

CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
KENTUCKY MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM
BOARD OF PHYSICIANS AND ADVISORS

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

- I. The regular meeting of the Board of Physicians and Advisors was called to order by Sam Flynn, Executive Director of the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program, on April 15, 2024 at approximately 7:03 PM. The members met virtually via Zoom.

Board Member Present:

Frederick Stine, D.O.
Anthony Carney, APRN
Jodi Wojcik, APRN
Ryan Grell, M.D.
Linda McClain, M.D.
Kristin Dawson, M.D.
Courtney Turner, M.D.
AnYu Chen, M.D.
Charles Roberts, M.D.

Additional Attendees:

Sam Flynn, Executive Director of the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program
Scotty McFarlan, Deputy Executive Director of the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program
Shelby Lewis, Executive Policy Advisor to the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program
Alyssa Erickson, Director of Education and Outreach, Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program

II. OLD BUSINESS

The Board voted on the approval of the January 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes. Dr. Chen made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Carney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Report from the Executive Director

Mr. Flynn provided an update on the progress of the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program (“KMCP”), including the program’s filing of additional administrative regulations establishing processes and procedures for patients and caregivers to receive a medical cannabis card. These recent regulation filings are in addition to ten regulations previously filed by the cabinet regarding cannabis businesses, including cultivators, processors, producers, dispensaries, and safety compliance facilities.

Mr. Flynn also discussed the Occupational Safety and Health Guide for employers and employees in Kentucky, which was recently adopted by the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup on March 26, 2024.

b. Presentation: Legislative Update

Mr. Flynn explained the general legislative process in Kentucky, including how a bill becomes a law. Mr. Flynn then discussed various bills filed during the current legislative session that affected medical cannabis in Kentucky. In particular, House Bill (“HB”) 829 passed on April 15, 2024, and modifies Senate Bill (“SB”) 47 in several ways. For example, HB 829 adds a pharmacist representative to the Board of Physicians and Advisors and requires the Board to assist KMPC with preparing an educational pamphlet for cardholders to be distributed by dispensaries.

Additionally, HB 829 establishes the Office of Medical Cannabis, creates powers and authorities to administer the program, moves up the licensing of cannabis businesses to 2024, places restrictions and notice requirements on local government opt-outs, and requires establishing an adverse event reporting system.

c. Budget Finding

HB 6 is the budget bill that includes funding for the KMPC if the Board finds there is a propensity of peer reviewed published research with sufficient evidence as to the efficacy of medical cannabis for the persistent reduction of symptoms of diseases and conditions.

Mr. Flynn presented information to Board members relevant to the finding required by HB 6, including several studies related to medical cannabis and its treatment for the qualifying medical conditions in Kentucky, including cancer, chronic pain, chronic nausea, and PTSD. Agencies within the federal government have also found that there is credible scientific support for the medical use of marijuana.

Chair Stein then opened the meeting for discussion. Chair Stein then made a motion:

Pursuant to 2024 House Bill 6, the Board of Physicians and Advisors, as defined in KRS 218B.020(2), finds there exists a propensity of peer-reviewed, published research with sufficient evidence as to the efficacy of medical cannabis for the persistent reduction of symptoms of diseases and conditions.

Ms. Wojcik seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, and the finding was made.

d. Other Business

Mr. Flynn discussed several topics for discussion at future meetings, including patient supply limits and consumption methods.

Mr. Flynn also discussed the current status of Senate confirmation of members on the Board as of the time of the meeting.

IV. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Board will be July 17, 2024.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. McClain moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Dr. Chen seconded, and the motion carried 9-0 (approximately 7:39 PM).



Sam Flynn
Executive Director
Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program



Dr. Frederick Stine
Board Chair

