

Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commission

2 July 2018

On the 2nd day of July 2018, the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commission (AMMC) convened at Little Rock, Arkansas. In attendance were the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commissioners: Dr. Ronda Henry-Tillman, Chairperson, Dr. Stephen J. Carroll, Travis W. Story, Esq., James Miller, and Dr. J. Carolos Roman.

Commissioner Tillman called the meeting to order.

Dr. Roman offered opening comments.

Dr. Carroll offered comments regarding the scoring of dispensaries, and entered a motion to hire an independent consultant to score the dispensary applications. The following discussion ensued:

Commissioner Miller inquired as to whether an appropriation exists to permit hiring a consultant.

Mary Robin Casteel, Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division testified that such an appropriate appropriation was included in the most recent appropriation bill. Director Casteel explained, however, the Commission would need to amend their existing rules in order to create the authority to hire such a consultant.

Commissioner Miller seconded Dr. Carroll's motion.

Dr. Roman offered support for the motion as well.

Director Casteel offered information regarding the procurement process, and stated at the Commission's request, she would arrange for a representative from the procurement office to present to the Commission at the next Commission meeting.

Staff Attorney, Danni Hoefer, outlined the process and timelines for emergency promulgation and traditional promulgation.

Commissioner Story stated he could not vote for a third party consultant at this time, to which Dr. Tillman concurred she could not vote without additional information regarding a consultant and the process. Commissioner Story further voiced concerns with the unknowns and possibly further delays which may result from hiring a consultant.

Dr. Carroll amended his initial motion, and motioned for the Commission to explore using a third party consultant to score the dispensary applications, with the final authority to issue licenses resting with the Commission.

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

The motion carried, 5-0.

At this time, the Commission addressed “other business.”

Commissioner Story voiced a desire for the Commission to have its own dedicated staff, separate from the existing staff within the ABC.

Director Casteel said that she would gather information regarding this request, including the appropriation details, and inquire with DFA Revenue as to the process for the Commission to obtain its own staff.

Finally, the Commission scheduled a follow-up meeting to continue with the aforementioned agenda items, as well as to address cultivation licenses (if permitted by the Arkansas Supreme Court mandate), for Thursday, July 12, 2018, at 4:00pm (1600 HRS).

There being no further business, Dr. Tillman adjourned the meeting.