

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 05/13/2025

**Location:** Virtual and In-Person at 335 Randolph in Board Room

**Time:** 10:00 AM CST

I. **Meeting called to begin at 10:02am by Chair Mary Noble**

II. **Introductions:**

Board	Name	In Attendance?
Behavioral Health and Therapy	Bharati Acharya	X
Chiropractic Examiners	Mary Noble	X
Dentistry	Samuel Ankrah	X
Dept of Health	Robert Dehler/Daphne Ponds/Debbie Thao	
Dietetics & Nutrition	Susan Estes	X
Long Term Services & Supports	Steve Jobe	
Marriage & Family Therapy	Jennifer Mohlenhoff	X
Medical Practice	Averi M. Turner	Not Present; joined by Elizabeth Huntley
Nursing	Tracy Sonterre-Rieger	Not Present; joined by Kate Reimers
Occupational Therapy	Karoline Pierson	X
Office of Emergency Medical Services	Amber Lage	
Optometry	Britt Heglund	
Pharmacy	James Bialke	X
Physical Therapy	Allen Rasmussen	X
Podiatry	Cydnee Fields	X
Psychology	Michael Thompson	X
Social Work	Linda Gustafson	X
Veterinary Medicine	Jody Grote	X

Other Attendees: Kim Navarre (HPSP – Director), Kerry Gibbons (HPSP – Office Manager), Kathy Polhamus, Pang Yang (HPSP - Case Manager), Sam Sands, Ann Philbrick, Eldaa Ferraro (HPSP - Assistant Case Manager), Johanna Gangl (HPSP - Case Manager), Rebecca Moscow, Ruth Grendahl, Tracy Erfourth (HPSP - Case Manager), Caren Gaytko

III. **Review: Minutes from May 13, 2025 meeting (Chair) – Approved K. Pierson, Seconded S. Estes**

IV. **Review: Proposed agenda (Chair) – Approved J. Mohlenhoff, Seconded K. Pierson**

V. **Public comments (Chair) – None**

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VI. **Presentation: Office of Cannabis Management (Merone Melekin, Outreach 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

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### **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

VII. **Adjourn 11:02am : Chair** – Approved by A. Rasmussen, Seconded J. Grote

### **Next Meetings:**

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026