

Maine Medical Marijuana Task Force Meeting

January 5, 2010

Meeting minutes

Present: Ann Jordan, Janet Mills, Gordon Smith, Kandyce Powell, Ann Haskell, Anne Perry, Brenda Harvey, Ann Head, Dan Walker, Faith Benedetti, Stan Gerzofsky, John McElwee, Ken Altshuler, Joseph Brannigan

The Task Force convened at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting opened with Senator Brannigan explaining that after the work of the Task Force is complete, there will be at least two opportunities for public comment on both the statute and the rules. The first will be the public hearing when the HHS Committee considers the statute and the second will be during the public hearing when the rules are promulgated. The Task Force recognizes that this has been a frustrating process for the public because they have not had the opportunity to provide input, but there will be opportunities to do so.

The Task Force then considered all of the proposed changes to the statute. Consensus was attained on most issues and when it was not, a straw poll was taken and the opinion of the group was noted. This information will be passed on to the Governor with the recommended statutory changes.

Cathy Cobb then presented the draft rules for the consideration of the Task Force. The rules were drafted based on the statute as it is currently written and did not reflect any of the proposed changes. The Task Force discussed the rules but it quickly became clear the more time was needed to consider them. The members agreed to review the rules and send comments to Kathy Bubar for compilation prior to the next and final meeting.

The final meeting of the Task Force will be held from 8:30 – 10:30 on January 15, 2010. The location of this meeting has not yet been confirmed but will be announced early the week of January 11th. During that meeting the following issues will be considered:

- Photo ID cards

- The number of dispensaries

- Costs of the program

- Quality and quantity issues as well as the level of debilitation of patients

- Distribution methods – will it be legal to mail product

The Task Force adjourned at 3:30.