

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

June 12, 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 Provisional Licenses
 - Staff Recommendations on Final 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 – 00:01:42
 - Commissioner Concepcion thanked Legal staff for bringing her up to date on the role of the Secretary. Commissioner Roy noted meetings with Stem Haverhill, municipal officials in Somerville, The Good Cannabis dispensary in Somerville and Kevin Kuros, Regional Director of the Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD). She highlighted the updated licensing tracker which had recently launched. The AC noted on May 28th, he had participated in a meeting with the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) and highlighted a tour of Triple M Dispensary in Plymouth. He additionally noted meetings with Representative James Arciero, the Alcoholic



Beverages Control Commission (ABCC), the City of Malden and Chief James Hicks of Natick.

III. Minutes for Approval – 00:10:06

- March 31, 2025
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the March 31, 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 March 31, 2025, Commission Public Meeting minutes.

- April 10, 2025
- Commissioner Roy requested an update on a memorandum regarding the hearing process which had been requested in the April 10 meeting and General Counsel Kajal Chattopadhyay (GC Chattopadhyay) stated that it would be completed shortly.
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the April 10, 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 April 10, 2025, Commission Public Meeting minutes.

- April 16, 2025
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the April 16, 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 April 16, 2025, Commission Public Meeting minutes.
- The AC noted that external guests were participating in a later discussion item, and the agenda may be taken out of order.



IV. Executive Director and Commission Staff Report – 00:16:09

1. Update on Executive Director Goals for 2025

- Executive Director (ED) Travis Ahern reviewed his goals for CY25, noting that the Governance Charter had been approved and that first full meeting of the Cannabis Advisory Board (CAB) had occurred. He described how the budget shortfall would impact the remaining goals and Commissioner Concepcion asked if the ED had considered potentially redistributing work among staff who may have many different responsibilities and he responded that he was planning on considering priorities and implementing new workflows to focus on those in light of the budget shortfall. Commissioner Roy noted that implementing Social Consumption would implicate resources and stated that she had been holding regular meetings with Independent Testing Laboratories (ITLs) and that a Director of Testing was in the process of being hired.

2. FY 2025 Year End Update

- Chief Financial and Accounting Officer Lisa Schlegel (Chief Schlegel) provided an update on the Commission’s FY25 budget, stating that she expected it to be fully extinguished by June 30th. By that date, the contracts for a testing consultant, a delivery exclusivity study and an audit for Licensing fees were on track to be completed.

3. MassCannabisControl.com Automated Licensing Tracker Update

- Director of Digital and Creative Services AnnMarie Burt (Director Burt) presented the updated licensing tracker which had launched on June 11th and now included weekly automated updates from the Massachusetts Cannabis Industry Portal (MassCIP) and the Medical Use of Marijuana Program Online System (MMJOS). Advanced filtering options had been added as well as a one-click “related documents” search query for each Licensee and an option to extract the data in multiple file formats. Director Burt demonstrated the new functionality and confirmed for Commissioner Concepcion that the tracker solely listed Licensees who had commenced operations, but provisional licensees could be added at a later date. Commissioner Roy requested that a press release be issued and encouraged interested stakeholders to use the new tool.

4. EquityWorks Career Hub: Platform Overview

- Director of Equity Programming and Community Outreach Silea Williams (Director Williams) described how the platform would serve as a centralized, digital employment resource portal to support equitable workforce development across the industry designed to connect job seekers with Social Equity Program (SEP) participants and Certified Economic Empowerment (EEA) applicants. She highlighted the key features and stated that the platform would officially launch on June 16, 2025. Commissioner Roy asked if the Commission could use the platform for employment within the Commission and Director Williams confirmed that job



opportunities at the Commission would be highlighted on the EquityWorks Career Hub. She further clarified for Commissioner Concepcion that there had been outreach to Licensees consisting of three workshops, which had included a step-by-step tutorial of the platform and that emails had gone out to every active Licensee.

- The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 01:54:08.)
- The AC stated that they would be taking the agenda out of order as external guests were participating and there were no objections.

V. Commission Discussion and Vote – 01:54:14

1. Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents Workplace Safety Program Grant

- Director of the Office of Safety Maryanne Falvey (Director Falvey) explained that the grant was a reimbursement program intended to promote workplace safety by funding training, education and other preventative measures. She explained the qualifying criteria and the application process and noted that her intent was to get a disbursement to every qualified candidate. Commissioner Roy asked if filtration systems or PPE could be reimbursed and Director Falvey confirmed that PPE could be covered and trainers would be useful in determining what could be reimbursed. Director Falvey suggested potentially holding a statewide seminar after more Licensees had been brought into the program.
- The Commission took a brief recess.

VI. Executive Director and Commission Staff Report (Continued) – 03:00:10

- Director of Licensing Olivia Koval (Director Koval) presented highlights from Licensing data.

VII. Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership – 03:06:51

- Licensing Analyst Jaime Wakefield (Analyst Wakefield) presented on behalf of the Licensing department the Staff Recommendations for Changes of Ownership, Renewals, Provisionals, Final Licenses and Responsible Vendor Training Renewal Licenses.

1. Jolly Green 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. The Fresh Connection Boston, LLC



- 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.

VIII. Staff Recommendations on Renewal Licenses – 03:09:35

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the renewal of items numbered 1-7, 9-12 and 14-17 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 1-7, 9-12 and 14-17 as indicated on the agenda.

- The AC requested a condition for item number 8 on the agenda (GreenSoul Organics, Inc. (#MRR207239)):
 - Proposed condition: Within thirty business days of approval of Application for Renewal, contact CCC Licensing Division to provide a response on current progress toward goals in Diversity Plan in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.103(4)(b) and 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.101(1)(c)8k.
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the renewal of items numbered 8 (Garden Remedies (GreenSoul Organics, Inc. (#MRR207239)) subject to the condition requested by the AC.
- 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 renewal of item number 8 on the agenda (GreenSoul Organics, Inc. (#MRR207239)) subject to the condition requested by the AC.

- The AC requested a condition for item number 13 on the agenda (INDICA LLC on the agenda (#MRR207263)):
 - Proposed condition: Within thirty business days of approval of Application for Renewal, contact CCC Licensing Division and provide response on identified plans or strategies to meet goals in Licensee’s Positive Impact Plan in



accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.103(4)(b) and 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.101(1)(a)11.

- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the renewal of item number 13 on the agenda (INDICA LLC (#MRR207263)) subject to the condition requested by the AC.
- 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 renewal of item number 13 on the agenda (INDICA LLC on the agenda (#MRR207263)) subject to the condition requested by the AC.

IX. Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses – 03:14:43

1. Core Empowerment, LLC (#MRN285081), Marijuana Retailer

- Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
 - Proposed condition: Prior to final licensure, in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.140(6)(g) please include the phone number for the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline on your consumer education.
- The AC requested a condition.
 - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, provide any documentation or background information that assisted Licensee in identifying hiring goals under Diversity Plan in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.101(1)(c)8.k. and provide a response to CCC Licensing Division.
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioner Roy and the AC.
- 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 Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioner Roy and the AC.

2. Massachusetts Caregivers, LLC (#MDA1291), Marijuana Delivery Operator

- The AC requested a condition.
 - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, provide any documentation or background information that assisted Licensee in identifying hiring goals under Diversity Plan in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.101(1)(c)8.k. and provide a response to CCC Licensing Division.



- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by the AC.
- 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 Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by the AC.

3. Peak Collective LLC (#MRN285297), Marijuana Retailer

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Provisional License.
- 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 Provisional License.

4. Resinate, Inc. (#RMDA4121), Medical Marijuana Treatment Center

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to direct the ED to take all necessary steps to approve the provisional license.
- The AC 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. Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses – 03:26:23

1. Alternative Compassion Services, Inc. (#MR285029), Marijuana Retailer
2. BTE, Inc. (#MC283668), Marijuana Cultivator, Tier 11 / Outdoor
3. Health Circle, Inc. (#MR282585), Marijuana Retailer
4. Pure Tewksbury, Inc. (#MR284994), Marijuana Retailer

- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Final License roster from 1 – 4 as indicated on the agenda.
- 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 Final License roster from 1 – 4 as indicated on the agenda.

XI. Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training Renewal Licenses – 03:28:22

1. Bud Education (#DCCR794122)

- 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. Green CulturED (#DCCR749120)

- 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.

XII. Commission Discussion and Votes (Continued) – 03:31:25

1. Requests for Equitable Relief

- GC Chattopadhyay summarized Deerfield Naturals, Inc.’s request for equitable relief, which had been discussed at the last meeting. The Licensee had changed their request since it was first made and were solely seeking the refund of their Licensing fees, which Legal had been asked to research. He noted that Licensing fees had historically not been considered refundable and this was a case of first impressions. He noted the relevant considerations were the regulations at 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.180(3)(c)6., which provides Licensees the option to request equitable relief with one of the remedies simply being “Other equitable relief as determined by the Commission”. Next was 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.005(1)(a), which provides that “each applicant for licensure as a Marijuana Establishment shall pay to the Commission a nonrefundable application fee...” In this case, the Licensee had not conducted any business or caused any burdens on Enforcement, and GC Chattopadhyay relayed Legal’s opinion that the refund was provided for by statute in G.L c. 94G § 4 (a1/2). He noted that some internal policies and public facing



documents would need to be updated before the refund could be issued. GC Chattopadhyay confirmed that he had spoken to Chief Schlegel who had confirmed that there was an option to issue a refund from the Marijuana Regulation Fund in situations like this. Director Koval confirmed that she would research to see if there were other Licensees in a similar situation to Deerfield Naturals, Inc. and Commissioner Roy requested a review of the potential financial impact of Licensees who currently had non-compliant HCAs requesting the refund of their Licensing fees. Commissioner Concepcion stated that she preferred to table the matter until after a fiscal analysis had been completed. Commissioner Roy requested that staff research the issue of property rights as they pertained to a Provisional License as well as Provisional Licensees who had completed a Change of Ownership and the AC requested information on how the Licensee's relationship with the municipality had come to and end.

- The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 04:28:13.)
- The AC stated that no action would be taken on this matter today and requested meetings with staff offline.

2. Guidance on Positive Impact Plans

- Director Koval explained that amendments had been made to the documents since the last time it was presented in the “Creating Jobs” and “Adding Certain Goals Directly into the Application” sections. Commissioner Roy took issue with the sentence indicating that Positive Impact Plans (PIPs) consisting solely of donations to the Social Equity Trust Fund were discouraged. Commissioners discussed with staff and Commissioner Concepcion indicated that she was not in favor of changing the section and suggested highlighting Licensees with outstanding PIPs through the Leadership Program outlined in 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.040(3)(a). Commissioner Roy suggested including the word monetary in front of “donation based activities”.
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the draft Guidance on Positive Impact Plans to include the addition of the word “monetary” in front of “donation based activities” on page four and direct CCC staff to incorporate information on the new EquityWorks program into the document as appropriate.
- 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.

3. Open Meeting Law Complaint Determinations and Next Steps

- GC Chattopadhyay explained that the Commission had received a complaint from the former Chair regarding the April 24, 2023, Executive Session which sought an unredacted version of the recording. The Division of Open Government had determined that the use of Executive Session was improper but deferred to the



Secretary of Records to determine whether release of the unredacted video was necessary. The matter was pending with the Supervisor of the Records and no further action was required. Commissioner Roy asked what exemption allowed for redaction of the video and GC Chattopadhyay noted that the Division of Open Government had not required disclosure of the unredacted video.

- The AC noted that there had been a separate determination regarding Executive Sessions held on November 24, 2024 and December 4, 2024. He stated that he had reached out to the Attorney General’s office to request training on Open Meeting Law (OML) for Commissioners and staff. Due to the determination, the Commission was required to release the minutes for those Executive Session immediately.

4. Executive Session Minutes (Vote)

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to enter closed executive session to review Executive Session meeting minutes pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g).
- 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 and each Commissioner confirmed that no one could hear the deliberations of the Executive Session. The AC stated that the Commission would reconvene in Open Session.
- (Returned at 05:29:51.)

- November 25, 2024
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the November 25, 2024, Commission Executive Session 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 November 25, 2024, Commission Executive Session Meeting minutes.

- December 4, 2024
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the December 4, 2024, Commission Executive Session 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 December 4, 2024, Commission Executive Session Meeting minutes.
- March 13, 2025
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the March 13, 2025, Commission Executive Session 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 March 13, 2025, Commission Executive Session Meeting minutes.

XIII. New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting – 05:32:06

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

XIV. Next Meeting Date – 05:32:15

- The AC stated that the next meeting was scheduled for June 17, 2025.

XV. Adjournment – 05:35:07

- 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.

