

CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
KENTUCKY MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM
TEAM KENTUCKY MEDICAL CANNABIS WORKGROUP
HEALTHCARE SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 28, 2023 MEETING

1. The first regular meeting of the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup was called to order by Sam Flynn, Executive Director of the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program, on November 28, 2023 at approximately 2:00 PM EST. The members met both in-person and virtually via Zoom.

Board Members Present in-person:

Eric Friedlander

Board Members Present via Zoom:

Julie Cantwell

Jonathan Hatton

Additional Attendees:

Sam Flynn, Executive Director of the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program

Scotty McFarlan, Deputy Executive Advisor of the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program

Shelby Lewis, Executive Advisor to the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program

Members of the Public

2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Subcommittee members and attendees introduced themselves.

3. **DISCUSSION OF SUBCOMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Executive Order (“EO”) 2023-600, signed on October 5, 2023 by Governor Beshear, established the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup. The Workgroup adopted bylaws in their first meeting, held on October 19, 2023, and established the Healthcare Subcommittee.

Members of the Subcommittee were selected due to familiarity with their subcommittee assignments.

4. **REVIEW OF PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING QUALIFYING MEDICAL CONDITIONS IN SENATE BILL 47**

The Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program received a multitude questions and comments through the Program’s website regarding qualifying medical conditions.

The Program also received multiple letters from advocacy groups and individuals regarding expanding the qualifying medical conditions beyond the current allowable conditions in Senate Bill (“SB”) 47.

5. PRESENTATION ON QUALIFYING MEDICAL CONDITIONS, SHELBY LEWIS, EXECUTIVE POLICY ADVISOR

The presentation provided a summary of cannabis in the United States and focused on the list of qualifying medical conditions listed in SB 47 and what qualifying medical conditions are listed in EO 2022-798 and not included in SB 47.

As of October 26, 2023, there are 1,724,996 Kentuckians, information taken from the Kentucky Health and Information Exchange, that have the medical conditions listed in SB 47. An additional 437,273 Kentuckians have qualifying medical conditions that are listed in EO 2022-798 but are not listed in SB 47. These qualifying medical conditions include ALS, Parkinson’s, Crohn’s disease, sickle cell anemia, cachexia or wasting syndrome, neuropathies, severe arthritis, hepatitis C, fibromyalgia, muscular dystrophy, Huntington’s disease, HIV, AIDS, glaucoma, and terminal illness.

The subcommittee discussed the presentation, including how the numbers provided from the Kentucky Health and Information Exchange do not account for all Kentuckians with these conditions, as they are only reported and active cases.

6. MOTION BY DR. JONATHAN HATTON

Dr. Hatton made a motion regarding the presentation, stating:

“I make a motion to recommend the General Assembly adopt legislation to expand the qualifying conditions listed in KRS 218B.010 to include all qualifying conditions listed in Executive Order 2022-798, including ALS, Parkinson’s Disease, Crohn’s disease, sickle cell anemia, cachexia or wasting syndrome, neuropathies, severe arthritis, hepatitis C, fibromyalgia, muscular dystrophy, Huntington’s Disease, HIV and AIDS, glaucoma, and terminal illness.”

The motion was seconded by Mr. Friedlander and the resolution was adopted by the Subcommittee. The motion will be considered at the next Workgroup meeting.

7. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Friedlander opened up the meeting to members of the public to ask questions and make comments.

Members of the public asked questions regarding the inclusion of mental health to the list of qualifying medical conditions and when individuals will be able to apply for a dispensary license.

Program staff encouraged the public to view the Program's website and submit additional questions and comments through the website's contact us page.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Meetings of the Healthcare Subcommittee will be held quarterly, with the next being held in March 2024.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Hatton motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Cantwell seconded. The motion carried 3-0 (approximately 2:45 PM.)



Sam Flynn
Executive Director
Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program