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

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

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:
CARMEN WOLFE, CCR
NJ Licensed Stenographer
STATE SHORTHAND REPORTING SERVICES
212 Monmouth Road
Oakhurst, New Jersey 07756
(732) 531-9500
ssrs@stateshorthand.com

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

MS. BLAKE: Madam Chairwoman, this is a Public Meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was provided to the Asbury Park Press, Atlantic City Express, Bergen Record, Courier Post, Star Ledger and the Trenton Times in December 2021. The agenda and information regarding the virtual nature of the meeting due to the Covid 19 pandemic was also provided for publication and posted on the Cannabis Regulatory Commission website. The meeting time and location has also been posted on the website of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and with the Office of
CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Would you please take roll call.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Good afternoon. Present.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Present.

MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Present.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Present.

MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Present.

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

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

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chairwoman, I move that we move into Executive Session.
COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Seconded.

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

(All Commissioners respond "Aye").

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

(There is a recess.)

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

MS. BLAKE: The next agenda item is approving the minutes of both the Commission's Open Session and Executive Session for March 24, 2027. The
meeting -- the minutes have been shared and reviewed by
the members of the Commission prior to this meeting.

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

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

[All responded "aye."]

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

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

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prior to this meeting.

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

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

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

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

[All responded "ayes."]

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

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

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. As I believe people are aware, this is the first public board meeting of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission since retail sales of adult use cannabis began. We
will receive a more detailed update on retail sales from the Executive Director this afternoon, but I do want to emphasize how remarkable and how proud I am of the agency. That in less than 13 months we'll have expanded the medicinal cannabis program, adopted initial regulations for recreational cannabis industry. We've issued more than a hundred initial awards for adult use cannabis licenses. And we've officially opened New Jersey's legal personal use cannabis market for adults. I just want to amplify something that our Executive Director Jeff Brown recently stated, and that is, you know, beginning recreational sales on April 21st was an important milestone for the State of New Jersey, but it does not mark the end of our process. It simply marks an important step in a multi-year effort to make New Jersey's industry the best that it can be. From here, the Commission's upcoming work will focus on adopting additional rules for the personal use industry, modernizing the existing rules for the medicinal cannabis industry, monitoring and enforcing our rules to ensure compliance from all our regulated entities, and continued information sharing on the cannabis industry landscape. And as we continue to grow the cannabis industry, we should remain vigilante in preserving our collective
accomplishments. Not only should government take deliberate steps to be more inclusive -- and I'm proud that the CRC has taken intentional steps to provide a diverse and inclusive industry -- but individuals in the private sector should be taking those deliberate steps, too. Banks, landlords, attorneys, suppliers and employers all should afford people equal and fair opportunities to participate in the cannabis industry. Continuing to work together is the only way to ensure that our industry reflects the diversity of our state in terms of geographic location, business size, and the demographics of our business owners and workers.

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

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

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

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: By all means,

Director Brown. Go ahead.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you.

And thank you for the kind words. It's a team effort
here. And thanks to our staff and all the
Commissioners for getting us to where we are. We have
a lot farther to go. So, today I'm going to keep this
as short and sweet as I can because we do have a packed
agenda and a number of items to get to, but I do want
to provide some important updates. First an update on
license applications, where we stand with those.
Secondly, I wanted to report out essentially the first
month recreational cannabis sales numbers and just some
notes on progress and other issues that have popped up
over the last month. And then finally, as I mentioned
in our April meeting, I wanted to outline a schedule
for data reporting on licensees particularly when it
comes to aggregate data on demographics, race,
ethnicity, gender, certification status, things of that
nature.
So we'll start with the license
application update. So, since we started accepting
applications on December 15th and then -- for
cultivators, manufacturers, and testing laboratories,
and on March 15th of this year for retailers, as of
today we've now received over 1,000 total applications.
I'm also proud to report that over half of them have
received an initial determination and initial review
whether that's a cure letter or, you know, or many have
made it on for approval. And we have another slate of applications ready for approval today. One thing I did want to emphasize to all applicants and potential applicants is that folks should review all the resources on our website, nj.gov/cannabis, before submitting an application. We are still seeing issues particularly where it relates to priority designation. Applicants, you know, missing materials to qualify them as a social equity business or a diversely owned business or an impact zone business even though they say they qualify as such. Under our recreational cannabis business page we have all the resources you need to find out exactly what to submit starting with the Notice of Application Acceptance. I recommend watching the pre-application webinar as well. It's about 45 minutes, but has some important information. And then there are forms on that website as well that you will need for your application. The one I'll call out is the Certification of the Social Equity Business. So if a social equity applicant is submitting, they have to sign that attestation and include the documentation that's referenced in that certification so we know that they, in fact, qualify. But our team is reviewing licenses, you know, day in, day out, and we're moving this -- moving this forward. So, and you
can see we had a couple initial waves and then things have levelled out, but we're receiving new applications every day. It was just at the -- said at Judiciary Committee Hearing that we were at 950 applications submitted. Now we're over a thousand. So, to see the interest in getting into this industry is tremendous. And certainly we're working to move all those forward. Next slide, please.

So, moving now to recreational sales for the first month. I can report now based on the first month of sales that total sales across all 12 dispensaries, seven alternative treatment centers for the first month total $24 million. And that was -- you can -- across over 200,000 transactions, about 212,000. It certainly is substantial number, but it's, you know, really only a beginning. And I think it shows that there's a lot of growth left in this market. There's a lot of opportunity left in this market still. So, but that's -- you know, the important thing is month -- first month of recreational sales New Jersey did $24 million averaging somewhere around 5 million per week. We do anticipate that this will ramp up particularly as new dispensaries are approved, new cultivators are approved, and a lot of the conditional applicants that we have approved are able to come back
and convert to annual license and actually begin operating and either cultivating, manufacturing or retailing recreational cannabis.

Couple other notes. I also want to, you know, really congratulate the staff particularly in the Office of Compliance Investigations/Licensing who have been working to make sure this was as smooth a roll out as possible. You know, launching with 12 dispensaries for a state of 9.3 million is no easy task. And, you know, although, there were long lines on the first day, the first weekend, even some long lines in places now still, it has gone about as smooth as we could hope. And that's really a testament to a lot of compliance staff who have been on the ground who have been making sure that things are running smoothly. And then the industry who's also been doing their part and, you know, planning accordingly and effectively managing this rollout. I do want to note that, you know, we are serious about the patient access requirements and the supply requirements that are -- were in the final agency decisions that were issued on April 11th and certainly still are for expanded ATCs that are up to day. Overall, we've seen, you know, good compliance, but there have been some hiccups particularly related to some of the patient-only hours as well as some of
the reporting requirements in those final agency
decisions. So our Office of Compliance and
Investigations is working with the industry to make
sure everybody's in compliance. Where there have been
issues, they've been addressed quickly which is good,
but, you know, overall it's been a smooth rollout.
But, again, I think while this $24 million number
sounds big, it does underlie the fact that there's a
tremendous amount of opportunity still in this market
for new businesses to come in and serve this market and
be successful.

So, moving on to the last thing on my
agenda which is data reporting on licensees. In our
March meeting we presented a number of slides of
summary demographic data on licensees, both our
alternative treatment center awardees from the 2019
RFA, and then also conditional license applicants. At
that time, they were approved at that meeting. We
anticipate continuing this on a quarterly basis. So
the last report was issued on March 24, 2022. And
we'll re-up that reporting of summary data on this
industry, both the medicinal and the recreational
industry, on a quarterly basis. And so our anticipated
future report's there. The next one would be at our
next public meeting, or next currently scheduled public
meeting, June 23rd, then September 22nd, and then finally December 8th. And those would be our data report-outs for the year -- for this year. And then we'll continue that going into next year. You know, we continue to collect information on licensees and potential licensees as part our application process. This is used, really, for data reporting and analysis. And, you know, we do anticipate that once we have our employee badging, our cannabis ID card system operational, that we'll be then not only collecting demographic data, race, ethnicity, gender, on ownership, principals, you know, the managers, essential the licensed applicants, but also employees in this industry so that we cannot only accurately report out what the, you know, the management teams of these companies look like but also what the employee base is like. And we should have, you know, full -- full data on this industry, you know, sometime going into next year. But those are the dates that we'll be reporting to go to the Board, to the public again on that summary demographic data on licensees. And that concludes my report for his meeting. And I'll turn it back to you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director Brown. Ms. Blake, can you please announce the next
MS. BLAKE: The next agenda item is a staff report on progress regarding workplace impairment recognition standards.

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

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

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes, you may.

CHIEF COUNSEL RIGGS: And can we go to the next slide, please? Next slide. Okay. I'll just give you the report. That's fine. So, I'm going to report out on workplace impairment recognition experts which was something that was established by the CREAMM Act and the enabling legislation for the Commission. And first I'm going to go over what is required of the Commission pursuant to the CREAMM Act. So, in order to balance employers' rights to maintain a drug free workforce with employees' rights to use legal cannabis in New Jersey, the CREAMM Act requires the Commission in consultation with the Police Training Commission to create standards in their regulations for WIRES in the certification process. The regulations should also contain the minimum curriculum that's required and the
courses that are required for these certifications, and
also standards for the Commission's approval and
continuation of approval for entities that want to do
this type of training and the instructors that want to
do this type of training. And we may use what has
already been established by the Police Training
Commission if the Police Training Commission consents.
So, several months ago the Commission began its
outreach on this important issue. And we started to
have conversations with stakeholders which includes
other state agencies and other third parties. I'm
going to highlight some of these things that we've done
in the time that we were created, but this isn't
everything that we've done. There's a lot of
behind-the-scene going on and research being conducted
by CRC staff. And the Commission is committed to
providing a safe and equitable certification process
for WIRES, but, again, we're mindful of the important
balance of employers' rights to a drug free workforce
workplace and an employee's right to engage in the use
of legal cannabis. In late September of '21 and in
early October of '21 following the adoption and
publication of our initial regulations, we had
discussions with the Attorney General's office and
counsel for the Police Training Commission. Also
during this time period we had discussions with the New
Jersey Business and Industry Association and received
feedback from the NJBIA about nationally recognized
impairment testing organizations. Later in October of
2021, we received and reviewed comments that were
provided by the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.
And staff reviewed and researched those comments as
well. Then in early November of 2021, staff held
virtual meetings with the Police Training Commission.
And at that time, we were informed that the Police
Training Commission does not train drug recognition
experts for law enforcement. And they don't train
WIRES either. In fact, the New Jersey State Police is
the agency in this state charged with training drug
recognition experts and law enforcement. The Police
Training Commission is helpful. And they agreed to
provide a contact at New Jersey State Police to have
further discussions. Later in November of 2021 through
the AG's office and the Division of Criminal Justice,
we had discussions with NJST about information related
and the materials related to drug recognition experts.
Things were provided to us. We reviewed them. We
researched them. And we put them in our file. At the
end of November of 2021, we were informed that all DRE,

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

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

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Just by way of background,
when the Commission acted on the 2019 request for
applications, it was last fall and winter. So, in
October and December, October for cultivation and
vertical and December for dispensaries. And, you know,
at that time, obviously, we hadn't begun retail
recreational sales. I think there was some -- some
worry that, you know, the patients -- as recreational
sales rolled out patients might see shrinking options.
At the same time, you know, we want to make sure that
awardees were committed first and foremost to the
medicinal marijuana program and that market before
recreational sales. I think, you know, now that we
have some time under our belts following those awards,
we've seen the market get started and roll out. And
then we also see patient enrollment continue to grow.
But we've now re-thought some of those requirements in
the FADs and have a better way forward with regard to
these awardees. And in order -- essentially, instead
of requiring a specific time period, what we recommend
doing is requiring as they committed to in their
application that when an applicant meets the
commitments in their application and then meets the
expansion standards in our rules that they can expand
into recreational sales. Now, so rather than, you
know, say, get a permit and wait one year, now it's
about -- what we recommend changing that to is,
essentially, you know, once you fully implement your
business, your alternative treatment center, for
patients and begin to serve patients and prove you can
serve patients and meet those expansion standards in
our recreational rules which are high standards, by the
way, then awardees, you know, would be eligible to
apply for expansion under those rules. So,

essentially, the recommendation is to remove the one
year medicinal only requirement in those FADs. We
believe by doing this it will incentivize those who can
move quickly in implementation, build out their full facilities, get operational, get serving patients, proving that they can do that, and are committed to the medicinal market. And then if they can do that and meet those full commitments, then they can apply under those expansion standards, comply that they meet those expansion standards. So, next slide.

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER BARKER: I second that, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Commissioner Nash and seconded by Commissioner Barker.
Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing none, Ms. Blake, can you please call the vote.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

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

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.

And you can move to the next slide, please. So, following the 2019 request for applications and during the award process, we have six awardees who have requested approval from the CRC to change location. This is allowed by rule. It's not uncommon for ATCs to
change location during the permitting process. There are a number of reasons why this may occur. In fact, in the two previous RFAs before the 2019 RFA, almost all of the applicants, awardees changed location at some point during the permitting process. New Jersey Administrative Code 17:30A-7.10 provides that, "An ATC shall submit to the Commission an application for an amended permit together with fees if applicable prior to any" -- and then one of those is "change of the alternative treatment center's location." All of these applicants have submitted an application to change their location to the CRC. They have paid the necessary fee. We as staff have reviewed these applications. Have no concerns. I'll note that all these applicants are still held to the overall timeline to get operational in the FADs. So for vertically integrated and cultivation that is 18 months. And then for dispensaries that is 12 months from the time of award. So, you know, they're taking on, essentially, you know, these changes of location even within those parameters which are still in effect. And so we recommend approving these changes of location.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Do I hear a motion? Yes. Do a hear a motion on the resolution concerning the approval of the application
to amend the alternative treatment center permits for
six of the 2019 Request For Application awardees
permitting changes of location?

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

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

COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I
second that.

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

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: That's all right.

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

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?
COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

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

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.

Thank you, Madam Chair. So, the CRC has received two applications for additional cultivation sites. One from Columbia Care New Jersey, the other from GSD or Garden State Dispensary. Both entities are authorized by statute to maintain two cultivation facilities provided they don't exceed 150,000 square feet of total canopy. That is something that's written into the law. I'll note that the Cannabis Regulatory Commission's rules gives any applicant opportunity to get 150,000 square feet as well. So, that is certainly not exclusive pursuant to our rules, but the two cultivation sites here is something that's authorized by statute. Both Columbia Care and Garden State Dispensary have submitted applications requesting to
operate in these new facilities. Neither would bring
their total canopy size over 150,000 square feet.
Columbia Care is in Vineland. Proposes to locate in
Vineland. Garden State Dispensary in Lakewood. Both
of these facilities have been reviewed for regulatory
compliance. Inspected. Both have been found compliant
with our regs and are recommended for approval for
permitting under our medical cannabis statutes and
regulations.

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

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

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

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

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.

Thank you, Madam Chair. So, we have another slate today of conditional license applications that are recommended for approval. In total there are 46 conditional license applications. And you could go to the next slide here to show the first group of these. And I'll note when to go to the second. So, these are 46 conditional license applications. This includes 22

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Class 1 cultivator applications, 13 Class 2 manufacturer -- manufacturer applications, and 11 retailer applications. These applications have been reviewed. And I'll go over the review process again for everybody in a moment. But I do want to note that, you know, going back to my comments on how quickly we are reviewing these applications in accordance with priority designation. We've now gotten to our first slate of Class 5 retailers for conditional approval. And it is just over 60 days. It's, I guess, maybe 67 days, 68 days since we began accepting applications for retailers. So in our pre-application webinar I noted that initially it would be over 90 days in many cases for conditional applicants. Here we have a slate of retailers that submitted on March 15th and are up for approval, well under that 90-day mark. We continue to get faster and faster. Certainly, for some applicants it's going to be over 90 days. And for annual applicants it is over 90 days because of that process. But, you know, here we are moving quickly. And we have our first slate of retailers. So huge credit to the staff for getting this done and moving these applications forward. When it comes to the review process, all of these applicants have been reviewed in accordance with our priority designation.
So they're assigned a priority. That priority is verified. So if they're a social equity business, they're verified for qualification as a social equity business. They've been reviewed and deemed complete. They've been scored and deemed to pass on our scoring measures as noted in the Notice of Application Acceptance. Staff has appropriately reviewed any issues with qualification, financial source agreements or limitations. And finally, we've conducted quality control on all of these applications. And you could go to the next slide, please, to show the second half.

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

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

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

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

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cannabis manufacturer, and Class 5 cannabis retailer licenses?

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

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado.

COMMISSIONER BARKER: I second that, Madam Chair.

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

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: The resolution passes. Next on the agenda is the consideration of applications for a testing laboratory site. License. Sorry.
CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.

Director Brown, can you please provide a summary of the license applications for testing laboratories and staff's recommendation on those applications?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Will do.

Thank you, Madam Chair. So, we now have a slate of four testing lab applications that are recommended for approval by the Commission. Just by way of background, you know, equity and safety are core values here at the Commission. And having adequate testing labs operational and licensed in the state are critical for safety, ensuring that product is tested and found to be free of contaminants. And we want consumers to have faith in this market. And certainly having adequate testing lab coverage is critical to that. The Commission adopted interim standards last year in June. So, little less than a year ago. And three of these labs have been operating under those interim standards in medicinal cannabis. And even with the newly extended ATCs from April. And because of our focus on not only equity but also safety, testing laboratories in the Notice of Application Acceptance are Priority 1A. So they're highest overall priority along with social equity micro businesses. And so, these -- we received these four applications. They were reviewed
for priority, signed, verified. Their applications were deemed complete. They scored sufficiently high pursuant to the Notice of Application Acceptance to be recommended for approval. Some of the things that they had to submit include, you know, a business and management plan, regulatory compliance plan important for labs, evidence of ISO 17025 certification. And all these labs submitted that. And they've been reviewed for qualification for financial review. If approved today, there would be some next steps. So one of those would be an inspection of their facilities. And then they would then be issued a license. All these labs have shown that they can comply with our regs. Are ready to comply with our regs. Three of the four are operating currently under our interim standards. And if approved today, these four would then move to start operating under our personal use cannabis rules.

Before we get to the -- before I hand it back to you, Madam Chair, I will -- I just want to say one thing. A next step for us at the Commission is to issue some guidance under those rules related to some of the, I guess, the scientific details for how to run some of the tests and, you know, limits on things. We anticipate doing that quickly. I did want to give a particular shout out, though, to the New Jersey STATE SHORTHAND REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
CannaBusiness Association's testing committee. We have met with them a couple times now; one as a group. And they've been providing excellent, really, you know, in depth scientific feedback to us on both the interim standards, and I think what we could expect to do here in the future on our own guidance.

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: I second that motion.

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

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Nay.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?
COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

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

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely. And just before we get to that, I had staff prepare a slide. If everything was awarded -- which now that it has been I'm happy to share this slide which just presents the numbers of awarded licenses to date by the CRC. So, with the actions today, the New Jersey CRC has issued 92 cultivation conditional awardees, 45 manufacturing conditional awardees, 11 retail conditional awardees, and now four testing laboratories. And we've mapped the proposed locations.
I'll note that these are only proposed. Many of these will change particularly for conditional license applicants or holders as the site control and municipal approval are not required of conditional licensees. But this is a representation of where these applicants have been coming from, where they're getting approved. And every month we're adding to these numbers. So, this work will only continue. Thank you to the Board, all of you, Madam Chairwoman, Vice Chair, Commission members, for continuing to move this forward.

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

Our consideration at the CRC pursuant to our regulations are focused on patients. We look at the number of patients enrolled statewide, patient enrollment at each specific ATC, the inventory both statewide and at the ATC that is certifying for expansion. We look at sales, the current medicinal
cannabis canopy, the canopy needed to serve enrolled patients, and then the ATCs's production capacity.

Next slide, please.

The certifications we have under review today are from Garden State Dispensary New Jersey. And this is a new expansion certification. Ascend New Jersey which was approved at our April meeting. This is for their Montclair location. And then TerrAscend New Jersey which was also approved at the April meeting. Here this is for their Lodi dispensary. Similarly to the last approvals, staff is recommending conditions on these approvals ensuring that patients continue to have access to these facilities. And these include at least 14 patients-only hours per week, exclusive parking options, exclusive point of sale systems at all times, express access to the ATCs so that patients do not have to wait in extraordinary lines. And going back to the reports I was talking about in the ED's report, this is where we're really monitoring that. We have compliance folks on the ground who are checking it, but we also ask for weekly reports from the ATCs on the wait time for patients, how quickly they're getting people in. This is something that is definitely of a concern to us. And that's why getting those reports is critical. And then
ability to reserve products ahead of time. Additionally, a patient access hot line so that if patients are having trouble accessing the dispensary they have a person they can talk to to get that taken care of. Continue to have private counseling areas available for patients. Newly approved expanded ATCs will have to set up virtual meetings or conference calls with registered patients and caregivers so they can provide info on their patient access plan. And then, again, provide the CRC with those weekly reports.

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

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

DIRECTOR BROWN: Yes.

MR. CONWAY: Excellent. Thank you so much for allowing me to share our patient access plan with you today. I'll just jump right in. Starting outside, should there be any queuing on the outside of our business, we'll ensure our team is asking qualifying questions to identify any medical patients as medical patients will have direct access to our front door and vestibule without any wait. Once they're in the vestibule waiting area, they'll be directed to our medical patient podium where they'll be checked in as usual. We'll verify that the person has an active medical card as well as an active allotment. Once verified, they'll be let inside the dispensary and directed to one of three medical patient-only registers. There they'll be checked out as normal. For any patients with mobility concerns, we'll be providing curbside pickup to patients that call ahead and request the service. Medical patients will be able to place orders up to two days in advance to ensure they have access to their medication. We will provide a patient access phone number where patients can have access directly to our team numbers. We're also going
to be providing medical patient-only hours in our
facility where only medical patients will be permitted.
These medical-only hours will be identical to those at
our Rochelle Park facility and available on our
website. We'll host two town halls for our current
patients to let them know the changes that will taking
place and how it will affect them and how they'll
benefit from the patient-only hours and the medical
express lane.

I also want to take a moment to call out
some of our social equity focus. We're prioritizing
social equity in four focus areas. Restorative
justice, diversity in hiring in all levels, community
engagement, and small business support. For
restorative justice we'll be hosting at least two
expungement clinics with Blaze Responsibly, a law forum
by Chirali Patel who's local to Montclair, amongst
other events. For diversity and hiring we're also
connecting with local community activists and
grassroots organizations who are willing to tap into
their networks and point us in the right direction for
groups to connect with for qualified candidates. And
we're developing relationships from One-Stop Career
Center of Essex County, the New Jersey Re-entry Corps
Score and the Essex County Urban League to diversify
hiring. For community engagement we'll be hosting community education workshops, Cannabis 101, medical card information, cannabis laws, and how to start your cannabis business. These will be hosted at local businesses that are easily accessible to the community. And for small business support we'll be supporting the equity applicants through sponsorship opportunities and technical assistance with starting their businesses.

We just sponsored the High Mom event by Roll Up Life, and plan to sponsor the social equity category for Brenda Robinson's 420 New Jersey Events at the NJIC gala. We're creating technical assistance workshops to build the business acumen of social equity applicants. And we'll provide funding and mentorship to those applicants. Thank you so much for your time and appreciate your consideration.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you.

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

MS. EISNER: Thanks, Jeff. Can you hear
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Yes. Go ahead.

MS. EISNER: Hi. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Chantell Eisner. I'm the Senior Vice President of Retail here at TerrAscend. Thanks for inviting me to speak on behalf of the apothecarium's retail operation as we seek approval for our third Lodi location. Following our last meeting, we successfully converted both our Bergen/Maplewood locations to adult use. Our proven model provides prioritized access for patients and ensures their ongoing access to best-in-class products and pricing. Our team continues to support the community through education, volunteer events, sponsorships and charitable donation. We continually seek out community events that align with our pillars, wellness, social equity, community and kindness. And opening our Lodi location we'll have that reach. The apothecarium will continue to offer a wide assortment of products for medical patients and consumers. Of them are Kind Tree, Valhalla brands, plus additional third-party offerings. Our operations team has and will continue to maintain a reliable supply of medical cannabis. Our Lodi location will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., seven days a
week with the first two hours of each day dedicated to patients only. This location will also feature a drive-thru. At the apothecarium our patient promise ensures that patients get patient-only shopping hours, online ordering through our patient app, express pick-up, dedicated registers, loyalty program, promotional pricing, prioritized customer service, and patient-only parking. Additionally, our patient home delivery is coming soon. Thanks again for your time today. We are grateful for the continued partnership with the CRC, industry leaders, and community members and look forward to serving our new patients and customers in Lodi.

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

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Yes.

MS. WINTER: Great. Thank you, Executive Director Brown, Chairwoman Houenou, the Commissioners and staff for the opportunity to present to you all today. And congratulations on a successful expansion rollout. As Jeff said, my name is Julie
Winter, VP of Retail for Ayr Wellness, Garden State Dispensary. It is my pleasure to present our carefully thought out plans to expand to personal use while protecting patient access. The needs of our patients have always been at the forefront of everything we do at Garden State Dispensary. As one of the six original ATCs, we opened our doors to medical patients in November of 2013 in Woodbridge. We opened our second dispensary in 2019 in Union Township. And in 2020 expanded to Eatontown as the first dispensary in Monmouth County. Since inception, we have served 30,000 plus patients on-site and uninterrupted. In preparation for personal use expansion, we have gone through extensive planning to ensure we provide continued quality, excellent care and choice to our medical patients. We've aligned with our teams, our communities and vendor partners and updated our processes to ensure we are prepared for a successful launch. We've dedicated the first and last hour of business operations daily to patients exclusively. Home delivery will be a patient-exclusive offering that we plan to launch next week. We have priority allocated parking spaces for patients where curbside transactions can also be performed. Patients will have their own dedicated check-in line, will be
automatically prioritized in our queuing system, and will be served at dedicated POS registers. There will be an exclusive menu for patients for pre-ordering and scheduling pick-up appointment slots. We have created the dedicated patient access communication hotline during all operating hours, and will continue our pharmacist lead counseling program to all medical patients and registered caregivers with priority appointment ahead of personal use customers. In addition to this, we will continue to provide private on-site counseling areas for patients. All patients will be notified of operational changes to come in multiple online seminars hosted by our on-site pharmacist and director of patient care. As part of our continued commitment to the safety of our staff, patients and communities, we've increased our security and added traffic flow coordinators to ensure everyone remain safe. We've been in communication with our law enforcement to go over safety and security plans in depth. They will continue to aid in supporting our safety initiatives. To ensure we have adequate medical supply and reserves, we have set up automated inventory thresholds and daily reporting. We have secured 3,000 pounds plus of stockpiled supply with ongoing commitments from multiple ATC suppliers for both

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

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

MS. WINTER: Thank you for your time.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you.

And thank you, all, for those presentations. Next
slide, please. So, moving on to the recommendations.

Here, again, there are three ATC expansion
certifications before the Commission. From Garden
State Dispensary New Jersey and the Ayr Wellness,
Ascend Wellness, their Montclair location, and
TerrAscend, their Lodi dispensary for Garden State
Dispensary. It's all three of their dispensary sites.
So that's Woodbridge, Union, and Eatontown as well as
their manufacturing site in South Brunswick and the
Woodbridge cultivation. So, all three of these ATCs
have shown that they've met the standards for approval here. One just minor caveat related to Garden State Dispensary. Given that Lakewood was just approved today, the recommendation from staff is that all of the licenses are approved for Garden State and that cultivation is issued once that first harvest is realized from Lakewood to ensure that there is adequate ongoing supply for patients. But, otherwise, all of these have been reviewed. All of these have been -- have shown both -- well, TerrAscend, Ascend and Garden State have shown that they meet the standards for expansion which include adequate supply, patient access, and municipal compliance and approval. They've submitted social equity and patient access plans. And if approved, we intend to hold them accountable to those commitments. Madam Chair, back to you.

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

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

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

    COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

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


    CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Commissioner Barker.

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

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

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

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

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

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

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

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

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chairwoman,

now that I'm unmuted I move that we adopt the

resolution.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair

Delgado. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by

Commissioner Nash. Is there any discussion on this

motion with respect to Garden State Dispensary?

Hearing no discussion, Ms. Blake, can you please call

the vote.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: The resolution passes. Next

up is the consideration for the expansion certification

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

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

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

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: I second.

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

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

MS. BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

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

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. So, I

STATE SHORTHAND REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
will -- I believe there are -- there's just one other
note on next steps that Executive Director Brown has to
share. Director Brown.

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

STATE SHORTHAND REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
you, Madam Chair.

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

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

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

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

MS. BLAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. As
a reminder, public speakers are limited to three
minutes. I will give you a warning 30 seconds out if I
think you are going to go over. I will call out the
names five at a time. If you hear your name, please
raise your hand and I will unmute you. I will ask you
to unmute when it's your turn. Alana Burman, Jovann F.
Jenkins, Ava Faustein, Lael Marghenry Lafortune, Barry Bosket. Again, Alana Burman, Jovann F. Jenkins, Ava or Ava Faustein, Lael Marghenry Lafortune and Barry Bosket. Any of those individuals are present, please raise your hand. I do not see any of these individuals present. Again, the name on -- that you registered with must match the name here or I will not know who you are. One last call, Alana Burman, Jovann F. Jenkins, Ava or Ava Faustein, Lael Marghenry Lafortune, Barry Bosket. Not seeing any of those individuals present, I will move on to the next five. Ricardo Thomas, Robert Allen, Michael Phillips, Sergio Moncado, Lincoln Gratton. Ricardo Thomas, Robert Allen, Michael Phillips, Sergio Moncado, Lincoln Gratton. Again, please ensure that your name matches the name that's being called out. Robert Allen, go ahead.

MR. ALLEN: Thank you for having me this afternoon. And congratulations to all of you on what I can only categorize as rousing success for the month of adult use cannabis in New Jersey. I am a medical cannabis patient and involved in the industry in an ancillary business. And my concern right now is not so much access to patients. I've been to three dispensaries. Everything has been fine. Patients have been given priority. Access has been good. My concern...
is on the pricing side. Within the first 30 days we're already seeing special pricing disappearing for patients. Patients are paying the exact same prices for products as the adult use market is paying which is very disheartening. Some of the prices have actually increased which is also very troubling. So, some of the dispensaries who spoke today not really being totally truthful in that the pricing for patients is different than the pricing for adult use. That needs to be looked at a bit closer. The special pricing is disappearing. I would love to see the Commission have more of a consumer-facing approach to the public. Education is vital. The public still needs to learn about this very, very new market here in New Jersey. I commend the dispensaries who are stepping forward and creating educational forums. I think that's correct terrific. But I think the state needs to step forward and to start doing some public facing educational events. I would love to be involved in that. We worked very hard here in Livingston to educate the public, to now avail. There was tremendous amount of misinformation that was disseminated to discourage cannabis business here in Livingston. And it's quite disheartening. So, I would hope that we'll see more education coming out of the Commission to the general
public. You know, preaching to the choir doesn't really help. I think everyone who comes to these meetings is really involved in the industry or wants to be, but I think the public needs to know a little bit more. Again, thank you and congratulations on a successful first month. We look forward to more great things here in New Jersey and legal cannabis. Thank you.


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

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

MS. HANSEN: Yes, it is.
CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. The Commission -- as usual, the Commission will be announcing whenever the applications for other classes -- class of licenses will be available. And that will be advertised on the Commission's website and at our public meeting as well.

MS. HANSEN: Thank you.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you for that question.

Next up is Paul Josephson. Paul Josephson, go ahead.

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

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

MR. JOSEPHSON: Thank you. Good afternoon, Madam Chairwoman and Commissioners. I am speaking to you today on behalf of my client, Curio Wellness New Jersey, an unsuccessful applicant for essentially -- central vertically integrated license in the 2019 RFA round. As I believe the Commission and its members are well aware, Curio has a active appeal of the awards to Altice [sic] and to Holistic that is currently pending in the Appellate Division as well as a collateral challenge to the WBE status of those two entities, those two perspective, I guess, awardees pending before the Treasury Department. The reason for my comments today are to register my client's
disagreement, dissatisfaction and objection to the actions taken earlier today with respect to allowing a change in location for both Altice and Holistic. Certainly while those awards are pending challenges and appeals, as the Commission and council are well aware, there are serious objections and concerns that have been raised about those -- about those awards. Previously, this Commission declined to rescind or stay those awards in our application back in December on the grounds that there were a series of accountability provisions that were a condition of the final agency decision awarding licenses to those two entities. For purposes of today, I would like to go on record reciting the Commission's own language in its decision granting these licenses. Condition two being, "If accepted within 20 business days from the date of award, awardees shall confirm in writing that it still has site control and local approval for the endorsement. An awardee without both site control and local approval after 20 business days will have its award rescinded." "Will have its award rescinded." As the Commission is well aware, we have pointed out previously that Altice did not have local approval within the terms of after 20 business days to our knowledge --
MS. BLAKE: Mr. Josephson, you have
30 seconds.

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

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

MS. LARDIERI: Can you hear me?

MS. BLAKE: Can you hear you.

MS. LARDIERI: Yes. Gaetano Lardieri.

Dear Chair Houenou, Executive Director Brown and
Commissioners, I am Gaetano Lardieri from Newark, New Jersey. And I'm speaking today in part for Professor Rob Mejia from Stockton University, Jennifer -- Jennifer Maden from Rowan University, and Edward N. Tobias, Esq, Jessica Gonzales, Esq, cannabis lawyer and advocate, Ken Wolski, Director of Coalition for Medical Marijuana New Jersey, and Leo Bridgewater, cannabis advocate and partner at Heart Community Capital. First and foremost, we collectively applaud the CRC for their efforts and the tone they have set in reference to diversity and inclusion for the cannabis space in New Jersey and for all they have accomplished for the industry in a record timeframe. We're all here to support the CRC in any way we can. I know several of you personally from interactions and conversations I've had over the years at many cannabis events and on other occasions. For everyone else, I'm Gaetano Lardieri from Newark, New Jersey, born, raised and currently reside. I have been in the medical field since 1978. I spent 26 of those 44 years in oncology research at the hospital, medical center and pharmaceutical levels running, conducting, designing global oncology trials. In 2015 I entered the cannabis space advocating for social justice. During this time, I founded three biotech startup companies specializing in
nanotechnology, synthetic biology, cannabinoid 
synthesization, aerospace science, and the latest 
focusing on entheogenic medicines. These public 
comments today are a follow-up to my July 2021 public 
comments made to the CRC in the follow-up meeting I had 
with Chair Houenou and her staff in which I provided 
specific details on how a cannabis research program 
inclusive of diversity could be designed for New 
Jersey. New Jersey is internationally known for 
innovations academically through universities like 
Rutgers, Stockton, Rowan, and so on. In fact, two of 
New Jersey's colleges, Rowan and William Paterson, were 
recently named in the top 25 universities and colleges 
leading cannabis research. New Jersey is known as the 
medicine chest of the world due to the fact that there 
are more pharmaceuticals companies headquartered and 
represented here than anywhere else in the world. In 
fact, we have more scientists and engineers per square 
mile anywhere else in the world. The advancement of 
research by the CRC is both essential and mandated as 
set forth in the CREAMM statute section 18.d which 
states, and I shall -- review and commission research, 
create a task force, and report findings to the 
legislature and governor.

Our call to actions today are for the
Commission to form a diverse and inclusive advisory board on the clinical registrant applications, include New Jersey's subject matter experts in the areas of research, pharmaceuticals, academia, business and advocacy, consider research in entheogenic medicines in the next legislative and regulatory guidelines. And these comments are submitted --

MS. BLAKE: 15 seconds.

MS. LARDIERI: Thank you.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you for your comment.

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

MS. PATEL: Thank you to all of the members of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission and staff for continuing to push the ball forward and allowing me the time to speak. My name is Chirali Patel. And on behalf of Blaze Responsibly, thank you for ensuring patient access remains a priority. While I haven't had any disruptions yet to my medical access, the program and its offerings continue to be slim pickings. To my knowledge, outside of Verano there are no topicals on the market with the THC and CBD ratio for localized pain relief. Topicals are necessary for medical patients that can't consume via inhalation or whose
stomach enzymes don't do well with edibles or tinctures. If we want the medical program to remain viable, product innovation has to be a priority. And it's been several years for many of the operators that have been in existence to be able to deliver such products that are necessary. In addition, some of the flower strains are inconsistently unavailable. There is particular strains based on the terpene profile and overall cannabinoid profile that work for my inflammation, for example, which sometimes they're available for a brief period of time and then they're no longer on the market. I can check back six months later there. There needs to be -- and while these are supposed to be medical products, there should be consistency in their availability. So I respectfully request and hope that the CRC can hold the ATCs accountable to patients by ensuring future product availability and innovation. Additionally, now that adult use is open, the medical limits of 3 ounces per month should be increased as it's not enough medicine for most patients. And absent -- without home grow that our state legislature needs to do, some are still left without adequate supply any given month. So I hope that medical patients continue to be a priority, we continue to see the improvements with products, and
tailored patient counseling makes a comeback.

Education's still needed especially with respect to medical cannabis. So I hope that as a state we can make this a priority.

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


MR. RUSSO: Yes. Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members of the Commission. Again, my name is Tony Russo. I'm the President of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey. We're based up here in Rochelle Park. Office also in Trenton. You'll be hearing from one of our member companies, cannabiscertified.org. We had testified before the
Commission a year ago about the importance and the need to certify the cannabis workforce. And our member is going to explain their gateway and platform that we could use in order to basically certify the workforce. And we're talking about all six pillars, but also the workplace investigator, too, job recognition expert. One of the things that we'll do is work with the community colleges to provide the state with this platform. We think it's important. We'll work with the industry. And All State Cove [phon] is involved in assuring that anybody that works in the cannabis industry is properly tested and certified. So, with that, I'm going to concede my time to our member Dave Bernstein from, again, cannabiscertified.org. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman and members of the Commission.

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

MR. BERNSTEIN: Good afternoon. Can you hear me okay?
MS. BLAKE: We can hear you fine

MR. BERNSTEIN: Great. Thank you so much. And congratulations to you as a Commission for doing what everybody I think agrees is just a monumental effort in getting the industry off the ground. I'm Dave Bernstein with cannabiscertified.org. Anthony Russo just spoke for a few minutes on our behalf. And we want to really emphasize where things are going. As I watch the evolution of this industry before my eyes in how you folks are building this from the ground up, we can't really forget about the critical importance of the workforce development. Cannabis as an industry is what we consider to be a high stakes industry which means mistakes by the workforce can mean injury. It can mean employer fines. It can mean legal action. This is the time, really, as you're still putting together the different classes and the licenses to put together a workforce compliance culture for cannabis to create the safety and the equity that you folks stand for to really give organizations, employers, and those qualified candidates a pathway into the industry. Our database, our platform is really for us as a credentialing organization to work in partnership with the State of New Jersey, the Commission, community colleges to
create exam integrity, to create remote offerings, in-person and remote, and really build a business continuity for the workforce. We want to be able to deliver and have the Commission and all regulators analyze assessments, taking a very data driven approach, understanding the skills of the workforce, understanding and helping employers and HR teams make better decisions on upscaling the workforce. New Jersey is considered one of the most educated workforces in the country. And by creating an ongoing and meaningful skills audit repetitive every few years with the ability to provide digital badging for individuals to showcase their passing of exams, this will enable employers to have a selective pool of candidates that are already qualified. It will enable the Commission to in an organized way continue to update the rules and regulations for the workforce in a compliant manner, and ultimately create that pathway and that credibility as an industry so that all individuals who want to participate in this industry --

MS. BLAKE: 30 seconds.

MR. BERNSTEIN: Those being also from the underserved communities is a primary focus of Cannabis Certified to make sure all those have an
opportunity to enter the workforce and those employers
to only have qualified candidates to work for and hire.
Thank you very much.

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

MS. McELROY: Good afternoon. Thank you
to the CRC for allowing me to speak. And thank you to
my dog who won't stop barking. Sorry. You might hear
him in the background. I wanted to come and say that
you guys have done an amazing job both in being engaged
with people within the industry and also with starting
up our system and our market, but I do worry because
some of the feedback I'm getting from patients is that
they are not getting the level of education or
information that they're seeking. They walk into a
dispensary and don't have the -- someone approach them
with education. And sometimes patients are afraid to
ask for information because they don't know who to ask.
So, I would love for our state to start, you know, kind
of echoing what other people had suggested, doing
campaigns of education on the products. For some
people, these are brand new products that they've never
had access to before. And regardless if you're an
adult use or a patient, it really is a plant-based
medicine. And it would be nice if our state was
forward facing in that education. Research, research, research. Again, echoing what previous people had said, much needed in this field because we are an industry innovative state. And it would be great if we were on the forefront of that research. At this point I'm going to end. And thank you, again, for all your hard work. Thank you.

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

MS. SANTOS: Good afternoon, Commissioners of the CRC. I appreciate you giving me this opportunity to speak. And I just echo what the previous commenters have stated, that it's really critically important to increase education for those who are receiving their licenses. I am in the insurance and risk management industry. And we have an opportunity to see the claims from across the country. So, I don't want to pick on one specific state, but I will. We look at the state of Oklahoma who issued over
15,000 cannabis licenses. And it's referred to as the wild, wild west because that's how it's really operating. And there's a lack of compliance and confusion from state legislation to local legislation of cannabis ordinances. And there is a real need for risk management services and additional insurance services. Right now the CRC is requiring just general liability. And we see this as an opportunity to be a resource to the CRC to lend education, increase awareness of all the insurance and risk management strategies that are available to help train new cannabusinesses to become more resilient and sustainable. That is my comment.

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

MR. CONSTANTINO: Thank you for your time. My name is Anthony Constantino. I'm currently a social equity applicant. I did not submit yet because I'm trying to narrow down locations. My biggest concern is the 2500-square foot space for micro cultivation which is what I intend to go into to. There's plenty of opportunity if you go into a bigger space with a lower ceiling as the regulations state.
that we can have a 24-foot ceiling with a 2500-square foot. With that being said, we can fit the amount plants in there using a racking system, but without that it's virtually impossible to make a profitable existence with just a 2500-square foot without having that 24-foot ceiling. If they were able to limit it to just a thousand plants without the ceiling or the 2,500 square feet, there's plenty of properties that I can get into in the inner city. But without being -- without having that higher ceiling, I would not be able to profitably have a business. And I was just -- you know, my main concern is are we able to adjust that or is it going to be set in stone and that's that and I'm just going to apply for a larger license? And that's all that I really have to say.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you.

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

MS. BLAKE: Elisa Kennedy, go ahead.

MS. KENNEDY: Hi. Good afternoon.

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

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

MS. KENNEDY: For licensing specifically?

MS. BLAKE: Yes.

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

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

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

MS. BLAKE: Yes. We can hear you fine go. Ahead.
MS. BARRY: Okay. My name is Grace Barry. I'm a resident of Belleville. My business Siembra LLC is a certified NWBE. And I was approved for conditional license to operate a micro cultivation business on March 24th. I'm speaking to the Commission today because I wanted to make you aware of some of the difficulties I faced during the conditional conversion process and ask you to consider allowing some flexibility for those of us who are making a good faith effort to secure all of the necessary approvals. When I submitted Siembra's conditional application, I was very close to securing a property. Although the rent for square foot was higher than the local going rate, I was prepared to pay because I wanted to stay on schedule. However, it seems like once the lender realized that the new cannabis businesses were under certain deadlines, he became unwilling to negotiate on certain aspect of the lease. The landlord would not guarantee any aspect of the building's conditions such as any maintenance or repairs. He then decided to require double the normal deposit amount and even wanted to keep the interest that accrue on it. After months of frustrating and back and forth negotiations, I decided it wouldn't be in my best financial interest to enter into such a one-sided agreement. Now, that I
am searching for another location, it has become
painfully evident how few suitable properties there are
across the street for cannabis businesses. I've had
meetings with multiple property brokers. Some require
an upfront fee with no guarantee of success and require
to be an exclusive agreement. In the last few weeks
I've had some luck in my property search, and things
are moving in a good direction again, but I am worried
that I've fallen behind. Factoring in the local
approval process, I worry that Siembra may struggle to
make the conversion deadline. I applaud the work the
Commission has done for us so far. I appreciate that
the Commission automatically granted an initial 45
extension. And I hope you will consider offering an
additional extension for businesses that can provide
documentations to show that they're working diligently
to finalize their size approval. Such document could
include a letter from a local official or a
[indecipherable] from the municipality that the
applicant is making a good faith effort to satisfy --

MS. BLAKE: 15 seconds.

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

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well. Thank you so much.

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

MR. COOPER: Can you hear me?

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

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

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

MR. AUSTIN: Yes. Can you hear me?

MS. BLAKE: We can hear you. Go ahead.
MR. AUSTIN: Thank you. I'm Hasaan Austin. I am managing partner of MTN Biz Development. We're a business development agency and we focus on social equity business solutions on a local level. We aid the public and private sector in achieving social equity business goals in cannabis in New Jersey and New York. We work very closely with cannabis law practitioners, accountants, realtors, developers, investors, and related stakeholders to help execute those business development initiatives on a local level. So we have a very unique vantage point. And we're always inclined to share our perspective because we think it will help grow the cannabis marketplace especially on the local level. So, word of advice: When seeking municipal approval, be very specific and explicit of about how you will demonstrate your moral commitment to social equity within that New Jersey municipality. New Jersey towns don't have a necessary legal mandate, but there is a moral mandate. Your commitment should -- it should demonstrate your allocation of time, resources, and perhaps capital towards a deliberate effort in that New Jersey municipality. Consider establishing or contributing to a local business incubator program to support cannabis nexus items like medical cannabis education,
expungement clinics, training, workforce development, also cannabis grant and loan programs for residents. These items will garner attention on the local level. Every town is different. So understanding that town's need is paramount in procuring that municipal approval. Social equity is a very complex and very undefined concept as it relates to cannabis. So you do have the opportunity to help define it on the local level. Lastly, New Jersey municipalities are looking to adopt social equity mandates that are measurable and quantifiable to help them guard against certain liabilities. These incubator programs can help provide that. So be mindful when engaging New Jersey municipalities. And let me just finish with this: For those ATCs there has not been a lot of conversation about those stigmas, learning curves, that education that many people have spoken about on this call. It's a very critical area. Patient access should include education. And making a moral commitment to educating medical cannabis patients is critical in this marketplace. There are physicians already on the frontline providing this education like Dr. --

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

MR. AUSTIN: Thank you.
MS. BLAKE: I see Barry Doll by phone.

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

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

MS. BLAKE: Thank you for your question.


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

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

DR. HAMILTON: I'm Dr. Monique Hamilton. And I'm Board certified in internal medicine. I am the co-founder and lead physician for Dr. Monihami Medical
Center in South Orange, New Jersey. As mentioned in an earlier comment, the expansion of the cannabis marketplace in New Jersey requires investment and cannabis education in New Jersey communities. There is still a significant stigma associated with cannabis which impacts the acceptance of cannabis in these communities. Potential patients need to understand the benefits of cannabis as a treatment for their conditions. The establishment of a state funded cannabis education initiative which includes cannabis education workshops for senior citizens, veteran groups and municipalities is the most critical component in breaking down that stigma to help save people's lives. These workshops will inform the community about the many medicinal benefits of cannabis, the forms available for consumption, and the potential effects it has on the body. The CRC has done a wonderful job in crafting policy that best serves the patient population in New Jersey. And I would like to thank you for your tireless efforts. Keep up the great work with the many challenges you may face.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you. Jessie Marie Villars, go ahead. Jessie Marie Villars, you are apparently on an older version of Zoom, so it's not allowing me to give you speaking permission. Please
submit your comment in writing. The form to do that is
on our meeting page on our website. Sorry about that.

MR. ECHEVARRIA: Hello. Can you hear me?

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

MR. ECHEVARRIA: Good afternoon. Thanks for allowing me to speak. I just wanted to talk a little bit about the workplace impairment recognition expert. I kind of wanted to say -- first of all, my name is Eric Echevarria. I am a licensed clinical social worker as well as a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor. I've been in the field of addictions for over 15 years. And I just wanted to say that it is difficult if not impossible for a person to determine if someone's kind of high using marijuana on the spot. It's very unreliable. As we all know, that marijuana can stay in your system for up to 30 days through bodily fluid and even up to 90 days through hair follicles. So just because THC is in your system, doesn't necessarily mean that the employee is impaired. And THC can reveal itself long after the effect of the drug has worn off. That's determined by body weight, metabolism, and other ways. So unlike, you know, like, say, alcohol model where if I drink four beers, there's
a tool in place where I could blow into a breathalyzer
and it will determine on the spot if I've been drinking
within the last few hours. There's no such tool that
is used for marijuana. It hasn't been invented. And I
think a person that goes to a training for however long
the training is it's just impossible for that person to
determine if someone is under the influence currently.
There are symptoms. You could say someone's eyes may
be red. But let's say that person could have
allergies, or who knows what's going on with that
person? So I just think that by forcing someone to
have this workplace impairment recognition expert you
open yourself up to liability, litigation and other
things that could ultimately be harmful to the
business. Thank you for hearing me out. I just wanted
to express my concerns about this workplace impairment
person. Thank you very much.

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

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

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

VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Go ahead, Charles.
COMMISSIONER BARKER: I defer to you. I defer to you, Vice Chair.
VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Because I have no hair, Charles. Thank you.
COMMISSIONER BARKER: You have wisdom. You have wisdom.
VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chairwoman, I move that we adjourn today's meeting.
COMMISSIONER BARKER: I second that, Madam Chairwoman.

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

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

(The matter is adjourned)
CERTIFICATE

CARMEN WOLFE, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as taken stenographically by me on the date and place hereinbefore set forth.

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Dated: June 17, 2022
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