

CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
KENTUCKY MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM
TEAM KENTUCKY MEDICAL CANNABIS WORKGROUP
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2024 MEETING

- I. The 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 January 24, 2024 at approximately 1:10 PM. The members met both in-person and virtually via Zoom.

Workgroup Members Present in-person:

Ashley Smith

Workgroup Members Present via Zoom:

Sam Flynn, proxy for Eric Friedlander

Jamie Link

Marni Gibson

Jonathan Hatton

Phillip Burnett

Danielle Milbern, proxy for Jeff Noel

Tom Miller

Dorsey Ridley

Julie Cantwell

Michael Mueller

Ashton McKenzie

Additional Attendees:

Shelby Lewis, Executive Policy Advisor of the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program

Chafic George, Director of Enforcement and Compliance

Nick Therrell, Director of Licensure and Access

Alyssa Erickson, Director of Education and Outreach

Approximately 75 Members of the Public

II. OLD BUSINESS

The Workgroup voted on the approval of the October 19, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Link made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Miller seconded. The motion carried 12-0.

The Workgroup voted on the approval of the December 5, 2023 special meeting minutes. Mr. Ridley made a motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. Smith seconded. The motion carried 12-0.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Report from the Executive Director

Mr. Flynn provided an update on the progress of the KMCP including recent announcements made during Governor Beshear's Team Kentucky Update on January 4, 2024. This included ten new regulations filed by the cabinet regarding cannabis businesses, including cultivators, processors, producers, dispensaries, and safety compliance facilities. The new regulations also provide how medical cannabis products will be packaged, labeled, transported, advertised, and tested. Mr. Flynn discussed IT technology implementation, a cannabis business zoning tool, hiring additions, and the newly recommended qualifying conditions. All regulations must be filed, and appropriate IT systems implemented, by July 1, 2024.

Next, Mr. Flynn mentioned HB 352, filed during the current 2024 Regular Session, that would expand the qualifying conditions to include those recommended by the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup and the Board of Physicians and Advisors.

b. Presentation on Supply Limits

Ms. Lewis provided a presentation on potential protocols for establishing patient supply limits, which the KMCP Board of Physicians and Advisors is tasked with reviewing and recommending to the cabinet. The presentation information on the unit of measurement for supply limits, which are product weight or product equivalency units. Product weight supply limits are based on the weight of raw plant material (typically in grams), concentrates (typically in grams), and/or tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC") concentration (typically in milligrams). Product equivalency units are conversion factors based on raw plant material weight and potency and can be defined as a medicinal marijuana unit.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The Workgroup planned out the rest of 2024's quarterly meetings, which are as follows:

April 24, 2024

July 24, 2024

October 23, 2024

Mr. Flynn additionally discussed possible topics for upcoming subcommittee meetings, which will be scheduled and announced on an ongoing basis.

V. COMMENTS AND ACCOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Flynn then took questions and comments from both Workgroup members and members of the public.

Workgroup members asked questions regarding HB 352, other bills that have been filed this legislative session, and the list of qualifying conditions recommended from the Workgroup and the Board of Physicians and Advisors.

A member of the public asked if the Program is taking into account that different individuals may need different or higher amounts of medical cannabis due to their conditions. Mr. Flynn responded that SB 47 does contemplate that an individual may have a greater or lesser need than the supply limit for cannabis, which a medical practitioner may grant in their written certification for the individual.

A member of the public asked how low-income individuals will be able to pay for medical cannabis and how dispensaries can be licensed. Mr. Flynn stated that the KMCP has not issued regulations about how cannabis businesses may be licensed, and regulations will be filed by July 1, 2024, per SB 47. Mr. Flynn stated that SB 47 prohibits government assistance programs and does not require workers' compensation programs for reimbursing individuals for the costs of medical cannabis.

A member of the public asked how the banking or financial industry looks like for medical cannabis businesses. Mr. Flynn directed them to the "Banking and Taxes" tab under the FAQs section on our website, kymedcan.ky.gov.

A member of the public asked how medical practitioners can be educated on becoming medical cannabis practitioners. Mr. Flynn stated that the Kentucky Board of Nurses and the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure are responsible for regulating, educating, and certifying medical cannabis providers and to view their websites for additional information.

A member of the public asked if the program is on track to start sales on January 1, 2025 and another member of the public asked how sales would be available if cultivators are not already growing medical cannabis. Mr. Flynn stated that there are legislative needs that must be addressed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Link moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cantwell seconded, and the motion carried 12-0 (approximately 2:00 PM).



Sam Flynn
Executive Director
Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program