

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection
Medical Marijuana Program
Board of Physicians—Public Hearing
Minutes
November 20, 2020

Members Present: Michelle Seagull Commissioner
Dr. Linda Barry
Dr. Mitchell Prywes
Dr. Andrew Salner
Dr. William Zempsky
Dr. Jonathan Kost
Dr. Godfrey Pearlson
Dr. Deepak Cyril D’Souza

DCP Staff Present: Rodrick Marriott Director
Xaviel Soto Program Supervisor
Tiffany Araujo Board Administrator

Call to Order

Commissioner Seagull called the meeting to order of the Board of Physicians for Connecticut’s Medical Marijuana Program at 8:33 a.m. via Zoom.com

Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by the Commissioner Seagull moved by Dr. Pearlson and seconded by Dr. Kost and the draft minutes of the August 14, 2020 meeting are accepted.

Program Update

Commissioner Seagull reported that the program has added about 9,000 patients since COVID. As a result of the pandemic the Governor has issued several executive orders so medical marijuana patients can continue to receive their medication and care during these tough times. These orders will continue until February 9th as we are in a second declared state of emergency. The Executive Orders also allow the industry to operate safely. Some of these include allowing dispensary facilities to provide curb side deliveries to both patients and caregivers and employees to switch work location to assure there is coverage in the event staff is out sick. Chronic pain was added earlier this year to the list of debilitating conditions.

At our last meeting, we spoke about pain associated with acute and chronic pancreatitis.. There will be an open public comment period scheduled to end December 22nd, 2020. We are hoping by early next year it will be considered by the regulation review committee and added to our list of conditions. We have also streamlined our process for getting cards to our patients. It has improved the wait time for our patients. Currently, patients wait time is averaging about 10 business days. The Department has just

over 48,000 registered patients and 1,358 certifying physicians and APRNS.

Dr. Prywes inquired about having data on patients with COVID. Also, Dr. Prywes wanted to know if it is possible for physicians to get a notification regarding expiration dates to get patients recertified. The Commissioner explained that information regarding COVID status is confidential and not reported to DCP so the only way to know is by sending a survey to patients. The Commissioner then mentioned patients do get notified that their card is near expiration. Dr. Salner followed up on the topic of patients and COVID, wanting to know if there was a decrease in purchases because of COVID.

Dr. Salner also asked if there is a decrease in purchases due to the surrounding states offering recreational marijuana.

The board also touched on pharmacists adjusting patients to nonsmoking forms of cannabis because of COVID. Physicians would like to explore ways to do more research.

Rodrick Marriott, Drug Control Director, said the Department has about 6 research programs, one of the most recent studies proposed to us is a study from Yale identifying the effect of marijuana in opioid use. Dr. Salner suggested that maybe the board can get together unofficially not as the board but as researchers. The Commissioner suggested we keep research as a topic in our future meetings.

Presentation by Dr. Lamb on Medical Marijuana Study Regarding Rib Fractures

Dr. Lamb presented to the Board of Physicians her study regarding the use of Cannabis to reduce opioid use in patients with Acute rib fractures. After Dr. Lamb's presentation the floor was open to question and then the meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment

Commissioner Seagull adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:58 a.m.