



**Draft Minutes of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force
Disproportionately Impacted Communities Workgroup
February 25, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

Workgroup members present:

Alison Holcomb, ACLU
Cherie MacLeod, Co-Lead & Task Force Member
David Mendoza, Task Force Member
Karen Ann Meyering, Public Health Seattle & King County
Christopher Poulos, Co-Lead & Task Force Member
Yasmin Trudeau, Task Force Member
Michele Cadigan, University of Washington
Dr. Alexes Harris, University of Washington

Workgroup members absent:

Lacrecia Hill, Cannabis Equity Advocate
Commissioner Will Hausa, Commission on African American Affairs

Guests and other participants:

Paul Brice, Public Participant	Zach Fairly, Public Participant
Michele Cadigan, University of Washington	Matthew Gregg, Public Participant
Dr. Darlene Conley, Public Participant	Alexes Harris, University of Washington
Christy Curwick Hoff, Staff	Alison Holcomb, Public Participant
Julius Debro, Public Participant	Miss Marlow, Public Participant
Judy Edwards, Staff	Elise Rasmussen, Staff

Cherie MacLeod, Co-Lead, called the public meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Christy Curwick Hoff, Workgroup Staff, shared zoom functions, meeting protocol, conversation norms and agenda.

Christopher Poulos, Workgroup Co-Lead, began introductions, followed by the other workgroup members present.

1. REVIEW TASK FORCE OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Elise Rasmussen, Workgroup Staff, reviewed the Task Force operating principles (on file).

2. DISCUSSION – WORKGROUP SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Christy Hoff, Workgroup Staff, reviewed the workgroup scope and responsibilities (on file). Ms. Rasmussen, reviewed the draft work plan (on file). Shared the proposed timeline for task items. Stated a more detailed work plan will be distributed.

Cherie MacLeod, Co-Lead, asked for any public comment or questions on the current agenda item. Julius Debro, Public Participant, shared his personal experience with the license process at the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) and the struggles and barriers preventing people of color from obtaining licenses and sustaining a business in the industry. Dr. Darlene Conley, Public Participant, explained concerns on licensing requirements, including the difficulty obtaining a location prior to being issued a license. Paul Brice, Public Participant, shared his personal experience, including what he felt was discrimination in the licensing process as well as the problems local authority bans and moratoriums create. Dr. Conley said that it is hypocritical that cities can benefit from cannabis-related taxes, yet still have a moratorium in place. Zach Fairly, Public Participant, proposed exploring tribal laws and incorporating their process, including vertical integration and tax-free options.

3. DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES PRESENTATION

Christopher Poulos, Workgroup Co-Lead, introduced Dr. Harris and Michele Cadigan. Alexes Harris, University of Washington, and Michele Cadigan, University of Washington, gave brief introductions and presented Cannabis and Racial Equity in WA State (on file). David Mendoza, Work Group Member, suggested offering multiple application process options, including in person interviews in order to engage a variety of communities. Co-Lead Chris Poulos, emphasized the direct impact of former cannabis prohibition laws and the LCB's exclusions based on criminal records. Co-Lead MacLeod, expressed the need to prepare 10 year snapshots to demonstrate the changing landscape due to gentrification and development.

Miss Marlow, Public Participant, suggested offering equity applicants non-storefront retail, such as delivery services, to lower costs. Zach Fairly, Public Participant, agreed with Ms. Marlow and suggests vertical integration. Alison Holcomb, Member, expressed the need to focus on what the goals of the Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIA) indicators are. The workgroup needs to be specific on the criteria of who receives program assistance. Karen Ann Meyering, Member, shared information on an equity study and conviction vacation program in King County.

Miss Marlow, Public Participant, referenced the Oakland, CA model where equity applicants are eligible for three years of free rent, and noted the flaw is other applicants pay equity applicants to stay out of business to obtain the license. She suggested a solution could be funding to purchase property for equity applicants and house the equity applicants in a co-op space.

4. NEXT STEPS

Co-Lead MacLeod shared that workgroup members will have homework, and that an anticipated meeting schedule will be sent via email. Notifications on next meetings will be sent via distribution list.

ADJOURNMENT

Cherie MacLeod, Co-Lead, adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Kelie Kahler, Washington State Board of Health Communication Manager, at 360-236-4102 or by email at kelie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov TTY users can dial 711.

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