

New Hampshire
Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board
Annual Report 2025

Membership¹

Heather Marie Brown, Qualifying Patient (alternate chair)
Corey Burchman, MD, Alternative Treatment Center Clinical Representative (GraniteLeaf Cannabis)
Jerry Knirk, MD, Physiatry/Orthopedics (chair)
Nadine Laughlin, APRN, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Jill MacGregor, APRN, Addiction
Richard Morse, MD, Neurology
David Nagel, MD, Pain Management
Patricia Tilley, Associate Commissioner, NH Department of Health and Human Services, designated by
Jonathan Ballard, MD, Medical Director, NH DHHS
Lisa Withrow, APRN, FNP-C, ACHPN, Palliative Care

Charge

The Board's charge, pursuant to RSA 126-X:12, IV, is to "monitor and contribute to the oversight of the clinical, quality, and public health related matters of therapeutic cannabis under this chapter by:

- (a) Reviewing medical and scientific evidence pertaining to currently approved and additional qualifying conditions.
- (b) Reviewing laboratory results of required testing of cannabis cultivated and/or processed by an alternative treatment center and the use of pesticides on products under RSA 126-X:6, III(a)(16).
- (c) Monitoring clinical outcomes.
- (d) Reviewing training protocols for dispensary staff based on models from other states.
- (e) Receiving updates from alternative treatment centers on effectiveness of various strains, types of cannabinoids, and different routes of administration for specific conditions.
- (f) Reviewing best practices for medical providers regarding provider education, certification of patients, and patient access to the program.
- (g) Reviewing any other clinical, quality, and public health related matter relative to use of cannabis under this chapter."

In addition, the Board may make recommendations to the Commissioner of DHHS to add or remove qualifying medical conditions under RSA 126-X:1, IX, based on its findings and after receiving input from the public through a public hearing process.

Lastly, the Board shall make an annual report to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the oversight committee on health and human services established under RSA 126-A:13, the NH Board of Medicine, and the NH Board of Nursing.

¹ Four vacancies in 2025, representing family/internal medicine, oncology, pediatrics, and psychiatry.

Meetings

The Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board (TCMOB; Board) convened four times, on January 8, April 2, June 4, and October 8, at the offices of DHHS in Concord, NH, and remotely via Teams. Meetings were noticed on a [webpage](#) maintained by DHHS, and meeting minutes were posted at the same webpage

Activities

Legislation

The Board reviewed and provided clinical expertise and guidance on proposed legislation in the 2025 session, and it reviewed available LSRs in advance of the 2026 session.

2025 Bills

HB 190, increasing therapeutic cannabis possession limits.

- The Board voted to continue to support the bill, as it did the previous year, based on benefit to patients with transportation barriers and who perform their own extractions to lower costs.
- The Board chair provided testimony to the Legislature.
- The bill did not pass.

HB 205, exempting veterans from certification fees for therapeutic cannabis.

- Overall, the Board wished to support veterans, but felt that there were other categories of patients experiencing financial hardship and with barriers to accessing healthcare which would not be included in this bill
- The fiscal impact upon the program would negatively impact patients at large.
- The Board ultimately voted to not support the bill based on the impact to the program and other patients at large.
- The Board chair provided testimony to the Legislature.
- The bill did not pass.

HB 380, relative to penalties for criminal violations of the therapeutic use of cannabis.

- This bill would have removed the extra criminal penalty faced by a therapeutic cannabis patient, compared to a non-patient for selling cannabis to someone not authorized to possess it.
- The Board felt that, while the provision made sense upon its passage in 2013, now with cannabis widely available regionally there was little need for an extra penalty as a deterrent for diversion, and that it made little sense to keep that extra penalty on the books.
- The Board voted to support the bill.
- The Board chair provided testimony to the Legislature.
- The bill did not pass.

HB 301, allowing additional cultivation locations, including greenhouses.

- The Board voted to support the bill, based on expected results of greater product diversity and lower products costs for patients.
- The Board chair provided testimony to the Legislature.
- The bill did not pass.

SB 264, relative to the therapeutic cannabis program

- This Department-requested bill would have corrected technical issues introduced by SB 357 from the 2024 session, regarding:
 - Referral to the licensing boards regarding provider conduct,
 - Language alignment between SB 357 and HB 1222 which changed the scope of practice for physician assistants,
 - Also, the legislation would have closed a loophole regarding provider relationships to out-of-state cannabis dispensaries.
- The Board voted to support the bill.
- The Board chair provided testimony to the Legislature.
- The bill did not pass.

Various adult-use cannabis legalization bills.

- The Board maintained its established position regarding cannabis legalization stating, “Any legislation that would legalize adult-use cannabis in New Hampshire should be evaluated in light of its potential impacts on the Therapeutic Cannabis Program. The TCP is valuable and must be preserved if adult-use legalization passes.”

2026 Bills

The board reviewed available LSRs for the 2026 session.

LSR 26-2041 (SB 400), relative to duties and reporting requirements of TCMOB.

- The bill would require the Board to “annually” review medical and scientific evidence pertaining to currently approved and additional qualifying conditions and include citations to the medical and scientific evidence reviewed by the Board pertaining to currently approved and additional qualifying conditions in its annual report.
- The Board was unclear about the intent of the bill, as the Board already does this work on a regular basis and makes their findings publicly available.
- The Board felt that it would be overly cumbersome for a volunteer board charged with multiple other responsibilities to review all published material for 24 named conditions, 11 named symptoms, and two catch-all conditions.
- The board noted that, with the new provision in law allowing patient certification for any condition based on a provider’s clinical discretion, the value of this work on an annual basis, if the intent is to remove conditions, would be inconsequential.
- The board voted to allow the Chair to provide informational testimony at the Legislature that this bill is not necessary.

TCP Day at the Legislature

The Board hosted an informational event at the State House cafeteria, aligned with the day that public hearings on cannabis-related bills were scheduled. The Board staffed an information table to promote awareness of the program and provide information to legislators about the program with informational handouts.

Provider Education

The board discussed ways to reach out to providers to provide more information about the therapeutic cannabis program. Jerry Knirk, the Board chair, made webinar presentations about the program to: (1)

the New Hampshire Association of Naturopathic Doctors (a provider type newly allowed by law to certify patients for therapeutic cannabis), along with the Education Coordinator from GraniteLeaf Cannabis; and (2) the New Hampshire Medical Society, in conjunction with Dr. Seddon Savage, who was previously a member of the Board.

Provider Survey

The board developed a provider survey to learn more about the level of knowledge of providers about the program. Development and implementation of the survey is still in process.

2025 NH Cannabis Conference

Jerry Knirk, the Board chair, made a presentation at the first ever NH cannabis conference about the structure and function of the New Hampshire Therapeutic Cannabis Program. He also moderated a panel discussion which included three providers, David Nagel, Nadine Laughlin, and Lisa Withrow, who are also members of the Board, discussing how they became involved with using therapeutic cannabis with patients and their clinical experiences.

Resource Document for Providers Regarding Interactions of Cannabis with Other Prescription Drugs

The Board developed, and has made available, an information sheet regarding the interactions of therapeutic cannabis with prescription drugs. Developing a simplified version for patients is a future activity.

Review of Qualifying Medical Conditions

The Board continues to review the scientific literature regarding currently approved qualifying conditions. Glaucoma and hepatitis C were identified as conditions to be reviewed at the Board's next meeting in January 2026. The Board will discuss which other conditions will be addressed next.

Conclusion

In summary, the Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board continues to be a high-functioning Board providing medical oversight to the Department's Therapeutic Cannabis Program. Its members are engaged, committed, and appreciative that the NH Legislature is respectful of the Board's expertise, efforts, and advice.