

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

**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING**

1. The first special meeting of the Board of Physicians and Advisors was called to order by Sam Flynn, Executive Director of the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program, on December 19, 2023 at approximately 5:05 PM. The members met virtually via Zoom.

Board Members Present:

Anthony Carney, APRN  
Jodi Wojcik, APRN  
Ryan Grell, M.D.  
Linda McClain, M.D.  
Kristen Dawson, M.D.  
Courtney Turner, M.D.  
Fredrick Stine, D.O.  
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  
Members of the Public

2. **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Flynn provided a summary of the first meeting of the Board of Physicians and Advisors.

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

The purpose of this meeting is to consider whether the Board desires to recommend additional qualifying medical conditions to the General Assembly so that individuals with those conditions may become cardholders in the Program.

- a. **Review of Public Input Regarding Qualifying 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.

**b. Discussion of Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup and Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup Healthcare Subcommittee Motions**

Since the Board’s first meeting, both the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup and its Healthcare Subcommittee unanimously passed a resolution to recommend adding several conditions to the current list of qualifying medical conditions. The recommended conditions are contained in Executive Order (“EO”) 2022-798 but are not included in the list of qualifying medical conditions included in KRS 218B.010.

**c. Presentation on Qualifying Medical Conditions, Shelby Lewis, Executive Policy Advisor and Discussion**

The presentation provided a summary of medicinal cannabis in the United States and Kentucky and focused on the list of qualifying medical conditions listed in SB 47 and those listed in Executive Order 2022-798 but not included in SB 47.

As of October 26, 2023, there are 1,724,996 Kentuckians that have the qualifying medical conditions listed in SB 47. An additional 437,273 Kentuckians have qualifying medical conditions that are listed in Executive Order 2022-798 but not SB 47. Those 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.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Stein thanked the Board members, Program staff, and members of the public for attending the special meeting and asked the Board members for any questions or comments.

Dr. Chen noted that all conditions listed in EO 2022-798 are all chronic conditions except for hepatitis C. The Department of Public Health within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services started a hepatitis C program in 2022 as effective anti-viral drugs are now available that can cure hepatitis C in as little as eight (8) weeks. Dr. Chen expressed concern that if hepatitis C is a qualifying medical condition within the medical cannabis program that it will incentivize patients to not seek the anti-viral treatment.

Dr. Chen additionally suggested that Crohn’s disease is quite similar to other bowel diseases, such as ulcerative colitis, and that using the term “inflammatory bowel disease” would be more appropriate. Dr. Chen then recommended that medical cannabis should be used for chronic conditions that cannot be cured.

Dr. Roberts agreed with Dr. Chen, and also recommended that pancreatitis should be added to the list of qualifying medical conditions.

**6. MOTION BY CHAIR STEIN**

Chair Stein made a motion, stating:

“At this time, I make a motion, pursuant to the Board’s statutory authority under KRS Chapter 218B, 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, except for Crohn’s disease, including:

ALS, Parkinson's Disease, inflammatory bowel disease, sickle cell anemia, cachexia or wasting syndrome, neuropathies, severe arthritis, fibromyalgia, muscular dystrophy, Huntington's disease, HIV, AIDS, glaucoma, and terminal illness.

And excepting, Hepatis C, which I move to recommit to the Board for additional study and consideration.”

The motion was seconded by Dr. McClain, and the motion was unanimously adopted by the Board 9-0.

Program staff will prepare a letter to the General Assembly for Dr. Stein’s review memorializing the recommendation of the Board.

**7. Other Business**

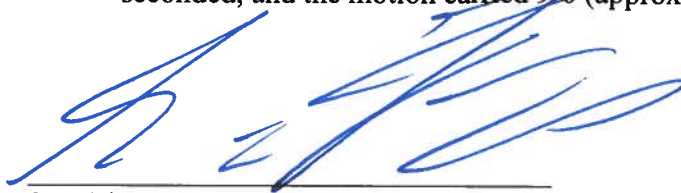
None.

**8. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for January 17, 2024 at 3:30 PM.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dr. Stein moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Roberts seconded, and the motion carried 9-0 (approximately 5:55 PM).



Sam Flynn  
Executive Director  
Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program



Dr. Fredrick Stine  
Board Chair