



**Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Health
Medical Marijuana Program**



Health Regulation and Licensing Administration

**899 NORTH CAPITOL ST. NE – 2ND FL.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

Scientific Subcommittee

May 26, 2016

1:00 pm-2:30 pm

OPEN SESSION MINUTES



**Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Health
Medical Marijuana Program**



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Open Session Agenda

Call to Order by:	Dr. Shauna White, Program Manager on the behalf of Dr. Sharon Lewis, Senior Deputy Director at 1:05 pm	
Introductions:	<p><u>Committee Members Present</u> Dr. Yewande Johnson, MD Dr. Daniel Perlin, MD Dr. Andrew Robie, MD</p> <p><u>Committee Member Absent</u> Dr. Michael Yochelson , MD</p> <p><u>Staff Present</u> Carla Williams, Assistant General Counsel Karin Barron, Health Licensing Specialist Jawara Kasimu-Graham, Pharmacist Inspector Dr. Jacqueline Watson, Chief of Staff for the DOH Brian Kim, Counsel to the DC Board of Medicine Arian Gibson, Program Manager Food Safety & Hygiene Inspection Services Division</p> <p><u>Members of the Public</u> Corey L. Barnette, District Growers Malik Burnett, John Hopkins School of Pharmacy Mike Lisowski, Americans for Safe Access Christopher Smith, Public Rhodesia Small,, Public Craig Gilletle, DC Medical Marijuana Patient Shauna Willingham, DC Medical Marijuana Patient Russell Gardner, Public Patrick Fasusi, MD Tony Fabusi, Public Daryl Flood, Patient Carolina Alcalde, Public Bob Simmons, Alternatives Solutions Cultivation Center, DC Finest Ben Herschman, Abatin Cultivation Center Zachary Ciullu, DC Medical Marijuana Patient David Guard, Capitol City Care CC/Dispensary Rabbi Jeffery Kahn, Takoma Wellness Dispensary Mary Williams, Public</p>	

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	<p>Jen Brunenkant, Herbal Alternatives Cultivation Center Prashanth Pillat, DC Medical Marijuana Patient Jorge Aguilar, DOH Pharmacy Intern Kaitlyn Boecker, Drug Policy Alliance Barrett Langston, DC Medical Marijuana Patient Leslie Dykstra, Takoma Wellness Center Dispensary Victor Alcrldc, Public Nicholas Goldstein, Public</p>	
<p>Statement for Quorum</p>	<p>There was a quorum during the May 25th Scientific Subcommittee meeting.</p>	<p>Dr. Shauna White</p>
<p>0526-O-01</p>	<p><u>Review of Agenda</u></p> <p>Addendum: Dr. Dana McGinty. MD was unable to attend the meeting; however, Dr. McGinty submitted written comments to increase the amount of medical marijuana a patient may receive within a thirty (30) day period from two (2) ounces to four (4) ounces.</p> <p>Motion: Dr. Yewande Johnson, MD moved that the Scientific Subcommittee accept the agenda with the addendum as presented.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Andrew Robie</p> <p>Motion Carried</p>	<p>Dr. Shauna White & Committee</p>
<p>0526-O-02</p>	<p><u>Program Updates</u></p> <p>Pharmaceutical Control Division Program Manager, Dr. Shauna White reported the following statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As of 05/26/2016, the DC Medical Marijuana Program has 3,660 patients enrolled in the program. ▪ The District of Columbia Medical Marijuana Program currently has 5 Dispensaries and 7 Cultivation Centers Licensed 	<p>Dr. Shauna White</p>

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<p>0526-O-03</p>	<p><u>The DC Center for Rational Prescribing (DCRx)</u></p> <p>The DC Center for Rational Prescribing provides information about medications and other therapeutic options to physicians and healthcare professionals. DCRx offers online continuing education courses, free to DC physicians and healthcare professionals, and at minimal cost to healthcare professionals not licensed in Washington, DC. To learn more, please visit the following website link: http://doh.dc.gov/dcrx</p>	<p>Dr. Shauna White</p>
<p>0526-O-04</p>	<p><u>Greetings From the Director's Office</u></p> <p>Dr. Jaqueline Watson greeted the public and reported that she is present to hear the concerns and recommendations from the Scientific Subcommittee to determine if the Director of the Department of Health should increase the amount of medical marijuana a patient may receive within a thirty (30) day period from two (2) ounces to four (4) ounces.</p>	<p>Dr. Jacqueline Watson, Chief of Staff on the behalf of the Director of the Department of Health, Dr. LaQuandra S. Nesbitt, MD</p>
<p>0526-O-05</p>	<p>Discussion: Whether to recommend that the Director of the Department of Health increase the amount of medical marijuana a patient may receive within a thirty (30) day period from two (2) ounces to four (4) ounces. The Subcommittee will further discuss whether the recommendation should apply to all forms of medical marijuana or only certain forms.</p> <p>Assistant General Counsel, Carla Williams reported that an emergency came before the DC Medical Marijuana Program because a patient needed more than two (2) ounces in a non-dried form. The Director later approved that option for that one patient. The D.C. Department of Health later amended its regulations to allow patients enrolled in the Medical Marijuana Program (MMP) to petition the Director for approval to possess more than the equivalent of two (2) ounces of dried medical marijuana <i>in a form other than dried</i> by submitting a written request from the qualifying patient's recommending physician meeting the requirements set</p>	

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forth in the regulations. This amendment only applies to medical marijuana in non-dried forms such as tinctures, oils, and edibles where the concentrated strength needed to treat the patient's condition may be greater than the equivalent of two (2) ounces of the dried form. See, Title 22 C DCMR §§ 300.09 and 300.10. The Subcommittee's recommendation will be whether to expand this provision to all forms of medical marijuana.

The Notice of Final Rulemaking was distributed during the meeting to the Scientific Subcommittee Members, the public attendees, and staff for review.

During the meeting, Scientific Subcommittee Member, Dr. Yewande Johnson recommended to open the meeting for public comment.

After hearing comments from the public, in an effort to make a clinically-based and informed recommendation to the Director, the Subcommittee is seeking assistance for recommending physicians. The Subcommittee would like to obtain information that would assist it in determining how patients are responding to medical marijuana treatment, the medical efficacy and possible effects of recommending this potential change to the Medical Marijuana Program. This information will help the Subcommittee determine what recommendation to make to the Director.

The Subcommittee requests that recommending Physicians please select twenty-five (25) patients to which they have recommended medical marijuana and provide the following information in the attached spreadsheet:

1. Patient's initials
2. Patient's age
3. Patient's gender
4. Year the patient received Medical Marijuana recommendation

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Patient's medical diagnosis6. Names and dosing regimen of those medications used to treat the patient's condition that the patient was on prior to taking Medical Marijuana7. Medications and dosing regimen after the patient was in the MMP for four (4) months,8. Medications and dosing regimen the patient is currently on as of June 20169. Your assessment of the patient's health status at the most recent visit compared to before starting medical marijuana, including:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Any reduction of symptoms from the patient's diagnosed condition(s);b. Patient's decreased use of opioids or other medications; andc. Patient's development of tolerance to Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or Cannabinoids.	
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This concludes the Public Open Session of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday June 28, 2016 at 1:00pm.