



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

**December 24, 2014**

## **Medical Marijuana Alert**



### **Illinois Children will have access to medical marijuana**

A new state law that took effect this year originally authorized medical marijuana for adults only. But parents of children with severe seizure disorders spearheaded a change.

Now, those younger than 18 will need permission from a parent or legal guardian, must get the drug through an adult caregiver and will be required to receive approval from their own treating physician and a second doctor. Children may obtain only marijuana-infused products, such as food or liquid drops, and will not be allowed to get raw pot for smoking. [Read more](#)

### **Neighbors on Edge over Heavy Security for Proposed Dispensary**

The security plan for a proposed medical marijuana dispensary includes armed guards, inch-thick armored plating, a plethora of cameras and facial recognition for patients.

The applicant for the dispensary, Good Earth Solutions LLC, hired a former Chicago police officer as head of security, and said he installed an 18-inch ballast to the front of the storefront, at 1954-68 W. Peterson Ave., to ensure a would-be thief couldn't drive into the front of the dispensary and steal the goods inside. Steel armored plating would also be installed around the perimeter of the dispensary.

Two armed guards would be on duty at all times during business hours. The dispensary's inventory would be stored in a vault. **Some residents who live in the neighborhood felt uneasy that any business would need so much protection.** [Read more](#)

### **Lakeview pot dispensary on hold; Tunney opposes Halsted location**

Dozens of neighbors have rallied and about 800 people have signed an online petition opposing the dispensary at 2843 N. Halsted, which would be operated by MedMar. **The company will continue to seek approval of the location.**

The Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals approved permits for two dispensaries for:

Euflorea Health Center, which seeks to open a dispensary at 4760 ½ N. Milwaukee

Organic Leaf Medical Dispensaries for 744 N. Damen [Read more](#)

**Howard Brown Health Center is endorsing the MedMar bid for a dispensary and asking supporters to contact Ald. Tunney to voice support.** [Read more](#)

## **Some Not Convinced of Medical Benefits of Marijuana**

Some medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Cancer Society, are not ready to endorse the medical benefits of marijuana without further research.

The American Cancer Society spokeswoman said the society "opposes the smoking or vaping of marijuana and other cannabinoids in public places, because the carcinogens in marijuana smoke pose numerous health hazards to the patient and others in the patient's presence." [Read more](#)

## **Nominee for U. S. Surgeon General expresses reservations**

Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, President Obama's nominee for Surgeon General said, **"I wouldn't prescribe medical marijuana myself."**

Murthy said, "In my estimation, while there is anecdotal evidence of benefits we hear about from cancer doctors and other physicians about medical marijuana, I agree with the AMA (American Medical Association) and other organizations, that we need more information about the proven indications of medical marijuana as well as safe doses and the risks and the side effects, before we can safely prescribe it for medical purposes." [Read more](#)

## **Medical Marijuana May Worsen PTSD Symptoms, Increase Violence**

Although a growing number of states have approved posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a qualifying condition for medical marijuana use, **new research shows that the drug may actually worsen symptoms and increase violent behavior.**

A large observational study of more 2000 participants who were admitted to specialized Veterans Administration treatment programs for PTSD showed that those who never used marijuana had significantly lower symptom severity 4 months later than those who continued or started use after treatment. **Veterans who were using marijuana at treatment admission but quit after discharge ("stoppers") also had significantly lower levels of PTSD symptoms at follow-up.**

**On the other hand, the highest levels of violent behavior were found in the so-called "starters," those who were not using the substance at admission but who started use after discharge.**

Despite the fact that a number of states have approved the use of medical marijuana for PTSD, there's little evidence to support its use for treatment of the disorder.

**... Results showed that use of marijuana was significantly associated with higher PTSD symptom severity, as well as higher levels of violent behavior and alcohol and drug use.**

[Read more:](#)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**

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