

**Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 20, 2017**

**3:00 pm**

Conducted via Conference Call

**Commissioners Present by Telephone:**

Brian Lopez (Chairman)

J. Charles Smith (Vice Chairman)

Tiffany Randolph

Rachel Rhodes

Scott Welsh

John Gontrum

Ehsan Abdeshahian

Barry Pope

Jean Gilmor Marshall

Jeffrey Gahler

**Commissioners Absent:**

Nancy Rosen-Cohen

Paul Davies

James Pyles

Charles LoDico

Saundra Washington

Alvin Davis

**Staff Present:**

Mary-jo Mather, Director of Administration

Heather Nelson, Assistant Attorney General

Lori Dodson, Director of Compliance for Independent Testing Laboratories

Chris Garrett, Director of Communications

Fakiza Rahman, Quality Assurance Manager

Kristen Shreves, Quality Assurance Specialist

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm. Chairman Lopez requested that Mary Jo Mather conduct roll call, 10 members were present by telephone and a quorum was achieved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chairman Lopez asked if Commissioners had time to review the draft minutes of the October 23, 2017 meeting and if there were any comments. He then asked for a Motion to approve minutes, which was offered by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Marshall. The October 23, 2017 minutes were approved unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Lopez advised that he wanted to share a few updates prior to getting into the Committee reports. Currently there are more than 15,000 patients registered with about 4,000 pending, he also wanted provide clarification previously it was assumed that the 15,000 patients were fully registered and certified, however of the more than 15,000 patients approximately 8,500 are certified and are able to purchase cannabis once available. There are also 586 caregivers with over 100 pending. On the operational side there are 14 growers, 12 processors, 6 dispensaries and 3 independent testing labs. At the meeting there will be votes on 4 dispensaries and 1 independent testing lab.

Chairman Lopez announced that Patrick Jameson has stepped down as the Executive Director, Chairman Lopez thanked him for all of his hard work, and that he wishes Mr. Jameson well in his future endeavors. The Executive Committee has been reviewing applications and begun the interview process to fill the vacancy. Per the bylaws it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to pass the recommendation to the Chairman to fill the position, but the Executive Committee would like the opinions of the full Commission.

Chairman Lopez also announced new Commissioner Tiffany Randolph who fills the vacant attorney position and brings great experience in the healthcare field. Chairman Lopez also welcomed Christopher Garrett, Director of Communications. Chris joins the Commission on the Staff side from the Department of Health.

The Commission has received 55 Stage II Dispensary applications. The Commission expects to receive many more applications in the next few weeks. David Kloos, Director of Enforcement and Compliance has sent an email to all of the Dispensary owners to inform the Commission if they are not able to meet the December 8th application deadline. If nothing is received from the Dispensary the Commission will assume that the Dispensary will not be moving forward with the licensing process. The Final Review Subcommittee will be reviewing any requests for extensions.

Chairman Lopez advised that the Dispensary Attestation was updated and the main thing to be aware of is the certification does not protect patients on Federal Property.

Chairman Lopez announced that Friday November 17, 2017 was an exciting day, as the first patient received medication in a limited study conducted by the medical cannabis industry. It is anticipated that medical cannabis will be available for all patients at licensed dispensaries by December. He would like to remind patients that the supply will be limited in the beginning and encouraged patients to visit the Commission website to see the licensed dispensaries, and to call ahead to see if they have product.

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Final Review Subcommittee: Chairman Brian Lopez**

Chairman Lopez reported that the Final Review Subcommittee had met after receiving the final reports from the Bureau of Enforcement and Compliance. The first review was on Quales, LLC to consider the report provided by Director of Lab Compliance Lori Dodson. Investigator Mark Rodeheaver was also present. The lab is to electronically submit “in-matrix” calibration curves and LOQ’s (limits of quantitation) for the listed pesticides, as well as the cannabinoids, terpenes, and the remaining contaminants. The Final Review Subcommittee determined the applicant has met the requirements and recommends to the Commission to issue a provisional registration to Quales, LLC. Commissioner Smith offered a Motion to issue an Independent Testing Laboratory a provisional registration to Quales, LLC. Commissioner Marshall seconded this Motion. A rollcall vote was conducted and the Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Lopez reported that the second review was for Maryland Wellness Access, DBA Remedy Columbia, to consider the report provided by Senior Investigator Garrett Keene. The investigative summary, financial summary, and inspection summary were provided and no information was identified that would prohibit the applicant from being licensed. The Final Review Subcommittee determined that the applicant has met the requirements and recommends that the Commission issue a Dispensary license to Maryland Wellness Access, DBA Remedy Columbia. Commissioner Smith offered a Motion to issue a Dispensary license to Maryland Wellness Access, DBA Remedy Columbia. Commissioner Marshall seconded this Motion. A rollcall vote was conducted and the Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Lopez reported that the third review was for GTI Maryland, DBA Rise Silver Spring, to consider the report provided by Senior Investigator Mark Rodeheaver. The investigative summary, financial summary, and inspection summary were provided and no information was identified that would prohibit the applicant from being licensed. The Final Review Subcommittee determined that the applicant has met the requirements and recommends that the Commission issue a Dispensary license to GTI Maryland, DBA Rise Silver Spring. Commissioner Smith offered a Motion to issue a Dispensary license to GTI Maryland, DBA Rise Silver Spring. Commissioner Marshall seconded this Motion. A rollcall vote was conducted and the Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Lopez reported that the fourth review was for Growing Ventures, DBA Greenhouse Wellness to consider the report provided by Senior Investigator Garrett Keene. The investigative summary, financial summary, and inspection summary were provided, and no information was identified that would prohibit the applicant from being licensed. The Final Review Subcommittee determined that the applicant has met the requirements and recommends that the Commission issue a Dispensary license to Growing Ventures, DBA Greenhouse Wellness. Commissioner Smith offered a Motion to issue a Dispensary license to Growing Ventures, DBA Greenhouse Wellness Commissioner Rhodes seconded this Motion. A rollcall vote was conducted and the Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Lopez reported that the fifth review was for Chesapeake Alternatives, DBA Rise Bethesda, to consider the report provided by Senior Investigator Mark Rodeheaver. The investigative summary, financial summary, and inspection summary were provided, and no information was identified that would prohibit the applicant from being licensed. The Final Review Subcommittee determined that the applicant has met the requirements and recommends that the Commission issue a Dispensary license to Chesapeake Alternatives, DBA Rise Bethesda. Commissioner Smith offered a Motion to issue a Dispensary license to Chesapeake Alternatives, DBA Rise Bethesda. Commissioner Marshall seconded this Motion. A rollcall vote was conducted and the Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

Chairman Lopez advised that the next Commission Meeting will be December 14th, and that the time and location will be announced on the Commission’s website. He stated that this meeting will be the last Commission meeting of the year.

**Adjournment**

There being no further discussion Chairman Lopez adjourned the meeting at 3:43 pm.