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**Medical Cannabis Advisory Board
Illinois Department of Public Health
March 31, 2015**

MCAB Members Present: Eric Christoff; John Knaus; Leslie Mendoza Temple; Theresa Miller; Jyotin Parikh; Nestor Ramirez; Jim Champion; Marissa Arevalo; Paul Bachman; Michael Fine; Allison Weathers; Jacqueline Leskovec; David McCurdy

IDPH Staff Present: Conny Moody; Tina Sekimi; Andrew Schwartz; Mallory Sinner; Robert Morgan

Guests: Brad Zerman; Feliza Castro; Ross Morreale; Sandy Champion; Melody Center; Nonna Knap; Matt Levine; John Fogarty; Tanya Griffin; Bob Kingsley

Call to Order

Conny Moody called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM.

Welcome and Introductions

Conny Moody welcomed the members of the Medical Cannabis Advisory Board (MCAB) and asked the members, IDPH staff and public guests to introduce themselves. This first meeting of the Board will be primarily an administrative meeting. Petitions for addition debilitating conditions will not be discussed.

Update – Illinois Department of Public Health

Robert Morgan, Statewide Medical Cannabis Program Coordinator provided an overview of the current status of the medical cannabis program. He reported there are three (3) core agencies implementing components of the medical cannabis program – Agriculture, Financial and Professional Regulation, and Public Health. The Illinois Department of Public Health has approved approximately 2,000 patient registry applications as of the end of March. The program is fully staffed. Recently, the Department created the “Top 10 list for successfully applying for the medical cannabis registry program.” The information is presented in an easy-to-read format and has proven very useful for program applicants. The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (DFPR) has issued 54 of the 60 licenses for medical cannabis dispensaries. The Department of Agriculture (DoAg) has issued 15 of 21 licenses for cultivation centers. Work has begun on zoning, construction, staffing, etc.

Discussion and Adoption of By-Laws

Motion to adopt the draft by-laws: Paul Bachman

PROTECTING HEALTH, IMPROVING LIVES

Second: Theresa Miller

The MCAB engaged in discussion on the draft by-laws. Discussion addressed the following issues.

- The majority of quorum – the numbers in the bylaws should be changed and it should be noted that it is the majority of the number of current board members
- Section 1-2: “4 years and until successor is appointed”, should be changed to “or” to align with the rules
- Section 1-9: Excused or unexcused absences county. Gives the board the ability to remove a member.
 - Video conferencing is not allowed during petition hearings. Board may have to go into closed session because of personal information
- Section 1-13: Chair will be the funnel, the individual who interacts with the Department, although no Board members are discouraged from contact with the department
- Section 1-10: Board members should not be discussing information in petitions. Move the last sentence from 1-10 and add it as new section 2-7
- Section 1-5: Remove the word “alternates” in regards to absent Board members
- Section 3-2: Chairperson may resign from being the Chairperson but still may sit on the board. Need to change wording
- Section 3-1: There will be no limit on terms for Chair and Vice-Chair. Add wording for this
- Section 3-3 vs. 10-3: Limits on chairperson voting. Eliminate wording “except the Chairperson” on section 10-3. Chairperson vote breaks the tie, if chairperson abstains, the Vice-chair may break the tie
- Section 5-1: Quorum based on current number of board members, since there are not 16 currently remove the number 9
- Add provision for teleconferencing
- Section 6-1: Also add quorum and take out the number 9
- Section 7 – Reimbursement only for the language
- Section 7-3 and 7-4: Section 7-4 seems to be redundant so remove this
- Section 9 is formatted differently – reformat to match the rest of the document
- Section 9-1: Board members should be able to recuse themselves
- Move section 10.2 to under 10.5

Motion to adopt by-laws with amendments: Michael Fine

Second: Allison Weathers

Nomination of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

The MCAB elected a chairperson and vice-chairperson. Chairperson – Leslie Mendoza Temple. Co-chairperson – Michael Fine

Discussion of MCAB Future Meetings

In the interest of time, Conny Moody tabled the discussion of future MCAB meetings.

Other Discussion

IDPH staff indicated the MCAB members are required to complete Open Meetings Act training. The link to the training is on the Office of the Illinois Attorney General website. It will be sent electronically to all board members for review and completion.

MCAB members are required to complete annual ethics training. IDPH staff will distribute the training materials when they are available later this summer.

MCAB members were asked to refer media to the Department public information officer, Melaney Arnold. Members may indicate they are appointed to the Medical Cannabis Advisory Committee.

Technical Assistance on Travel Reimbursement

IDPH staff discussed MCAB reimbursement for travel to advisory board meetings. Travel must be for reasonable expenses. Program staff will distribute an electronic copy of the non-state employee travel reimbursement form. Please retain a receipt for all meals while on travel status. Travel reimbursement will be in accordance to the state Travel Control Board guidelines.

Public Comment

The MCAB invited the public to provide comments.

Bob Kingsley asked how does one become a board member? Response: Individuals can apply at www.appointments.illinois.gov. There are specific categories for board membership.

Sandy Champion requested petition to present technical information at the Petition Hearing be posted on state MCPP website.

Brad Zerman spoke regarding issuing of cards in specific counties and districts. He asked when will patients be notified of when they get to choose a dispensary. Response: Approved patients will be asked to select a dispensary closer to the time when dispensaries are ready to open for business. Patients must select one dispensary, but may change their selection by contacting the Department.

Feliza Castro asked why patients are asked to submit the fingerprint consent form twice while completing the on-line medical cannabis patient registry application. Response: There are two places where information is requested related to fingerprint requirements. One section asks for s asking for the fingerprint consent form, the other is asking for the receipt provided by the fingerprint vendor. Ms. Castro also asked whether decisions on adding new debilitating conditions would be made at the May 4th meeting. Response: The MCAB will make decisions regarding which, if any, new debilitating conditions should be recommended to the Director of Public Health. The Department's administrative rules require the Director to render a final decision on any new debilitating conditions to add to the program. Once he has made a decision, he will direct the program to begin the administrative rulemaking process.

Adjournment

*Motion to Adjourn – Leslie Mendoza Temple
Second – Paul Bachmann*