

Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board
October 6, 2021, DHHS Offices, 29 Hazen Drive (with Remote-Zoom option)
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Virginia Brack, Heather Brown, Corey Burchman, Jerry Knirk (Chair), Seddon Savage, Tricia Tilley (for Jonathan Ballard), Lisa Withrow

Members Absent: Jill MacGregor, Richard Morse, Molly Rossignol, Cornel Stanciu

DHHS Staff: Michael Holt, DPHS Program Administrator; Judith Gosselin, DPHS Program Specialist

Note: In-person quorum requirement not met

Meeting commenced at 5:34 pm

Minutes

Previous meeting minutes could not be voted on due to lack of in-person quorum

Review/Discussion of CHI's "Today Is For Me" Pregnancy Education Materials

- DHHS provided written feedback to the Board on the brochure and poster in advance of the meeting for consideration at the meeting (mostly clarity/emphasis suggestions)
 - The Board agreed with and accepted DHHS suggestions for changes
- The Board discussed two paragraphs that suggested risk of cannabis use in animal studies (including miscarriage), but for which the Board was not aware of any studies showing human correlation
 - The Board agreed to remove those two paragraphs, but if human studies did reveal such risks the information would be revisited.
- Knirk and Holt will finalize suggested edits to the materials and send to CHI.

Review of ATC Educational Materials

- Burchman (Board's ATC clinical representative) noted a potential conflict of interest, specifically that he should not offer criticism of other ATCs' educational material.
- There were numerous comments related to making it clear that scientific evidence related to all pharmacologic effects are uncertain.
 - The group felt the framing used by one dispensary that "Patients report the following effects" and then listing cannabinoids and reported effects, was appropriate and avoided the implication that evidence supported the claims.
 - It was suggested that instructions on use of cannabis be carefully outlined step by step and that perhaps diagrams be included related to routes of administration.
 - There was discussion about what the Board's authority is. It was affirmed that the Board does not have regulatory authority over the ATCs (cannot require the ATCs); but rather the Board shall "contribute to the oversight of the clinical, quality, and public health related matters of the use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes" [RSA 126-X:12, I]. The Board can advise and recommend.

- The ATCs have been proactive in seeking the Board’s input and it is expected by the TCP that the ATCs will accept those recommendations.
- Knirk asked for any key inaccuracies or changes in the dispensary materials reviewed.
 - The need to mention drug interactions was mentioned.
 - Burchman will send a paper he recently wrote on drug interactions with cannabis.
 - It was suggested that the Board make a handout on possible drug interactions. It was asked where that document, once created, should be distributed from: the certifying provider or the ATC?
 - Some states require pharmacists in the dispensary and they do discuss drug interactions.
 - The Board was not comfortable with non-clinical staff at the ATCs talking about drug interactions as this is a medical function.
 - It was suggested that the ATCs should not medically counsel patients on this, but that the handout would direct the patient back to their certifying provider.
 - There was discussion of whether there is need for training and licensure for staff in dispensaries who provide advice and/or counseling regarding selection, titration, route of administration, and revisions of cannabinoid therapy. Many perceive this as a medical role. CT, NJ, Ohio, and other states have a requirement for pharmacists in the dispensaries who perform this counseling and/or supervise others who do.
 - One ATC’s description of cannabis use disorder and physical/psychological dependence on cannabis was incorrect and internally inconsistent across their materials.
- Board members approved their specific comments on each ATCs’ materials to be forwarded to the ATCs.
 - TCP will ask the ATCs for approval to send their educational materials to the other ATCs.
 - Knirk reminded the Board that if other Board members had comments on the ATC materials, that they should send their comments.

Proposed Legislation for 2022 Session

One LSR would propose adding “migraines” to the list of qualifying medical conditions. What should the Board’s approach be?

- It was clear to the Board that migraines could be certified under the existing condition “chronic pain.”
- There was concern that migraines tend to be intermittent and may not be considered as “chronic pain” by certain providers, but it is clearly a form of chronic pain.
- The Board agreed that a deep dive into the scientific literature on migraines was not warranted.
- The Board agreed that migraines should be certified on the basis of chronic pain.
- The Board would not support or oppose the bill, but would be neutral.

- It was suggested that the Board could provide education or guidance on their educational materials (to be available on their website) about what qualifies as chronic pain including perhaps a statement that chronic pain might include recurrent intermittent severe pain (such as migraine, sickle cell, etc.).

Board Meeting Logistics

- Knirk suggested the Board consider a hybrid schedule of meetings such that the Board aim to meet in person about 4 times a year when votes are needed, and the rest of the monthly meetings be primarily remote.
- The schedule of in-person meetings would need to be flexible, based on present need to vote.
- This suggestion only works if members commit to be present for in-person meetings in order to have a quorum to vote.

Member Updates

- Withrow announced that Heather Brown was awarded the “NH Cannabis Activist of the Year” by [NECANN](#).
- Tilley suggested that the Board schedule review of the patient experience at the Board’s next meeting, and the Board agreed.
 - Kinirk, Brown, and Holt to develop an agenda for the November meeting.
- Tilley announced that Holt is now administering both the Therapeutic Cannabis Program and the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which moved from Office of Professional Licensure and Certification to DPHS in July.
- Knirk suggested that the Board review and consider the recent CDC HAN about the proliferation of delta-8 THC (hemp-derived THC) in unregulated markets.
 - Burchman is speaking to the 50 State Attorney Generals on this topic and will circulate his position paper to the Board.
- Brown will speak at a convention in MA about maintaining therapeutic cannabis in an ever growing recreational world.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.