

Resolution 19-203 (Referred to Reference Committee B)

PREAMBLE

Subject: Medical Marijuana Advisory Board Accountability

Introduced By: Kenneth Certa, MD

Author: Kenneth Certa, MD

County/Specialty Affiliation of Author: Psychiatry

Endorsed by: Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society

WHEREAS

The Medical Marijuana Advisory Board (MMAB) has been empowered to maintain a list of indications for medicinal cannabis; and

Whereas, the MMAB has expanded indications to include treatment for opioid use disorder and anxiety disorder, with no substantive support from the medical literature; and

Whereas, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Association of Addiction Psychiatry, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine all have specifically stated that there is no support for the use of cannabis to treat many of the conditions on the list maintained by the MMAB; and

Whereas, the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society petitioned the MMAB to remove the condition of opioid use disorder from the list of approved conditions for which cannabis can be used; and

Whereas, the MMAB declined to remove opioid use disorder from the list of approved conditions for which cannabis can be used; and

Whereas, the people of the Commonwealth, our patients, are being exposed to cannabis for conditions for which no credible evidence exists to support such use; therefore be it

Resolved

That the Pennsylvania Medical Society work with interested parties in the medical community and state government to review the list of conditions for which cannabis can be used, as maintained by the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board, and when insufficient credible evidence exists to support such use, petition the MMAB to remove them from the list.

CONCLUSION

Fiscal Note: 4000

Relevance to Strategic Plan Improve the health of the public

I am agreeing that I compared the proposed resolution to existing policy in PAMED's Policy Compendium and verified that PAMED does not already have policy on this issue.

VerifiedPolicy

Reference Materials - position statement against cannabis for PTSD (attached)

References:

<https://www.aaap.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/MJ-policy-FINAL.pdf>

Name

Kenneth Certa

May 17-
19, 2019
APA Official Actions

Position Statement Against the Use of Cannabis for PTSD

Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 13, 2019

Approved by the Assembly, May 17, 2019

“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” –
APA Operations Manual

Issue:

The use of cannabis for medical indications has received considerable attention as several states have moved to legalize cannabis for various purposes. A growing number of patients cite PTSD as the reason for seeking cannabis for medical purposes in states where it is legal. Furthermore, approximately 15% of Veterans who are treated in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) outpatient PTSD clinics report recent (past 6 months) cannabis use. This position statement was developed through review of the evidence to date and to establish the APA's consensus on the matter.

APA Position:

Because of the lack of any credible studies demonstrating clinical effectiveness, the APA cannot endorse the use of medical cannabis for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The Council on Addiction Psychiatry, the Council on Research, and the Council on Quality Care reviewed available evidence regarding the use of cannabis in the treatment of PTSD and concluded that no published evidence of sufficient quality exists in the medical literature to support the practice.

The APA does not endorse cannabis for treatment of PTSD at this time, as further study is needed

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