  
Meeting January 27, 2015  
Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) Conference Room  
2:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:**

Paul W. Davies, Chair  
Harry (Buddy) Robshaw, III, Vice-Chair  
Deborah R. Miran  
Eric E. Sterling  
Cristina Gouin-Paul  
William C. Charles  
Dario Broccolino  
Robert A. Lavin  
Shawn McNamara  
Nancy Rosen-Cohen

**Commissioner Present By Telephone**

Michael A. Horberg

**Staff**

Hannah Byron, Executive Director  
Kristen Neville, Policy and Regulations  
Erin Purdy, Office of the Attorney General  
Brett Felter, Office of the Attorney General

**Absent**

Kevin W. Chen  
Andrew Schaufele  
Allison Taylor  
Jon Traunfeld

**CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, Chair Paul Davies called the meeting of the Natalie LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Paul Davies stated the November 13, 2014 open session minutes were provided to the Commissioners for review and asked if there any changes. There were no changes. A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Commissioner Robshaw. The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Paul Davies**

Chairman Davies was pleased to welcome and introduce the Commission's new Executive Director, Hannah Byron. Ms. Byron was appointed effective January 14, 2015. Mr. Davies gave an overview of Ms. Byron's extensive experience in government, most recently as the Assistant Secretary of Tourism, Film and the Arts, a division of the Department of Businesses and Economic Development.

Chairman Davies commended the Commission members for their work on the regulations that were posted on January 23, 2015 for public comment. After the expiration of the 30 day comment period, the Commission will work with staff to review the comments and respond to each comment.

As the Commission begins to move forward on operationalizing the program, the Chairman expressed a desire to meet with the Executive Committee to assist in the development of the Commission's by-laws, committee structure, and meeting schedule, and requested that Commissioner Sterling work on these matters.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Hannah Byron**

Ms. Byron expressed her excitement to be joining the Commission as the Executive Director. She reported on the critical steps she is taking to develop the framework to operationalize the program. These steps include meetings with the IT team to begin developing the systems that will need to be in place as the MMC establishes physician and patient registries and applications for medical marijuana growers and dispensaries. She anticipates bringing on additional staff to get these processes in place.

Ms. Byron also announced that she has briefed key members of the General Assembly and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on the Commission's work. She reported that while there is much work ahead, she would be developing an aggressive timeline and work plan.

Ms. Byron introduced the new MMC website at [mmc.maryland.gov](http://mmc.maryland.gov). She thanked Ben Steffen, MHCC Executive Director, and David Mitchell and Levone Ward of the MHCC for their incredible support. The new website will be a key communications tool for the public and MMC's stakeholders. Ms. Byron noted that a link to the January 23<sup>rd</sup> proposed regulations in the Maryland Register was posted on the website. Other posts include links to a number of educational events, seminars and committee hearings. MMC staff will be working over the next six months to develop more website content and an FAQ page.

Ms. Byron announced that she would be briefing Van T. Mitchell, the new Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, on the Commission's work to date, and noted his past government service in public health. Ms. Byron also announced the upcoming departure of Counsel Brett Felter. Ms. Byron commended Mr. Felter and thanked him for his guidance and dedication to the work of the Commission.

**OFFICE OF ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL: Brett Felter**

Mr. Felter announced that the January 27th meeting would be his last meeting as the Commission's Assistant AG. He introduced new counsel Erin Purdy as his replacement.

## **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE: Kristen Neville**

Ms. Neville spoke about the regulation promulgation process. She explained that the regulations are in the public comment period, and were published in the January 23<sup>rd</sup> issue of the Maryland Register. She provided instructions regarding locating the regulations, and the instructions for responding. She emphasized that the public should not send questions directly to Commissioners because those responses would not be recognized as formal responses. She stated that the comment period ends on February 23, 2015. After the comment period is closed, and all responses to comments are made, the Commission will decide whether to adopt the proposed regulations in their current form, or make changes. If substantially changed, the regulations will be submitted as entirely new regulations. If unchanged, the regulations would be sent for review to the AELR Committee. The final regulations would then be published in their final form in the Maryland Register for further public comment. The regulations would then be effective 10 days from final publication.

### **Committee Chair Reports:**

#### **Policy Committee-Eric Sterling**

Mr. Sterling stated that he is impressed with the new website and is looking forward to seeing the public comments on the regulations.

#### **Education Committee-Debby Miran**

Ms. Miran informed the Commission that she held the first meeting of the Education Committee, and has drafted a mission statement geared toward educating physicians, healthcare providers, caregivers and patients regarding the use of medical marijuana. Ms. Miran stated five goals for the Education Committee, including creating and disseminating educational materials. Ms. Miran also provided notice of two educational events being held in Baltimore and the District of Columbia which have been posted on the MMC website. She also reported that an Education FAQ tab will be populated on the website in the near future. A more specific Education FAQ will be created once the regulations are final. Ms. Miran also noted that progress has been made on the application forms for physicians, caregivers, and patients. The Education Committee also plans to provide important FAQs for physicians outlining the medical marijuana program once the regulations go into effect.

Chair Davies asked the Commission if there were further reports, or other discussion. There were no other reports. Ms. Byron announced that John Gontrum would be the Commissioner joining the Commission as a representative from the Comptroller's Office, replacing Andy Schaufele.

Concluding Ms. Byron's announcements, Chair Davies made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.