

Meeting Minutes
Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commission

Thursday, April 6, 2023; 4:30 p.m.
1515 W. 7th Street, 5th Floor Conference Room
Streamed Via www.myarkansaspbs.org/arcan

James Miller, Chairman
J.P. Mobley
Tyler Ketner

Kevin Case
Reggie Thomas

The Medical Marijuana Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman James Miller. Chairman Miller and Case appeared in person with Commissioners Ketner and Thomas appearing via the Go-To link. The first item of business was approval of the minutes. After reviewing the minutes Commissioner Case made a motion to approve which was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried 4-0.

The next agenda items were notice items for License 309, Acanza – change of floor plan and change of name.

The Commission next considered the change of ownership application for License 120, Carpenter Farms. The proposed change would bring one new owner. By motion made by Commissioner Case and seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the change was approved.

The commission next considered a change of ownership application by license 88, Natural State Medicinals. The ownership change was necessitated by an arbitration order between the ownership group at NSM. Colonel Doug House, with the Arkansas Attorney General’s office, advised the Commission that such arbitration orders are common and typically the details of the arbitration are confidential. He affirmed the arbitration order was valid and could be enforced by Arkansas courts if need be. Perry Wilson spoke on behalf of NSM in support of the change of ownership. Bart Calhoun represented one of the owners against the ownership transfer. Mr. Calhoun urged the arbitration order was not yet final, and could be amended. Mr. House stated the interim arbitration order finalized the ownership transfer, and the only outstanding issue was the amount of attorney fees to be awarded – if any. Commissioner Miller made a motion to

approve the change of ownership which was seconded by Commissioner Case. The change was approved 4-0.

The next agenda item was the change of location by NEA Full Spectrum. They sought approval to relocate to Jonesboro, Arkansas. A survey was provided that showed they were more than 1500' from a school, church, or daycare. Director Lewis noted that the permit previously requested approval to relocate to Paragould, Arkansas. The license, however, did not move forward with that move and their facility remained in Brookland, Arkansas. Colonel House recommended the commission rescind approval to move to Paragould as they no longer wanted to relocate there. The CEO/President of NEA, Gerald Sale, appeared and spoke about the application. He stated they originally petitioned to move to Paragould in anticipation of recreational cannabis approval in Arkansas. However, because that ballot failed in Arkansas and passed in Missouri, they were losing revenue from legal recreational cannabis in Missouri. Commissioner Case expressed concern that the people of Jonesboro and Paragould might not have had an opportunity to know or object to the transfer location. Eric Gribble, counsel for CROP dispensary, spoke against the transfer. Mr. Gribble noted that the proposed transfer would be about 4 miles away from CROP. Mr. Gribble noted that Family Counseling services is less than 1,500' away from the proposed location for NEA in Jonesboro. He urged the transfer would be less than 1500' from a developmental disability facility. Mr. Gribble stated this transfer would reduce patient access by moving further south. Finally, Mr. Gribble reminded the Commission that when CROP was approved to move to Jonesboro, they were required to provide free delivery and support nonprofit corporations in Mississippi county – their original location. A motion was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Case, and with a vote of 4-0, the Commission vacated approval for NEA to move to Paragould, Arkansas. Commissioner Case then made a motion to table the transfer application until the May MMC meeting, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas that motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

The Commission then took up a new processor application for M&M Ventures. Commissioner Thomas made a motion, and it was seconded by Commissioner Case to approve the application. The application was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Next the Commission took up a processor application for Morph Cannabis Co. Commissioner Case moved to approve and Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. By a vote of 4-0, the application was approved.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 4, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.