

JANUARY 2021



MONTH IN REVIEW



PENNSYLVANIA CANNABIS COALITION

204 STATE STREET HARRISBURG, PA 17101

717-220-3508 | WWW.PCANNA.ORG

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year!

My first six months as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Cannabis Coalition have been quite the whirlwind. Our membership has grown, the Pennsylvania patient base is well over 400,000 and the market is experiencing a growth rate of 2% a week. Despite the challenges of Covid-19 and the difficult political and social climate of 2020 our industry thrived. As we kick off 2021, PCC remains dedicated to advocating on behalf of the entire industry. We will continue to work hand-and-hand with legislators and the administration to improve Act 16 and ensure that operators can deliver medicine to patients safely and efficiently while taking into account the viewpoints of all sectors of the industry. In addition, this year we will renew the push for the current operators to serve as the "on-ramp" to a well regulated adult-use marijuana market in the Commonwealth. In order to achieve these goals we have brought on new lobbying and public relations partners (more about them on page four). Lastly, please save the date of February 25, 2021 for our First Quarter Virtual Membership Meeting. We will have the opportunity to hear from our new lobbying and public relations team as well as legislative and industry guests. Please let me know if I can answer any questions - I can always be reached at Meredith@pcanna.org or 717-220-3508

Best,

Meredith V. Buettner
Meredith V. Buettner
Executive Director

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY UPDATES

DOH/PROGRAM UPDATES*

Market

PA Market at \$1.7 Billion
Represents 30% growth since August
\$680M GP to Dispensaries
Weekly Dispensary sales at \$21 million
Growing at a rate of 2% per week

Operational Permits

27 GPs (Includes operational CRs)
97 Dispensaries (Over 100 by end of 2020)

Chapter 20 Update

Initial research published
Additional Studies approved
Virtual Research Summit held in December

Patients

460,000 registered
425,000 certified
~ 280,000 active per week
140,000 weekly visits up from 120,000 in August
Weekly purchases approaching 400,000 units up from 370,000 in August

Physicians

2,000 registered in the program
1,500 completed training
Still a need for pediatric physicians

Top Conditions - 1) Pain 2) Anxiety 3) PTSD

**Data is from November 2020 Medical Marijuana Advisory Board Meeting.*

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.

- On Jan. 6, 2020, After outreach from PCC, DOH released [guidance](#) for dispensary employees to begin registering for Covid-19 Vaccinations.
- PCC continues outreach regarding vaccines for Grower/Processor employees.
- On Jan. 8 2020 PCC sent a [letter](#) regarding new surveillance guidance issued by DOH. We encourage you to send a copy to the legislators that represent your PA facilities.
- PCC continues to work with the PA House of Representatives Health Committee on much needed changes to Act 16.
- PCC is working with House & Senate staff on language for future Adult-Use Legislation
- PCC will engage in the process to establish final regulations for the PA MMJ program.

BIDEN NOMINATES LEVINE

President Joe Biden has nominated Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Rachel Levine as Assistant Secretary of Health. If confirmed Levine would be the first openly transgender federal official to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate and would be the highest-ranking transgendered official in the U.S. Government. Levine was appointed in 2017 by Governor Tom Wolf and served as Secretary of Health and the state's Physician General. Levine will oversee 10 regional health offices, the Office of the Surgeon General and the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and will serve under Xavier Becerra, the President's nominee to head the Department of Health and Human Services.

JANUARY 2021

GOV. WOLF TO NOMINATE ALISON BEAM AS SECRETARY OF HEALTH, NAMES DR. WENDY BRAUND AS INTERIM ACTING PHYSICIAN GENERAL

January 22, 2021 Release

Governor Tom Wolf announced his intention to nominate Alison Beam to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and named Dr. Wendy Braund Interim Acting Physician General.

“Alison Beam is a talented public servant who brings years of experience in health care policy and implementation to this position,” said Gov. Wolf. “Alison knows that a strong, widely available, and successful vaccination strategy is the path out of the pains of this pandemic. Her foremost and immediate focus will be on the strategic distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, making sure Pennsylvania receives as many doses as possible from the federal government, and that the Pennsylvania Department of Health coordinates with hospitals, health centers, county and local governments, and pharmacy partners to make this vaccine as widely available as possible to Pennsylvanians everywhere.”

Beam currently serves as Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Tom Wolf, coordinating initiatives and resources across Pennsylvania’s departments of Health, Human Services, Drug & Alcohol Programs, Aging and Insurance, as well as the Office of Advocacy and Reform. She has helped coordinate the administration’s COVID-19 pandemic response; the rollout of Pennie, Pennsylvania’s health insurance marketplace; the Reach Out PA campaign; and the Wolf Administration’s health care reform plan. Prior to transitioning to the Governor’s Office, Beam served as Chief of Staff to the Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner. She previously served as Director of Public Policy and Associate Counsel for Independence Health Group in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Beam graduated from Drexel University School of Law and holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Policy and Administration from the Pennsylvania State University. Beam will replace outgoing Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine, who has been nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary of Health in the federal Department of Health and Human Services. Beam will assume the role of Acting Secretary effective January 23, 2021. The governor has also named Dr. Wendy Braund as Interim Acting Physician General, replacing Dr. Rachel Levine in that role.

“Wendy brings years of public health expertise and a commitment to improving public health practice in Pennsylvania to the role of Interim Acting Physician General,” said Gov. Wolf. “Wendy has been an integral part of our COVID-19 pandemic response efforts, and that experience will be an asset in this role.

“Braund, MD, MPH, MEd, FACPM, currently serves as the COVID-19 Response Director for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Previously, she was the Director of the Center for Public Health Practice, Associate Dean for Practice, and a Professor of Health Policy and Management at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. Prior to her time in academia, she served as the Wyoming State Health Officer and Public Health Division Administrator for the Wyoming Department of Health. Before working at the state level, Dr. Braund was employed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, first in the Office of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and then at the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions.

Dr. Braund has a BA from Duke University, MEd from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, MPH from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and MD from the Penn State College of Medicine. She is a 2007 graduate of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Preventive Medicine Residency Program and is board certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine. She is a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Braund will assume the role of Interim Acting Physician General effective January 23, 2021.

Source: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-to-nominate-alison-beam-as-secretary-of-health-names-dr-wendy-braund-as-interim-acting-physician-general/>

LEGISLATOR SPOTLIGHT

Senator Sharif Street, elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in 2016, represents the Third Senatorial District of Philadelphia. As senator, Sharif is committed to improving access to healthcare, reforming our criminal justice system, creating quality jobs, funding our public schools, investing in science and technology and fighting for the rights of all Pennsylvanians. An attorney by profession, Sharif began his public career as a community activist organizing a Town Watch group while in law school. He graduated cum laude from Morehouse College with a B.A. in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance- and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he served as president of the Penn Law Democrats. He is currently a member of the American, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and National Bar Associations, as well as a member of the Philadelphia Barristers Association, for which he served as a board member in 2002. Before being elected Senator, Sharif worked as a staffer for the Pennsylvania Senate, serving as the Chief Legislative Advisor to the Democratic Chair of the Housing and Urban Development Committee and had the primary responsibility for overseeing legislative, housing, environmental and economic development initiatives. Sharif helped to found and served on the Board of Directors of Urban Solutions, a non-profit corporation created to address the health needs of traditionally under-served communities. A known advocate of affordable housing and community development, Sharif has a depth of knowledge and experience in dealing with eminent domain acquisition, low-income housing, women and minority issues, and disadvantaged business certifications. He has served on the Council for HOPE VI, has been a featured presenter at the National Public Housing Resident Empowerment Conference, and has served as managing director of the Housing Association of Delaware Valley. Additionally, Sharif has served on the board of the North Central Philadelphia Empowerment Zone's Housing Trust Fund and was a member of the North-Central Empowerment Zone's Community Advisory Committees for Housing, Crime and Public Safety, and Economic Development. He has served as a board member of the Columbia North YMCA and is a current member of the Philadelphia's African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs Commission. Sharif is a father of five children and lives in North Philadelphia with his wife, April.



DENTONS COHEN & GRIGSBY

Nello Giorgetti is our principal lobbyist with Dentons. Nello brings more than 30 years of government, public affairs and public policy experience to the Public Affairs group. His extensive career has included positions as Intergovernmental Affairs Director under Pittsburgh Mayor Sophie Masloff's administration, Deputy Register of Wills of Allegheny County, Chief of Staff to State Senator Jay Costa, now the Minority Leader of the Pennsylvania State Senate, and as a Staff Assistant and Campaign Manager of United States Congressman Doug Walgren.

THE DT FIRM + DUANE MORRIS

Dave Thomas is our principal lobbyist with the DT Firm and will be quarterbacking the combined team of DT + Duane Morris. Through his 20 year career in politics, Dave has become a respected voice throughout the Pennsylvania General Assembly. He is the only lobbyist in Harrisburg with the unique experience of being Chief Counsel to both the Speaker of the House and to the Senate Majority Leader.

Patty Mackavage is our principal lobbyist with Duane Morris. Patty, a former legislative aide to the last three Pennsylvania governors, manages the day-to-day operations of the Harrisburg office as DMGS' Executive Director. In addition, she represents clients' issues before the legislature and local governments throughout Pennsylvania. The client issues she advocates are very broad, but her area of expertise is the state budget process and public finance/economic development.

MOWER

Chuck Beeler is the director of public relations with Mower and primarily responsible for PCC's relationship. Chuck helps clients develop strategic marketing programs. He has a wide range of experience in corporate social responsibility, sports marketing and social media communications — including specific industry expertise in wireless communications, heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC), banking, retail and professional services.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

[Medical Marijuana Program Operationalizes 100th Dispensary](#)

[Horsham Marijuana Dispensary Set To Open In March](#)

[Jushi Plans \\$50 Million Expansion In Scranton, PA](#)

[State Tax Dollars Awarded For Expansion Of Medical Cannabis Production In Mon Valley](#)

[Some old newspaper boxes in Montco now hold marijuana pardon applications](#)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MCR Labs Pennsylvania is now operational and ready to accept cannabis samples. One of the most trusted names in cannabis science, MCR Labs offers experience and expertise growers, producers, and communities can count on.

Please reach out to Harrison Avart, MCR's Business Development Manager, with any questions or inquiries about how they can assist with your compliance testing needs. (610) 417-2648 / Harrison@mcrlabs.com

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Dues invoices are emailed quarterly to your billing contact. To check or update your billing information please email Meredith@pcanna.org

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

IMPORTANT DATES

PA DOH MMMAB Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 2021
10:00am
LINK WILL BE EMAILED WHEN AVAILABLE

PCC 1Q Quarter Virtual Membership Meeting

Thursday, February 25, 2021
12:00pm Via Zoom
[Zoom Link](#)

ACT 16 Five Year Anniversary

April 17, 2021

PA DOH MMMAB Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, May 18, 2021
LINK WILL BE EMAILED WHEN AVAILABLE

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

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.