



MONTH IN REVIEW

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PCC Members,

It is hard to believe it is already Labor Weekend. Here in PA the school buses are running again and we are awaiting the legislature's return to Harrisburg over the next few weeks. A schedule of session days is included on page two of the newsletter.

We will kick off the fall legislative session with our Third Quarter Meeting - next Friday, September 9th at noon. You can add the meeting to your calendar. by clicking here. In addition to discussing the fall legislative session we will review information shared on the last Medical Marijuana Advisory Board as well as the results of our last several meetings with the Department of Health. I look forward to seeing you all virtually next Friday.

Meredith Buettner, Executive Director

PENNSYLVANIA CANNABIS COALITION
P.O. BOX 11501 | HARRISBURG, PA 17108
717-220-3508 | WWW.PCANNA.ORG



**PCC Third Quarter
Membership Meeting
Friday, September 9, 2022
12:00 Noon via Zoom**

ADD TO CALENDAR



**MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACCESS AND PATIENT SAFETY, INC. ISSUES
STATEMENT ON PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S
WITHDRAWAL OF ITS APPEAL TO RECALL CERTAIN VAPORIZED
MEDICAL MARIJUANA PRODUCTS**

HARRISBURG, Pa., Aug. 22, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Medical Marijuana Access and Patient Safety, Inc. issued the following statement on the Pennsylvania Department of Health's withdrawal of its appeal to recall certain vaporized medical marijuana products:

On August 17, 2022, the Pennsylvania Department of Health ("DOH") voluntarily withdrew its appeal of the preliminary injunction granted to Medical Marijuana Access and Patient Safety, Inc.'s ("MMAPS") to recall certain vaporized medical marijuana products (the "June 2 Order"). All products impacted by the June 2 Order can continue to be produced and sold through licensed dispensaries across the Commonwealth.

The ruling follows an order granting MMAPS's application to Vacate Automatic Supersedeas (the "June 15 Order"), which reinstated the Court's June 2, 2022 preliminary injunction against the DOH's recall.

In the June 2 Order, the Court concluded that DOH "failed to present any evidence to the Court of potential harm to medical marijuana patients due to the recalled products, or more specifically due to the addition of terpenes to these products." Furthermore, the Court identified that the DOH "did not call any witnesses during the preliminary injunction hearing or present any evidence regarding patient complaints or adverse events suffered due to the recalled products containing terpenes." The withdrawal of the appeal reaffirms this conclusion. In light of these facts, MMAPS believes the DOH should drop the remaining litigation to prevent further confusion and increased costs for patients.

MMAPS has submitted Right-To-Know Requests seeking to obtain any information or documents that would have supported the DOH's recall, but to date the DOH has resisted producing any information to support its decisions related to these products.

Earlier this year MMAPS, a coalition of patients, caregivers, doctors, industry members and advocates seeking to ensure safe, reliable access to medical marijuana in the Commonwealth, took the extraordinary step of filing a complaint against DOH over its unsupported recall of certain vaporized medical marijuana products because patients rely on the recalled products to relieve symptoms of serious medical conditions. Filings in the case can be found at www.pennmmaps.com.

General Assembly Fall Legislative Calendar

House of Representatives Session Days

September 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21

October 24, 25, 25

November 14, 15, 16

Senate Session Days

September 19, 20, 21

October 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 25

November 15



PESTICIDE UPDATE

As a direct result of PCC's advocacy, the PA Department of Agriculture recognized that they issued an incorrect "List of Pesticides Which May be Used by Medical Marijuana Growers and Processors" in the August 27, 2022 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

An update has been published on the Department of Agriculture's website and can be found here. This update is effective immediately.

The corrected list will be republished in the PA Bulletin on September 10, 2022. The Department of Agriculture has confirmed that Grower/Processors may rely on the list on their website for purposes of complying with Act 44 prior to publication on September 10th.

FINAL PROGRAM REGULATIONS

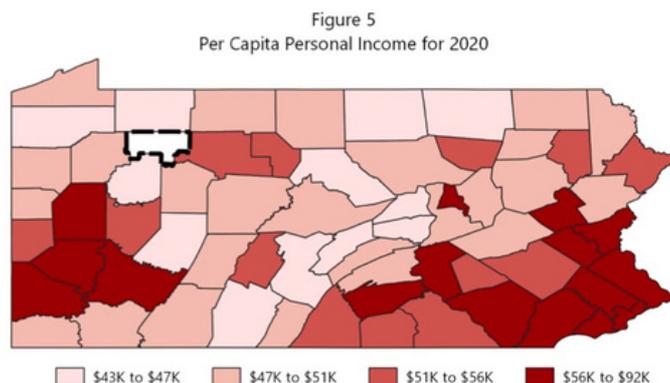
The Department of Health withdrew the Final Program Regulations #10-219 "Medical Marijuana" from consideration by The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) at its July public meeting. The Department has indicated they intend to make several technical updates prior to resubmission later this year.

PCC has met with Executive Deputy Secretary Pete Blank and others from DOH to discuss our concerns with the Final Program Regulations. While it is unlikely that all concerns will be addressed we are encouraged by the Department's engagement. If you and your team were drafting comments for submission to IRRC we encourage you to please submit them despite the withdrawal.

DOH did not submit the Final Program Regulations for inclusion on IRRC's September meeting agenda. The earliest the Regulations will be considered by IRRC is now October 20th

INDEPENDENT FISCAL OFFICE REPORT

From time to time PCC will share relevant reports and other information coming out of Commonwealth agencies to supplement the lack of available program data. This month we are sharing a report from the Independent Fiscal Office about county income patterns. [Click here to read the full County Income Patterns report.](#)





Program Data

- 773,307 Patients and Caregivers Registered to date
- 414,446 Active Patient Certifications
- 1,830 Approved Practitioners
- 23.3 Million Patients Dispensing Events
- 66.3 Million Products Dispensed
- \$5.7 Billion in Total Sales
 - \$2.3 Billion by GPs to Dispensaries
 - \$3.4 Billion by Dispensaries

Q3 2021 v. Q3 2022		
	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Active Patients Certificates	367,925	414,446
Approved Practicioners	1,603	1,830
Dispensing Events	14.1M	23.3M
Products Dispensed	40.4M	66.3M
Total Sales	3.4B	5.7B
G/Ps to Dispensaries	1.4B	2.3B
Dispensaries to Patients	2B	3.4B
Operational Dispensaries	129	163
Retail Price per Gram	\$14.53	\$11.69
Wholesale Price per Gram	\$9.48	\$4.83

OFFICE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA REPORT: JULY 2022

The Department of Health unceremoniously released a program report in July. The report included DOH's position that their republication of the temporary regulations extended the expiration of the temporary regulations to January 15, 2024 and detailed the changes made by Act 44. Additionally the report acknowledged the "vape recall" and reported that there were 57 reports of adverse events from 5/2020 - 5/2022 but made no statement about any relation between adverse events and the recall. The report recommends the reassignment of unused Chapter 19 funds to the Medical Marijuana Assistance Program, requests more statutory authority over laboratories and for the advisory board to be re-empower as detailed in the previous two year report. [Read the full report here.](#)

Commonwealth Court orders Pa.'s health department to release information on medical marijuana program by Ed Mahon of Spotlight PA | Aug. 22, 2022

HARRISBURG — A panel of Commonwealth Court judges has ordered the Wolf administration to reveal how many medical marijuana patients have received approval from a doctor to use cannabis for opioid addiction treatment.

For more than a year, the Department of Health has fought to keep that information secret.

Spotlight PA sought that data to better understand the impact of the agency's unusual and controversial decision to endorse cannabis as a treatment option for opioid use disorder.

In a court opinion Friday, the judges dismissed several arguments from the department. The agency interpreted confidentiality rules too broadly and one of its arguments was "undeveloped" and "misses the point," wrote Bonnie Brigance Leadbetter, a senior judge.

The judges also rejected the department's argument that releasing the information could lead to criminal charges against employees.

"This ruling is an important step toward public access to aggregate data that will help Pennsylvanians better understand how the state's medical marijuana program is operating," said Paula Knudsen Burke, an attorney with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press who is representing Spotlight PA for free.

The court's decision could potentially help other members of the public who request information, according to Melissa Melewsky, media law counsel with the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, of which Spotlight PA is a member.

"It's a very significant case," Melewsky told Spotlight PA. "And I think it's good news for Pennsylvanians everywhere."

The case began in June 2021 when Spotlight PA requested aggregate data on the state's medical marijuana program — specifically the number of medical marijuana certifications issued for each of the program's 23 qualifying conditions. Those certifications from a doctor are what allow hundreds of thousands of patients to obtain a medical marijuana card and buy cannabis from dispensaries. Qualifying conditions include anxiety disorders, severe chronic pain, and epilepsy.

At the time Spotlight PA requested the information, the news organization was reporting on confusion and unintended consequences that followed from the Wolf administration's decision to endorse cannabis as a treatment option for opioid use disorder. The newsroom specifically requested aggregate data — information that would not identify individual patients.

The Department of Health denied the request, even though it had made similar information publicly available in the past. Spotlight PA then appealed to the state Office of Open Records, an independent agency that settles public records disputes involving the Wolf administration. The agency in September ordered the Department of Health to release the records.

The Department of Health still refused to provide the information. It sued Spotlight PA in Commonwealth Court, and a panel of three judges heard arguments in the case in May.

In Friday's opinion, Leadbetter wrote that some information is confidential under the state's medical marijuana law, but not as much as the department claimed. She wrote that "because only patient information is protected, the requested data is subject to disclosure."

In the same case, Commonwealth Court ruled in favor of the Department of Health on a separate matter. The court overturned a decision by the Office of Open Records that said the department failed to prove that certain written policies and procedures did not exist.

It's not clear whether the Department of Health will provide the data. The department could petition the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and ask for permission to appeal. The department's press office did not respond to a request for comment by Spotlight PA's deadline Friday afternoon.

When Pennsylvania lawmakers legalized medical marijuana in 2016, they gave the Department of Health expansive powers to oversee the program and ensure it benefits patients across the state. But a series of investigative stories from Spotlight PA this year has revealed flaws in that oversight.

"Unproven, Unsafe," an investigation published in February and based on a first-of-its-kind review of more than 60 websites, revealed that some cannabis companies made statements on their websites that multiple health policy and addiction treatment experts called misleading, incorrect, or possibly dangerous.

A follow-up investigation in May, "The Ad Block," revealed that unusual advertising restrictions and inconsistent enforcement from the Department of Health have given an advantage to largely unregulated businesses that stand to rake in millions of dollars each year courting Pennsylvania medical marijuana patients.

[Commonwealth Court Order Linked Here](#)

Jushi

In 2018, Jim Cacioppo collaborated with fellow cannabis and finance experts Erich Mauff and Jon Barack and realized that by combining their shared industry know-how, they could make a lasting impact on the lives of individuals across the globe. They quickly gathered an impressive team of experts to create Jushi Holdings Inc., with the ambition to be a leading multi-state owner and operator of cannabis licenses. Today, Jushi's operations have grown rapidly with new cultivation, manufacturing and retail licenses across the United States. Jushi's team has grown to ~1,550 members and counting. Their footprint includes operations in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Virginia, California, Ohio and Massachusetts. Jushi operates 40 retail locations, six cultivation facilities and six manufacturing facilities. To learn more visit www.jushico.com

EDUCATION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Wilkes University offers two cannabis related programs: Cannabis Production and CBD Extraction Certificate Program and a bachelor of science degree in cannabis chemistry. Learn more by clicking on the images below.



Cannabis Production and CBD Extraction Certificate Program

As the cannabis and hemp industries expand, they need qualified professionals to fill a variety of positions.

With the cannabis certificate from Wilkes, you will learn CBD extraction and hemp growing techniques to properly and safely meet industry and public demand.

The certificate is designed for current pharmacy, biology and chemistry students, as well as those working in the industry who want to advance their careers.

WHY WILKES?

Wilkes University's cannabis production and CBD extraction certificate program stands out in the region:

- Courses taught by full-time, doctoral-level members of the faculty
- Cross-disciplinary program features a broad perspective from experts in pharmacy, biology and chemistry
- Access to cutting-edge equipment and facilities, including growth chambers and greenhouses

COURSEWORK

- Certificate completion requires 16 credits:
- Cannabis Law and Policy - 1 credit (PHA 461)
- Hemp Biology and Physiology of Hemp with Lab - 3 credits and 1 credit (PHA 462)
- Cannabis and Cannabinoids - 3 credits (PHA 463)
- CBD Analysis and Extraction Lab - 2 credits (PHA 464)
- Therapeutics of Medicinal Cannabis - 3 credits (PHA 465)
- Capsule Research - 3 credits (PHA 466)

You may also take electives in medical botany, pain management and neuro psychology, depending on your unique interests.

JOB OUTLOOK

Your certificate will enhance your employment opportunities and give you a competitive advantage in this soon-to-be billion-dollar industry. Job opportunities in legal cannabis continue to increase, with the 2022 Leafly Jobs Report citing 30% growth in job numbers in a single year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
wilkes.edu/cbdcert



Cannabis Chemistry

A bachelor of science degree in cannabis chemistry prepares you for a career in an expanding industry with an increasing need for qualified scientists specializing in growing techniques, compound extraction, and product quality control and analysis.

Medicinal use of cannabis and legalization for recreational use in certain states creates a steep increase in the need for scientists who can research cannabis chemistry, extract and isolate compounds from the plant, understand laws and regulations, and assure purity and quality of products in the marketplace.

UNIQUELY QUALIFIED

In the cannabis chemistry program at Wilkes, you'll work alongside uniquely qualified faculty with expertise in chemistry, biology, pharmacology and neuroscience. They bring experience in analyzing cannabinoid compounds, the botany and physiology of medicinal plants, and growing plants in controlled environments.

This program meets requirements for American Chemical Society approval, so graduates qualify for ACS certification. That means you're better prepared for technical careers in the cannabis industry and beyond.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Gain knowledge in a comprehensive curriculum that includes analytical, organic, inorganic and physical chemistry as well as biochemistry and biology as you partner with highly qualified faculty
- Explore language, tools, practical and regulatory challenges, and ethical issues in cannabis science during annual seminars courses
- Get hands-on experience growing hemp in the University greenhouse and growth chambers
- Learn fundamentals and gain hands-on experience in extraction methods of medically important compounds from plant materials
- Learn fundamentals of chemical analysis of extracts from cannabis plants and products and how to ensure purity, quality and safety in the community

- Develop skills using state-of-the-art chemical separations and analysis instrumentation for the qualitative and quantitative analysis of cannabis-related compounds and contaminants
- Take interdisciplinary coursework in medicinal chemistry, toxicology, hemp biology and plant physiology
- Enhance research skills with opportunities to participate in faculty-mentored summer projects
- Apply your knowledge in a senior capstone project related to production and characterization of cannabinoid products

CAREERS & OUTCOMES

Job opportunities in the legal cannabis industry continue to increase, with the 2022 Leafly Jobs Report citing 30% growth in job numbers in a single year. Average annual wages for chemists in all industries range from about \$48,000 to \$128,700, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Popular careers include:

- Analytical Chemist
- Quality Assurance Chemist
- Quality Control Chemist
- Product Manager
- Method Development Chemist
- Extraction Chemist
- Extraction and Refinement Manager
- Research Chemist
- Laboratory Supervisor
- Director of Manufacturing

LEARN MORE:
wilkes.edu/cannabis



PCC Affiliate Members

Please considering using PCC Affiliate Members when you are choosing service vendors.
These businesses are our partners in the PA market.

[Core Design Group - Engineering Services](#)

[Global Go Consulting - Business Consulting](#)

[Hamburg Rubin - Legal Services](#)

[McKim & Creed - Engineering Services](#)

[PAMMJ - Patient Certifications](#)

[Principle Abstract & Settlement Services, LLC - Title Insurance](#)



Dispensary Call: First Tuesday of the Month
Tuesday, September 6 @ 1pm via Zoom

PCC Third Quarter Membership Meeting
Friday, September 9th @ 12noon Via Zoom

Grower/Processor Call: Second Tuesday of the Month
Tuesday, September 13 @ 1pm via Zoom

Legislative Input Call: Third Thursday of the Month
Thursday, September 15 @ 1pm Via Zoom

MMAB September Meeting
Tuesday, September 27th @ 10am Via Zoom

MMAB November Meeting
Tuesday, November 22nd @ 10am Via Zoom

PCC Fourth Quarter Membership Meeting
Friday, December 2nd @ 12noon Via Zoom

**All times are EST*



**Click Here to Add PCC
Events to Your Calendar!**

PCC PAC

BIG GOALS REQUIRE BIG BUDGETS

Who can contribute?

- Individuals
- PACs
- Certain LLCs

How much can you contribute?

- Any amount helps
- There is no limit
- Average 2021 contribution was \$1,000

REASONS TO GIVE TO PCC PAC

- We need to stand up for those who stand up for us
- We must continue to build a coalition of legislative support
 - PAC Dollars grab legislators attention and allow our lobbying team and staff more facetime with more legislators
- Other PACS WILL spend against us
- There is legislation being considered NOW that affects MMOs

**Please consider contributing to PCC PAC
by mailing personal or LLC check to :**

**PCC PAC
P.O. Box 11501
Harrisburg, PA 17108**

[CLICK HERE TO CONTRIBUTE NOW](#)

PAC SPENDING BY ACTIVE ASSOCIATIONS

Organization	2021 Spend	2020 Spend
PA Realtors	\$ 1,158,281.00	\$ 873,216.00
PA State Education Association	\$ 622,836.00	\$ 2,069,327.00
Operators for Skill	\$ 313,618.00	\$ 365,420.00
PA Trial Lawyers	\$ 228,459.00	\$ 857,093.00
PA Chamber PAC	\$ 209,669.00	\$ 137,750.00
PA State Police (State Lodge)	\$ 116,685.00	\$ 54,925.00
Horseman	\$ 109,536.00	\$ 74,406.00
PA Health Care Association	\$ 102,415.00	\$ 32,158.00
P.C. PAC	\$ 14,207.00	\$ 4,865.00



PCC's Election Spotlight does NOT imply endorsement. It is informational only.

Senator Doug Mastriano

Republican Candidate for Governor

Doug Mastriano is a combat veteran and the son of a career US Navy man. He retired from the U.S. Army in November 2018 after 30 years of active duty as a Colonel. Doug is an Eagle Scout and worked as a paperboy, janitor, security guard, short-order cook, pizza delivery person and dishwasher.



Doug was commissioned in the U.S. Army in 1986 and served on the Iron Curtain with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in West Germany. While serving along the East German and Czechoslovakian borders, he witnessed the end of the Cold War and thereafter deployed to Iraq for Operation Desert Storm (1991) to liberate Kuwait. His regiment led the attack against Saddam's elite Republican Guard forces. Doug went on to serve in Washington, DC, the 3rd Infantry Division and US Army Europe. After 9/11, Mastriano was the lead planner for the operation to invade Iraq via Turkey. He served four years with NATO and deployed three times to Afghanistan. Mastriano was the director of NATO's Joint Intelligence Center in Afghanistan, leading 80 people from 18 nations. On his own initiative, Doug led seven relief operations to help Afghan orphans. He completed his career as a Professor of the U.S. Army War College (PAWC), Carlisle, PA, and taught Strategic Studies at the Master Degree level to the next generation of senior leaders.

Doug is a Doctor of History (PhD) and has four master's degrees: Strategy, Strategic Intelligence, Military Operations, and Airpower. He earned a BA from Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania and was the alumnus of the year in 2009.

Representative Carrie Lewis DelRosso - Republican Candidate for Lt. Governor



Driven by the desire to give the district more attention, Carrie Lewis DelRosso's main priority as a state representative is the needs of residents of the 33rd District. She's focused more on making life better in Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties than pushing the agenda of her party, unless it's the right answer for the district.

Carrie was born and raised in Scranton before moving to Allegheny County to attend the University of Pittsburgh. She's called Oakmont home for two decades and served on its borough council for three years.

During her time in that leadership position, she worked to improve efficiency and transparency – goals that she also has for her time as a state representative.

Her other priorities include strong public education, affordable health insurance, low taxes and manageable regulations to keep costs in check. She'll stand behind pro-growth and pro-jobs initiatives to build a robust economy.

For the 2021-22 legislative session, Carrie was appointed to serve on the House Aging and Older Adult Services, Gaming Oversight, Human Services and Urban Affairs committees.

Carrie runs her own public affairs and marketing company. Because of her experience as a small business owner, she understands the importance of family-sustaining jobs and the impact they have on the local economy.

She has three children: Vincent, Domenic and Mia.

Democratic Candidates Josh Shapiro & Austin Davis were featured in the May's PCC Month IN Review.
Senate Candidates John Fetterman (D) and Mehmet Oz (R) were featured in the June's PCC Month IN Review.