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CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION  
VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

DIANNA HOUENOU, Chairwoman  
SAM DELGADO, Vice Chairman  
CHARLES BARKER, Commissioner  
MARIA DEL CID-KOSSA, Commissioner  
KRISTA G. NASH, Commissioner  
JEFF BROWN, Executive Director

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1                   CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Good afternoon,  
2 everyone. It's my pleasure to welcome you to this  
3 public meeting of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission.  
4 The time is now 1:04 P.M., and I call this meeting to  
5 order. As we begin, I want to remind everyone that as  
6 usual, comments from the public can be submitted to the  
7 CRC during and after this meeting in writing via our  
8 website [www.nj.gov/cannabis/meetings](http://www.nj.gov/cannabis/meetings). The deadline to  
9 submit written comments for this meetings is tomorrow,  
10 Wednesday, May 25th at 5 o'clock p.m. Ms. Blake,  
11 please read the Notice of the Public Meeting.

12                   MS. BLAKE: Madam Chairwoman, this is a  
13 Public Meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory  
14 Commission. Adequate notice of this meeting has been  
15 provided in accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer  
16 Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was  
17 provided to the Asbury Park Press, Atlantic City  
18 Express, Bergen Record, Courier Post, Star Ledger and  
19 the Trenton Times in December 2021. The agenda and  
20 information regarding the virtual nature of the meeting  
21 due to the Covid 19 pandemic was also provided for  
22 publication and posted on the Cannabis Regulatory  
23 Commission website. The meeting time and location has  
24 also been posted on the website of the New Jersey  
25 Cannabis Regulatory Commission and with the Office of

1 the Secretary of State.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Would  
3 you please take roll call.

4 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

5 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Good afternoon.  
6 Present.

7 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

8 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Present.

9 MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

10 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Present.

11 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

12 COMMISSIONER NASH: Present.

13 MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

14 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Present.

15 MS. BLAKE: All members of the  
16 Commission are present, and we now have a quorum. The  
17 first order of business is for the Commission to go  
18 into Executive Session to discuss legal matters and  
19 litigation updates. These are discussions that are not  
20 shared with the public. We believe the Executive  
21 Session should take about 45 minutes today.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Do I have a motion  
23 to go into Executive Session?

24 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chairwoman, I  
25 move that we move into Executive Session.

1 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Seconded.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair  
3 Delgado. Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is  
4 there any discussion on the motion to go into Executive  
5 Session? Hearing none, all those in favor say "aye."

6 (All Commissioners respond "Aye".)

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All those opposed  
8 say "nay." Are there any abstentions? The motion  
9 passes. The Commission will now go into Executive  
10 Session. Again, we expect the Executive Session to  
11 last approximately 45 minutes. We will leave the live  
12 stream running during that time, and we'll return once  
13 the Executive Session is done. So, we can expect to  
14 resume the public open session at approximately, we'll  
15 say, 1:53 P.M. Thank you, everyone, for your patience.

16 (There is a recess.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, all, for  
18 your patience. The Executive Session has now ended.  
19 We ended a little bit -- little bit early. It is now  
20 1:46 P.M., and we will resume the open public portion  
21 of the meeting. Ms. Blake, can you please announce the  
22 next agenda item.

23 MS. BLAKE: The next agenda item is  
24 approving the minutes of both the Commission's Open  
25 Session and Executive Session for March 24, 2027. The

1 meeting -- the minutes have been shared and reviewed by  
2 the members of the Commission prior to this meeting.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Excellent. If  
4 there are no requested corrections to the minutes, I'll  
5 ask for a motion to adopt the meeting minutes for  
6 March 24th.

7 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I  
8 move to adopt the meeting minutes from March 24th.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by  
10 Commissioner Barker. Is there a second?

11 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by  
13 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on  
14 this motion? Hearing none, all those in favor of  
15 approving the March 24th meeting minutes say "aye."

16 [All responded "aye."]

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All those opposed  
18 say nay. Are there any abstentions? The ayes have it,  
19 and the motion is carried. I'll now ask for a -- oh,  
20 I'm sorry. Ms. Blake, can you please announce the next  
21 item.

22 MS. BLAKE: Approving the minutes of  
23 both the Commission's Open Session and Executive  
24 Session held on April 11, 2022. The minutes have been  
25 shared and reviewed by the members of the Commission

1 prior to this meeting.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Ms.  
3 Blake. Sorry to get ahead of you there. If there are  
4 no requested changes or corrections to the meeting  
5 minutes for April 11th, I'll ask for a motion to adopt  
6 those meeting minutes.

7 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I  
8 move to adopt the meeting minutes from April 11th as  
9 well.

10 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: And I second it,  
11 Madam Chair.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by  
13 Commissioner Barker. Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.  
14 Is there any discussion on the motion? Hearing none,  
15 all those in favor say aye.

16 [All responded "ayes."]

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All those opposed  
18 say nay. Are there any abstentions? Hearing none, the  
19 ayes have it, and the motion is carried.

20 MS. BLAKE: Next on the agenda is your  
21 report, Madam Chair.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. As I  
23 believe people are aware, this is the first public  
24 board meeting of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission  
25 since retail sales of adult use cannabis began. We

1 will receive a more detailed update on retail sales  
2 from the Executive Director this afternoon, but I do  
3 want to emphasize how remarkable and how proud I am of  
4 the agency. That in less than 13 months we'll have  
5 expanded the medicinal cannabis program, adopted  
6 initial regulations for recreational cannabis industry.  
7 We've issued more than a hundred initial awards for  
8 adult use cannabis licenses. And we've officially  
9 opened New Jersey's legal personal use cannabis market  
10 for adults. I just want to amplify something that our  
11 Executive Director Jeff Brown recently stated, and that  
12 is, you know, beginning recreational sales on  
13 April 21st was an important milestone for the State of  
14 New Jersey, but it does not mark the end of our  
15 process. It simply marks an important step in a  
16 multi-year effort to make New Jersey's industry the  
17 best that it can be. From here, the Commission's  
18 upcoming work will focus on adopting additional rules  
19 for the personal use industry, modernizing the existing  
20 rules for the medicinal cannabis industry, monitoring  
21 and enforcing our rules to ensure compliance from all  
22 our regulated entities, and continued information  
23 sharing on the cannabis industry landscape. And as we  
24 continue to grow the cannabis industry, we should  
25 remain vigilante in preserving our collective

1 accomplishments. Not only should government take  
2 deliberate steps to be more inclusive -- and I'm proud  
3 that the CRC has taken intentional steps to provide a  
4 diverse and inclusive industry -- but individuals in  
5 the private sector should be taking those deliberate  
6 steps, too. Banks, landlords, attorneys, suppliers and  
7 employers all should afford people equal and fair  
8 opportunities to participate in the cannabis industry.  
9 Continuing to work together is the only way to ensure  
10 that our industry reflects the diversity of our state  
11 in terms of geographic location, business size, and the  
12 demographics of our business owners and workers.

13                   So, again, I want to congratulate the  
14 CRC for celebrating its one year anniversary most --  
15 very recently and all the work that our Commissioners  
16 and our staff have done to make our work a great  
17 success. Thank you.

18                   MS. BLAKE: Next on the agenda is the  
19 Executive Director's report.

20                   EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Madam Chair,  
21 may I have the floor?

22                   CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: By all means,  
23 Director Brown. Go ahead.

24                   EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you.  
25 And thank you for the kind words. It's a team effort

1 here. And thanks to our staff and all the  
2 Commissioners for getting us to where we are. We have  
3 a lot farther to go. So, today I'm going to keep this  
4 as short and sweet as I can because we do have a packed  
5 agenda and a number of items to get to, but I do want  
6 to provide some important updates. First an update on  
7 license applications, where we stand with those.  
8 Secondly, I wanted to report out essentially the first  
9 month recreational cannabis sales numbers and just some  
10 notes on progress and other issues that have popped up  
11 over the last month. And then finally, as I mentioned  
12 in our April meeting, I wanted to outline a schedule  
13 for data reporting on licensees particularly when it  
14 comes to aggregate data on demographics, race,  
15 ethnicity, gender, certification status, things of that  
16 nature.

17           So we'll start with the license  
18 application update. So, since we started accepting  
19 applications on December 15th and then -- for  
20 cultivators, manufacturers, and testing laboratories,  
21 and on March 15th of this year for retailers, as of  
22 today we've now received over 1,000 total applications.  
23 I'm also proud to report that over half of them have  
24 received an initial determination and initial review  
25 whether that's a cure letter or, you know, or many have

1 made it on for approval. And we have another slate of  
2 applications ready for approval today. One thing I did  
3 want to emphasize to all applicants and potential  
4 applicants is that folks should review all the  
5 resources on our website, [nj.gov/cannabis](http://nj.gov/cannabis), before  
6 submitting an application. We are still seeing issues  
7 particularly where it relates to priority designation.  
8 Applicants, you know, missing materials to qualify them  
9 as a social equity business or a diversely owned  
10 business or an impact zone business even though they  
11 say they qualify as such. Under our recreational  
12 cannabis business page we have all the resources you  
13 need to find out exactly what to submit starting with  
14 the Notice of Application Acceptance. I recommend  
15 watching the pre-application webinar as well. It's  
16 about 45 minutes, but has some important information.  
17 And then there are forms on that website as well that  
18 you will need for your application. The one I'll call  
19 out is the Certification of the Social Equity Business.  
20 So if a social equity applicant is submitting, they  
21 have to sign that attestation and include the  
22 documentation that's referenced in that certification  
23 so we know that they, in fact, qualify. But our team  
24 is reviewing licenses, you know, day in, day out, and  
25 we're moving this -- moving this forward. So, and you

1 can see we had a couple initial waves and then things  
2 have levelled out, but we're receiving new applications  
3 every day. It was just at the -- said at Judiciary  
4 Committee Hearing that we were at 950 applications  
5 submitted. Now we're over a thousand. So, to see the  
6 interest in getting into this industry is tremendous.  
7 And certainly we're working to move all those forward.  
8 Next slide, please.

9                   So, moving now to recreational sales for  
10 the first month. I can report now based on the first  
11 month of sales that total sales across all 12  
12 dispensaries, seven alternative treatment centers for  
13 the first month total \$24 million. And that was -- you  
14 can -- across over 200,000 transactions, about 212,000.  
15 It certainly is substantial number, but it's, you know,  
16 really only a beginning. And I think it shows that  
17 there's a lot of growth left in this market. There's a  
18 lot of opportunity left in this market still. So, but  
19 that's -- you know, the important thing is month --  
20 first month of recreational sales New Jersey did  
21 \$24 million averaging somewhere around 5 million per  
22 week. We do anticipate that this will ramp up  
23 particularly as new dispensaries are approved, new  
24 cultivators are approved, and a lot of the conditional  
25 applicants that we have approved are able to come back

1 and convert to annual license and actually begin  
2 operating and either cultivating, manufacturing or  
3 retailing recreational cannabis.

4           Couple other notes. I also want to, you  
5 know, really congratulate the staff particularly in the  
6 Office of Compliance Investigations/Licensing who have  
7 been working to make sure this was as smooth a roll out  
8 as possible. You know, launching with 12 dispensaries  
9 for a state of 9.3 million is no easy task. And, you  
10 know, although, there were long lines on the first day,  
11 the first weekend, even some long lines in places now  
12 still, it has gone about as smooth as we could hope.  
13 And that's really a testament to a lot of compliance  
14 staff who have been on the ground who have been making  
15 sure that things are running smoothly. And then the  
16 industry who's also been doing their part and, you  
17 know, planning accordingly and effectively managing  
18 this rollout. I do want to note that, you know, we are  
19 serious about the patient access requirements and the  
20 supply requirements that are -- were in the final  
21 agency decisions that were issued on April 11th and  
22 certainly still are for expanded ATCs that are up to  
23 day. Overall, we've seen, you know, good compliance,  
24 but there have been some hiccups particularly related  
25 to some of the patient-only hours as well as some of

1 the reporting requirements in those final agency  
2 decisions. So our Office of Compliance and  
3 Investigations is working with the industry to make  
4 sure everybody's in compliance. Where there have been  
5 issues, they've been addressed quickly which is good,  
6 but, you know, overall it's been a smooth rollout.  
7 But, again, I think while this \$24 million number  
8 sounds big, it does underlie the fact that there's a  
9 tremendous amount of opportunity still in this market  
10 for new businesses to come in and serve this market and  
11 be successful.

12                   So, moving on to the last thing on my  
13 agenda which is data reporting on licensees. In our  
14 March meeting we presented a number of slides of  
15 summary demographic data on licensees, both our  
16 alternative treatment center awardees from the 2019  
17 RFA, and then also conditional license applicants. At  
18 that time, they were approved at that meeting. We  
19 anticipate continuing this on a quarterly basis. So  
20 the last report was issued on March 24, 2022. And  
21 we'll re-up that reporting of summary data on this  
22 industry, both the medicinal and the recreational  
23 industry, on a quarterly basis. And so our anticipated  
24 future report's there. The next one would be at our  
25 next public meeting, or next currently scheduled public

1 meeting, June 23rd, then September 22nd, and then  
2 finally December 8th. And those would be our data  
3 report-outs for the year -- for this year. And then  
4 we'll continue that going into next year. You know, we  
5 continue to collect information on licensees and  
6 potential licensees as part our application process.  
7 This is used, really, for data reporting and analysis.  
8 And, you know, we do anticipate that once we have our  
9 employee badging, our cannabis ID card system  
10 operational, that we'll be then not only collecting  
11 demographic data, race, ethnicity, gender, on  
12 ownership, principals, you know, the managers,  
13 essential the licensed applicants, but also employees  
14 in this industry so that we cannot only accurately  
15 report out what the, you know, the management teams of  
16 these companies look like but also what the employee  
17 base is like. And we should have, you know, full --  
18 full data on this industry, you know, sometime going  
19 into next year. But those are the dates that we'll be  
20 reporting to go to the Board, to the public again on  
21 that summary demographic data on licensees. And that  
22 concludes my report for his meeting. And I'll turn it  
23 back to you, Madam Chair.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director  
25 Brown. Ms. Blake, can you please announce the next

1 item.

2 MS. BLAKE: The next agenda item is a  
3 staff report on progress regarding workplace impairment  
4 recognition standards.

5 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Chief  
6 Counsel Christopher Riggs will be presenting this  
7 report. Chief Counsel Riggs, please proceed.

8 CHIEF COUNSEL RIGGS: Thank you, Madam  
9 Chair. May I have the floor?

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes, you may.

11 CHIEF COUNSEL RIGGS: And can we go to  
12 the next slide, please? Next slide. Okay. I'll just  
13 give you the report. That's fine. So, I'm going to  
14 report out on workplace impairment recognition experts  
15 which was something that was established by the CREAMM  
16 Act and the enabling legislation for the Commission.  
17 And first I'm going to go over what is required of the  
18 Commission pursuant to the CREAMM Act. So, in order to  
19 balance employers' rights to maintain a drug free  
20 workforce with employees' rights to use legal cannabis  
21 in New Jersey, the CREAMM Act requires the Commission  
22 in consultation with the Police Training Commission to  
23 create standards in their regulations for WIRES in the  
24 certification process. The regulations should also  
25 contain the minimum curriculum that's required and the

1 courses that are required for these certifications, and  
2 also standards for the Commission's approval and  
3 continuation of approval for entities that want to do  
4 this type of training and the instructors that want to  
5 do this type of training. And we may use what has  
6 already been established by the Police Training  
7 Commission if the Police Training Commission consents.  
8 So, several months ago the Commission began its  
9 outreach on this important issue. And we started to  
10 have conversations with stakeholders which includes  
11 other state agencies and other third parties. I'm  
12 going to highlight some of these things that we've done  
13 in the time that we were created, but this isn't  
14 everything that we've done. There's a lot of  
15 behind-the-scene going on and research being conducted  
16 by CRC staff. And the Commission is committed to  
17 providing a safe and equitable certification process  
18 for WIRES, but, again, we're mindful of the important  
19 balance of employers' rights to a drug free workforce  
20 workplace and an employee's right to engage in the use  
21 of legal cannabis. In late September of '21 and in  
22 early October of '21 following the adoption and  
23 publication of our initial regulations, we had  
24 discussions with the Attorney General's office and  
25 counsel for the Police Training Commission. Also

1 during this time period we had discussions with the New  
2 Jersey Business and Industry Association and received  
3 feedback from the NJBIA about nationally recognized  
4 impairment testing organizations. Later in October of  
5 2021, we received and reviewed comments that were  
6 provided by the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.  
7 And staff reviewed and researched those comments as  
8 well. Then in early November of 2021, staff held  
9 virtual meetings with the Police Training Commission.  
10 And at that time, we were informed that the Police  
11 Training Commission does not train drug recognition  
12 experts for law enforcement. And they don't train  
13 WIRES either. In fact, the New Jersey State Police is  
14 the agency in this state charged with training drug  
15 recognition experts and law enforcement. The Police  
16 Training Commission is helpful. And they agreed to  
17 provide a contact at New Jersey State Police to have  
18 further discussions. Later in November of 2021 through  
19 the AG's office and the Division of Criminal Justice,  
20 we had discussions with NJST about information related  
21 and the materials related to drug recognition experts.  
22 Things were provided to us. We reviewed them. We  
23 researched them. And we put them in our file. At the  
24 end of November of 2021, we were informed that all DRE,  
25 drug recognition expert, training of police officers in

1 New Jersey is performed by the New Jersey State Police.  
2 And there are no private business that offer this same  
3 type of training. The DRE training is only available  
4 for law enforcement officers. And they wouldn't offer  
5 these courses to civilians. Then through November and  
6 into January of 2022, we received various feedback from  
7 state stakeholders. We've done research. We've had  
8 deliberations internally. And we've answered questions  
9 through email, over the phone, and through other means.  
10 In February 25th of 2022, we had another virtual  
11 meeting this time with the NJ Chamber of Commerce to  
12 discuss WIRES. And in March -- March, early March of  
13 2022 the NJBIA provided us with additional information  
14 and requested another virtual meeting. At the end of  
15 March, March 22nd of 2022, we had that virtual meeting  
16 with NJBIA. And we took all the information that they  
17 gave us on WIRES. Through April and May of this year  
18 2022 to today, we continue these conversations. We  
19 continue to answer questions. We continue to conduct  
20 research to determine how the best way to implement a  
21 WIRE certification process would be, and to make sure  
22 the curriculum is sound. And we safely and equitably  
23 introduced this type of program. We're going to  
24 continue to work on this important issue. And we look  
25 forward to continuing the conversations with the

1 stakeholders. So, Madam Chairwoman, those are my  
2 remarks on the WIRE certification process.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Chief  
4 Counsel. Ms. Blake, would you please announce the next  
5 agenda item.

6 MS. BLAKE: Next on the agenda is  
7 consideration of amending requirements imposed on the  
8 2019 RFA medicinal cannabis permit awardees.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown, can  
10 you please provide a summary of the need here for  
11 amending the 2019 RFA requirements and the  
12 recommendation from staff?

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.  
14 Thank you, Madam Chair. Just by way of background,  
15 when the Commission acted on the 2019 request for  
16 applications, it was last fall and winter. So, in  
17 October and December, October for cultivation and  
18 vertical and December for dispensaries. And, you know,  
19 at that time, obviously, we hadn't begun retail  
20 recreational sales. I think there was some -- some  
21 worry that, you know, the patients -- as recreational  
22 sales rolled out patients might see shrinking options.  
23 At the same time, you know, we want to make sure that  
24 awardees were committed first and foremost to the  
25 medicinal marijuana program and that market before

1 recreational sales. I think, you know, now that we  
2 have some time under our belts following those awards,  
3 we've seen the market get started and roll out. And  
4 then we also see patient enrollment continue to grow.  
5 But we've now re-thought some of those requirements in  
6 the FADs and have a better way forward with regard to  
7 these awardees. And in order -- essentially, instead  
8 of requiring a specific time period, what we recommend  
9 doing is requiring as they committed to in their  
10 application that when an applicant meets the  
11 commitments in their application and then meets the  
12 expansion standards in our rules that they can expand  
13 into recreational sales. Now, so rather than, you  
14 know, say, get a permit and wait one year, now it's  
15 about -- what we recommend changing that to is,  
16 essentially, you know, once you fully implement your  
17 business, your alternative treatment center, for  
18 patients and begin to serve patients and prove you can  
19 serve patients and meet those expansion standards in  
20 our recreational rules which are high standards, by the  
21 way, then awardees, you know, would be eligible to  
22 apply for expansion under those rules. So,  
23 essentially, the recommendation is to remove the one  
24 year medicinal only requirement in those FADs. We  
25 believe by doing this it will incentivize those who can

1 move quickly in implementation, build out their full  
2 facilities, get operational, get serving patients,  
3 proving that they can do that, and are committed to the  
4 medicinal market. And then if they can do that and  
5 meet those full commitments, then they can apply under  
6 those expansion standards, comply that they meet those  
7 expansion standards. So, next slide.

8 So, yes. What we propose changing that  
9 to rather than just a strict year is awardees will have  
10 to show they've met the full plans of their application  
11 for medicinal cannabis and meet the expanded ATC  
12 standards before they can apply for expansion.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Do I  
14 hear a motion to adopt the resolution concerning an  
15 amendment to remove the one year requirement for the  
16 2019 RFA awardees to operate exclusively in the  
17 medicinal cannabis market prior to requesting to become  
18 an expanded ATC?

19 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair, I move  
20 to adopt the amendment to remove the one year  
21 requirement for 2019 RFA awardees.

22 COMMISSIONER BARKER: I second that,  
23 Madam Chair.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by  
25 Commissioner Nash and seconded by Commissioner Barker.

1 Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing none,  
2 Ms. Blake, can you please call the vote.

3 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

4 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

5 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

6 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

7 MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

8 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

9 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

10 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

11 MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

13 MS. BLACK: The resolution passes. Next  
14 on the agenda is consideration of applications for a  
15 change of location.

16 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.

17 Director Brown, can you please provide a summary of the  
18 location change applications and the recommendations  
19 from the staff?

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.

21 And you can move to the next slide, please. So,  
22 following the 2019 request for applications and during  
23 the award process, we have six awardees who have  
24 requested approval from the CRC to change location.  
25 This is allowed by rule. It's not uncommon for ATCs to

1 change location during the permitting process. There  
2 are a number of reasons why this may occur. In fact,  
3 in the two previous RFAs before the 2019 RFA, almost  
4 all of the applicants, awardees changed location at  
5 some point during the permitting process. New Jersey  
6 Administrative Code 17:30A-7.10 provides that, "An ATC  
7 shall submit to the Commission an application for an  
8 amended permit together with fees if applicable prior  
9 to any" -- and then one of those is "change of the  
10 alternative treatment center's location." All of these  
11 applicants have submitted an application to change  
12 their location to the CRC. They have paid the  
13 necessary fee. We as staff have reviewed these  
14 applications. Have no concerns. I'll note that all  
15 these applicants are still held to the overall timeline  
16 to get operational in the FADs. So for vertically  
17 integrated and cultivation that is 18 months. And then  
18 for dispensaries that is 12 months from the time of  
19 award. So, you know, they're taking on, essentially,  
20 you know, these changes of location even within those  
21 parameters which are still in effect. And so we  
22 recommend approving these changes of location.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Do I  
24 hear a motion? Yes. Do a hear a motion on the  
25 resolution concerning the approval of the application

1 to amend the alternative treatment center permits for  
2 six of the 2019 Request For Application awardees  
3 permitting changes of location?

4 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam  
5 Chair, I move to adopt this resolution concerning the  
6 approval of applications for change of location.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by  
8 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Do I have a second?

9 COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

10 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I  
11 second that.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: I believe  
13 Commissioner Nash got to it just a half second before  
14 you, Commissioner Barker.

15 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Okay.

16 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: That's all right.  
17 Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing none,  
18 Ms. Blake, can you please call the vote.

19 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

20 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

21 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

22 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

23 MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

24 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

25 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

1 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

2 MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

3 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

4 MS. BLAKE: The resolution passes. Next  
5 on the agenda is consideration of applications for  
6 permitting a second cultivation location.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown, can  
8 you please provide a summary of the second cultivation  
9 location applications that were received and the  
10 recommendation from staff?

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.  
12 Thank you, Madam Chair. So, the CRC has received two  
13 applications for additional cultivation sites. One  
14 from Columbia Care New Jersey, the other from GSD or  
15 Garden State Dispensary. Both entities are authorized  
16 by statute to maintain two cultivation facilities  
17 provided they don't exceed 150,000 square feet of total  
18 canopy. That is something that's written into the law.  
19 I'll note that the Cannabis Regulatory Commission's  
20 rules gives any applicant opportunity to get 150,000  
21 square feet as well. So, that is certainly not  
22 exclusive pursuant to our rules, but the two  
23 cultivation sites here is something that's authorized  
24 by statute. Both Columbia Care and Garden State  
25 Dispensary have submitted applications requesting to

1 operate in these new facilities. Neither would bring  
2 their total canopy size over 150,000 square feet.  
3 Columbia Care is in Vineland. Proposes to locate in  
4 Vineland. Garden State Dispensary in Lakewood. Both  
5 of these facilities have been reviewed for regulatory  
6 compliance. Inspected. Both have been found compliant  
7 with our regs and are recommended for approval for  
8 permitting under our medical cannabis statutes and  
9 regulations.

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Do I  
11 hear a motion to adopt the resolution concerning the  
12 applications for the permitting of a second cultivation  
13 -- second location for the cultivation of medicinal  
14 cannabis? Last call for a motion to adopt the  
15 resolution concerning these applications for permitting  
16 of a second location for cultivation.

17 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chair, I move  
18 that we adopt the motion.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair  
20 Delgado. Is there a second?

21 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by  
23 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on  
24 this motion? Hearing none, Ms. Blake, can you please  
25 call the vote.

1 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

2 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

3 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

4 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

5 MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

6 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

7 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

8 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

9 MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

11 MS. BLAKE: The motion -- the resolution  
12 -- I'm sorry -- passes. Next on the agenda is  
13 consideration of applications for conditional licenses.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown, can  
15 you please provide a summary of the conditional license  
16 applications that staff have received and the staff  
17 recommendations?

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.  
19 Thank you, Madam Chair. So, we have another slate  
20 today of conditional license applications that are  
21 recommended for approval. In total there are 46  
22 conditional license applications. And you could go to  
23 the next slide here to show the first group of these.  
24 And I'll note when to go to the second. So, these are  
25 46 conditional license applications. This includes 22

1 Class 1 cultivator applications, 13 Class 2  
2 manufacturer -- manufacturer applications, and 11  
3 retailer applications. These applications have been  
4 reviewed. And I'll go over the review process again  
5 for everybody in a moment. But I do want to note that,  
6 you know, going back to my comments on how quickly we  
7 are reviewing these applications in accordance with  
8 priority designation. We've now gotten to our first  
9 slate of Class 5 retailers for conditional approval.  
10 And it is just over 60 days. It's, I guess, maybe  
11 67 days, 68 days since we began accepting applications  
12 for retailers. So in our pre-application webinar I  
13 noted that initially it would be over 90 days in many  
14 cases for conditional applicants. Here we have a slate  
15 of retailers that submitted on March 15th and are up  
16 for approval, well under that 90-day mark. We continue  
17 to get faster and faster. Certainly, for some  
18 applicants it's going to be over 90 days. And for  
19 annual applicants it is over 90 days because of that  
20 process. But, you know, here we are moving quickly.  
21 And we have our first slate of retailers. So huge  
22 credit to the staff for getting this done and moving  
23 these applications forward. When it comes to the  
24 review process, all of these applicants have been  
25 reviewed in accordance with our priority designation.

1 So they're assigned a priority. That priority is  
2 verified. So if they're a social equity business,  
3 they're verified for qualification as a social equity  
4 business. They've been reviewed and deemed complete.  
5 They've been scored and deemed to pass on our scoring  
6 measures as noted in the Notice of Application  
7 Acceptance. Staff has appropriately reviewed any  
8 issues with qualification, financial source agreements  
9 or limitations. And finally, we've conducted quality  
10 control on all of these applications. And you could go  
11 to the next slide, please, to show the second half.

12 And so, with all that said, these 46  
13 applicants are recommended for approval as the next  
14 slate of conditional license awardees.

15 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director  
16 Brown. Before I ask for a motion, I will just ask for  
17 this slide with the second half of the proposed  
18 applicants to remain up for everyone to digest.

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Madam Chair,  
20 we're going to leave this slide up during the vote. So  
21 it will be up.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. With  
23 that, do I -- do I have a motion to adopt the  
24 resolution concerning the conditional license  
25 applications for Class 1 cannabis cultivator, Class 2

1 cannabis manufacturer, and Class 5 cannabis retailer  
2 licenses?

3 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chair, I move  
4 that we adopt the resolution.

5 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair  
6 Delgado.

7 COMMISSIONER BARKER: I second that,  
8 Madam Chair.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by  
10 Commissioner Barker. Is there any discussion on this  
11 motion? Hearing no discussion, Ms. Blake, can you  
12 please call the vote.

13 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

14 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

15 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

16 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

17 MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

18 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

19 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

20 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

21 MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

23 MS. BLAKE: The resolution passes. Next  
24 on the agenda is the consideration of applications for  
25 a testing laboratory site. License. Sorry.

1                   CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.  
2 Director Brown, can you please provide a summary of the  
3 license applications for testing laboratories and  
4 staff's recommend on those applications?

5                   EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Will do.  
6 Thank you, Madam Chair. So, we now have a slate of  
7 four testing lab applications that are recommended for  
8 approval by the Commission. Just by way of background,  
9 you know, equity and safety are core values here at the  
10 Commission. And having adequate testing labs  
11 operational and licensed in the state are critical for  
12 safety, ensuring that product is tested and found to be  
13 free of contaminants. And we want consumers to have  
14 faith in this market. And certainly having adequate  
15 testing lab coverage is critical to that. The  
16 Commission adopted interim standards last year in June.  
17 So, little less than a year ago. And three of these  
18 labs have been operating under those interim standards  
19 in medicinal cannabis. And even with the newly  
20 extended ATCs from April. And because of our focus on  
21 not only equity but also safety, testing laboratories  
22 in the Notice of Application Acceptance are Priority  
23 1A. So they're highest overall priority along with  
24 social equity micro businesses. And so, these -- we  
25 received these four applications. They were reviewed

1 for priority, signed, verified. Their applications  
2 were deemed complete. They scored sufficiently high  
3 pursuant to the Notice of Application Acceptance to be  
4 recommended for approval. Some of the things that they  
5 had to submit include, you know, a business and  
6 management plan, regulatory compliance plan important  
7 for labs, evidence of ISO 17025 certification. And all  
8 these labs submitted that. And they've been reviewed  
9 for qualification for financial review. If approved  
10 today, there would be some next steps. So one of those  
11 would be an inspection of their facilities. And then  
12 they would then be issued a license. All these labs  
13 have shown that they can comply with our regs. Are  
14 ready to comply with our regs. Three of the four are  
15 operating currently under our interim standards. And  
16 if approved today, these four would then move to start  
17 operating under our personal use cannabis rules.

18           Before we get to the -- before I hand it  
19 back to you, Madam Chair, I will -- I just want to say  
20 one thing. A next step for us at the Commission is to  
21 issue some guidance under those rules related to some  
22 of the, I guess, the scientific details for how to run  
23 some of the tests and, you know, limits on things. We  
24 anticipate doing that quickly. I did want to give a  
25 particular shout out, though, to the New Jersey

1 CannaBusiness Association's testing committee. We have  
2 met with them a couple times now; one as a group. And  
3 they've been providing excellent, really, you know, in  
4 depth scientific feedback to us on both the interim  
5 standards, and I think what we could expect to do here  
6 in the future on our own guidance.

7 But these four applicants are all  
8 recommended for approval. We have faith that all of  
9 them can operate in accordance with your regulations.  
10 And many of them are testing -- three of the four are  
11 already testing under our interim standards.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Do I  
13 hear a motion to adopt the regulation applications for  
14 testing laboratory licenses?

15 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chairwoman, I  
16 move to approve these four testing labs.

17 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: I second  
18 that motion.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by  
20 Commissioner Barker and seconded by Commissioner Del  
21 Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion? Hearing no  
22 discussion, Ms. Blake, can you please call the vote.

23 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

24 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Nay.

25 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

1 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

2 MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

3 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

4 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

5 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

6 MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

8 MS. BLAKE: The resolution passes. The  
9 next up on the agenda is the consideration of  
10 certifications for expanded alternative treatment  
11 centers.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown, can  
13 you please walk us through the substantive information  
14 concerning these certifications and the staff  
15 recommendation?

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.  
17 And just before we get to that, I had staff prepare a  
18 slide. If everything was awarded -- which now that it  
19 has been I'm happy to share this slide which just  
20 presents the numbers of awarded licenses to date by the  
21 CRC. So, with the actions today, the New Jersey CRC  
22 has issued 92 cultivation conditional awardees, 45  
23 manufacturing conditional awardees, 11 retail  
24 conditional awardees, and now four testing  
25 laboratories. And we've mapped the proposed locations.

1 I'll note that these are only proposed. Many of these  
2 will change particularly for conditional license  
3 applicants or holders as the site control and municipal  
4 approval are not required of conditional licensees.  
5 But this is a representation of where these applicants  
6 have been coming from, where they're getting approved.  
7 And every month we're adding to these numbers. So,  
8 this work will only continue. Thank you to the Board,  
9 all of you, Madam Chairwoman, Vice Chair, Commission  
10 members, for continuing to move this forward.

11 So, next we'll get to the expanded ATCs.  
12 So, you can go to the next slide. So, the Commission  
13 approved seven expanded ATCs at the last meeting.  
14 Today there are three certifications under  
15 consideration. Like last time, these required -- will  
16 require to have municipal approval, proof of sufficient  
17 supply to continue to meet patient need after  
18 expansion, plans to ensure patient access, plans to  
19 address social equity and safety. Next slide, please.

20 Our consideration at the CRC pursuant to  
21 our regulations are focused on patients. We look at  
22 the number of patients enrolled statewide, patient  
23 enrollment at each specific ATC, the inventory both  
24 statewide and at the ATC that is certifying for  
25 expansion. We look at sales, the current medicinal

1 cannabis canopy, the canopy needed to serve enrolled  
2 patients, and then the ATCs's production capacity.  
3 Next slide, please.

4                   The certifications we have under review  
5 today are from Garden State Dispensary New Jersey. And  
6 this is a new expansion certification. Ascend New  
7 Jersey which was approved at our April meeting. This  
8 is for their Montclair location. And then TerrAscend  
9 New Jersey which was also approved at the April  
10 meeting. Here this is for their Lodi dispensary.  
11 Similarly to the last approvals, staff is recommending  
12 conditions on these approvals ensuring that patients  
13 continue to have access to these facilities. And these  
14 include at least 14 patients-only hours per week,  
15 exclusive parking options, exclusive point of sale  
16 systems at all times, express access to the ATCs so  
17 that patients do not have to wait in extraordinary  
18 lines. And going back to the reports I was talking  
19 about in the ED's report, this is where we're really  
20 monitoring that. We have compliance folks on the  
21 ground who are checking it, but we also ask for weekly  
22 reports from the ATCs on the wait time for patients,  
23 how quickly they're getting people in. This is  
24 something that is definitely of a concern to us. And  
25 that's why getting those reports is critical. And then

1 ability to reserve products ahead of time.  
2 Additionally, a patient access hot line so that if  
3 patients are having trouble accessing the dispensary  
4 they have a person they can talk to to get that taken  
5 care of. Continue to have private counseling areas  
6 available for patients. Newly approved expanded ATCs  
7 will have to set up virtual meetings or conference  
8 calls with registered patients and caregivers so they  
9 can provide info on their patient access plan. And  
10 then, again, provide the CRC with those weekly reports.

11                   And I'm just going to pause here. Like  
12 last time, we're going to ask representatives from the  
13 ATCs to just present on their patient access plans so  
14 that not only members of the CRC but members of the  
15 public can be assured that they're going to attempt to  
16 comply with these. So first, I'm going to call these  
17 in order. And for the representatives from the ATCs,  
18 please raise your hand so that we can promote you to  
19 panelist so that you could speak. And then you have  
20 three minutes per comments here. And please, once  
21 you're allowed to speak, please state your name and  
22 company. We're going to start out with Mike Conway  
23 from Ascend Wellness. Please raise your hand. Hey,  
24 Mike we can see you. You can unmute yourself. Mike,  
25 you should be able to unmute yourself. You're muted

1 now.

2 MR. CONWAY: Hi. Can you hear me okay?

3 DIRECTOR BROWN: Yes.

4 MR. CONWAY: Excellent. Thank you so  
5 much for allowing me to share our patient access plan  
6 with you today. I'll just jump right in. Starting  
7 outside, should there be any queuing on the outside of  
8 our business, we'll ensure our team is asking  
9 qualifying questions to identify any medical patients  
10 as medical patients will have direct access to our  
11 front door and vestibule without any wait. Once  
12 they're in the vestibule waiting area, they'll be  
13 directed to our medical patient podium where they'll be  
14 checked in as usual. We'll verify that the person has  
15 an active medical card as well as an active allotment.  
16 Once verified, they'll be let inside the dispensary and  
17 directed to one of three medical patient-only  
18 registers. There they'll be checked out as normal.  
19 For any patients with mobility concerns, we'll be  
20 providing curbside pickup to patients that call ahead  
21 and request the service. Medical patients will be able  
22 to place orders up to two days in advance to ensure  
23 they have access to their medication. We will provide  
24 a patient access phone number where patients can have  
25 access directly to our team numbers. We're also going

1 to be providing medical patient-only hours in our  
2 facility where only medical patients will be permitted.  
3 These medical-only hours will be identical to those at  
4 our Rochelle Park facility and available on our  
5 website. We'll host two town halls for our current  
6 patients to let them know the changes that will taking  
7 place and how it will affect them and how they'll  
8 benefit from the patient-only hours and the medical  
9 express lane.

10 I also want to take a moment to call out  
11 some of our social equity focus. We're prioritizing  
12 social equity in four focus areas. Restorative  
13 justice, diversity in hiring in all levels, community  
14 engagement, and small business support. For  
15 restorative justice we'll be hosting at least two  
16 expungement clinics with Blaze Responsibly, a law forum  
17 by Chirali Patel who's local to Montclair, amongst  
18 other events. For diversity and hiring we're also  
19 connecting with local community activists and  
20 grassroots organizations who are willing to tap into  
21 their networks and point us in the right direction for  
22 groups to connect with for qualified candidates. And  
23 we're developing relationships from One-Stop Career  
24 Center of Essex County, the New Jersey Re-entry Corps  
25 Score and the Essex County Urban League to diversify

1 hiring. For community engagement we'll be hosting  
2 community education workshops, Cannabis 101, medical  
3 card information, cannabis laws, and how to start your  
4 cannabis business. These will be hosted at local  
5 businesses that are easily accessible to the community.  
6 And for small business support we'll be supporting the  
7 equity applicants through sponsorship opportunities and  
8 technical assistance with starting their businesses.  
9 We just sponsored the High Mom event by Roll Up Life,  
10 and plan to sponsor the social equity category for  
11 Brenda Robinson's 420 New Jersey Events at the NJIC  
12 gala. We're creating technical assistance workshops  
13 to build the business acumen of social equity  
14 applicants. And we'll provide funding and mentorship  
15 to those applicants. Thank you so much for your time  
16 and appreciate your consideration.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you.  
18 Next up we have Chantell Eisner from TerrAscend. So,  
19 Chantell, please raise your hand and we will promote  
20 you. And again, I just ask, you know, focus on patient  
21 access standards here. That's what we really want to  
22 make sure that people can get information on. So,  
23 thank you. Chantell, please, go ahead. You should be  
24 able to unmute yourself.

25 MS. EISNER: Thanks, Jeff. Can you hear

1 me okay?

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Yes. Go  
3 ahead.

4 MS. EISNER: Hi. Good afternoon,  
5 everyone. My name is Chantell Eisner. I'm the Senior  
6 Vice President of Retail here at TerrAscend. Thanks  
7 for inviting me to speak on behalf of the  
8 apothecarium's retail operation as we seek approval for  
9 our third Lodi location. Following our last meeting,  
10 we successfully converted both our Bergen/Maplewood  
11 locations to adult use. Our proven model provides  
12 prioritized access for patients and ensures their  
13 ongoing access to best-in-class products and pricing.  
14 Our team continues to support the community through  
15 education, volunteer events, sponsorships and  
16 charitable donation. We continually seek out community  
17 events that align with our pillars, wellness, social  
18 equity, community and kindness. And opening our Lodi  
19 location we'll have that reach. The apothecarium will  
20 continue to offer a wide assortment of products for  
21 medical patients and consumers. Of them are Kind Tree,  
22 Valhalla brands, plus additional third-party offerings.  
23 Our operations team has and will continue to maintain a  
24 reliable supply of medical cannabis. Our Lodi location  
25 will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., seven days a

1 week with the first two hours of each day dedicated to  
2 patients only. This location will also feature a  
3 drive-thru. At the apothecarium our patient promise  
4 ensures that patients get patient-only shopping hours,  
5 online ordering through our patient app, express  
6 pick-up, dedicated registers, loyalty program,  
7 promotional pricing, prioritized customer service, and  
8 patient-only parking. Additionally, our patient home  
9 delivery is coming soon. Thanks again for your time  
10 today. We are grateful for the continued partnership  
11 with the CRC, industry leaders, and community members  
12 and look forward to serving our new patients and  
13 customers in Lodi.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,  
15 Ms. Eisner. Next we have Julie Winter from Garden  
16 State Dispensary. Julie, please raise your hand and  
17 we'll promote you. There you are. Hi, Julie. You  
18 should be able to speak.

19 MS. WINTER: Jeff, can you hear me okay?

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Yes.

21 MS. WINTER: Great. Thank you,  
22 Executive Director Brown, Chairwoman Houenou, the  
23 Commissioners and staff for the opportunity to present  
24 to you all today. And congratulations on a successful  
25 expansion rollout. As Jeff said, my name is Julie

1 Winter, VP of Retail for Ayr Wellness, Garden State  
2 Dispensary. It is my pleasure to present our carefully  
3 thought out plans to expand to personal use while  
4 protecting patient access. The needs of our patients  
5 have always been at the forefront of everything we do  
6 at Garden State Dispensary. As one of the six original  
7 ATCs, we opened our doors to medical patients in  
8 November of 2013 in Woodbridge. We opened our second  
9 dispensary in 2019 in Union Township. And in 2020  
10 expanded to Eatontown as the first dispensary in  
11 Monmouth County. Since inception, we have served  
12 30,000 plus patients on-site and uninterrupted. In  
13 preparation for personal use expansion, we have gone  
14 through extensive planning to ensure we provide  
15 continued quality, excellent care and choice to our  
16 medical patients. We've aligned with our teams, our  
17 communities and vendor partners and updated our  
18 processes to ensure we are prepared for a successful  
19 launch. We've dedicated the first and last hour of  
20 business operations daily to patients exclusively.  
21 Home delivery will be a patient-exclusive offering that  
22 we plan to launch next week. We have priority  
23 allocated parking spaces for patients where curbside  
24 transactions can also be performed. Patients will have  
25 their own dedicated check-in line, will be

1 automatically prioritized in our queuing system, and  
2 will be served at dedicated POS registers. There will  
3 be an exclusive menu for patients for pre-ordering and  
4 scheduling pick-up appointment slots. We have created  
5 the dedicated patient access communication hotline  
6 during all operating hours, and will continue our  
7 pharmacist lead counseling program to all medical  
8 patients and registered caregivers with priority  
9 appointment ahead of personal use customers. In  
10 addition to this, we will continue to provide private  
11 on-site counseling areas for patients. All patients  
12 will be notified of operational changes to come in  
13 multiple online seminars hosted by our on-site  
14 pharmacist and director of patient care. As part of  
15 our continued commitment to the safety of our staff,  
16 patients and communities, we've increased our security  
17 and added traffic flow coordinators to ensure everyone  
18 remain safe. We've been in communication with our law  
19 enforcement to go over safety and security plans in  
20 depth. They will continue to aid in supporting our  
21 safety initiatives. To ensure we have adequate medical  
22 supply and reserves, we have set up automated inventory  
23 thresholds and daily reporting. We have secured 3,000  
24 pounds plus of stockpiled supply with ongoing  
25 commitments from multiple ATC suppliers for both

1 medical and personal use. With the very recent  
2 approval of our Oak Street, Lakewood cultivation  
3 facility, we will have an additional canopy of 66,000  
4 square feet producing high quality medical cannabis,  
5 and have also expanded our manufacturing capabilities  
6 to provide additional form factors and scale for both  
7 markets. We have a long-established partnership with  
8 the UFCW Local 360 that greatly benefits our employees.  
9 As we expand our social equity programs we'll continue  
10 to flourish as will our diverse hiring practices.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,  
12 Ms. Winter. Five seconds.

13 MS. WINTER: Thank you for your time.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you.  
15 And thank you, all, for those presentations. Next  
16 slide, please. So, moving on to the recommendations.  
17 Here, again, there are three ATC expansion  
18 certifications before the Commission. From Garden  
19 State Dispensary New Jersey and the Ayr Wellness,  
20 Ascend Wellness, their Montclair location, and  
21 TerrAscend, their Lodi dispensary for Garden State  
22 Dispensary. It's all three of their dispensary sites.  
23 So that's Woodbridge, Union, and Eatontown as well as  
24 their manufacturing site in South Brunswick and the  
25 Woodbridge cultivation. So, all three of these ATCs

1 have shown that they've met the standards for approval  
2 here. One just minor caveat related to Garden State  
3 Dispensary. Given that Lakewood was just approved  
4 today, the recommendation from staff is that all of the  
5 licenses are approved for Garden State and that  
6 cultivation is issued once that first harvest is  
7 realized from Lakewood to ensure that there is adequate  
8 ongoing supply for patients. But, otherwise, all of  
9 these have been reviewed. All of these have been --  
10 have shown both -- well, TerrAscend, Ascend and Garden  
11 State have shown that they meet the standards for  
12 expansion which include adequate supply, patient  
13 access, and municipal compliance and approval. They've  
14 submitted social equity and patient access plans. And  
15 if approved, we intend to hold them accountable to  
16 those commitments. Madam Chair, back to you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director  
18 Brown. And thank you to those representatives who  
19 provided information about those patient access plans.  
20 Do I hear a motion to adopt the resolution concerning  
21 the acceptance of the certification for alternative  
22 treatment center Ascend New Jersey to expand operations  
23 to the adult personal use cannabis market? We will go  
24 through these one by one. So, the first one up for  
25 consideration is with respect to Ascend New Jersey. Do

1 I hear a motion to approve the certification to expand?

2 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chairwoman, I  
3 move to adopt the resolution for acceptance of  
4 certification for the ATC to expand operations to the  
5 adult personal use cannabis market for Ascend.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Moved  
7 by Commissioner Nash. Is there a second?

8 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by  
10 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on  
11 this motion?

12 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Yes, Madam  
13 Chairwoman. Briefly.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Commissioner  
15 Barker.

16 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Good afternoon,  
17 everyone. And thank you for joining today's public  
18 meeting. I just want to reiterate Executive Director  
19 Brown's point that the CRC expects weekly and monthly  
20 reports from every ATC operating in the adult personal  
21 use market. Our Office of Compliance will be in touch,  
22 again, about these reporting requirements. This is not  
23 something we take lightly. And as partners together in  
24 this New Jersey industry, we look forward to your  
25 continued compliance and commitment to sharing this

1 information in a timely manner. Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Is there any other  
3 discussion on this motion to adopt -- to accept the  
4 certification materials for an expanded alternative  
5 treatment center for Ascend New Jersey? Hearing none,  
6 Ms. Blake, can you please call the vote.

7 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

8 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

9 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

10 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

11 MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado? Vice  
12 Chair Delgado?

13 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes. I am muted,  
14 yes. Can you hear me?

15 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

16 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

17 MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

18 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

19 MS. BLAKE: The resolution passes. The  
20 next item for consideration would be the expansion  
21 certificate for GSD Ayr Wellness.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Do I hear a motion  
23 to adopt the -- sorry. To adopt the resolution  
24 concerning acceptance of the certification for this  
25 alternative treatment center GSD, Garden State

1 Dispensary?

2 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chairwoman,  
3 now that I'm unmuted I move that we adopt the  
4 resolution.

5 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair  
6 Delgado. Is there a second?

7 COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by  
9 Commissioner Nash. Is there any discussion on this  
10 motion with respect to Garden State Dispensary?  
11 Hearing no discussion, Ms. Blake, can you please call  
12 the vote.

13 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

14 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

15 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

16 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

17 MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

18 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

19 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

20 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

21 MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

23 MS. BLAKE: The resolution passes. Next  
24 up is the consideration for the expansion certification  
25 for TerrAscend.

1                   CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Do I hear a motion  
2 to adopt the resolution concerning the certification  
3 for this ATC, TerrAscend?

4                   COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I  
5 move to adopt the resolution.

6                   CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by  
7 Commissioner Barker. Is there a second?

8                   VICE CHAIR DELGADO: I second.

9                   CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by Vice  
10 Chair Delgado. Is there any discussion on this motion  
11 with respect to TerrAscend? Hearing no discussion, Ms.  
12 Blake, can you please call the vote.

13                   MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

14                   COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

15                   MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

16                   COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

17                   MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

18                   VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

19                   MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

20                   COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

21                   MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

22                   CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

23                   MS. BLAKE: The resolution passes. We  
24 now have the open -- back to you, Chairwoman Houenou.

25                   CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. So, I

1 will -- I believe there are -- there's just one other  
2 note on next steps that Executive Director Brown has to  
3 share. Director Brown.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,  
5 Madam Chair. Thank you, members of the Commission.  
6 So, just for those who were just approved and for  
7 awareness, the next steps on these expanded ATCs, same  
8 as last time, there's going to be an operational  
9 assessment for regulatory compliance, payment of full  
10 ATC expansion fees. Once those two things happen and,  
11 you know, any other conditions included in the final  
12 agency decisions related to these approvals, then  
13 licenses will be issued. And then it's really up to  
14 the ATCs to determination once that license issuance  
15 happens when they commence operations. And, you know,  
16 we'll have updates on our website as to when that is.  
17 Certainly follow their websites as well. And, again,  
18 they are subject to reporting requirements on patient  
19 access and social equity commitments pursuant to these  
20 approvals. And just next slide quickly. I just want  
21 to note just for the public awareness for as far as  
22 what was approved today, there are five new retail  
23 sites that are now in the pipeline to open and get  
24 licenses. Those are in Woodbridge, Union, Eatontown,  
25 Montclair and Lodi. And with that, I turn it back to

1 you, Madam Chair.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director  
3 Brown. Ms. Blake, can you please announce the next  
4 item on the agenda.

5 MS. BLAKE: The next item on the agenda  
6 is the public comment period.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Members of the  
8 public can submit comments during and after this  
9 meeting in writing via our website  
10 nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. Again, the deadline for  
11 submitting written comments for today's public meeting  
12 is tomorrow, 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 25th. Written  
13 comments will be shared with Commission members and  
14 will be made public along with the meeting minutes. We  
15 will hear from individuals who have signed up to speak  
16 in the order in which they signed up. As usual, public  
17 speakers will be limited to three minutes. So please  
18 be mindful of that restriction and please be concise.  
19 Ms. Blake will call out the names of our speakers.  
20 When it is your turn to speak, Ms. Blake will ask you  
21 to unmute yourself. If you are dialing in by phone --  
22 and I see that we do have a few folks who are joining  
23 us by phone -- you will press star 6 to unmute yourself  
24 when told to do so. Now, in order for staff to unmute  
25 individuals who have signed up to speak, your full name

1 or phone number as it appears on Zoom must match the  
2 name or phone number you used to register to speak.  
3 Please take a moment to ensure that your name matches  
4 the name that you used to sign up. I see off the bat I  
5 see a few Chris's, a couple of JAs. So, please,  
6 please, take a moment and make sure that your name is  
7 correct. If you need to change your name on the Zoom  
8 platform, exit the Zoom meeting and then immediately  
9 rejoin, and that should prompt you to enter your new  
10 name. If you're joining us by phone, the phone number  
11 -- the phone from which you are calling must match the  
12 number you used to sign up. We will not be able to  
13 correctly identify you as a speaker if your name or  
14 your phone number does not match what you used to sign  
15 up. So, please, please, please, take a moment, make  
16 sure your name is accurately listed and displayed on  
17 the Zoom platform. With that, I will turn it over to  
18 Ms. Blake to call on our first speakers.

19 MS. BLAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. As  
20 a reminder, public speakers are limited to three  
21 minutes. I will give you a warning 30 seconds out if I  
22 think you are going to go over. I will call out the  
23 names five at a time. If you hear your name, please  
24 raise your hand and I will unmute you. I will ask you  
25 to unmute when it's your turn. Alana Burman, Jovann F.

1 Jenkins, Ava Faustein, Lael Marghenry Lafortune, Barry  
2 Bosket. Again, Alana Burman, Jovann F. Jenkins, Ava or  
3 Ava Faustein, Lael Marghenry Lafortune and Barry  
4 Bosket. Any of those individuals are present, please  
5 raise your hand. I do not see any of these individuals  
6 present. Again, the name on -- that you registered  
7 with must match the name here or I will not know who  
8 you are. One last call, Alana Burman, Jovann F.  
9 Jenkins, Ava or Ava Faustein, Lael Marghenry Lafortune,  
10 Barry Bosket. Not seeing any of those individuals  
11 present, I will move on to the next five. Ricardo  
12 Thomas, Robert Allen, Michael Phillips, Sergio Moncado,  
13 Lincoln Gratton. Ricardo Thomas, Robert Allen, Michael  
14 Phillips, Sergio Moncado, Lincoln Gratton. Again,  
15 please ensure that your name matches the name that's  
16 being called out. Robert Allen, go ahead.

17 MR. ALLEN: Thank you for having me this  
18 afternoon. And congratulations to all of you on what I  
19 can only categorize as rousing success for the month of  
20 adult use cannabis in New Jersey. I am a medical  
21 cannabis patient and involved in the industry in an  
22 ancillary business. And my concern right now is not so  
23 much access to patients. I've been to three  
24 dispensaries. Everything has been fine. Patients have  
25 been given priority. Access has been good. My concern

1 is on the pricing side. Within the first 30 days we're  
2 already seeing special pricing disappearing for  
3 patients. Patients are paying the exact same prices  
4 for products as the adult use market is paying which is  
5 very disheartening. Some of the prices have actually  
6 increased which is also very troubling. So, some of  
7 the dispensaries who spoke today not really being  
8 totally truthful in that the pricing for patients is  
9 different than the pricing for adult use. That needs  
10 to be looked at a bit closer. The special pricing is  
11 disappearing. I would love to see the Commission have  
12 more of a consumer-facing approach to the public.  
13 Education is vital. The public still needs to learn  
14 about this very, very new market here in New Jersey. I  
15 commend the dispensaries who are stepping forward and  
16 creating educational forums. I think that's correct  
17 terrific. But I think the state needs to step forward  
18 and to start doing some public facing educational  
19 events. I would love to be involved in that. We  
20 worked very hard here in Livingston to educate the  
21 public, to now avail. There was tremendous amount of  
22 misinformation that was disseminated to discourage  
23 cannabis business here in Livingston. And it's quite  
24 disheartening. So, I would hope that we'll see more  
25 education coming out of the Commission to the general

1 public. You know, preaching to the choir doesn't  
2 really help. I think everyone who comes to these  
3 meetings is really involved in the industry or wants to  
4 be, but I think the public needs to know a little bit  
5 more. Again, thank you and congratulations on a  
6 successful first month. We look forward to more great  
7 things here in New Jersey and legal cannabis. Thank  
8 you.

9 MS. BLAKE: Thank you. I'll call that  
10 block again. Ricardo Thomas, Michael Phillips, Sergio  
11 Moncado, Lincoln Gratton. Seeing none of those  
12 individuals present, I will move on to the next five.  
13 Tyler Kolba, Paul Josephson, Christine Hansen, Luke  
14 Segal, Scott Bent. Again, Tyler Kolba, Paul Josephson,  
15 Christine Hansen, Luke Segal and Scott Bent. I see  
16 Christine Hansen. Christine Hansen, go ahead.

17 MS. HANSEN: Thank you so much. I just  
18 have a quick question on the Acceptance of License  
19 Applications for the Class 4 and Class 6 for people who  
20 are looking to be in the delivery sector. Do you know  
21 when those licenses will or applications will start to  
22 be accepted?

23 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Is that the extent  
24 of your comment? Your question?

25 MS. HANSEN: Yes, it is.

1                   CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. The  
2 Commission -- as usual, the Commission will be  
3 announcing whenever the applications for other classes  
4 -- class of licenses will be available. And that will  
5 be advertised on the Commission's website and at our  
6 public meeting as well.

7                   MS. HANSEN: Thank you.

8                   MS. BLAKE: Thank you for that question.  
9 Next up is Paul Josephson. Paul Josephson, go ahead.

10                  MR. JOSEPHSON: Thank you. Can you hear  
11 me okay?

12                  MS. BLAKE: We can hear you. Go ahead.

13                  MR. JOSEPHSON: Thank you. Good  
14 afternoon, Madam Chairwoman and Commissioners. I am  
15 speaking to you today on behalf of my client, Curio  
16 Wellness New Jersey, an unsuccessful applicant for  
17 essentially -- central vertically integrated license in  
18 the 2019 RFA round. As I believe the Commission and  
19 its members are well aware, Curio has a active appeal  
20 of the awards to Altice [sic] and to Holistic that is  
21 currently pending in the Appellate Division as well as  
22 a collateral challenge to the WBE status of those two  
23 entities, those two perspective, I guess, awardees  
24 pending before the Treasury Department. The reason for  
25 my comments today are to register my client's

1 disagreement, dissatisfaction and objection to the  
2 actions taken earlier today with respect to allowing a  
3 change in location for both Altice and Holistic.  
4 Certainly while those awards are pending challenges and  
5 appeals, as the Commission and council are well aware,  
6 there are serious objections and concerns that have  
7 been raised about those -- about those awards.  
8 Previously, this Commission declined to rescind or stay  
9 those awards in our application back in December on the  
10 grounds that there were a series of accountability  
11 provisions that were a condition of the final agency  
12 decision awarding licenses to those two entities. For  
13 purposes of today, I would like to go on record  
14 reciting the Commission's own language in its decision  
15 granting these licenses. Condition two being, "If  
16 accepted within 20 business days from the date of  
17 award, awardees shall confirm in writing that it still  
18 has site control and local approval for the  
19 endorsement. An awardee without both site control and  
20 local approval after 20 business days will have its  
21 award rescinded." "Will have its award rescinded." As  
22 the Commission is well aware, we have pointed out  
23 previously that Altice did not have local approval  
24 within the terms of after 20 business days to our  
25 knowledge --

1 MS. BLAKE: Mr. Josephson, you have  
2 30 seconds.

3 MR. JOSEPHSON: Yes. Thank you. The  
4 point here is this is a condition that was -- a  
5 condition of award that we had previously indicated to  
6 the Commission had not been satisfied. It has not been  
7 satisfied. And yet, the Commission today has acted in  
8 derogation of the terms of its award. We object to  
9 that. We will be taking that up in the appropriate  
10 channels, but I did want to make sure that the Chair  
11 and the Commissioners heard directly on behalf of my  
12 client. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

13 MS. BLAKE: Thank you, sir. Last call  
14 on this batch. Tyler Kolba -- Paul Josephson -- sorry.  
15 Not Paul. Tyler Kolba, Luke Segal and Scott Bent. Not  
16 seeing any of those individuals here, I will move on to  
17 the next five. Gaetano Lardieri, Raphael Justin Perez,  
18 Smrita Choubey, Chirali Patel, Anthony Russo. I see  
19 Gaetano. Gaetano does not have a last name on here.  
20 When you are allowed to speak, please state your full  
21 name for the record. Go ahead.

22 MS. LARDIERI: Can you hear me?

23 MS. BLAKE: Can you hear you.

24 MS. LARDIERI: Yes. Gaetano Lardieri.

25 Dear Chair Houenou, Executive Director Brown and

1 Commissioners, I am Gaetano Lardieri from Newark, New  
2 Jersey. And I'm speaking today in part for Professor  
3 Rob Mejia from Stockton University, Jennifer --  
4 Jennifer Maden from Rowan University, and Edward N.  
5 Tobias, Esq, Jessica Gonzales, Esq, cannabis lawyer and  
6 advocate, Ken Wolski, Director of Coalition for Medical  
7 Marijuana New Jersey, and Leo Bridgewater, cannabis  
8 advocate and partner at Heart Community Capital. First  
9 and foremost, we collectively applaud the CRC for their  
10 efforts and the tone they have set in reference to  
11 diversity and inclusion for the cannabis space in New  
12 Jersey and for all they have accomplished for the  
13 industry in a record timeframe. We're all here to  
14 support the CRC in any way we can. I know several of  
15 you personally from interactions and conversations I've  
16 had over the years at many cannabis events and on other  
17 occasions. For everyone else, I'm Gaetano Lardieri  
18 from Newark, New Jersey, born, raised and currently  
19 reside. I have been in the medical field since 1978.  
20 I spent 26 of those 44 years in oncology research at  
21 the hospital, medical center and pharmaceutical levels  
22 running, conducting, designing global oncology trials.  
23 In 2015 I entered the cannabis space advocating for  
24 social justice. During this time, I founded three  
25 biotech startup companies specializing in

1 nanotechnology, synthetic biology, cannabinoid  
2 synthesization, aerospace science, and the latest  
3 focusing on entheogenic medicines. These public  
4 comments today are a follow-up to my July 2021 public  
5 comments made to the CRC in the follow-up meeting I had  
6 with Chair Houenou and her staff in which I provided  
7 specific details on how a cannabis research program  
8 inclusive of diversity could be designed for New  
9 Jersey. New Jersey is internationally known for  
10 innovations academically through universities like  
11 Rutgers, Stockton, Rowan, and so on. In fact, two of  
12 New Jersey's colleges, Rowan and William Paterson, were  
13 recently named in the top 25 universities and colleges  
14 leading cannabis research. New Jersey is known as the  
15 medicine chest of the world due to the fact that there  
16 are more pharmaceuticals companies headquartered and  
17 represented here than anywhere else in the world. In  
18 fact, we have more scientists and engineers per square  
19 mile anywhere else in the world. The advancement of  
20 research by the CRC is both essential and mandated as  
21 set forth in the CREAMM statute section 18.d which  
22 states, and I shall -- review and commission research,  
23 create a task force, and report findings to the  
24 legislature and governor.

25 Our call to actions today are for the

1 Commission to form a diverse and inclusive advisory  
2 board on the clinical registrant applications, include  
3 New Jersey's subject matter experts in the areas of  
4 research, pharmaceuticals, academia, business and  
5 advocacy, consider research in entheogenic medicines in  
6 the next legislative and regulatory guidelines. And  
7 these comments are submitted --

8 MS. BLAKE: 15 seconds.

9 MS. LARDIERI: Thank you.

10 MS. BLAKE: Thank you for your comment.

11 Again, reminder that please ensure that the name in  
12 your Zoom is the same name that you registered with.  
13 They must match. Next up is Chirali Patel. Go ahead.

14 MS. PATEL: Thank you to all of the  
15 members of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission and staff  
16 for continuing to push the ball forward and allowing me  
17 the time to speak. My name is Chirali Patel. And on  
18 behalf of Blaze Responsibly, thank you for ensuring  
19 patient access remains a priority. While I haven't had  
20 any disruptions yet to my medical access, the program  
21 and its offerings continue to be slim pickings. To my  
22 knowledge, outside of Verano there are no topicals on  
23 the market with the THC and CBD ratio for localized  
24 pain relief. Topicals are necessary for medical  
25 patients that can't consume via inhalation or whose

1 stomach enzymes don't do well with edibles or  
2 tinctures. If we want the medical program to remain  
3 viable, product innovation has to be a priority. And  
4 it's been several years for many of the operators that  
5 have been in existence to be able to deliver such  
6 products that are necessary. In addition, some of the  
7 flower strains are inconsistently unavailable. There  
8 is particular strains based on the terpene profile and  
9 overall cannabinoid profile that work for my  
10 inflammation, for example, which sometimes they're  
11 available for a brief period of time and then they're  
12 no longer on the market. I can check back six months  
13 later there. There needs to be -- and while these are  
14 supposed to be medical products, there should be  
15 consistency in their availability. So I respectfully  
16 request and hope that the CRC can hold the ATCs  
17 accountable to patients by ensuring future product  
18 availability and innovation. Additionally, now that  
19 adult use is open, the medical limits of 3 ounces per  
20 month should be increased as it's not enough medicine  
21 for most patients. And absent -- without home grow  
22 that our state legislature needs to do, some are still  
23 left without adequate supply any given month. So I  
24 hope that medical patients continue to be a priority,  
25 we continue to see the improvements with products, and

1 tailored patient counseling makes a comeback.  
2 Education's still needed especially with respect to  
3 medical cannabis. So I hope that as a state we can  
4 make this a priority.

5                   And then just lastly, with respect to  
6 the application submissions and the online portal, I  
7 continue to request an online webinar or a town hall Q  
8 and A forum that allows the public to ask questions in  
9 realtime and get response that can help them. Many  
10 applicants get stuck on the forms. And for someone  
11 who's an attorney to have difficulty deciphering these  
12 forms initially, I can only imagine how difficult it  
13 could be for somebody with limited literacy skills.  
14 And we should be offering the technical assistance  
15 which I hope to see the CRC be able to do so in the  
16 future. Thank you for your time and for listening.

17                   MS. BLAKE: Thank you. Tony Russo. Go  
18 ahead.

19                   MR. RUSSO: Yes. Good afternoon, Madam  
20 Chair, members of the Commission. Again, my name is  
21 Tony Russo. I'm the President of the Commerce and  
22 Industry Association of New Jersey. We're based up  
23 here in Rochelle Park. Office also in Trenton. You'll  
24 be hearing from one of our member companies,  
25 [cannabiscertified.org](http://cannabiscertified.org). We had testified before the

1 Commission a year ago about the importance and the need  
2 to certify the cannabis workforce. And our member is  
3 going to explain their gateway and platform that we  
4 could use in order to basically certify the workforce.  
5 And we're talking about all six pillars, but also the  
6 workplace investigator, too, job recognition expert.  
7 One of the things that we'll do is work with the  
8 community colleges to provide the state with this  
9 platform. We think it's important. We'll work with  
10 the industry. And All State Cove [phon] is involved in  
11 assuring that anybody that works in the cannabis  
12 industry is properly tested and certified. So, with  
13 that, I'm going to concede my time to our member Dave  
14 Bernstein from, again, cannabiscertified.org. Thank  
15 you, Madam Chairwoman and members of the Commission.

16 MS. BLAKE: Thank you. Thank you for  
17 your comment. Last call for Rafael Justin Perez and  
18 Smrita Choubey. Not seeing any of those individuals  
19 present, I'll move on to the next five. David  
20 Bernstein, Michelle Santos, Carmen Cervi, Evan  
21 Manaresi, Diana McElroy. David Bernstein, Michelle  
22 Santos, Carmen Cervi, Evan Manaresi and Diana McElroy.  
23 I see David Bernstein here. Go ahead.

24 MR. BERNSTEIN: Good afternoon. Can you  
25 hear me okay?

1 MS. BLAKE: We can hear you fine

2 MR. BERNSTEIN: Great. Thank you so  
3 much. And congratulations to you as a Commission for  
4 doing what everybody I think agrees is just a  
5 monumental effort in getting the industry off the  
6 ground. I'm Dave Bernstein with [cannabiscertified.org](http://cannabiscertified.org).  
7 Anthony Russo just spoke for a few minutes on our  
8 behalf. And we want to really emphasize where things  
9 are going. As I watch the evolution of this industry  
10 before my eyes in how you folks are building this from  
11 the ground up, we can't really forget about the  
12 critical importance of the workforce development.  
13 Cannabis as an industry is what we consider to be a  
14 high stakes industry which means mistakes by the  
15 workforce can mean injury. It can mean employer fines.  
16 It can mean legal action. This is the time, really, as  
17 you're still putting together the different classes and  
18 the licenses to put together a workforce compliance  
19 culture for cannabis to create the safety and the  
20 equity that you folks stand for to really give  
21 organizations, employers, and those qualified  
22 candidates a pathway into the industry. Our database,  
23 our platform is really for us as a credentialing  
24 organization to work in partnership with the State of  
25 New Jersey, the Commission, community colleges to

1 create exam integrity, to create remote offerings,  
2 in-person and remote, and really build a business  
3 continuity for the workforce. We want to be able to  
4 deliver and have the Commission and all regulators  
5 analyze assessments, taking a very data driven  
6 approach, understanding the skills of the workforce,  
7 understanding and helping employers and HR teams make  
8 better decisions on upscaling the workforce. New  
9 Jersey is considered one of the most educated  
10 workforces in the country. And by creating an ongoing  
11 and meaningful skills audit repetitive every few years  
12 with the ability to provide digital badging for  
13 individuals to showcase their passing of exams, this  
14 will enable employers to have a selective pool of  
15 candidates that are already qualified. It will enable  
16 the Commission to in an organized way continue to  
17 update the rules and regulations for the workforce in a  
18 compliant manner, and ultimately create that pathway  
19 and that credibility as an industry so that all  
20 individuals who want to participate in this  
21 industry --

22 MS. BLAKE: 30 seconds.

23 MR. BERNSTEIN: Those being also from  
24 the underserved communities is a primary focus of  
25 Cannabis Certified to make sure all those have an

1 opportunity to enter the workforce and those employers  
2 to only have qualified candidates to work for and hire.  
3 Thank you very much.

4 MS. BLAKE: Thank you. I see Diana  
5 McElroy. Go ahead.

6 MS. McELROY: Good afternoon. Thank you  
7 to the CRC for allowing me to speak. And thank you to  
8 my dog who won't stop barking. Sorry. You might hear  
9 him in the background. I wanted to come and say that  
10 you guys have done an amazing job both in being engaged  
11 with people within the industry and also with starting  
12 up our system and our market, but I do worry because  
13 some of the feedback I'm getting from patients is that  
14 they are not getting the level of education or  
15 information that they're seeking. They walk into a  
16 dispensary and don't have the -- someone approach them  
17 with education. And sometimes patients are afraid to  
18 ask for information because they don't know who to ask.  
19 So, I would love for our state to start, you know, kind  
20 of echoing what other people had suggested, doing  
21 campaigns of education on the products. For some  
22 people, these are brand new products that they've never  
23 had access to before. And regardless if you're an  
24 adult use or a patient, it really is a plant-based  
25 medicine. And it would be nice if our state was

1 forward facing in that education. Research, research,  
2 research. Again, echoing what previous people had  
3 said, much needed in this field because we are a  
4 industry innovative state. And it would be great if we  
5 were on the forefront of that research. At this point  
6 I'm going to end. And thank you, again, for all your  
7 hard work. Thank you.

8 MS. BLAKE: Thank you. Last call for  
9 this section. Michelle Santos, Carmen Cervi, Evan  
10 Manaresi. Seeing none of those individuals present, I  
11 will move to the next five. Elisa Kennedy, Grace  
12 Barry, Anthony Constantino, Benjamin Rajotte, Yosua  
13 Suyanto. Elisa Kennedy, Grace Barry, Anthony  
14 Constantino, Benjamin Rajotte, Yosua Suyanto. I see  
15 Michelle Santos from the previous set. Go ahead.

16 MS. SANTOS: Good afternoon,  
17 Commissioners of the CRC. I appreciate you giving me  
18 this opportunity to speak. And I just echo what the  
19 previous commenters have stated, that it's really  
20 critically important to increase education for those  
21 who are receiving their licenses. I am in the  
22 insurance and risk management industry. And we have an  
23 opportunity to see the claims from across the country.  
24 So, I don't want to pick on one specific state, but I  
25 will. We look at the state of Oklahoma who issued over

1 15,000 cannabis licenses. And it's referred to as the  
2 wild, wild west because that's how it's really  
3 operating. And there's a lack of compliance and  
4 confusion from state legislation to local legislation  
5 of cannabis ordinances. And there is a real need for  
6 risk management services and additional insurance  
7 services. Right now the CRC is requiring just general  
8 liability. And we see this as an opportunity to be a  
9 resource to the CRC to lend education, increase  
10 awareness of all the insurance and risk management  
11 strategies that are available to help train new  
12 cannabis businesses to become more resilient and  
13 sustainable. That is my comment.

14 MS. BLAKE: Thank you. Again, for -- I  
15 will call out the last five again, Elisa Kennedy, Grace  
16 Barry, Anthony Constantino, Benjamin Rajotte, Yosua  
17 Suyanto. I see Anthony Constantino. You may go ahead.

18 MR. CONSTANTINO: Thank you for your  
19 time. My name is Anthony Constantino. I'm currently a  
20 social equity applicant. I did not submit yet because  
21 I'm trying to narrow down locations. My biggest  
22 concern is the 2500-square foot space for micro  
23 cultivation which is what I intend to go into to.  
24 There's plenty of opportunity if you go into a bigger  
25 space with a lower ceiling as the regulations state

1 that we can have a 24-foot ceiling with a 2500-square  
2 foot. With that being said, we can fit the amount  
3 plants in there using a racking system, but without  
4 that it's virtually impossible to make a profitable  
5 existence with just a 2500-square foot without having  
6 that 24-foot ceiling. If they were able to limit it to  
7 just a thousand plants without the ceiling or the 2,500  
8 square feet, there's plenty of properties that I can  
9 get into in the inner city. But without being --  
10 without having that higher ceiling, I would not be able  
11 to profitably have a business. And I was just -- you  
12 know, my main concern is are we able to adjust that or  
13 is it going to be set in stone and that's that and I'm  
14 just going to apply for a larger license? And that's  
15 all that I really have to say.

16 MS. BLAKE: Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Mr. Constantino,  
18 just a quick note. Your question sounds like one that  
19 is very specific to your circumstances. So we invite  
20 you to reach out to the CRC licensing inbox. That  
21 email address is on our website for information to get  
22 your question answered.

23 MS. BLAKE: Elisa Kennedy, go ahead.

24 MS. KENNEDY: Hi. Good afternoon.

25 Thank you for giving me this time to speak. My

1 question is regarding timelines for businesses who have  
2 submitted applications who are still awaiting approval.  
3 For Class 1 one cultivators who submitted an annual  
4 application on December 15th will they be next in line  
5 for review after is it all of the conditional  
6 applications or is it -- I know you approved some of  
7 the dispensaries today which is wonderful. Just trying  
8 to get a timeline for small businesses who are trying  
9 to get into this market and know where they fall.

10 MS. BLAKE: Ms. Kennedy, there is  
11 information on the website about the priority listing  
12 process. And for any other question about licensing  
13 you may email the licensing inbox. The address is also  
14 on our website.

15 MS. KENNEDY: For licensing  
16 specifically?

17 MS. BLAKE: Yes.

18 MS. KENNEDY: All right. Thank you so  
19 much.

20 MS. BLAKE: You're welcome. Next up is  
21 Grace Barry. Go ahead.

22 MS. BARRY: Good afternoon. My name is  
23 Grace Barry. Could you hear me?

24 MS. BLAKE: Yes. We can hear you fine  
25 go. Ahead.

1 MS. BARRY: Okay. My name is Grace  
2 Barry. I'm a resident of Belleville. My business  
3 Siembra LLC is a certified NWBE. And I was approved  
4 for conditional license to operate a micro cultivation  
5 business on March 24th. I'm speaking to the Commission  
6 today because I wanted to make you aware of some of the  
7 difficulties I faced during the conditional conversion  
8 process and ask you to consider allowing some  
9 flexibility for those of us who are making a good faith  
10 effort to secure all of the necessary approvals. When  
11 I submitted Siembra's conditional application, I was  
12 very close to securing a property. Although the rent  
13 for square foot was higher than the local going rate, I  
14 was prepared to pay because I wanted to stay on  
15 schedule. However, it seems like once the lender  
16 realized that the new cannabis businesses were under  
17 certain deadlines, he became unwilling to negotiate on  
18 certain aspect of the lease. The landlord would not  
19 guarantee any aspect of the building's conditions such  
20 as any maintenance or repairs. He then decided to  
21 require double the normal deposit amount and even  
22 wanted to keep the interest that accrue on it. After  
23 months of frustrating and back and forth negotiations,  
24 I decided it wouldn't be in my best financial interest  
25 to enter into such a one-sided agreement. Now, that I

1 am searching for another location, it has become  
2 painfully evident how few suitable properties there are  
3 across the street for cannabis businesses. I've had  
4 meetings with multiple property brokers. Some require  
5 an upfront fee with no guarantee of success and require  
6 to be an exclusive agreement. In the last few weeks  
7 I've had some luck in my property search, and things  
8 are moving in a good direction again, but I am worried  
9 that I've fallen behind. Factoring in the local  
10 approval process, I worry that Siembra may struggle to  
11 make the conversion deadline. I applaud the work the  
12 Commission has done for us so far. I appreciate that  
13 the Commission automatically granted an initial 45  
14 extension. And I hope you will consider offering an  
15 additional extension for businesses that can provide  
16 documentations to show that they're working diligently  
17 to finalize their size approval. Such document could  
18 include a letter from a local official or a  
19 [indecipherable] from the municipality that the  
20 applicant is making a good faith effort to satisfy --

21 MS. BLAKE: 15 seconds.

22 MS. BARRY: I am proud to be part of the  
23 historic initial group of personal use cannabis  
24 businesses. And sincerely thank you for giving Siembra  
25 a chance. I plan to submit this comment in writing as

1 well. Thank you so much.

2 MS. BLAKE: Thank you. Next up, Barry  
3 Doll, Hasaan Austin, Tony Benn. Any of those  
4 individuals are present, please raise your hand. Brian  
5 Cooper, Ph.D., go ahead. Go ahead. Unmute yourself  
6 and go ahead, Mr. Cooper.

7 MR. COOPER: Can you hear me?

8 MS. BLAKE: We can hear you. Go ahead.

9 MR. COOPER: I was having some issue  
10 with the button. Thank you very much for your time to  
11 the Commission. Also, I just want to extend my  
12 congratulations on a very productive year for the  
13 Commission. And I really appreciate the celerity and  
14 the professionalism that you guys have displayed. But,  
15 unfortunately -- or I guess, rather, fortunately, my  
16 comment was addressed already during the body of  
17 comments today. So I don't think I have anything else  
18 to add. But I did want to just take some time to say  
19 thank very much for all the hard work that you and the  
20 staff have done. Thank you.

21 MS. BLAKE: Thank you. Hasaan Austin,  
22 Tony Benn. I see Hasaan Austin. Go ahead. I'm sorry,  
23 Mr. Austin, go ahead. Mr. Austin?

24 MR. AUSTIN: Yes. Can you hear me?

25 MS. BLAKE: We can hear you. Go ahead.

1                   MR. AUSTIN: Thank you. I'm Hasaan  
2 Austin. I am managing partner of MTN Biz Development.  
3 We're a business development agency and we focus on  
4 social equity business solutions on a local level. We  
5 aid the public and private sector in achieving social  
6 equity business goals in cannabis in New Jersey and New  
7 York. We work very closely with cannabis law  
8 practitioners, accountants, realtors, developers,  
9 investors, and related stakeholders to help execute  
10 those business development initiatives on a local  
11 level. So we have a very unique vantage point. And  
12 we're always inclined to share our perspective because  
13 we think it will help grow the cannabis marketplace  
14 especially on the local level. So, word of advice:  
15 When seeking municipal approval, be very specific and  
16 explicit of about how you will demonstrate your moral  
17 commitment to social equity within that New Jersey  
18 municipality. New Jersey towns don't have a necessary  
19 legal mandate, but there is a moral mandate. Your  
20 commitment should -- it should demonstrate your  
21 allocation of time, resources, and perhaps capital  
22 towards a deliberate effort in that New Jersey  
23 municipality. Consider establishing or contributing to  
24 a local business incubator program to support cannabis  
25 nexus items like medical cannabis education,

1 expungement clinics, training, workforce development,  
2 also cannabis grant and loan programs for residents.  
3 These items will garner attention on the local level.  
4 Every town is different. So understanding that town's  
5 need is paramount in procuring that municipal approval.  
6 Social equity is a very complex and very undefined  
7 concept as it relates to cannabis. So you do have the  
8 opportunity to help define it on the local level.  
9 Lastly, New Jersey municipalities are looking to adopt  
10 social equity mandates that are measurable and  
11 quantifiable to help them guard against certain  
12 liabilities. These incubator programs can help provide  
13 that. So be mindful when engaging New Jersey  
14 municipalities. And let me just finish with this: For  
15 those ATCs there has not been a lot of conversation  
16 about those stigmas, learning curves, that education  
17 that many people have spoken about on this call. It's  
18 a very critical area. Patient access should include  
19 education. And making a moral commitment to educating  
20 medical cannabis patients is critical in this  
21 marketplace. There are physicians already on the  
22 frontline providing this education like Dr. --

23 MS. BLAKE: Thank you very much for your  
24 comment.

25 MR. AUSTIN: Thank you.

1 MS. BLAKE: I see Barry Doll by phone.

2 Go ahead. Go ahead, Barry Doll. You may speak.

3 MR. DOLL: Good afternoon. I have a  
4 couple of questions. I see that from today's meeting  
5 you have now approved 152 licenses. And I seem to  
6 recall there was a limit on how many licenses were to  
7 be issued. Can you please tell me what that number of  
8 licenses that were to be limited is? And also, with  
9 the conditional licenses, what does that mean? How  
10 long do they have before they can open up their doors?  
11 Is there other requirements involved? Thank you.

12 MS. BLAKE: Thank you for your question.  
13 Final five, Dr. Monique Hamilton, Chris Leeper, Nicole  
14 Barnett, Jessica Marie Villars Eric Echevarria. Dr.  
15 Monique Hamilton, Chris Leeper, Nicole Barnett, Jessica  
16 Marie Villars and Eric Echevarria. Dr. Monique  
17 Hamilton, go ahead.

18 DR. HAMILTON: Hello. I am Dr. Monique  
19 Hamilton. And I am Board certified in internal  
20 medicine. I am -- [technical difficulty]

21 MS. BLAKE: Dr. Hamilton, we cannot hear  
22 you.

23 DR. HAMILTON: I'm Dr. Monique Hamilton.  
24 And I'm Board certified in internal medicine. I am the  
25 co-founder and lead physician for Dr. Monihami Medical

1 Center in South Orange, New Jersey. As mentioned in an  
2 earlier comment, the expansion of the cannabis  
3 marketplace in New Jersey requires investment and  
4 cannabis education in New Jersey communities. There is  
5 still a significant stigma associated with cannabis  
6 which impacts the acceptance of cannabis in these  
7 communities. Potential patients need to understand the  
8 benefits of cannabis as a treatment for their  
9 conditions. The establishment of a state funded  
10 cannabis education initiative which includes cannabis  
11 education workshops for senior citizens, veteran groups  
12 and municipalities is the most critical component in  
13 breaking down that stigma to help save people's lives.  
14 These workshops will inform the community about the  
15 many medicinal benefits of cannabis, the forms  
16 available for consumption, and the potential effects it  
17 has on the body. The CRC has done a wonderful job in  
18 crafting policy that best serves the patient population  
19 in New Jersey. And I would like to thank you for your  
20 tireless efforts. Keep up the great work with the many  
21 challenges you may face.

22 MS. BLAKE: Thank you. Jessie Marie  
23 Villars, go ahead. Jessie Marie Villars, you are  
24 apparently on an older version of Zoom, so it's not  
25 allowing me to give you speaking permission. Please

1 submit your comment in writing. The form to do that is  
2 on our meeting page on our website. Sorry about that.  
3 Chris Leeper. I see Eric Echivarria. Go ahead.

4 MR. ECHEVARRIA: Hello. Can you hear  
5 me?

6 MS. BLAKE: We can hear you. Go ahead.

7 MR. ECHEVARRIA: Good afternoon. Thanks  
8 for allowing me to speak. I just wanted to talk a  
9 little bit about the workplace impairment recognition  
10 expert. I kind of wanted to say -- first of all, my  
11 name is Eric Echevarria. I am a licensed clinical  
12 social worker as well as a licensed clinical alcohol  
13 and drug counselor. I've been in the field of  
14 addictions for over 15 years. And I just wanted to say  
15 that it is difficult if not impossible for a person to  
16 determine if someone's kind of high using marijuana on  
17 the spot. It's very unreliable. As we all know, that  
18 marijuana can stay in your system for up to 30 days  
19 through bodily fluid and even up to 90 days through  
20 hair follicles. So just because THC is in your system,  
21 doesn't necessarily mean that the employee is impaired.  
22 And THC can reveal itself long after the effect of the  
23 drug has worn off. That's determined by body weight,  
24 metabolism, and other ways. So unlike, you know, like,  
25 say, alcohol model where if I drink four beers, there's

1 a tool in place where I could blow into a breathalyzer  
2 and it will determine on the spot if I've been drinking  
3 within the last few hours. There's no such tool that  
4 is used for marijuana. It hasn't been invented. And I  
5 think a person that goes to a training for however long  
6 the training is it's just impossible for that person to  
7 determine if someone is under the influence currently.  
8 There are symptoms. You could say someone's eyes may  
9 be red. But let's say that person could have  
10 allergies, or who knows what's going on with that  
11 person? So I just think that by forcing someone to  
12 have this workplace impairment recognition expert you  
13 open yourself up to liability, litigation and other  
14 things that could ultimately be harmful to the  
15 business. Thank you for hearing me out. I just wanted  
16 to express my concerns about this workplace impairment  
17 person. Thank you very much.

18 MS. BLAKE: Thank you for your comments  
19 this afternoon. Madam Chairwoman, that is the last of  
20 the registered speakers for today's meeting.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Ms.  
22 Blake. And thank you to all of our speakers who  
23 provided their thoughts and their comments today.  
24 Again, if you have questions, go to the CRC's website,  
25 [www.nj.gov/cannabis](http://www.nj.gov/cannabis), and see if your question is

1 potentially answered online. There's a treasure trove  
2 of resources especially related to those who are  
3 interested in -- who are perspective applicants or who  
4 want to just learn more about the application and read  
5 regulation process. So please go to our website. We  
6 have loads of FAQs and an entire section dedicated to  
7 helping to support businesses with helpful resources.  
8 That is -- that concludes the businesses that is before  
9 us today. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

10 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Go ahead, Charles.

11 COMMISSIONER BARKER: I defer to you. I  
12 defer to you, Vice Chair.

13 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Because I have no  
14 hair, Charles. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER BARKER: You have wisdom.  
16 You have wisdom. You have wisdom.

17 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chairwoman, I  
18 move that we adjourn today's meeting.

19 COMMISSIONER BARKER: I second that,  
20 Madam Chairwoman.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair  
22 Delgado and seconded by Commissioner Barker. Is there  
23 any discussion on the motion to adjourn? Hearing none,  
24 all those in favor say aye.

25 [All responded "aye."]

1                   CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All those opposed  
2 say nay. Are there any abstentions? The ayes have it  
3 and the motion passes. Thank you, all, for joining  
4 today's meeting. Congratulations to all of the new  
5 awardees on their conditional licenses and annual  
6 licenses for those four testing laboratories. Again,  
7 for the public, please continue to monitor the CRC's  
8 website for up-to-date information. The -- our  
9 approved list of public meetings for the year 2022 is  
10 on our website. The next meeting currently scheduled  
11 is for Thursday, June 21st at 1:00 p.m. Our meetings  
12 will continue to be held virtually until further  
13 notice. The time is now 3:37 p.m. and we are  
14 adjourned. Have a great rest of the day, everyone.

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16                   (The matter is adjourned)

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CARMEN WOLFE, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and  
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