

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

August 14, 2025

10:00 AM

Remote via [Microsoft Teams Live*](#)

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Documents:

- Application Materials associated with:
 - Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership
 - Staff Recommendations on Renewal Licenses
 - Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training Renewal Licenses
- [Meeting Packet](#)

In Attendance:

- Commissioner Ava Callender Concepcion
- Commissioner Kimberly Roy
- Acting Chair Bruce Stebbins

Minutes:

I. Call to Order

- The Acting Chair (AC) recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order.
- The AC gave notice that the meeting is being recorded.
- The AC gave an overview of the agenda.

II. Commissioners' Comments & Updates – 00:01:35

- Commissioner Concepcion congratulated the AC on his reappointment and thanked the Social Consumption working group for their work on the new regulations. Commissioner Roy echoed the congratulations and noted her attendance at the ribbon cutting for Alternative Compassion Services and guest appearance on the Freshly Gardened podcast. The AC highlighted Devin Alexander's appearance on the Boston Business Journal's 40 under 40 class and a recent visit to Hidden Wonders dispensary. Additionally, he discussed visits to Levia, a round table hosted by the Cannabis Business Association, a tour of Terpene Journey and a meeting with former Chief John Carmichael.

III. Minutes for Approval – 00:10:48



- June 12, 2025
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the June 12, 2025, Commission Public Meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the June 12, 2025, Commission Public Meeting minutes.

- June 17, 2025
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the June 17, 2025, Commission Public Meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the June 17, 2025, Commission Public Meeting minutes.

IV. Executive Director and Commission Staff Report – 00:12:25

- Executive Director (ED) Travis Ahern stated that the regular September meeting would include updates on the FY25 budget closeout, FY26 spending plan and personnel updates. He provided an overview of the day’s topics and provided additional information on the recent Summary Suspension Order which had been issued due to the identification of contaminated and potentially contaminated Marijuana and Marijuana Products. He explained that information on affected products could be found on the Public Health and Safety Advisories Portal.
1. Public Health and Safety Advisories Portal
 - Director of Digital and Creative Services AnnMarie Burt (Director Burt) explained that this portal had launched on August 6, 2025. Stakeholders could sign up for the portal and receive safety advisories by email as well as access to all posted notices and product lists. Commissioner Roy asked if the portal could link to the Commission’s product catalog and Director Burt stated that she would check with the vendor. Commissioner Roy further suggested a meeting with Metrc to make the product catalog more user friendly.
 2. Two-Factor Authentication
 - Chief of Staff Andrew Carter (Chief Carter) explained that the Medical Use of Marijuana Online System (MMJOS) began rolling out two-factor authentication for



Certifying Healthcare Provider accounts in June. He stated that Certifying Healthcare Providers would need to review and confirm information in their MMJOS account.

3. Petitions for Changes to Regulations

- General Counsel Kajal Chattopadhyay (GC Chattopadhyay) explained the statutory authority under G.L. c. 30A § 4 for any interested person to petition for the adoption, amendment or repeal of any regulation, which was mirrored under 935 Code Mass. Regs. §§ 500.830 and 501.830. He explained the process for petitioning the Commission where, after receipt of the petition, the Legal department would acknowledge receipt and confirm that it conforms to regulatory requirements. Following that, the GC would make a recommendation to the ED on what action to take. Potential outcomes for petitions would be approval, denial or withdrawal.

4. Waivers of Regulations Update

- Enforcement Counsel Timothy Goodin (EC Goodin) explained the regulatory framework for waivers under 935 Code Mass. Regs. §§ 500.850 and 501.850 and provided background from the December 11, 2017, Public Meeting where Commissioner Doyle had explained that the purpose of waivers was to allow for flexibility in dealing with unforeseen consequences while standing up a new industry. A later comment from then Chair Hoffman at the September 17, 2021, Public Meeting indicated that the waiver process was intended to provide one-off instances of relief from regulations to address unique hardships. EC Goodin explained the internal waiver process whereby review would be assigned to staff who would make a recommendation to the Chief of Investigations and Enforcement (CIE), who would again review and forward to the ED. The ED or their delegatee would again review and make a determination. EC Goodin continued and provided an overview of potential waiver outcomes including approval, denial, withdrawal or administrative closures. He provided metrics on waivers which had been requested from 2020-2024, noting that the majority were denied or approved, as well as the most common adult-use and medical-use waivers which were requested.
- Regarding petitions, Commissioner Roy noted that there was not a dedicated form for petitions provided and GC Chattopadhyay stated he would be happy to develop one. Commissioner Roy stated that she would like to rescind the previous delegation of authority to act on petitions to the ED and Commission Concepcion concurred. Commissioner Roy requested an edit to the presentation on waivers to clarify that the decision ultimately ended with the ED and requested more detailed metrics on petitions at the September meeting. The AC asked if guidance was being provided on whether the waiver or petition process was the right solution for a given issue and EC Goodin stated that he would be happy to work with staff offline on the matter.

5. Host Community Municipal Equity Update

- Director of Investigations Katherine Binkoski (Director Binkoski) provided an update on Host Community Municipal Equity (HCME), explaining that three submissions



had been reviewed and accepted by the Commission, 24 were under review and 172 were outstanding. Commissioner Roy asked if submissions for HCME were public documents and could be published for the convenience of other municipalities. GC Chattopadhyay stated that he would need to review, but many would likely be public documents.

6. Licensing Data Updates

- Director of Licensing Olivia Koval (Director Koval) provided highlights from Licensing data. Commissioner Concepcion asked if a slide could be included to identify towns which did not have compliant Host Community Agreements (HCAs) and GC Chattopadhyay responded that Legal had advised not to include such a slide due to the potential of municipalities being added in error. Commissioners discussed the topic with staff and the ED and GC Chattopadhyay stated they would review the Chapter 180 working group's materials offline and revisit the topic. Director Koval continued her presentation and Commissioner Roy asked if any Licensees were nearing the end of the approved HCA extension limit. Director Koval explained that she would be bringing this topic before the board to discuss and EC Goodin clarified that it was difficult to determine if the waiver process was the proper remedy, but compliant HCAs were a statutory requirement.
- The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 03:00:29.)

V. Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership

- Licensing Manager Christine Moriarty (Manager Moriarty) presented on behalf of the Licensing department the Staff Recommendations for Changes of Ownership, Renewals and Responsible Vendor Training Renewal Licenses.

1. Commonwealth Alternative Care, Inc.

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

2. Leaf Lux Group Inc.

- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.



VI. Staff Recommendations on Renewal Licenses – 03:02:59

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the renewal of items numbered 1 – 25 as indicated on the agenda.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the renewal of items numbered 1 – 25 as indicated on the agenda.

VII. Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training Renewal Licenses – 03:04:09

1. Acta LLC (#DCCR794121)

- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Responsible Vendor Training License Renewal.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Responsible Vendor Training License Renewal.

2. Bartucca Consulting LLC (#DCCR794126)

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Responsible Vendor Training License Renewal.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Responsible Vendor Training License Renewal .

3. Grass Ceiling, LLC (#DCCR794125)

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Responsible Vendor Training License Renewal.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes



- The Commission unanimously approved the Responsible Vendor Training License Renewal .

VIII. Enforcement Action – 03:08:25

1. Assured Testing Laboratories, LLC

- EC Goodin presented the proposed Final Order and Stipulated Agreement which followed a Summary Suspension Order issued against Assured Testing Laboratories, LLC. He explained that Enforcement staff had found that from April 1, 2024, through April 15, 2025, the Licensee had conducted testing in a non-compliant manner and had not reported failing results. The stipulated remedies included a fine of \$300,000, a 12-month suspension of the current CEO, a 24-month probationary period and affirmative relief in the form of the immediate cease of all non-compliant operations, an independent audit, submission of revised standard operating procedures (SOPs), the hiring of an internal quality control manager, notification to the Commission of any personnel changes, submission of bi-weekly reports and education on testing and ethics for all staff. Commissioner Roy asked for the specific value of arsenic which had been found in a sample and EC Goodin stated that he would provide her with an update offline. Commissioner Roy asked if the ISO training would include a component on heavy metals. EC Goodin stated that he could not explain the technical aspects of the required trainings, but that they would ensure the Licensee was brought into compliance and GC Chattopadhyay cautioned against speaking to any facts outside of the Stipulated Agreement due to G.L. c. 30A. EC Goodin further clarified that information on effected products were available on the Commission's website and administrative holds had been issued to prevent further sales. Commissioner Roy asked if it would be appropriate to send out a reminder to Cultivators and Marijuana Product Manufacturers that they must report testing failures, and the ED stated that he would.
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Stipulated Agreement as recommended by Enforcement Counsel for Assured Testing Laboratories, LLC.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

IX. Commission Discussion and Vote – 03:50:13

1. Tier Relegation Update

- Director of Enforcement Training Armond Enos (Director Enos) explained that he had been tasked with developing motion language directing the Enforcement department to consider tier relegation for Cultivators upon renewal. He noted that JD Software would need two weeks to implement this change and suggested that it could



- take three months to implement the change internally. Chief of Investigations and Enforcement Nomxolisi Jones (Chief Jones) noted that it may take more time and Chief Technology and Innovation Officer Paul Clark (Chief Clark) confirmed that there would be four weeks minimum before the software changes could be implemented. Chief Jones suggested bringing this topic back at the regular December meeting when staff could inform the board if more time was needed. Commissioners discussed Director Enos's proposed motion language and agreed to provide 60-day notice to Licensees. The AC requested updates on the topic at future meetings.
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to direct Investigations and Enforcement staff to begin enforcement of 935 Code Mass. Regs. §§ 500.050(2)(d)&(e) and 501.050(2)(d)&(e) with respect to tier relegation beginning January 1, 2026, after providing notice to Licensees of this change in policy at least 60-days before the change takes effect.
 - Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
 - The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
 - The Commission unanimously approved the motion.
 - The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 04:41:00.)

2. Legal Intervention Discussion

- GC Chattopadhyay noted the board's previous direction for the Legal department to intervene in the Theory Wellness v. Great Barrington matter. Since that direction, the Commission's motion to intervene had been heard and the judge had not considered it. He explained that he was looking for new matters which could provide an opportunity for the Commission to advocate for its statutory authority to ensure HCA compliance and was seeking a broader direction to intervene in matters which provided an opportunity to do so. Commissioner Roy voiced some reluctance towards a broad direction and GC Chattopadhyay suggested building in a requirement for regular updates to Commissioners and reiterated that the intent was to allow for more flexibility. Commissioner Roy suggested that coordinating intervention with the Attorney General's Office (AGO) could provide an opportunity to update Commissioners and the ED concurred.
- Commissioner Roy moved to direct the GC in consultation with the ED and the AGO, to take all steps necessary to identify and intervene in court cases involving Licensees and municipalities which present issues relating to the Commission's statutory authority and oversight over HCAs and Community Impact Fees (CIFs) and provide timely updates to the Commissioners.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes



- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

3. Social Consumption Public Comment Period Memo

- The AC summarized the topic which Commissioners had suggested including in a memorandum to seek feedback from stakeholders on topics which had been debated during the review of the redline Social Consumption regulations. Deputy General Counsel Michael Baker (DGC Baker) summarized the topics which were included in the document and Commissioner Roy suggested sharing the memorandum with the Cannabis Advisory Board (CAB) and sharing it as an editable PDF so that stakeholders could simply fill in text boxes. Commissioner Concepcion requested an edit to the “Cooling Down – 500.141(12)” section to indicate that it described requirements that may or may not be a part of the final regulations. Commissioner Roy requested that the motion language indicate the date by which the memorandum would be posted.
- Commissioner Roy moved to direct the ED to work with staff to publish this memorandum as discussed by the board on the Commission’s website by August 20, 2025, and perform outreach to all stakeholders including members of the CAB.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

X. New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting – 05:20:20

- The AC stated that there was no new business which was not anticipated at the time of posting.

XI. Next Meeting Date – 05:20:34

- The AC stated that the next meeting was a Public Hearing scheduled for September 8, 2025, in-person at the Worcester headquarters.

XII. Adjournment – 05:23:40

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to adjourn.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.

