

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, August 13, 2025
TIME: 4:30pm to 5:30pm
LOCATION: Hybrid – In person at 335 Randolph – Board Room or via WebEx

- I. Convene (Mike Arieta, Chair) at 4:32pm
- II. Introductions/Role Call (Chair)

Association	Member Name	Present
Dentists Concerned for Dentists	Dr. Charles Wilkinson	X
MN Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	Lindsay Heidelberger	
MN Ambulance Association	Joe Newton	
MN Acupuncture Association	OPEN	
MN Academy of Physician Assist.	Tracy Keizer	X
MN Assoc. of Marriage and Family Therapy	Calvin Hauer	X
MN Assoc. of Naturopathic Physicians	Aidanne MacDonald-Milewski	
MN Chiropractic Assoc.	OPEN	
MN Dental Assoc.	Dr. James Omlie	X
MN Health Systems Pharmacists	S. Bruce Benson	
MN Medical Assoc.	Stephanie Lindgren	
MN Nurse Peer Support Network	Katy Callaway	X
MN Nurses Assoc.	Nathanel Lew	X
MN Occupational Therapy Assoc.	Karen Sames	
MN Optometric Assoc.	Georgiann Jensen Bohn	X
MN Organization of Leaders in Nursing	Lucy Furlong	
MN Organization of Registered Nurses	Nicki Gjere	X
MN Pharmacists Assoc.	Sue Anderson	X
MN Podiatric Medicine Assoc.	Dr. Kari Prescott	

MN Veterinary Medicine Assoc.	Dr. Marcia Brower (Vice Chair)	X
Association	Member Name	Present
National Assoc. of Addiction Professionals, MN	Sandy Clark	X
National Assoc. of Social Workers, MN Chapter	Michael Arieta (Chair)	X
Public Member	Joanne Kronstedt	X
Public Member	Hafsa Askar Mohamed	

Other Attendees:

- III. Review Minutes from 5/14/2025
 - a. Approved Michael Arieta
 - b. 2nd Marcia Brower
- IV. Review Proposed Agenda
 - a. Approved Michael Arieta
 - b. 2nd Marcia Brower
- V. Public Comment
 - a. None
- VI. Presentation: Office of Medical Cannabis Management
(Sophie Leininger, Government Relations Director)

See attached PowerPoint in minutes distribution for more information.

Discussed that the OMC is in charge of:

- Developing and implementing the operational and regulatory systems to oversee the adult-use cannabis industry, the medical cannabis program, and the consumer hemp-derived cannabinoid industry.
- Launching an effective, safe, equitable, and sustained cannabis industry.

The presentation went through a high-level overview of: Legalization, the MN Market and the Launch Status and Social Equity.

Legalization

Minnesota's cannabis law, passed in 2023, established a regulatory framework for the state's new cannabis industry. Minnesota is the 23rd state in the nation to legalize adult-use cannabis.

The new law also created a new state office – the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM).

Provisions of the law include:

- Legalizing and limiting the possession of cannabis by people 21 and older
- Providing for the licensing, inspection, and regulation of cannabis and hemp businesses
- Establishing a license preference for social equity applicants
- Requiring testing and labeling of cannabis and hemp products
- Creating grants and loan programs to assist people entering the legal cannabis market

2024 Legislative Changes

- Strengthened Social Equity Provisions
- Accelerated hemp derived enforcement transition
- Accelerated Office of Medical Cannabis transition
- Enhanced protections for Medical patients and registry – something they continue to think about every year. Continue to think about protections for medical patients.
- Protect consumer safety

2025 Legislative Changes

- Changes to Lower Potency Hemp Edible Industry - product regulation, licensing, and authorized activities
- Updates to the Medical Cannabis Program: Strengthened protections, reciprocity access, and clarifications
- Changes to cannabis business licensing to support market launch

Cannabis Advisory Council

54 persons – this includes appointees from state agencies representatives, tribal members from each tribal nation and industry experts. Hold public meetings.

- Reviews national cannabis policy
- Examines the effectiveness of state cannabis policy
- Reviews developments in the cannabis industry and hemp consumer industry
- Reviews developments in the study of cannabis flower and other items
- Takes public testimony
- Makes recommendations to the Office of Cannabis Management Cannabis Advisory Council / Office of Cannabis Management

[More information on Legalization/Laws](#)

Launch Status & the MN Market

Covered - Rulemaking

Covered - Compacts

Covered - Licensing

Social Equity

OCM and its Division of Social Equity are charged with promoting economic development, improving social determinants of health, providing services to prevent violence, supporting early intervention programs for youth and families, and promoting community stability and safety.

The Division of Social Equity will implement and oversee two grant programs established in statute.

- **Can Renew** will award grants to eligible organizations for investments in communities where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity applicants.
- **Can Grow** will award grants to eligible organizations to help farmers navigate the regulatory structure of the legal cannabis industry, and nonprofit corporations to fund loans to farmers for expansion into the legal cannabis industry.

Indoor Clean Air Act – Concert Venues

Testing by Public Safety

VII. Adjourn: (Chair) @ 5:37pm

Next meetings:

November 12, 2025 will be virtual only

February 11, 2026