

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection  
Medical Marijuana Program  
Board of Physicians—Public Hearing  
Minutes  
June 3, 2019

**Members Present:** Michelle Seagull Commissioner  
Dr. Mitchell Prywes  
Dr. Andrew Salner  
Dr. William Zempsky  
Dr. Vincent Carlesi  
Dr. Linda Barry  
Dr. Jonathan Kost  
Dr. Godfrey Pearlson

**DCP Staff Present:** Rodrick Marriott Program Director  
Xaviel Soto Health Program Supervisor  
Karen Semmelrock Board Administrator

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Seagull called the meeting to order of the Board of Physicians for Connecticut’s Medical Marijuana Program at 8:42 a.m. at the Department of Consumer Protection, 450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, North conference room C/D.

**Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Dr. Pearlson and seconded by Dr. Zempsky and the draft minutes of the June 25, 2018 meeting are accepted.

**Program Update**

Commissioner Seagull reported that the program continues to grow. Since the previous meeting, we have issued licenses to an additional 9 dispensary facilities. This will bring the total number of dispensary facilities to 18 once they have all opened. Chronic Neuropathic Pain Associated with Degenerative Spinal Disorders has been added as a condition since the last meeting.

Not completely a medical marijuana issue but the legislature has recently made hemp and the CBD oils that come from it legal in Connecticut. We will have a role in that.

We are currently working on ways to improve the patient registration process and reduce the time it takes to process applications.

As of June 3, 2019, there are now 32,974 patients. The number of providers certifying patients has grown to 1113.

## **New Conditions**

At this meeting, the Board deliberated on six conditions, applying the required criteria from the regulations to each. For each condition, the three questions posed in the regulations were reviewed by the physicians individually. The three questions posed in the regulations are as follows:

1. Is the medical condition, medical treatment or disease debilitating?
2. Is marijuana more likely than not to have the potential to be beneficial to treat or alleviate the debilitation associated with the medical condition, medical treatment or disease?
3. Are there other matters that seem relevant to the approval or the denial of the petition?

- **Chronic Pain**

- There was testimony from 1 pharmacist/dispensary

The Board requested more time to discuss this condition and possibly narrow the definition.

Dr. Zempsky made a motion to table this condition to a later date. Dr. Salner seconded the motion and the Board unanimously voted to postpone voting on this condition.

- **Interstitial Cystitis**

- There was testimony from 1 patient.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
  - 7 yes and 0 no
- Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
  - 7 yes and 0 no.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
  - No discussion

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Interstitial Cystitis to the list of debilitating medical conditions for adults only by a vote of 7 for and 0 against.

- **Intractable Neuropathy Pain that is Unresponsive to Standard Medical Treatment (Polyneuropathy)**

- There was testimony from 3 people, 2 patients, 1 doctor. Discussion among the Board resulted in renaming the condition to Intractable Neuropathic Pain that is Unresponsive to Standard Medical Treatments.

- Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
  - 7 yes and 0 no
- Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
  - 7 yes and 0 no.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
  - No discussion

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Intractable Neuropathic Pain that is Unresponsive to Standard Medical treatments to the list of debilitating medical conditions for adults as well as children by a vote of 7 for and 0 against.

- **MAL Syndrome (Median Arcuate Ligament Syndrome)**

- There was testimony from 1 patient.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
  - 7 yes and 0 no
- Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
  - 7 yes and 0 no.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
  - No discussion

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add MAL Syndrome to the list of debilitating medical conditions for adults only by a vote of 7 for and 0 against.

- **Tourette Syndrome**

- There was no testimony from the public. Discussion among the Board resulted in renaming the condition to Tourette Syndrome for Patients who have Failed Standard Medical Treatments.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
  - 7 yes and 0 no
- Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
  - 7 yes and 0 no.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
  - No discussion

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Tourette Syndrome to the list of qualifying conditions for adults and to add the narrowed condition of “Tourette Syndrome for patients who have failed standard medical treatment” to the list of debilitating medical conditions for children by a vote of 7 for and 0 against.

- **Vulvodynia and Vulvar Burning**

- There was testimony from 1 patient.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
  - 7 yes and 0 no
- Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
  - 7 yes and 0 no.
- Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
  - No discussion

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to add Vulvodynia and Vulvar Burning to the list of debilitating medical conditions for adults only by a vote of 7 for and 0 against.

**Next Meeting**

To be scheduled at a later date.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Seagull adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:40 a.m.