



# **TASK FORCE ON MEDICAL CANNABIS THERAPEUTIC RESEARCH**

Joseph Westwater, JD, MD

CEO, Minnesota Medical Solutions

Minnesota State Office Building

Room 5

January 25, 2019

# BUSINESS UPDATE

This year Minnesota Medical Solutions....

...helped **10,396 patients**

... employed **90 team members**

... offered **40 different products**

... formulated and dispensed over **95,000 units of medicine** at **4 cannabis patient centers**

... reported **three serious adverse events**

... helped support the State of Minnesota in adding Sleep Apnea, Autism Spectrum Disorder and Alzheimer's Disease as Certifying Conditions

# BUSINESS UPDATE – (cont.)

- We have reached a point where we need to physically expand one of our four dispensaries.
- We have expanded and modernized our grow facility.
- We continue to explore and implement new extraction and formulation processes to reduce cost and improve quality.
- We continue to work in a collaborative manner with the OMC to bring safe and effective medicine to the patients of Minnesota.

# RESEARCH UPDATES



Vireo is a proud part of the National Institute of Health R01 \$3.8MM research grant for the first, long-term study of medical cannabis' impact on opioid use in adults with chronic pain, in partnership with Montefiore Medical Center



Vireo works with Northwell Health on an IRB-approved research study to examine older adults' use of medical cannabis for chronic pain



Vireo partners with the University of Minnesota on a study of fasting, fed and chronic therapy pharmacokinetic research, combining psychological testing, DNA testing and seizure control monitoring



Vireo works with researchers at the University of Iowa to study cannabis use among older adults – how they consume, how often they consumer and what are their main motivations



Vireo has an exclusive agreement to study the use of Captisol in the development and commercialization of pharmaceutical-grade cannabinoid-based products.



Vireo works with Park Nicollet to conduct randomized trials of medical cannabis in patients with newly diagnosed, stage IV cancer to assess impact on cancer-related symptoms.



Vireo is a Founding Research Partner of the The Lambert Center for the Study of Medicinal Cannabis and Hemp at Thomas Jefferson University, which began the mmj.org initiative to bring together diverse stakeholders in the cannabis therapy space.

# 2019 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

- The Medical Cannabis Manufacturers will introduce legislative proposals this session that should be non-controversial and will be designed to address access and cost, which remain the major issues with the existing Program.
- These provisions have been reviewed with MDH and key legislators.

# PROVISIONS TO INCREASE/ASSURE ACCESS FOR PATIENTS

- Clarify that existing patients can be re-certified using telehealth.
- Increase the number of dispensaries per manufacturer from 4 to 8.
- Allow manufacturers to share the raw materials of medical cannabis to guarantee a reliable supply of medicine.
- Allow school personnel to dispense medical cannabis to students.

# PROVISIONS TO INCREASE AFFORDABILITY & VIABILITY

- Section 280E reform to allow regular business deductions, just as for every other Minnesota corporation (SF 319).
- Allow hemp-derived CBD in the formulation of medical cannabis.
- Appropriate necessary and authorized funding to allow the Office of Medical Cannabis to better serve Minnesota patients.



vireo

**Thank you!**

