

MAY 2021



# MONTH IN REVIEW



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PCC Members -

May was an incredibly exciting month for our industry here in Pennsylvania. Representative Paul Schemel's Bill (HB 1024) to modernize Act 16 was amended both in the House Health Committee and on the floor of the House of Representatives to include changes that will help MMOs deliver more medicine, more efficiently to patients. Having passed the House on second consideration we now must advocate for HB 1024 to pass the House as amended on third consideration before being sent over to the Senate.

Please call the State Representatives that represent your facilities and encourage them to vote for HB 1024. Your advocacy thus far has been instrumental to our team in accomplishing our legislative goals.

There are more details about HB 1024 in the following pages as well as a recap of the Second Quarter Medical Marijuana Board Meeting.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions - I can always be reached at [Meredith@pcanna.org](mailto:Meredith@pcanna.org) or 717-220-3508

Best,

Meredith V. Buettner  
Executive Director

**PENNSYLVANIA CANNABIS COALITION**

**204 STATE STREET HARRISBURG, PA 17101**

**717-220-3508 | [WWW.PCANNA.ORG](http://WWW.PCANNA.ORG)**

## COVID EMERGENCY DISASTER DECLARATION

- Governor Wolf extended the Covid Emergency Disaster Declaration on 5/19/21
- The decisions about which regulatory waivers will continue now lie with the legislature.
- Despite HB 1024 moving through the House we must continue to advocate for the extension of the regulatory waivers related to the MMJ program.
- PCC is communicating with House & Senate Leadership about the importance of the regulatory waivers in keeping patients safe.
- Please call your State Representatives and ask for the waivers to be continued.

## PC PAC INFORMATION

The Pennsylvania Cannabis Political Action Committee is the bipartisan political action committee of PCC. The goal of the PC PAC is to support candidates seeking elective office that advocate for access to medical and/or adult-use cannabis in Pennsylvania.

Suggested initial contributions to PC PAC:

Grower Processors: \$5,000

Dispensaries \$2,500

Clinical Registrants: \$2,500

Laboratories & Affiliates: \$1,000

Please mail your contributions to:  
PC PAC | 204 State Street | Harrisburg, PA  
17101

**Corporate contributions cannot be made to PC PAC**



**CONTRIBUTE NOW**

## DOH/PROGRAM UPDATES\*

### Market

- \$2.8 Billion in total sales
- \$1.1 Billion in sales from G/Ps to Dispensaries
- \$1.7 Billion in sales from dispensaries to patients
- 150,000 weekly patients visits to dispensaries
- 11.9 Million dispensing events
- 34 Million products dispensed to date

### Operational Permits

- 30 GPs (Includes operational CRs)
- 25 Shipping products to dispensaries
- 120 Dispensaries
- 30 Dispensary locations

### Chapter 20 Update

- All approved and affiliated with ACRCs
- Initial research published
- Additional Studies approved

### Patients

- 582,059 patients and caregivers registered
- 343,634 active certifications

### Physicians

- 1,561 registered practitioners

### Pricing

- Prices have dropped 7% as sales volume increases and the number of operational dispensaries grow
- Patient demand for flower continues to grow as demand for vape products declines

### Counties with a Patient Demand greater than 2,000 WITHOUT a dispensary

- Venango (Northwest Region)
- Potter, Tioga, Bradford (Northcentral)
- Wayne, Pike, Carbon (Northeast)
- Bedford (Southcentral)
- Armstrong, Indiana (Southwest)

### Patient Hardship Fund

- DOH's position is that the fund cannot be established until final regulations are filed and the \$3million loan from the state has begun repayment.

\*Data from May 18, 2021 MMAB Virtual Meeting

**Department Of Health Highlights Medical Marijuana Program Following Quarterly Board Meeting**

05/18/2021

Harrisburg, PA - The Department of Health today highlighted the state's medical marijuana program following the quarterly Medical Marijuana Advisory Board Meeting. The Medical Marijuana Advisory Board works to ensure that Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program provides patients with access to the latest treatments and meets to discuss patient care, patient safety and new, high-quality research methods.

"It is clear that the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program is among the most successful programs across the country thanks to the support and guidance from patients, caregivers and board members who offer guidance to best support those with serious medical conditions," Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam said. "With this ongoing guidance, we continue to make improvements to the program to ensure Pennsylvanians have seamless access to medicine, even during the COVID-19 pandemic."

In April 2021, Governor Wolf celebrated five years of Act 16 of 2016, better known as the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Act, which established the medical marijuana program in the commonwealth .

To date, there are more than 582,000 patients and caregivers registered for the program, which provides medical marijuana for one of 23 serious medical conditions. There are more than 343,600 active certifications as part of the program.

There are 119 dispensaries open and dispensing products to patients. There are 30 grower/processors who are operational, with 25 shipping medical marijuana product to dispensaries. Many of these grower/processors have recently expanded their locations, or are in the process of doing so to help ensure that they are able to provide more products to patients eligible for use of medical marijuana products.

The clinical research program, guided by Act 43 of 2018, allows for eight clinical registrants that must hold both a grower/processor and a dispensary permit. Clinical registrants must have a research contract with one of eight approved academic clinical research centers.

Active cardholders are continuing to visit dispensaries more than once a month to get treatment for a serious medical condition. More than 34 million products have been sold since the start of the program and total sales within the program are more than \$2.8 billion, which includes sales by the grower/processors to the dispensaries and sales by the dispensaries to patients and caregivers. More than \$1.7 billion in sales has been from the dispensaries to patients.

More than 1,560 physicians have been approved as practitioners in the program who may certify patients as having a serious medical condition.

As a sign of the program's continued commitment to get medical marijuana to patients, in March of 2020 the program temporarily suspended certain statutory and regulatory provisions in order to improve access to this form of medication during the COVID-19 emergency to:

- Allow dispensary employees to provide medical marijuana to cardholders in their vehicles on the facility's property;
- Remove the current cap that limits the number of patients assigned to one caregiver, to allow for more caregivers to patients in need;
- Eliminate background checks for caregiver applications, limited to renewal applications only, in order to expedite the caregiver renewal process;
- Suspend in-person consultations and allow for remote consultations between approved practitioners and medical marijuana patients; and
- Suspend limitation on medical marijuana dispensing to 30 days by requiring approved practitioners to notate on the patient's certification to dispense a 90-day supply.
- Suspend requirement for a medical professional – physician, pharmacist, physician assistant or certified registered nurse practitioner – to be on site at the dispensary during dispensing hours, which allows for medical professionals to work remotely.
- The statutory and regulatory suspensions will remain in place for as long as the Disaster Emergency Declaration is in effect.

The next Medical Marijuana Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2021.

## MODERNIZING ACT 16

On May 26, 2021 HB 1024 - Representative Paul Schemel's bill to modernize ACT 16 successfully moved through the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on Second Consideration. This step is where a bill is debated on the House floor and where amendments are allowed to be added. Our team worked diligently over the last three days to ensure our priorities were amended into HB 1024.

When HB 1024 went to the floor it included Rep. Schemel's original provisions (curbside, telehealth etc.) as well as those that were amended into by the House Health Committee:

- Remediation
- Allowing hemp ingredients to be sold to MMOs
- Updates to pesticides
- Motion activated recording and reduction of surveillance storage
- Streamlined testing

PCC worked closely with Representatives Jim Cox & Jake Wheatley who put together a bipartisan package of amendments to be offered on the floor. This package of amendments was successful with the exception of one which would have added home delivery. PCC will work to re-address this priority in the Senate. The provisions that were successfully amended into the bill on the House Floor yesterday include:

- Alignment of requirements for Public & Privately held companies (Cox A01167)
- Allowing individuals with drug related misdemeanors access to employment in the industry (Wheatley A01168)
- Allowing use of API (Cox A01170 & A01172)
- 30 Day Window for New Genetics & exchange of post harvest material between operators (Cox A01171)

Our team was also successful at coordinating an effort to amend HB 1024 in ways that were unfavorable. Only one amendment outside of the agreed upon bipartisan package was added. Amendment A1137 Sponsored by Representative John Lawrence added a "sunshine" provision to the program's permitting process which would allow the public to know who is reviewing applications. While we took a position of opposition on the amendment in an effort to give strength to the bipartisan package this amendment is not detrimental to our objectives of delivering medicine to patients safely and efficiently.

### So whats next?

HB 1024 will now be scheduled for a vote for third consideration by the House of Representatives with all the Amendments included. If the bill receives a Yes vote it will then move to the Senate. We anticipate this will happen the week of June 7th but we will confirm once it is formally scheduled.

**Continued on next page**

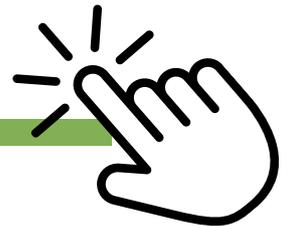
**What can you do?**

Please continue to call your State Representatives and encourage them to support HB 1024 on third consideration. Your advocacy was visible in Harrisburg. Members of the House of Representatives shared your stories with our team as we met with them. Thank you for your outreach thus far.

Please also call, write, email Representatives Schemel, Cox & Wheatley and thank them for their willingness to work with PCC on modernizing Act 16.

House Health Committee Chairs Representative Kathy Rapp (R) and Representative Dan Frankel (D) were also crucial to coordinating the efforts to modernize Act 16. Please consider reaching out to them and thanking them and their staff for their efforts in helping us improve our ability to deliver medicine to patients safely and effectively.

**[To determine who your legislators are click here](#)**



## PCC PRIORITIES: ADULT USE CANNABIS

- Creation of an independent regulatory body to oversee both the medical and adult-use programs
- Current permit holders serving as the "on-ramp" for a well regulated adult-use market allowing revenue to be realized most quickly
- Co-located dispensaries, no inventory separation requirements
- An effective tax rates that generates meaningful revenue while displacing the illicit market
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Creating incentives for municipalities as opposed to allowing opt outs



## PCC MEMBER LOBBYIST CALL

PCC holds a twice monthly call for the lobbyist of members. The purpose of this call is to update our member's lobbyists and to ensure we are all working together on industry goals. Does your company have a contract lobbyist? If so, please connect them with Meredith via email at [Meredith@pcanna.org](mailto:Meredith@pcanna.org).

**[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS PCC MEMBER RESOURCES PAGE](#)**

MAY 2021

**LEGISLATOR SPOTLIGHT:  
REPRESENTATIVE JIM COX  
CHAIRMAN, HOUSE LABOR AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE**



In 2007, state Rep. Jim Cox began serving the people of the 129th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Since taking office, Cox took a leadership role in the grassroots-driven effort to fully replace school district property taxes so Pennsylvanians can truly own their homes. Firmly believing no tax should have the power to leave you homeless, Cox introduced the Property Tax Independence Act, first as House Bill 1776 and later as House Bill 76. The plan, which was created in cooperation with taxpayer activist groups from across the Commonwealth, would rely on new revenue from the state sales and income taxes to completely replace school district property taxes. Cox continues to work with grassroots organizations as well as his legislative colleagues in the House and Senate to build support for the **Property Tax Independence Act**.

Cox is a strong proponent of government reform and accountability. Shortly after he took office, he was appointed to serve on the Speaker's Commission on Legislative Reform, a prestigious and historic group that developed and implemented a comprehensive series of reforms aimed at increasing transparency and integrity in the legislative process.

After learning about horrific local situations where care-dependent individuals were neglected and mistreated by those entrusted with their care, Cox introduced a proposal to give the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office expanded authority to prosecute such cases. Working with his colleagues, he ushered the bill through the Legislature and it was signed into law by the governor.

In the wake of the opioid addiction crisis, Cox introduced legislation aimed at helping doctors to better treat patients with a history of overdoses. His bill would require first responders and emergency room personnel to record the use of naloxone – a medication used to combat opioid overdoses – in a patient's history in the Commonwealth's prescription monitoring program. This would ensure the patient's primary care provider would have access to this information.

During the 2019-20 legislative session, Cox became chairman of the House Labor and Industry Committee. Within months of taking the position, Cox helped guide through the legislative process a package of bills aimed at enhancing workforce development initiatives and programs in the Commonwealth. Designed to help Pennsylvanians learn more so they can earn more, these bills were signed into law and are helping to empower workers to obtain the skills they need to find good-paying, family-sustaining jobs.

Cox also serves on the House Health Committee, the Capitol Preservation Committee and the bipartisan working group on property tax reform.

Prior to taking office, Cox served as chief of staff to former state Rep. Sam Rohrer. In that position, he earned a valuable understanding of the legislative process as well as the state programs and services available to help Pennsylvania residents. Before that, Cox served as the government affairs coordinator for The Rutherford Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Cox attended Pensacola Christian College in Florida and earned his law degree at Regent University School of Law in Virginia, where he served on the law review staff and board.

Jim and his wife, Kelly, are blessed with five children. He is committed to making Pennsylvania a better place for them and all families to live, work and lead successful, fulfilling lives.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### **Cerealia Group**

PCC Affiliate Member

Cerealia Group provides secure transportation of legal cannabis from cultivators to labs, and dispensaries. They are fully bonded & insured and provide safe and optimal product storage. Cerealia offers simplified ordering & scheduling, sales support and sophisticated data.

[www.cerealiagroup.com](http://www.cerealiagroup.com)

## AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

The PCC Affiliate Membership program brings together the greater Pennsylvania Cannabis Community in order to advance legislation, regulations and implementation of Pennsylvania's cannabis program. Affiliate Membership is open to any entity who supports the purposes of PCC and is engaged in the business of supplying current permit holders with goods and services. Examples of Affiliate Member businesses include but are not limited to cannabis accessories; cultivation equipment or supplies; dispensary equipment or supplies; financial, legal, advocacy or insurance services; packaging, security or software companies.

Affiliate Members may participate in all PCC programming, meetings and receive coalition communications. Affiliate Members may join relevant committees but are not eligible for membership on the Executive Committee as they are classified as Non-Voting. Affiliate Members will receive an updated business-to-business contact sheet for all members on a quarterly basis and have logo and company information displayed on the Affiliate Member page of the PCC Website. Opportunities for advertising in PCC communications and presenting at membership meetings are also available to Affiliate Members.

**Affiliate Membership is \$1,000 per quarter**

***If you have a vendor who may be interested in becoming an affiliate member please email [Meredith@Pcanna.org](mailto:Meredith@Pcanna.org).***

## IMPORTANT DATES\*

### **Dispensary Call**

**Tuesday, June 1 @ 1pm Via Zoom**

### **Grower/Processor Call**

**Tuesday, June 8 @ 1pm Via Zoom**

### **Adult Use Committee Call**

**Wednesday, June 9 @ 1pm Via Zoom**

### **Advocacy & Outreach Committee Call**

**Tuesday, June 15 @ 1pm Via Zoom**

### **Legislative Input Committee Call**

**Thursday, June 24 @ 2pm Via Zoom**

*\*All times are EST*

**EMAIL [MEREDITH@PCANNA.ORG](mailto:MEREDITH@PCANNA.ORG) TO BE ADDED TO A CALL OR COMMITTEE TODAY.**

Dues invoices are emailed quarterly to your billing contact. To check or update your billing information please email [Meredith@pcanna.org](mailto:Meredith@pcanna.org)

## MEMBERSHIP INFO

### **PCC 2021 Dues Schedule PER PERMIT**

    GPs: \$3,000/quarter  
    Dispensaries: \$1,500/quarter  
    Labs: \$1,500/quarter  
    Clinical Registrants: \$4,500/quarter  
    Affiliates: \$1,000/quarter