



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

*“To protect and improve
the health and environment
of the people of Colorado.”*

NEWS

4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246 303-692-2021

Contact: Mark W. Salley
Communications Director
303-692-2013
mark.salley@state.co.us

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Committee Selected to Advise State Health Department Regarding Rules for the Medical Marijuana Registry

DENVER – The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has selected the members for its Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee. The committee will advise the department’s executive director regarding rule-making required by two medical marijuana bills recently passed by the Colorado General Assembly (SB10-109 and HB10-1284).

The committee will meet monthly starting this month to develop recommendations regarding rules for implementation of the two new laws. The department’s Executive Director Martha Rudolph shall consider the recommendations forwarded by the committee for official rule-making before the state Board of Health.

Nearly 100 applications were received for nine public representative positions on the committee. The department received input from medical marijuana proponents, law enforcement and local public health organizations regarding the selection of committee members. The state Board of Health requested that a representative from a local public health agency be added. Two staff members of the state health department, the chief medical officer (or his designee) and the director of the Medical Marijuana Registry also will serve on the committee.

Members of the committee and the position they represent are as follows:

Ken Weaver – patient

Michael Marcella – primary caregiver

Jill Lamoureux – medical marijuana center owner

Rita Starritt, M.D. – physician who recommends medical marijuana

Christian C. Thurstone, M.D. – licensed health care worker specializing in addiction medicine

Daniel S. Bennett, M.D. – licensed health care worker specializing in chronic pain management

Daniel W. Bowles, M.D. – licensed health care worker specializing in oncology/cancer care

Lt. Ernest Martinez, Denver Police Department – representative of Colorado law enforcement community

Ted C. Tow III, J.D., Colorado District Attorneys' Council – Colorado District Attorney or representative of the district attorney community

Mark Johnson, M.D. executive director, Jefferson County Public Health Department – representative of a local public health agency

Bob O'Doherty – director of Medical Marijuana Registry, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Ned Calonge, M.D. – chief medical officer, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment [*Committee Chair*]

Approximately 105,000 people have successfully applied to the registry this year. Of that number, approximately 73,000 applicants are in the backlog of applications still being processed and awaiting their official registry card. The state's Joint Budget Committee approved supplement funding last month allowing the department to add 56 temporary employees to process the backlog of applications. All positions are not yet filled. The department plans to eliminate the backlog over the coming eight months.