



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

560 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

## **Cannabis Control Commission**

### **Open Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** Friday May 31, 2024

**TIME:** 1:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02886

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Kimberly R. Ahern, Esq.  
Commissioner Robert B. Jacquard, Esq.  
Commissioner Olayiwola Oduyingbo, Esq.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mariana Ormonde, Chief of Legal Services, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Kelsey McQueeney, Administrative Officer, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Carla Aveledo, Policy Liaison & Legal Support, Cannabis Control  
Commission

Chairperson Ahern called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

The first item of business was:

#### **Motion to approve the minutes of the open session meeting held on April 26, 2024**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo, it was unanimously:

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the open session meeting held on April 26,  
2024

The next item of business was:

**Updates from the Chairperson, with specific focus on the following:**

- Noted the proposed rescheduling of cannabis on the federal level.
- Noted the potential tax implications rescheduling could have on the cannabis industry.
- Announced that the Senate Judiciary Committee gave its advice and consent of nominated inaugural Administrator to the Cannabis Office, Michelle Reddish.
- Announced that the Senate Judiciary Committee gave its advice and consent to approve Commissioner Oduyingbo for another term with the Cannabis Control Commission.

The next item of business was:

**Updates on the Office of Cannabis Regulation Data Website launch presented by Cynthia Miller, Senior Economic Policy Analyst, and Sarah Ouch, Economic Policy Analyst, which included:**

- Reviewed previous data available on the Office of Cannabis Regulation website.
- Provided updates on new data available on the website that is directly connected to Metrc, the seed-to-sale tracking system.
- Showed the new data section of the Office of Cannabis Regulation website and how the public could filter information to find different data sets.

The next item of business was:

**Review, discussion, and potential vote on regulatory recommendations proposed by the Cannabis Advisory Board to the Commission regarding proposed future packaging and labelling requirements, which included:**

- Carla Aveledo, Policy Liaison and Legal Support, along with Advisory Board Chair Ronald Crosson and subcommittee chairs Armand Lusi and Stuart Procter, Ph.D., provided an overview of the subcommittee meetings and full Cannabis Advisory Board meetings on prior issues presented that led to the recommendations brought to the Commission regarding packaging and labelling.
- The Cannabis Advisory Board presented the following recommendations to the Commission:
  1. To permit all colors on cannabis product packaging, except neon, regardless of product type.
  2. That products that have undergone remediation do not need to be labeled as such.
  3. That the THC symbol be a minimum size of .25”x .25” on cannabis product packaging, with scalability of the THC symbol with the increased size package logo/graphics up to 1”, then no more scalability of the THC symbol is required.

4. To recommend the requirement of a single-sided stamp of the THC symbol on single serving edibles, while allowing the Commission the flexibility to approve variances for smaller size edibles.

The next item of business was:

**Public Comment:**

Three people provided public comment, which included the following:

- Inquired when applications for new retail stores will be made available.
- Inquired where the applications will be made available to apply.
- Reiterated that cultivators are desperate for retail stores to open.
- Concerned about pending litigation potentially delaying applications.
- Noted that the market and sales are flat compared to other states.
- Concerned that the public is not aware of the current operational dispensaries.
- Concerned that Rhode Island has some of the lowest threshold testing requirements in the country and that as a result many samples do not pass testing.

The next item of business was:

**Executive Session**

At 2:25 p.m., upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo it was unanimously voted:

**Motion to go into Executive Session, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2), for the purpose of:**

- a. Update and discussion on pending litigation in *Greenleaf Compassion Care Center, Inc., v. Santacroce, et al.*, 1:23-cv-00282-MSM-LDA.
- b. Update and discussion on pending litigation in *Justyna Jensen v. Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission, et al.*, 1:24-cv-00191-MSM-LDA.

At 2:55 p.m. the Commission reconvened in Open Session.

The next item of business was:

**Motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session on May 31, 2024.**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously:

VOTED: To seal the minutes of the Executive Session held on May 31, 2024 pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 42-46-5(a)(2)

The next item of business was:

**Report out on actions and votes taken in Executive Session.**

Chair Ahern reported the following Commission action(s):

1. That the Commission received an update from legal counsel on *Greenleaf Compassion Care Center, Inc., v. Santacroce, et al.*, 1:23-cv-00282-MSM-LDA.
2. That the Commission received an update from legal counsel on *Justyna Jensen v. Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission, et al.*, 1:24-cv-00191-MSM-LDA.

The next item of business was:

**Next Meeting Date: Friday June 14, 2024 at 1:00pm at the Public Utilities Commission, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02889.**

Adjournment:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 2:58 pm.