



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

# Meeting Minutes

## Medical Marijuana Scientific Advisory Council

Date: August 29, 2014

Time: 8:00 - 11:30 am

Place: CDPHE, Sabin-Cleere room

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Chair: Dr. Larry Wolk, Executive Director &  
Chief Medical Officer, CDPHE

Note Taker Elyse Contreras

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Topics:

Presenter

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8:00 am Welcome/Introductions

- Council members introduced themselves and stated their fields of expertise.

Larry Wolk  
All

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Background & Overview (see presentation SAC 8.29.14)

- SB14-155
  - Described (slides 2-7)
- SAC
  - Duties described (slide 9)
  - Discussed proposed "ad hoc" duty of SAC to also serve as a medical advisory panel to review petitions to add new debilitating conditions to the Medical Marijuana Registry. Will be proposed to State Board of Health on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Prioritization of medical conditions discussed. Council agreed to be consistent with what current scientific evidence states and will base decisions on that evidence.
- Timeline (slides 12-13)
  - Meetings after November are tentative.
  - Council's functions after December discussed. Council will meet as petitions are received.
  - Discussed idea of recruiting outside expertise as-needed to evaluate petitions.
  - Levels of petition review discussed. Ultimate decisions

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- o on petitions will be made by Board of Health.
  - o Council member's individual decisions regarding participation in "ad hoc" duties will be deferred until approval from Board of Health and a strategic plan is defined.
  - o Suggestion made that the Council's duty should be to refer petitions to a separate ad hoc committee to review the petitions.

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### Committee Operations

- Bylaws
  - o Reviewed (slides 15-18)
  - o Articles III and IV may be amended in September, pending Board of Health decision.
- Conflict of Interest
  - o Reviewed (slides 20-23)
  - o Conflict of Interest disclosure form distributed for council review (see document entitled MM-SAC COI Disclosure).
  - o Member's disclosure of conflict will be discussed as it relates to reviewing applications.
- Questions and discussion of Bylaws;
  - o Discussed reviewer conflict when the reviewer is also the subject matter expert.
  - o Article VII, section 7, moving to closed session, discussed.
  - o Limitations of conducting Council business outside of council meetings discussed.
  - o Request made to strike section 4 (council moving to executive session). Request voided per state law, council will need to refer to legal council should questions like this arise again.
  - o Absences discussed. Members expected to notify Elyse Contreras in advance of an absense. All members should to be present at Nov. 21st application review meeting.
- Adoption of Bylaws
  - o MOTION made to approve Bylaws. Motion seconded, approved unanimously.

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## Break

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### Proposed (Selected) Content for RFA

- Presentation (Slides 27-33).
- Council's consensus sought regarding six topics listed on slide 27.
- Poll Administered: RFA Content Deemed Most Important.
- Discussion
  - Required Testing (slides 38-39);
  - Lab standards discussed.
  - Option of accepting marijuana from NIDA discussed.
  - Concerns discussed regarding researchers having access to state or certified labs.
  - Standing laws and statutes cannot be by-passed to make an applicant eligible.
  - Slide 38, suggestion to change "required" to "strongly recommended" to not disqualify applicants for uncontrollable obstacles.
  - Outcomes should include an analysis of the marijuana product being used.
  
- Discussion Continued: Types of Studies to be Funded (slides 30-33);
  - Inclusion of pre-clinical and in-vitro studies discussed.
  - Awarding preference points in the scoring for preferred study types discussed.
  - Hierarchy of study design pyramid examined and discussed (slide 33).
  - Poll administered: Include or exclude in-vitro and animal studies.
- MOTION made: Have strong language in RFA that prioritizes clinical studies but will not exclude other studies types as long as they meet the legislative intent. Will exclude basic science for basic science purposes. Motion seconded, motion approved unanimously.
- Disease and Condition Discussed (slides 35-36);

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- Medical Marijuana Registry's eligible conditions list reviewed.
  - Suggestion to add general pain-related conditions.
  - Council decided to eliminate the three specified conditions listed on slide 36 and replace with a general statement that includes a benefit to the patients of CO.
  - Grant Review and Scoring Discussed (slides 43-45)
    - NIH procedure discussed.
    - Criteria and scoring process discussed.
    - Concerns regarding triaging of applications discussed.
    - Time constraints discussed; Institution review/approval, IRB review/approval process, and the RFA time line.
    - CDPHE internal process for contracts and grant distribution explained.
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Public Comments

- Remy Kachadourian, Steep Hill Labs.
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Action Items:

- Complete conflict of interest form and submit to Elyse Contreras prior to next meeting in September.
  - Are special permissions required for research applicants to access state or certified labs?
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11:30 am Adjourn

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