

Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commission January 17, 2017

On the 17th day of January, 2017 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., and James Miller.

Commissioner Tillman called the meeting to order.

The Commissioners reviewed the meeting minutes from the January 10, 2017 meeting of the AMMC. Commissioner Story moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Carroll seconded the motion, and by a vote of 4-0, the minutes were approved.

Commissioner Story presented a map of Arkansas depicting eight (8) possible zones for the distribution of dispensary licenses. He also provided an analysis of each zone by population. The analysis included a suggested number of permits to be issued in each zone based upon the zone's population. Commissioner Miller requested a breakdown of the votes "for" and "against" medical marijuana by county. A member of the audience provided a copy of a map, originally published by *The New York Times*, that depicted the counties in which Amendment 6 passed and failed. Commissioners decided to study the maps and Commissioner Story's proposal and discuss in more detail at the next meeting.

Commissioners discussed the following items concerning the application process for medical marijuana dispensaries:

- Certain information and proof shall be provided by applicants in addition to the application forms required by the AMMC. The additional criteria will be adapted from the merit criteria discussed for cultivation facilities, and the commission will review the language in the next meeting.
- The selection process for dispensary licenses will mirror the current process provided by Arkansas law for the selection of new retail liquor store licenses. Qualified applicants will be entered into a double-blind lottery to draw for the position in which they will appear before the commission to present their application. Commissioners will conduct hearings on applications based on the lottery draw until the designated number of licenses have been issued for the area.
- Language for the appeal of commission decisions for the denial of a license or renewal will be added to the draft rules.
- Add language to Section 12."Denial of Application for or Renewal of a License," to assist the commission in the analysis of applications during the hearing process.
- Add language from Section 16(c) and Section 16(d) of the cultivation rules into the dispensary rules at Section 15.
- Incorporate language from cultivation rules concerning "Transfer of License" and "Transfer of Location" into the dispensary rules.
- Commissioners discussed placing a proof of assets qualifier or bond requirement for dispensaries that elect to cultivate medical marijuana. Commissioners agreed to discuss the matter at a later meeting.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of inviting an individual or entity with prior experience or operational knowledge of dispensaries to address the commission.

Commissioners discussed imposing a requirement that dispensaries have medical personnel on staff to advise patients of potential interactions with other drugs and complications that may arise as a result of using medical marijuana.

Commissioners discussed the merit rubric created for cultivation facility applications. Commissioners discussed assigning point values to the criteria set forth in the rubric. The draft rubric will be updated to reflect the commission's point designations.

Commissioners discussed the selection process for cultivation facilities. Applicants will be required to meet the minimum requirements established by the commission. If those requirements are met, applicants will move on to the merit-based selection process. Applicants scoring in the 90th percentile will be entered into a lottery drawing. Applicants drawing numbers 1 through 5 will have the first opportunity to submit the required license fee and post the performance bond required under the rules. If any applicant fails to pay the fee or post the bond within the required period of time, the next applicant in line (the number 6 draw, in this case) will have an opportunity to pay the fee, post the bond, and acquire the license.

The commission set their next meeting for Thursday January 26, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved:

Dr. Ronda Henry-Tillman, Chairperson