

NH Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board Meeting  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 – Minutes

Meeting called to order by Dr. Jonathan Ballard at 2:35PM

Welcome and Introductions

Group reviewed RSA 126-X:12 establishing board and board responsibilities

Members appointed by DHHS Commissioner introduce themselves

1. Dr. Jonathan Ballard, Chief Medical Officer, NH DHHS
2. Dr. Richard Morse, Pediatric Neurology
3. Dr. Dennis Thapa, Anesthesiology and Interventional Pain Management
4. Ms. Lisa Withrow, APRN, Oncology/Palliative Medicine
5. Dr. Corneliu Stanciu, Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine
6. Dr. Molly Rossignol, Family Medicine and Addiction Medicine
7. Dr. David Conway, Obstetrics and Gynecology
8. Dr. Seddon Savage, Addiction Medicine, Pain Management
9. Dr. Bert Fichman, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Anesthesiology
10. Dr. Jerry Knirk, Orthopedic Surgery

Note: Board Members from pediatrics and a qualifying patient are still needed

Presentation about history of NH Therapeutic Cannabis Program delivered by Michael Holt, Administrator, Therapeutic Cannabis Program. Update about status of current therapeutic cannabis bills provided by Michael Holt, Administrator, Therapeutic Cannabis Program.

Group Discussion about Charge of the NH Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board.

Dr. Ballard and Dr. Knirk volunteer to serve as chair of board. Dr. Ballard elected chair of the NH Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board for the first 6 meetings. Dr. Knirk elected alternate.

Group Discussion about approach to reviewing evidence and rational for recommending conditions and diagnoses for qualifying conditions. Group discussion about possible sources of evidence. Board votes to review Cochran Review, National Academy of Sciences, and systematic review by Dr. Stanciu electronically prior to next meeting. Dr. Ballard agrees to send materials electronically to group. Group discussion about RSA provisions for public input into process of adding or removing qualifying conditions.

Dr. Ballard informed group about requirement for board members to complete NH Statement of Financial Interest from and return to Office of Secretary of State.

Next meetings scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30–7:30PM and July 17<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30PM at 29 Hazen Drive, Concord.

Meeting Adjured at 4:31PM.

## MINUTES OF THERAPEUTIC CANNABIS MEDICAL OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING

March 22, 2019

Meeting called to order by Dr. Jonathan Ballard.

Introductions around the table then proceeded. The draft contact sheet is attached to provide a list of those in attendance and the field which they represent. (Note that Barton and Plourde are included for contacts, but were not in attendance.)

We discussed how and when to elect a chair. The group felt that Dr. Ballard should continue as chair for a period of time and then proceed with election of a permanent chair. Savage moved that Dr Ballard be chair for the first six meetings and then election of chair will proceed. Approved unanimously.

Ballard appointed Knirk as the alternate.

Group discussion then proceeded about how often to meet and we all agreed that meetings would need to be frequent in the beginning and then may be less often.

We discussed the bills currently before the legislature on expanding indications.

HB 366 would add opioid addiction, misuse and abuse

HB461-FN adds insomnia, anxiety, and Lyme disease.

SB 175 removes all conditions and leaves to the discretion of the provider.

The House bills have been retained in the House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee for now. We do not need to give advice on these bills until the Fall. The Senate bill was in committee at the time of the meeting.

General discussion then proceeded about issues which we will want to address. We discussed the need for feedback from dispensaries regarding what has been dispensed and the dose, how often the patient was seen and costs. The ATCs are collecting data and DHHS has the data but it has not been reviewed due to resource limitations.

Fanciullo noted that the group he works with in Pennsylvania collects data from ATCs. He suggested the use of electronically collected data and that we should consider asking the ATC's to contribute \$100,000 to help with the gathering and processing of data.

Stanciu noted that his group is doing a review of CBD alone and THC alone in five conditions--anxiety, PTSD, affective disorders, schizophrenia spectrum, and substance use. His information will be made available to the group.

Thapa pointed out the existence of the Cochrane reviews and links to those will be provided.

We discussed that we also need to discuss conditions for which cannabis may be harmful, i.e., contraindications.

We then discussed the best day of the week and best time for meetings. It appeared that Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 would be best.

Next meetings were set for Wed, June 5, 5:30-7:30PM and Wed, July 17, 5:30-7:30PM.

Holt will send contact info and information for the Stanciu study and the Cochrane reviews.

Meeting adjourned by Dr. Ballard.

Submitted by,  
Rep. Jerry Knirk