

OMMP FEE INCREASES

A series of meetings and public hearings were held to establish Administrative Rules for this legislative mandated fee increases. This presented an opportunity for patients to attend in person or to submit or email written testimony. Though the OMMP did not notify all the patients, MAMA did our best to let people know what was happening.

Only 78 of the 53,685 registered patients participated in the process by attending the hearings or sending testimony.

MAMA regularly sends Alerts to keep everyone informed.

Each and every patient registered in the OMMP has a vested interest in defending this Program that benefits so many.

It is true that many people did not know about the changes.

Many are overwhelmed because the attacks never seem to stop.

They feel that their testimony won't matter.

After the meetings, hearings and written testimony, in this case, it didn't matter.

The legislature wants the \$6.4 million and more. They have little compassion for the low income or indigent. Every legislator needs to hear from their own constituents how they feel about their legislator's vote on SB 5529.

Go to <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/> to find yours and then see how they voted.

The Oregon Health Authority/OMMP has received clarification from legislators on the Advisory Committee on Medical Marijuana (ACMM's) request to sunset the proposed fee increases. I received the following information on 09-27-11 from Jody Ann Noon RN, JD (who took DR. Higginson's position). She is the Office Administrator, Community Health & Health Planning.

"The Ways & Means Human Service Subcommittee Co-Chairs have advised that there was no intent to decrease fees when revenue targets (\$6.4 million) were met. Their direction to the agency was to institute the fee schedule that was articulated during the full Ways & Means hearing. As such, the OMMP does not intend to extend the rule for comment and the following fees will go into effect on October 1st:

- * Cardholder application and annual renewal to **\$200**,
- * A reduced application and annual renewal fee of **\$100** for persons receiving **SNAP** (food stamp) and **Oregon Health Plan** cardholders,
- * A reduced application and annual renewal fee of **\$20** for persons receiving SSI benefits,
- * A **\$100** fee for **replacement registry cards**; and
- * A **\$50** fee to be charged for **grow sites** (if the patient is not the grower)."

Aaron Cossel verified that if an application is postmarked before or on Sept. 30th, the new fees won't apply – **UNLESS**-- the card expires on or after Oct 1st.

Currently one is allowed to submit a renewal application 60 days before it expires. Many people have done that and paid the Current fees. Those people who expire after 09-30-11 will be billed for the remaining balance of the new fees.

That means if you paid \$100, you owe an additional \$100.
If you paid \$20, you owe \$80, unless you are on SSI.
Plus, if you are not your own grower, you will have to pay a grow site fee of \$50.

See MAMA's website www.mamas.org for more details.
The Calendar has a schedule of events & classes and the quarterly newsletter is online.
Sande's blog tracks the activity around the fee increase fiasco.
<http://frommysideofthemirror.squarespace.com/>