



State of New Jersey
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 216
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PHILLIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

DIANNA HOUENOU, *Chair*
SAMUEL DELGADO, *Vice Chair*
KRISTA NASH, *Commissioner*
MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, *Commissioner*
CHARLES BARKER, *Commissioner*
JEFF BROWN, *Executive Director*

MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING NO. 21-12-7
DECEMBER 7, 2021 – 6:00PM ET
Publicly Accessible Online via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

The December 7th, 2021, public meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission was called to order by Chairwoman Houenou at 6:05pm at 225 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608 via Zoom Webinar.

Executive Assistant Erin Hogan read the following statement:

“Madam Chairwoman, this is a 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. The Meeting was noticed in the Asbury Park Press, Atlantic City Express, Bergen Record, Courier Post, and the Trenton Times in April 2021. Information regarding the virtual nature of the meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic was posted in publications and on the CRC 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 the Secretary of the State.”

2. ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Hogan took the roll, and the following Commissioners were present:

Mr. Charles Barker, Mrs. Maria Del Cid-Kosso, Mr. Samuel Delgado, Mrs. Krista Nash, and Ms. Dianna Houenou.

No one was absent. *The following members were present virtually:* Jeff Brown, Erin Hogan, Toni-Anne Blake, Wesley McWhite, Kelly Anderson-Thomas, Justin Rodriguez, Chris Riggs, and Daniel Said.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairwoman Houenou called for a motion to go into Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes. Commissioner Barker made the motion, and Commissioner Nash seconded. Hearing no discussion, Ms. Hogan took the vote.

AYES: Chairwoman Houenou, Vice Chair Delgado, Commissioner Nash, Commissioner Barker, Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso

NAYS: None

The motion was passed.

Executive session started at 6:08pm and ended at 6:38pm.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The open, public portion of the meeting began at 6:46pm.

Chairwoman Houenou recapped the Commission's major milestones over the past year and what to expect from the CRC in 2022. Some achievements include establishing the recreational cannabis industry, expanding the medicinal cannabis industry, engaging with the public and stakeholders, and producing the initial recreational regulations. The CRC has taken the first big step in adopting interim testing laboratory standards, issued 2019 Request for Application (RFA) medicinal cultivation and vertically integrated awards, recorded two webinars, and released recreational license application requirements. The recreational license applications for class 1, 2 and testing laboratories opens on December 15th, 2021, and we can expect the 2018 RFA process conclude in 2022. The opening of recreational license applications for class 5 retailers will begin on March 15, 2022, and the formal rule proposal for recreational regulations, formal rule proposal updating the medical regulations, and issuance of recreational licenses and expanding ATCs is expected in 2022.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Brown thanked the Commission for a tremendous year and a particular thanks to the staff that came from the Department of Health and have been with the medicinal program since medicinal cannabis regulations were passed. Executive Director updated the public on the 2019 RFA cultivation and vertically integrated awards. There were ten cultivation awards and four vertically integrated awards given on October 15th. On November 12th, the awardees were required to submit proof of site control, local approval, and certifications. On November 18th, the CRC provided debrief responses to the applicants who submitted questions. All contingent awardees have verified site control by the required deadline. All of awardees who received points for Minority, Women and/or Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Certification met the requirement. Until permits are issued, the awards remain conditional.

FAQs and an application tutorial video that walks the public through the Personal-Use (also herein additionally referenced as "Recreational") applications in advance of December 15th, will be coming to the website soon.

Executive Director provided an update on the 2018 Request for Applications remand. The Appellate Court issued its decision on November 25th, 2020. After this decision, in April 2021 the CRC was provided with the sole authority to take over the 2018 remand process¹. This remand process was initially being handled by the Department of Health. On July 8th, final grievance submissions were received in the 2018 remand process and the CRC began its review process.

6. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

On December 23, 2019, The Superior Court Appellate Division issued a stay of the Department's proceedings based on the appeals and on January 14, 2020 the Appellate Division issued a clarification that the stay included all proceedings, even scoring of applications. As a result, the review of submitted applications came to a complete stop as of January 15, 2020.

On February 18, 2021, more than one year after the stay was imposed, the court affirmed the Department's decisions in all but one case and dissolved the stay on the RFA. As a result, the Department was allowed to resume evaluation and scoring.

April 12, 2021, the Cannabis Regulatory Commission was formed and assumed authority over the Department of Health's responsibilities concerning medicinal cannabis. Director Brown emphasized that the Commission was presently considering awards under a medicinal RFA and the applications are to serve patients. As such, the awardees have to prove themselves in serving patients before converting to recreational cannabis activities.

Director Brown explained that, if staff recommendations were approved, the Commission would offer a formal debriefing period after issuance of these awards, which will commence on Thursday, December 9th, 2021, and end on Wednesday, December 15th, 2021, at 5:00pm.

Based on patient need, the CRC proposed to double dispensary awards from 15 to 30 and evenly distribute the additional awards between regions so that there are ten dispensary awards per region (North, Central, South). A selection committee was convened to review criteria and score each applicant.

In the award recommendation memo, staff recommends making selections from the list of scored applicants in the following order: Central region first, then Northern region, and lastly Southern region. The order was determined by taking the ratio of patient enrollment in each region to the total population in the state, total population in that region to total population in the state, and number of dispensaries in that region to total dispensaries in the state.

Under this selection methodology, the recommended selections for dispensaries in the Central region:

No.	Control #	Applicant Name
1	19-0016	Middle Valley Partners LLC
2	19-0076	Monmouth Wellness and Healing LLC
3	19-0003	McGraw Holdings new Jersey, Inc.
4	19-0083	Monteverde NJ LLC
5	19-0005	Silver Leaf Wellness LLC
6	19-0042	Garden State Botanicals
7	19-0012	GLCPC LLC
8	19-0101	Sanctuary Medicinals
9	19-0032	Theory Wellness of NJ LLC
10	19-0084	Woah Flow

The recommended selections for dispensaries in the Northern region:

No.	Control #	Applicant Name
1	19-0009	Community Wellness Center of NJ
2	19-0064	GR Vending NJ LLC
3	19-0037	Yuma Way NJ LLC
4	19-0067	Terrapin
5	19-0112	Oceanfront Holdings LLC
6	19-0086	11 th Colony Cannabis
7	19-0035	New Jersey PharmaCanna LLC
8	19-0069	1 st Choice Health and Wellness
9	19-0017	Nature's Touch Med NJ LLC
10	19-0055	NJ Patients Care LLC

The recommended selections for dispensaries in the Southern region:

No.	Control #	Applicant Name
1	19-0013	The Law Offices of Juliana Diaz LLC
2	19-0073	Eastern Green Inc dba Starbuds
3	19-0111	Design 710
4	19-0061	NJ Kindness
5	19-0011	Restore NJ LLC
6	19-0092	Organic Remedies NJ LLC
7	19-0048	Honeygrove Corp
8	19-0051	Circe Therapeutics LLC
9	19-0104	Life Compassion Center Dispensary LLC
10	19-0102	Holistic Solutions LLC

Chairwoman Houenou asked for a motion to adopt the resolution concerning the approval of applications for dispensary permit endorsements pursuant to the 2019 Request for Applications process as recommended by CRC staff. Commissioner Nash moved and Vice Chair Delgado seconded. Hearing no discussion, Ms. Hogan called the vote.

AYES: Chairwoman Houenou, Vice Chair Delgado, Commissioner Nash, Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Barker

The resolution passed.

9. CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022

Chairwoman Houenou displayed the proposed public meeting schedule for 2022 and indicated that all meetings will start at 1:00pm unless otherwise determined by the Chair, based on need:

Friday, January 7

Thursday, January 27

Thursday, February 24

Thursday, March 24

Tuesday, May 24

Thursday, June 23

Thursday, July 28

Thursday, September 22

Thursday, October 20

Thursday, December 8

Chairwoman Houenou asked for a motion to adopt the resolution concerning the annual meeting schedule for 2022. Commissioner Barker moved and Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso seconded. Hearing no discussion, Ms. Hogan called the vote.

AYES: Chairwoman Houenou, Vice Chair Delgado, Commissioner Nash,
Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso

NAYS: Commissioner Barker

The resolution passed.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairwoman Houenou reminded the public that they can submit their comments to the CRC before, during, and after the public meeting in writing via the CRC website at nj.gov/cannabis/meetings by end of the day tomorrow, December 10, 2021. Chair reminded the public that all submitted questions and comments are shared with the Commission members and are made public along with the minutes.

Director of Communications, Toni-Anne Blake, called on members of the general public. All speakers were given three (3) minutes to speak.

Brendon Robinson: He is the Vice President of 420 NJ Events. They have expunged 78 records, gave away laptops and are hunting for sponsorships to keep their lights on. CRC needs to make social equity more than just applications, but also make it so that black and brown folks stay in the cannabis space.

Alan Trzuskoski: He is the founder of Cannabis Incubator. Working with smaller entrepreneurial startups in the Garden State to get their start. Prospective applicant of a co-location with another cannabis business at the same address and encourages the CRC to consider their application.

Hasaan Austin: He states that there can be a rapid increase of patients into the medicinal program, but we need to give them proper care.

Dr. Monique Hamilton: She is an advocate for the CRC to allow edible forms for patients.

Gemelly Caraballo: She is a Paterson resident and wants a rule to allow cannabis smoking at locations where you can smoke cigarettes.

Scheril Murray Powell, Esq.: She thanked the CRC for its efforts to date and for taking patients into consideration. She is looking forward to the next phase of licensing issuance.

David Feder: He is with WeedLaw.com and has a few comments for the CRC. There appears to be two grading systems in the recreational market. Is there a separate scoring after the pass/fail?

If entities may not apply using a dba, what if they want to change their branding, residency questions, labor agreements? Is it just attestation? Municipalities are charging money and are arduous. Encourages CRC to allow edibles to be sold in the market or risk the black market to continue to proliferate.

Zach Katzen: Advocating for Atlantic City to be a hub for cannabis. He wants to meet with the Commission. Why do we go through this process of applying when there are illicit businesses operating stores?

Precious Osagie-Erese: Co-founder of RollUp Life Inc which fulfills CBD orders. There is a 90-min wait time for ATCs so she wants to free up distribution to include home delivery. There should be exclusivity contracts with a minimum of \$10,000 in delivery vehicles to reduce costs.

Hugh Giordano: He is with the United Food & Commercial Workers (“UFCW”) and is upset with the investigation and compliance team interfering with members of labor unions. He believes that patients want to be able to tip workers and wants tips to be allowed.

Sam Farraino: He is with the UFCW Local 360 and wants to speak with the CRC about the decision to remove tip jars. Tip jars should be included in the decision-making process.

Kara DeRosa: She is an ATC employee and MMP patient at ZenLeaf, which had to remove tip jars and wants tips to be allowed.

Paul Giblin: He is a Waves of Green cultivator and is looking for guidance on physical plant and spaces regarding the 2,500 square foot rule for a microbusiness.

Jim Rice: He is from the beverage and alcohol space and an owner of a cannabis transport bus in Ohio. He wants three licenses for delivery throughout the state. Commission should include edibles in NJ.

Kristen Haas: She is a founder of a CBD business in NJ and is looking at retail spaces and food selling establishments. She is wondering how close they can be to her future retail recreational business store.

Perri Byrd: She is a MMP patient and budtender that wants tips to be allowed.

Isabelle Franciosi: She is speaking on behalf of the Neptune ATC location and wants tips to be allowed.

Mallory Hagen: She is a MMP patient and budtender that wants tips to be allowed.

Chirali Patel: She is from Blaze Responsibly. She commented on predatory practices taking place and submitted it in written form as well. Consider delaying acceptance of applications until true social equity can take place. She believes the term the Commission should instill is “adult use” instead of “recreational.”

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Houenou noted that many of the answers to the questions that were raised during the public comment period can be found in our FAQs, on the CRC website, and within videos posted on the website. More FAQs to come to the CRC website soon. Commissioner Barker encouraged

the public to fill out a meeting request form on the CRC website and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Chairwoman Houenou called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso made the motion to adjourn and seconded by Commissioner Barker. Chairwoman Houenou called the vote.

AYES: Chairwoman Houenou, Commissioner Delgado, Commissioner Nash,
Commissioner Barker, Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso

NAYS: None

The public meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

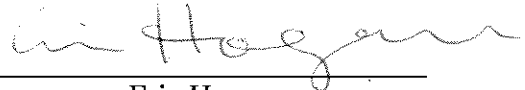
CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent a true and complete summary of the public meeting held by the Cannabis Regulatory Commission on Tuesday, December 7, 2021.



Christopher Riggs
Chief Counsel

Date: 1/19/2022



Erin Hogan
Executive Assistant

Date: 1/19/2022