



Board of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine's Joint Committee on Medical Marijuana

August 27, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

Roll Call 12:04 p.m.

Members Present:

Sandra Schwemmer, DO, Chair
Michelle Mendez, DO
Joel Rose, DO
Jorge Lopez, MD (arrived at 12:30 p.m.)
Luz Pages, MD
Andre Perez, Consumer Member

Members Absent:

Shailesh Gupta, MD

Staff Present:

Claudia Kemp, JD, Executive Director (MD)
Kama Monroe, Executive Director, (DO)
Edward Tellechea, Board Counsel
Donna McNulty, Board Counsel
Crystal Sanford, Program Operations Administrator
Dr. Michelle Chandrasekhar, Senior Management Analyst
Savada Knight, Administrative Assistant II
Michael Dean, Data Analyst
Whitney Carlquist, Data Analyst

Others Present:

For the Record
1500 Mahan Drive
Suite 140
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Introductory Remarks:

Minutes prepared by Crystal Sanford
Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine's Joint Committee on Medical Marijuana
Page 1

Ms. Kemp provided opening remarks and outlined the Joint Committee's activities timeline.

Ms. Monroe said that Dr. Schwemmer was Chair of the Committee in 2019 and was willing to open the meeting. She said Dr. Schwemmer would be willing to continue as Chair for 2020.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to appoint Dr. Schwemmer to serve as Chair.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Perez to serve as Vice Chair.

Action taken: Dr. Schwemmer, Chair and Mr. Perez, Vice Chair

Discussion: Data available for developing standards of practice for smoking medical marijuana as a route of administration.

Dr. Schwemmer read s. 381.986(4)(c)(d) and (3), Florida Statutes, which provides that:

- qualified physicians must provide documentation when they determine that smoking is an appropriate route of administration;
- issuing a certification for smoking as a route of administration to a patient under the age of 18 is prohibited except if that patient has a terminal illness, and;
- the Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine shall develop practice standards for certification of smoking as a route of administration.

Ms. Kemp introduced the statutorily required form which requires a qualified physician to submit documentation that supports the determination that the smoking of medical marijuana is an appropriate route of administration. She said the data team received 225,000 forms since April 2019. She explained they are working with the Office of Medical Marijuana Use to incorporate this into the Registry, so the data team does not have to review paper forms. She said they are accepting links in lieu of actual copies of the supporting documentation because the majority of physicians seem to be using the same source of information.

Dr. Pages asked for clarification about the use of smoking medical marijuana for pediatric patients.

Ms. Kemp read from the statutes and said "qualified physicians may not issue a physician certification for medical marijuana in a form of smoking to patients under 18 years of age unless the patient is diagnosed with a terminal condition, the qualified physician determines that smoking is the most effective route of administration for the patient, and a second physician who is a board-certified pediatrician concurs with such determination."

Dr. Schwemmer pointed out there was no requirement for supporting documentation.

Dr. Mendez pointed to the second page of the form where it reads "Provide research documenting the effectiveness of smoking as a route of administration to treat similarly situated patients with the same qualifying condition as the qualified patient". She said, "similarly situated" should be "similar conditions".

Ms. Kemp said the form typically mirrors the statute, but she would check on that. She pointed out that only one certification per patient is required.

Dr. Schwemmer pointed to the document that provided additional information on medical marijuana from the Registry that is available to the Committee.

Ms. Kemp said one the data is available the Committee can see if they want additional information.

Dr. Rose asked if other states were setting standards like Florida and he asked if there was any scientific data available regarding the physiology and pharmacology of smoking versus other methods.

Ms. Kemp said she did some research and she had not found another state with the same requirements.

Dr. Rose said the University of South Florida is collecting data and conducting research and asked if there was any literature available yet.

Ms. Kemp said she would find out what is available.

Timeline for meetings:

The Committee discussed their next meetings.

Mr. Tellechea reminded the Committee the standards had to be set by July 1, 2021. He said enough time needs to be set aside to account for rule workshops and rule hearings.

Ms. Kemp suggested allowing her to meet with Donna and Ed and plan out some meeting dates. The Committee agreed.

Dr. Rose asked if the material will include bibliographies and recommendations for the Committee to review.

Ms. Kemp said the majority of the physicians were using the same sources and she would give them a review.

Dr. Rose wanted to know if once the standards are set and the condition is not in the rule or on the form, will physicians still be able to use the form and provide supporting documentation.

Ms. Monroe said that depended on how the rule was written.

Dr. Rose suggested thinking about that because there may be other reasons not listed in the rule.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 12:46.