

April 2, 2014

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Re: House Human Services Committee Testimony S.247

-Patient response has been very positive. Have nearly 400 total patients registered. This demonstrates the genuine need for this medicine and program. Most patients explain their ability to reduce or even discontinue use of their prescription medicine.

-Sliding scale program is used by approximately one fourth of patients, as cost is out of pocket. No insurance allowed. No tax deduction for out of pocket medical expenses either. A larger patient registry would give us greater flexibility in lowering our prices.

-Increased dried flower inventory levels are necessary if we are to develop cannabis concentrates to help patients with seizures, cancer and Lyme disease. We receive communication every day from current and potential patients asking about the availability of these concentrates. Currently we offer over 18 different flower strains and nearly a dozen edibles and tinctures combined. Diversity has been important as each patient responds differently to cannabis. Our plant count limits are currently sufficient for the next year of operations.

-We have a good working relationship and open lines of communication with the DPS. They are available daily to handle last minute questions from both our dispensaries' managers and patients about registration, ID cards (expiration dates, delivery of), patient purchase limits, etc.

-Being able to deliver will provide needed assistance to patients with physical handicaps and those that depend on public transportation or friends and family to transport them to their appointment. These patients have difficulty scheduling an appointment because they are dependent on others and/or the patient misses their appointment because of this dependency. This is stressful for both the patient and the dispensary. It is very difficult during the winter for them to travel safely. Moreover, for patients living one to two hours away, it is both inconvenient and costly for them to get their medication. Delivery will provide a better understanding of where the greatest needs are within the state.

-At CVD/SVW all products are pre-packaged at cultivation facility before being delivered to our dispensaries. In addition, bar codes are used to track all medicated products. This is a preventive diversion measure.

-Both patients and non-patients (people wanting to join registry with qualifying conditions) have expressed to me the hesitancy, even refusal of treatment from the medical community. Doctors explain they do not offer/believe in cannabis, so they continue to prescribe the usual pain medications for their treatment. I hope the medical community will begin to utilize us as a resource and understand we are here for the long term. We can help educate both the patient and doctor of the proper usage of cannabis. In the future I hope medical schools and hospitals (via CME credits) will educate the patients and dispensaries in the use of cannabis.