



State of Rhode Island
CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION
560 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

Cannabis Control Commission

Open Meeting Minutes

DATE: Friday, September 29, 2023
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02886

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kimberly R. Ahern, Esq.
Commissioner Robert B. Jacquard, Esq.
Commissioner Olayiwola Oduyingbo, Esq.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Mariana Ormonde, Chief of Legal Services, Cannabis Control Commission
Kelsey McQueeney, Administrative Officer, Cannabis Control Commission
Meredith Cotta, Confidential Secretary, Dept. of Business Regulation
Stephanie Forschner-Dancause, Ph.D., Associate Teaching Professor, Program Coordinator, University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy

Chairperson Ahern called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Chairperson Ahern welcomed new Cannabis Control Commission staff members Kelsey McQueeney and Mariana Ormonde.

The first order of business was:

Motion to approve the minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on September 22, 2023.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Open Session Minutes from September 22, 2023.

The next order of business was:

A presentation by Stephanie Forschner-Dancause, Ph.D., Program Coordinator for the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy Certificate of Cannabis Studies Program and Lecturer.

Presentation included:

- A history of cannabis medicinal use and prohibition in the world and the United States.
- An overview of the cannabis studies programs at the University of Rhode Island.
- Chemistry produced by the cannabis plant.
- Cannabis Pharmacognosy.
- Chemistry and biological activity of natural cannabis and other natural plants.
- An introduction to the endocannabinoid system and the biological effects of cannabis on the human body.

Discussion ensued at the completion of the presentation, the commissioners asked questions regarding the presentation. Ms. Forschner-Dancause responded to their questions with additional information on the following:

- The molecular structure and potency of hemp versus cannabis.
- Potential benefits of cannabis use for patients/individuals with opioid additions.
- Potential effects of cannabis use on patients/individuals with mental illness.
- Studies conducted regarding cannabis use by disabled veterans or people with pre-existing health conditions.
- The cannabis program at URI
- Risks of contamination and presence of contaminants in cannabis, including heavy metals and mold.
- Testing procedures in the manufacturing process to prevent contaminants.

The next order of business was:

Public Comment (in person only):

One person (Stuart Procter, Ph.D., Cannabis Advisory Board member) provided public comments on the following topic:

- Whether traces of heavy metals and micro-toxins such as yeast or mold that may be present in cannabis products and unknowingly consumed, could contribute to health and mental health issues in consumers, noting that further testing is required.

There were no other public comments.

The next order of business was:

Executive Session

At 3:11 p.m., upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo it was unanimously voted:

Motion to go into Executive Session, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1) for the following matter:

Approval of minutes from August 24, 2023 Executive Session.

At 3:13 p.m. the Commission reconvened in Open Session.

The next order of business was:

Motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 29, 2023

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously

VOTED: To seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 29, 2023 pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 42-46-5(a)(1)

The next item of business was:

Report on activities/votes taken in Executive Session

Report out on actions and votes taken in Executive Session. Approval of minutes from Executive Session August 24, 2023 that passed.

The next item of business was:

Adjournment

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: To be determined.