



State of Utah

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Deputy Director

Richard J. Oborn, M.P.A.
Director, Center for Medical Cannabis

November 6, 2020

RE: Compassionate Use Board Annual Report

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Interim Committee,

Utah Code 26-61a-105 (5)(f) provides that the Compassionate Use Board shall submit an annual report to the Health and Human Services Committee by November 1 of each year. The report must include the number of petitions approved by the Board during the past year and the types of medical conditions for which the Board received the petition. This letter provides this information along with some background regarding the Board.

Utah law requires that all medical cannabis card applications from individuals under age 21 include a petition to be reviewed by the Board. An individual without a medical condition specified in Utah Code 26-61a-104 (2) as a qualifying condition may submit a petition to the Board and obtain a medical cannabis card if approved by the Department of Health. The Board recommends approval or denial of each complete petition to the department and the department either approves or denies each petition within 90 days of submittal of a complete petition.

The Board is comprised of seven board certified physicians appointed by the department's executive director and confirmed by the Utah State Senate. Three board members have board certification in pediatrics. All information submitted in a petition is confidential. Only Board members and department staff are authorized to review Board petitions and attend Board meetings.

The Department of Health began accepting medical cannabis card applications and Board petitions in March 2020. The Board's first meeting was held in March 2020 and seven additional meetings have been held since that time.

The tables below report the number of petitions approved by the Board at each Board meeting and the types of medical conditions for which the Board received a petition:

Table 1. Number of Petitions Approved and Denied

	Approved		Denied	
	Minors	Adults	Minors	Adults
Mar-20	0	0	0	0
Apr-20	10	0	0	0
May-20	17	3	0	0
Jun-20	13	1	0	0
Jul-20	11	0	1	0
Aug-20	12	1	0	0
Sep-20	10	1	0	0
Oct-20	27	0	0	0
Total	100	6	1	0

Table 2. Number of Approved Petitions by Medical Condition

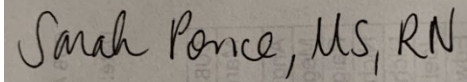
Medical Condition	# Approved	% of Total Approved
Chronic Pain	35	33%
PTSD	27	25%
Autism	24	23%
Anxiety*	4	4%
Persistent Nausea	4	4%
Epilepsy	3	3%
Cancer	1	1%
Cachexia	1	1%
Sleep Disorder*	1	1%
Parkinson's*	1	1%
POTS*	1	1%
Crohn's Disease	1	1%
Intellectual Disability*	1	1%
Lipodystrophy Pain*	1	1%
Rare Disease	1	1%
Total Approved	106	

*indicates a condition that is not listed in Utah Code 26-61a-104(2) as a qualifying condition.

Of the 106 petitions approved by the Board, 100 were submitted for patients under the age of 21 (94%) and 6 were adults who were age 21 or over (6%). While only one petition has been denied, other petitions have been classified as incomplete. The department has requested additional information from the patient and their medical provider in these cases.

If there are any questions about information in this report, please contact Sarah Ponce, MS, RN, Senior Registered Nurse, with the Center for Medical Cannabis, at sponce@utah.gov.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Ponce, MS, RN".

Sarah Ponce, MS, RN
Senior Registered Nurse
Center for Medical Cannabis