

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Safe and Healthy Lives in Safe and Healthy Communities

Proposed *Rules and Regulations Related to the Medical Marijuana Program (R21-28.6-MMP)*
Community Review Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 17, 2006

Persons in Attendance: See attached sign-in sheets.

The meeting was convened at 2:10 p.m. by Charles Alexandre, MS, RN, Chief of the Office of Health Professions Regulation, who provided introductions and an overview of the statute and the rule-making process.

These new regulations are proposed in accordance with Public Laws 05-442 and 05-443 enacted on January 3, 2006. This new statute (Chapter 21-28.6 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended) will permit persons with debilitating medical condition(s) to use marijuana if a physician certifies in writing that the marijuana may mitigate the symptoms of the condition(s), and in the physician's professional opinion, the potential benefits of the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks for the patient.

The following sections of the proposed medical marijuana regulations were discussed: 2.2; 2.3; 3.1.2; 4.6; and 5.1.

Some of the issues/suggestions raised by the group include the following:

- Section 2.2 related to health care facilities and professionals should be re-worked to make it more specific and to ensure that persons using medical marijuana do not suffer discrimination.
- The fee cited in sections 3.1.2 and 4.6 should be set as low as possible so as not to prohibit access to the Program, particularly if no sliding fee schedule will be established.
- Should the confidentiality provisions related to Program administration in section 5.0 be more specific?

Mr. Alexandre indicated that all of the issues raised by the group related to these proposed regulations would go back to staff for further discussion, review, and re-drafting. A public hearing will be scheduled for sometime in February 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Shelov, MPH, MSSW
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January 25, 2006