

# CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES OFFICE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS BOARD OF PHYSICIANS AND ADVISORS

# **MEETING OF THE JANUARY 15, 2025 REGULAR MEETING**

I. The regular meeting of the Board of Physicians and Advisors was called to order by Sam Flynn, Executive Director of the Office of Medical Cannabis, on January 15, 2025 at approximately 3:07 P.M. The members met virtually via Zoom.

**Board Members Present:** 

Jodi Wojcik, APRN Ryan Grell, M.D. Linda McClain, M.D. Courtney Turner, M.D. AnYu Chen, M.D. Thomas Colley, APRN

Board Members Not Present:

Frederick Stine, D.O. Charles Roberts, M.D. Matt Carrico, PharmD

Additional Attendees:

Sam Flynn, Executive Director of the Office of Medical Cannabis Shelby Lewis, Executive Policy Advisor of the Office of Medical Cannabis Malaya Rivers, Executive Administrative Secretary of the Office of Medical Cannabis Members of the Public

#### II. OLD BUSINESS

The Board voted on the approval of the October 30, 2024 regular meeting minutes. Dr. Turner made a motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. Wojcik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## III. NEW BUSINESS



## a. Report from the Executive Director

Mr. Flynn provided an update on the Office and business licensing, stating that the Office has issued nearly 80 licenses to medical cannabis businesses. Those licensees were invited to a medical cannabis business orientation held by the Office on January 14, 2025. The purpose of this orientation was to provide additional information on how licensees can best work with the Office.

Mr. Flynn also provided an update on practitioner and patient outreach. Practitioners began issuing written certifications on December 1, 2024, with over 4,000 written certifications being issued at this time. The Office published a practitioner registry on its website, kymedcan.ky.gov, for potential patients can easily find a practitioner closest to them.

The Office has received over 1,000 registry identification card applications since applications opened on January 1, 2025. The Office has also scheduled monthly webinars for patients to explain how individuals may apply for a registry identification card, with the first being on January 15, 2025 with over five hundred individuals attending.

Mr. Flynn then provided an overview of the local governments who have opted-in or opted-out of allowing cannabis business to operate within their jurisdiction.

# b. Presentation on Business Licensing, Local Government Ballot Results, and Law Enforcement Outreach

Ms. Lewis gave a presentation with various updates from the Office, first providing information on practitioners, patients, and businesses. At this time, 4,124 written certifications have been issued and 1,426 patient applications for registry identification cards have been received by the Office. The Office has also licensed 83 cannabis businesses, with more information about the application analytics and licensees provided on our website, kymedcan@ky.gov.

Ms. Lewis then gave more detailed information regarding local government ballot results, with every single local government that had the question of allowing cannabis businesses within their jurisdiction voting yes to allow them.

Ms. Lewis lastly provided information on the various outreach events the Office has scheduled, including events for patients, practitioners, and law enforcement. Specifically for law enforcement, the Office has provided a law enforcement guide and law enforcement visor guide to assist law enforcement, and the Office has hired a Director of Law Enforcement Outreach, David Gregory.



#### IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 16, 2025.

#### V. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Chen expressed concerns regarding practitioners selling written certifications. Mr. Flynn explained that practitioners can set the price of the appointment(s) to receive a written certification, and to provide additional information to the Office.

Several members of the Board provided suggestions to improve the practitioner directory on the website, including being able to search by specialty or add if a practitioner is accepting new patients. Mr. Flynn explained that the Office is focused on access to patients and that we are open to suggestions.

Dr. Turner asked for clarification on if medical cannabis cardholders are able to purchase firearms. Mr. Flynn explained that under Kentucky law, individuals can possess firearms and be a medical cannabis cardholder, but federal law prohibits the possession of firearms while being a medical cannabis cardholder.

Dr. Grell asked about the timeline for when individuals will be approved or denied after applying for a medical cannabis card. Mr. Flynn explained that the Office reviews the applications and has 30 days after reviewing the application to notify the individual if they are approved or denied.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Turner moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Chen seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (approximately 3:56 P.M.).

SAM FYNN

Sam Flynn

Executive Director

Office of Medical Cannabis

Dr. Frederick Stine

**Board Chair**