



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

Cannabis Control Commission

Open Meeting Minutes

DATE: Friday, November 3, 2023

TIME: 1:00 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
Madison K. Rivard, MPH, Public Health Epidemiologist, Cannabis Use, Substance Use Epidemiology Program, Rhode Island Department of Health
Sarah Hall, MPA, Administrator, Division of Behavioral Health, Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

Chairperson Ahern called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

The first order of business was:

Motion to approve the minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on September 29, 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 29, 2023.

The next order of business was:

A presentation by Madison Rivard, MPH, Public Health Epidemiologist, Cannabis Use, Substance Use Epidemiology Program, Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), and Sarah Hall, Administrator, Division of Behavioral Health, Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH)

Presentation included:

- Overview of cannabis operations for BHDDH
- Overview of substance use disorder prevention
- Overview of cannabis operations for RIDOH
- Cannabis data surveillance for medical marijuana patients by age, medical vs. adult-use cannabis sales in Rhode Island, and cannabis sales by product type.
- Data on cannabis-related emergency department visits in Rhode Island
- Future endeavors in data collection regarding cannabis usage and reported use for vulnerable populations

Discussion ensued at the completion of the presentation and the commissioners asked questions regarding the presentation. Ms. Rivard and Ms. Hall responded to questions with additional information on the following:

- Cannabis-related emergency department visits originating from regulated cannabis purchased legally or on the black market
- Surveys being done for youth and adolescents about cannabis usage and where it is being sourced from in this demographic
- Emergency department data and looking into qualitative data regarding the presentation of physiological or psychological symptoms.

The next order of business was:

Executive Session

At 1:44 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 matters:

1. Review, discussion and potential vote to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 29, 2023, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1).
2. Update and discussion on *Greenleaf Compassion Care Center, Inc., v. Santacroce, et al.*, 1:23-cv-00282-MSM-LDA, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2).

3. Update from Chair and discussion on upcoming FMLA leave, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1).

At 2:16 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 November 3, 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 November 3, 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

Chair Ahern reported the following Commission action(s):

1. That the Commission reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from Executive Session September 29, 2023. A unanimous vote was cast to approve the minutes.
2. That the Commission received an update from legal counsel on *Greenleaf Compassion Care Center, Inc., v. Santacroce, et al.*, 1:23-cv-00282-MSM-LDA, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2).
3. That the Commission received an update and discussed the Chair's upcoming FMLA leave, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1).

The next item of business was:

Updates from the Chairperson, with specific focus on the following:

- The launch of the Commission website, email listserv, and Twitter/X site
- The Cannabis Advisory Board's first meeting held on November 2, 2023
- The current balance of the Social Equity Assistance Fund, \$1,013,500.00, and future fiscal reporting
- That the Commission would be requesting data from relevant state agencies to collect information necessary to determine what constitutes a "disproportionately impacted area" in accordance with § 21 –28.11-3(23), including Rhode Island Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services, Department of Labor and Training, Department of Public Safety, and more

- The next steps in the regulatory planning process

The next order of business was:

Public Comment (in person only):

Two people provided comments on the following topics:

- Wanting to get new dispensaries opened as soon as possible.
- Affiliated and unaffiliated data being presented.
- Recommendation for new retail dispensaries to only be able to sell product from existing cultivators.
- The need to focus on positive cannabis-related data.
- Hearing more data and news regarding positive benefits of cannabis.

There were no other public comments.

The next order of business was:

Next Meeting Date: November 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Public Utilities Commission, 89 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI 02886.

The next order 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 2:32 p.m.