

# Medical Cannabidiol Board Meeting

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025 - 10:00 AM

## 1. Call to Order

**Mike McKelvey, Chair**

The August 22, 2025, Iowa Medical Cannabidiol Board meeting was called to order at 10:04 by Cpt. McKelvey.

## 2. Roll Call

**Mike McKelvey, Chair**

Board Members Present	Not Present
Cpt. Mike McKelvey - Law Enforcement	Dr. Mohamad Mokadem - Gastroenterology
Dr. Stephen Richards – Family Medicine	Neurology (Vacant)
Dr. Robert Shreck - Oncology	Pediatrics (Vacant)
Dr. Corey Garvin - Pharmacy	
Dr. Andrea Weber - Psychiatry	
Morgan Brown, ARNP – Pain Management	

Bureau of Cannabis Regulation staff member Andrea Hoyt helped facilitate the meeting.

## 3. Approval of Minutes

**Mike McKelvey, Chair**

Dr. Richards motioned to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2025, Board meeting, seconded by Dr. Shreck. The motion was carried unanimously.

## 4. Public Comment Period

**Mike McKelvey, Chair**

- **Carl Olsen:** Carl spoke to comments made by the Trump Administration related to federal rescheduling of cannabis. He further encouraged the State of Iowa to consider seeking a federal exemption for its medical cannabis program, similar to the exemption granted for the use of peyote in certain religious contexts.
- **Peter Komendowski:** Peter expressed his support for the Board’s efforts to uphold medical standards, though he noted his disagreement with certain

qualifying conditions. He further stated that he does not support the use of raw or flower cannabis products, citing a lack of endorsement for such use in the medical research literature.

- **Tyson Allchin:** Tyson has been a licensed hemp cultivator. He presented information regarding major product recalls, highlighting their severity in terms of potential hazards and financial loss. He stated that when Iowa prohibited the sale of hemp flower for human consumption, it banned a product that had been subject to contamination testing. He noted that current requirements only mandate THC testing for raw agricultural hemp and encouraged the Board to implement a flower form and comprehensive quality and testing standards to support local farmers and ensure consumer safety. Tyson further suggested consider requiring that Iowa hemp flower be sourced for Iowa products.
- **Earl Ramey:** Earl identified himself as a USDA-licensed hemp cultivator and a medical cannabis patient. He stated that hemp and cannabis are fundamentally the same plant, distinguished primarily by their cannabinoid content. He noted that neighboring Nebraska will permit the sale of cannabis flower in their new medical program. Earl further commented on limitations to research using dronabinol, a Schedule III synthetic cannabinoid, rather than on raw cannabis itself, and expressed concern that Iowa is not aligning with the evolving policies and practices of other states.
- **Maggie Ballard:** Maggie provided comments regarding vaporizable cannabis flower. She commended Iowa's efforts to maintain the integrity of its medical program and stated that the state serves as a model for ensuring that patients do not consume their medicine through smoking.

## 5. New Board Member Introduction

**Andrea Hoyt**

Morgan Brown, ARNP, was introduced to the board as the pain management provider.

## 6. Program Updates

**Andrea Hoyt**

Andrea presented current patient and provider metrics, including the total number of active patients holding steady at around 18,000. Andrea noted an uptick in patient applications over the past quarter.

## **7. 2023 “Vaporizable Flower” Petition**

**Andrea Hoyt**

The Board discussed prior actions regarding vaporizable cannabis flower. It was noted that in 2023, the Board formally denied a petition to approve vaporizable flower as an allowable form of medical cannabidiol.

Dr. Shreck proposed forming a subcommittee to review the 2023 decision document and update it based on current medical literature. Dr. Weber expressed concern that, if raw flower were permitted, it could lead to smoking or incorporation into food products, which would present public health risks.

Dr. Richards agreed, stating that current data do not support smoking as a medically appropriate route of administration. He further noted that the issue appears to be driven by commercial interests rather than medical necessity, and emphasized that the Board’s responsibility is to evaluate cannabis use through a scientific and medical lens, not financial considerations. He added that he has not seen new evidence that would justify changing the Board’s 2023 position.

Captain McKelvey expressed appreciation for the effort to update the review document and requested that it include relevant public health data, such as behavioral health trends among youth, use during pregnancy, and emergency department utilization.

Following discussion, Dr. Shreck moved to establish a subcommittee to review and update the 2023 document. Dr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The subcommittee will consist of Dr. Shreck, Dr. Weber, and Dr. Garvin.

## **8. 2025 Annual Report**

Dr. Shreck stated that the Board should further refine its recommendations prior to finalizing the annual report. He noted that the subcommittee will also provide the Board with recommendations regarding potential updates to the report’s content.

## **9. Board Vacancies**

Neurology and pediatrics positions remain vacant.

## **10. Future Meetings (2025)**

Future Medical Cannabidiol Board meetings will be held in 2025 on the following dates:

- November 14, 2025

The public will be made aware of whether these meetings will be virtual and if there are any changes to this schedule.

**11. Adjourn**

**Mike McKelvey, Chair**

A motion was made by Dr. Shreck and seconded by Dr. Weber to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. This meeting is officially adjourned at 10:51 am.

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