

**CANNABIS CONTROL DIVISION**  
**CANNABIS REGULATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

New Mexico Cannabis Regulatory Advisory Committee (C-RAC)  
New Mexico Regulation & Licensing Department  
Las Cruces City Hall, 700 N. Main St, Las Cruces, NM 88001  
June 11, 2025 1:30 p.m.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Debbi Moore called the New Mexico Cannabis Regulatory Advisory Committee meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

**A. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was determined present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chris Duvall  
Christopher Williams  
Debbi Moore  
Phillip Sanchez  
Dr. Steven Jenison

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM:**

Esther Lopez  
Lou Ann Branch  
Nina Wells

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bennett Baur  
David McDermid  
Ginger Baker  
Harold Trujillo  
Kim Stewart  
Mary Carmack Altwies  
Nathaniel Paolinelli  
Rachel McLaughlin (non-voting)

**NMRLD STAFF PRESENT:**

Todd Stevens, CCD Director  
Eden Sayers, CCD Legal Counsel  
Liz Hewitt, CCD Executive Secretary  
Joone Tena, CCD Compliance Officer  
Clay Bailey, RLD Superintendent  
Quindi Otero, RLD Secretary

## II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Dr. Steven Jenison made a

**MOTION** to approve the June 11, 2025

Regular Committee Meeting Agenda. Member Christopher Williams **SECONDED** the motion. Motion **PASSED** by **UNANIMOUS APPROVAL**.

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Phillip Sanchez made a **MOTION** to approve the January 29, 2025 Regular Committee Meeting Minutes. Member Christopher Williams **SECONDED** the motion. Motion **PASSED** by **UNANIMOUS APPROVAL**.

## IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Nicole Fuchs – consultant for cannabis companies. Nicole feels the communication regarding renewals could be improved. The timeframe for renewal is confusing and operators are missing deadlines and having to apply for a new license. Also, regarding the water rights situation in the newspaper. Licensees in the area have been able to work with the local OSE and it has been a pleasant experience. She is not aware of any southern operators looking to close due to water rights issues. Lastly, she wanted to thank the CCD and committee for holding this meeting in Las Cruces. Many southern operators feel disconnected from the CCD and the north part of the state. Debbi had asked her how the industry in the area has been, Nicole stated they definitely have struggling operators in retail and production. She feels like things seem oversaturated in regard to flower.
- Dan Arvizu – Apogee Therapeutics – There is a lot of concern about transparency, communication and information changing rapidly. Hard to understand what the process is and how to get things done, both with municipalities and CCD. The market is very saturated and competitive. A lot of illegal product finding it's way into the legal market from in state, out of state and Mexico. Wants to see help in protecting the legal market with compliance.
- Sheryl Arvizu – Apogee Therapeutics – Has questions about consumption lounges, differences in how regulations are interpreted. Cities have interpreted this that all outdoor consumption areas are not allowed.
- Corrina Miramontes Straus – Royal Road Cannabis – Wanted to raise concerns about the lack of standardization in cannabis testing at labs. Has seen inconsistencies between testing labs around the state in potency and contaminations. Creating an unfair market and putting consumer health at risk. Concerned about the unfulfilled review of plant count limits. Review is supposed to be done once a year, states to date no public review has been completed. Lack of review has an impact on pricing volatility and over saturation. If plant count limitations are not periodically assessed and adjusted based on actual data and demand, the state risks continued imbalances in supply and demand. Finally, regarding expired products and the burden on dispensary owners. Dispensaries are burdened by expired inventory which results from inflexible regulatory timelines.
- Cassandra Caster (online) - NM Sacred Flower – Is a micro manufacturer. Asking that the CCD reconsider a micro fee schedule. There is no longer a micro manufacturer license, just a micro integrated, resulting in her license fee going up 500%. Would also like to address topical products not having a THC limit. Rules look to not have a limit on topicals, but there have been inconsistencies in the interpretation of the rules.

## V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of July 1<sup>st</sup> the RLD will be adding a bureau of certified law enforcement officers as a result of efforts put forward in HB10 which will report directly to the superintendent. These will be certified peace officers that can investigate criminal violations of the cannabis regulatory act. Chair Debbi Moore asked if rules and regulations will be divided between enforcement bureau and CCD or separate rules. Also, is there anything in original legislation that stated rules and regulations would be re-reviewed at a 5-year period. Director Stevens said he does not believe there will have to be many, if any, rules drafted for the enforcement bureau. They will be addressing violations of the rules of the cannabis regulatory act. The CCD is always looking at the rules for changes that may be needed to update and evolve. Chair Debbi Moore asked about the enforcement bureau and if there will be any staff located in the southern part of the state. Director Stevens stated that the CCD/RLD is in the process of reviewing staffing enforcement officers and compliance officers throughout the state. Chair Debbi Moore said that without many officers in the south the area is more open to the illicit market and would like to see the enforcement piece be utilized in the area.

## VI. DIVISION REPORT

### A. Licensing & Compliance Update

Director Todd Stevens reported the following:

Between April 1, 2022 and June 1, 2025 New Mexico cannabis retailers reported the following sales:

- Medical Sales \$510,366,767
- Recreational Sales \$1,237,214,517
- Total \$1,747,581,284

### Top Cities for Market Sales – April 1, 2022 to June 1, 2025

<u>City</u>	<u>Medical</u>	<u>Recreational</u>	<u>Total</u>
Albuquerque	\$206,671,026.75	\$353,665,271.12	\$560,336,297.88
Sunland Park	\$7,047,000.02	\$127,716,792.88	\$134,763,792.88
Las Cruces	\$42,341,803.60	\$76,861,504.44	\$119,203,308.11
Santa Fe	\$42,641,038.34	\$74,518,171.44	\$117,159,210
Hobbs	\$13,464,069.78	\$78,961,624.58	\$92,425,694.38
Rio Rancho	\$21,434,970.08	\$29,430,517.19	\$50,865,487.29
Carlsbad	\$13,006,892.54	\$37,569,153.00	\$50,576,045.54
Clovis	\$13,764,170.74	\$35,543,309.26	\$49,307,480.04
Farmington	\$9,100,627.96	\$38,780,870.31	\$47,881,498.27
Roswell	\$15,661,869.92	\$25,532,210.40	\$41,194,080.31

Between June 1, 2024 and June 1, 2025 New Mexico cannabis retailers reported the following sales:

- Medical Sales \$139,312,828
- Recreational Sales \$442,190,547
- Total \$581,503,376

## Top Cities for Market Sales – June 1, 2024 – June 1, 2025

<u>City</u>	<u>Medical</u>	<u>Recreational</u>	<u>Total</u>
Albuquerque	\$57,571,933.39	\$119,399,619.29	\$176,971,552.68
Sunland Park	\$2,362,561.54	\$57,081,173.75	\$59,443,735.29
Las Cruces	\$10,735,020.97	\$24,630,879.69	\$35,365,900.66
Santa Fe	\$10,550,907.97	\$23,761,848.72	\$34,312,756.69
Hobbs	\$4,285,588.72	\$29,993,946.07	\$34,279,534.79
Farmington	\$3,372,137.28	\$15,058,373.93	\$18,430,511.21
Clovis	\$3,417,232.75	\$12,685,218.73	\$16,102,451.48
Carlsbad	\$3,838,496.81	\$12,036,564.47	\$15,875,061.27
Roswell	\$4,155,190.74	\$9,612,199.69	\$13,767,390.43
Rio Rancho	\$4,629,574.90	\$8,577,132.06	\$13,206,706.96

Dr. Jenison asked if medical enrollment is up or down. Director Stevens responded that the CCD does not keep track of medical enrollment numbers, the DOH still maintains the patient registry and credits. Director Stevens stated he does know the numbers are down but does not have exact numbers. The CCD can work with DOH to get these numbers for the next meeting or ask that they join at the next C-RAC to present these numbers themselves. Chair Debbi Moore requested that other departments of the state be invited to present at future C-RAC as well.

### Pending Applications:

<u>Vertically Integrated (parent): 24</u>	<u>Micro Integrated (parent): 35</u>
Retail: 17	Retail: 25
Manufacturer: 20	Manufacturer: 31
Producer: 19	Producer: 22
Premises: 37	Premises: 39

### Individual Licenses: 174

Retailer: 33	Consumption Area: 3
Manufacturer: 34	Courier: 12
Producer: 47	Testing Laboratory: 5
Producer Microbusiness: 38	Research Laboratory: 2

### Active Licenses:

<u>Vertically Integrated (parent): 138</u>	<u>Micro Integrated (parent): 227</u>
Retail: 333	Retail: 158
Manufacturer: 303	Manufacturer: 210
Producer: 137	Producer: 145
Premises: 431	Premises: 268

### Independent Premise License: 798

Retailer: 216	Consumption Area: 27
Manufacturer: 228	Courier: 14
Producer: 171	Testing Laboratory: 5
Producer Microbusiness: 137	Research Laboratory: 0
Premises: 960	

## **Compliance Actions Taken by the Division**

- Total Inspections Conducted Between June 2024 and May 2025:
- Retail Inspections: 978
- Producer Inspections: 929
- Manufacturer Inspections: 1186

### Total Notices of Contemplated Action Issued in June 2024 to May 2025:

- Settlements Entered: 15
- Pending Settlement Negotiation: 1
- Pending Hearings: 1
- Revoked Licenses: 11

### Preliminary Injunctions Filed: 0

Director Stevens reported the CCD is getting inspections back to licensees faster. Inspection reports are available online in the licensees NM Plus portal immediately after the inspection is completed and submitted. Will be getting 10 additional compliance officers to ensure that all inspections are completed as well as re-inspections and pre-licensure inspections.

Director Stevens responded to the public comments.

The demand study is being finalized currently and will be published online as soon as it is complete. The same team will be utilized to compile the data for next year and the CCD will continue this annually for plant counts and any other data that comes from that.

With regard to restrictions around consumption lounges. Those restrictions are determined by the local municipality. Consumption lounges and drive-thru retail are able to be restricted by the municipality under time, place and manner.

For expiration dates, those are decided on and added by the licensee. Most are best by dates and based on the type of product.

For integrated micro tiers, it is still \$1000 less than a standalone license. The CCD does understand that micro businesses are smaller operators and any increase can be difficult. The CCD will continue to take feedback and promulgate rules around that.

Dr. Jenison stated that he frequently is asked about any reports of increased use amongst children or increased hospitalizations. Director Stevens stated that the CCD has not received any reports of increased hospitalizations. The DOH has a public health advisory committee which maintains any records of these. When inviting DOH to future meetings the CCD will request an update on this as well.

Dr. Jenison asked if there were any updates on Border Control issues in southern NM. Director Stevens stated he had not received additional reports from border patrol but is aware of a lawsuit filed by licensees. There have been continued reports from licensees of seizures of products by border control.

Esther Lopez asked if the CCD had any interest in gathering labor market data. Director Stevens responded that the CCD tries to gather this information as they can, but it is not required information for licensure.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Summary of Proposed Rule Changes**

Director Stevens stated the CCD has began working with some licensees and reviewing rules. Will get some more feedback and are hoping for a September or October rule change. The CCD wants to work with the industry on future rule changes.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Debbi Moore asked, with the passage of HB10 and the implementation of the enforcement bureau, these will be based on criminal charges, which puts them in the judicial system. Is there anything specific the legislator needs to do, specific to charges in the cannabis industry? Also, how does this impact our schools? Will enforcement officers be able to go into schools or work with law enforcement in the schools?

Director Stevens stated that would be a policy decision that the legislator would need to decide. The CCD will work with legislators to answer any questions and provide what guidance they can. In regard to the second question, the CCD does not know but would be surprised if they did not work with local school campuses.

Director Stevens introduced CCD employees Elizabeth (Liz) Hewitt the CCD's new Executive Secretary and Joone Tena the latest Compliance officer in the Las Cruces area. Also introduced Brock Romero the CCD's new Environmental Scientist (not in attendance).

Esther Lopez asked, can you explain how a cannabis employer is different. Director Stevens responded that they have challenges with cannabis being federally illegal, causing some struggles that other businesses or employees may not have. Such as employees affected with home loans.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

Member Dr. Steven Jenison made a **MOTION** to adjourn the June 11, 2025 Regular Committee Meeting Agenda. Member Chris Duvall **SECONDED** the motion. Motion **PASSED** by **UNANIMOUS APPROVAL**.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Approved by:



Debbi Moore Chair

10.31.25 2:38pm

Date