Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection
Medical Marijuana Program - Public Act 12-55

Board of Physicians

Minutes

September 12, 2012

**Members Present:**
- William M. Rubenstein  
  Commissioner
- Dr. Jonathan Kost
- Dr. Godfrey Pearlson
- Dr. Robert Siegel

**DCP Staff Present:**
- Michelle Seagull  
  Deputy Commissioner
- Gary Berner  
  Legislative Program Manager
- Claudette Carveth  
  Director of Communications
- John Gadea, Jr.  
  Director of Drug Control
- Gerry Garcia  
  Chief of Operations
- Elisa Nahas  
  Legal Director
- Xaviel Soto  
  Health Program Associate
- Robert Rickenback  
  IT Analyst
- Frank Scalia  
  IT Supervisor

**DAS:**
- Dan Sears
- Maureen Blackburn

**Call to Order:**

Commissioner Rubenstein convened the meeting of Public Act 12-55, Medical Marijuana Program, and Board of Physicians at 8:40am at the Department of Consumer Protection, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Room G38.

**Swearing-In**

The Oath of Office to appointed physician members of the panel.
Overview:

The statute creates this board of physicians under Public Act 12-55 where there are to be eight physician members, plus the Commissioner of Consumer Protection. The statute provides that a quorum shall be three members. To date three members have been appointed and others are expected to be appointed in the near future.

Under the statute there are certain medical specialties in which members are required to be board-certified. The Department of Consumer Protection’s intent in appointing members to the board is to have a diversity of the various specialties that are specified in the statute.

Introduction of Board Members:

A brief introduction of members and their board certifications was given. Commissioner Rubenstein will serve as the board chair until the full complement of physicians is appointed.

Agenda:

Commissioner Rubenstein provided an overview of Public Act 12-55. Under this statute, the Department of Consumer Protection is obligated to begin to register patients and caregivers as of October 1, 2012 and is on target to do that.

Overview:

- Understanding the various pieces of the Law
  - Physicians Perspective
  - Patients Perspective
  - Production/Distribution Perspective

- Role of the Board of Physicians
- Patient Registration Process
- Important Dates

MMP Presentation Summary

- Understanding the Law
  - Designed to Prevent Misuse and Diversion
Debilitating Medical Conditions Recognized by Law
- Over time would like to develop a protocol to expand debilitating medical conditions.

Physicians are the Gatekeepers

Qualified Patient Must be an Adult With a Debilitating Medical Condition

Not Everyone Can Register as a Caregiver

Patients and Caregivers Must Act Responsibly

Producers will be Limited and Tightly Regulated

Marijuana will be Dispensed Consistent with its Status as a Controlled Substance.

Immunity is Only for Those Acting Responsibly.

Scope of Immunity.

The Board of Physicians will Ensure the Medical Integrity of Connecticut’s Program.

Patient and Caregiver Registration.

Registration Process Overview.

Physician Certificate
- Prerequisites to Assessing the Registration System

Patient Registration

Caregiver Registration

Registration Fees

Important Dates:

October 1, 2012
Qualified patients and caregivers can begin applying for temporary registration certificates.
July 1, 2013
On or before this date, the Department of Consumer Protection will submit regulations implementing the Act to the legislative regulation review committee.

Discussion of Tasks

There was a discussion of the Board’s role in recommending additional debilitating conditions for which the palliative use of marijuana would be permitted. There was agreement that the Board should recommend the petition process to be used including the information that should be included in any petition so that the Commissioner can include the process in proposed regulations.

There was discussion about development of protocols for determining the amount of marijuana that would constitute a one month’s supply. An ultimate goal would be to have sufficient data so that amount could be expressed in quantity of any active ingredients or chemical compounds rather than gross weight. While such protocols are being developed, it was recommended that the Department of Consumer Protection look to protocols used in other states and select an amount in the mid-range after excluding outlier States.

There was a discussion of the potential to collect data to further research that could inform dosage issues, efficacy, usage protocols and consistency and replication of product attributes, among other scientific and medical questions.

Future Meetings:

Commissioner Rubenstein stated the following expectations for next meeting:

- More board members with range of specialties
- Fuller discussion of process for evaluating petitions regarding additions of debilitating conditions
- Fuller discussion about research potential, data collection and usage protocols

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2012 @ 8:30am, Room G38.