



**Minutes of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force
Disproportionately Impacted Communities Workgroup
May 3rd, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

Workgroup Members Present:

Michelle Cadigan, University of Washington

Alison Holcomb, ACLU

Cherie MacLeod, Co-Lead and Task Force Member

Christopher Poulos, Co-Lead and Task Force Member

Darlene Conley, Industry Representative

Rick Dimmer, City of Seattle

David Mendoza, Task Force Member

Workgroup Members Absent:

Alexes Harris, University of Washington

Will Hausa, Commission on African American Affairs

Lacrecia Hill, Cannabis Equity Advocate

Sarah Ross-Viles, Public Health Seattle & King County

Yasmin Trudeau, Task Force Member

Guests and Other Participants:

Throughout the meeting, approximately 35 members of the public joined and participated. The workgroup thanks all of those who attended and shared their time, expertise, and lived experience to help shape this important work.

Staff Support:

Christy Curwick Hoff

Joe Radermacher

Samantha Pskowski

Anzhane Slaughter

Call to Order

Chris Poulos, Co-Lead called the public meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file). Staff shared the Zoom protocol, conversation norms, and reviewed the agenda. Chris Poulos, Co-Lead facilitated introductions of members.

1. Small Group Breakouts

Cherie MacLeod, Co-Lead said they would be breaking up into two small groups. She would be leading the “Disproportionately Impacted Area” small group focused on data and indicators to recommend to LCB to identify geographic areas designed as DIAs. Chris Poulos, Co-Lead would lead a “Social Equity Applicant” small group

focused on refining eligibility and prioritization criteria and thinking about the process they would recommend to LCB for accepting, reviewing, and prioritizing applications. Christy Hoff, Staff Member, provided instructions to members and public participants and everyone broke up into their respective small groups.

Social Equity Applicant Small Group

Anzhane Slaughter, Staff Member, reviewed the discussion from the previous meeting, including the definition of “family” and what a Social Equity Plan is.

Anzhane Slaughter, Staff Member asked whether the definition would cast too big of a net for determining who should be eligible for this program.

- The group agreed that the process needs to be inclusive yet provide enough explanation through written statements to allow the information to be used in some form of ranking system for applicants. They suggested adding a 2-3 sentence statement about who their family member is and how they were impacted by the conviction.
- The group discussed how the standard applications used by the LCB may contain some form of legal statement regarding accuracy of the information provided. It was important to members that they not create new forms of criminalization with the process.
- The group discussed additional factors that could be included in the screening process such as race, location, and income level. Participants expressed the need to outline a set application process to the LCB so the agency didn't create another lottery.
- Participants shared concerns for how LCB staff would review applications. They agreed the process needs to be transparent and suggested evaluation or oversight by a third-party peer review committee.
- The group started to discuss required elements of the Social Equity Plan.

Disproportionately Impacted Area Small Group

Cherie MacLeod, Co-Lead said the group needed to determine whether census tracts should be used as the geographic for DIAs. She also shared that HB 1443 removed the residency timeframe requirement for applicants. The group also discussed indicators to use to identify and prioritize tracts and narrow the applicant pool.

- The group decided that using census tracts is the most viable starting place for identifying DIAs.
- The group reviewed some current map capabilities that show income levels, unemployment rates, and other filtering factors.

- The group discussed the potential of mirroring the system put in place in Massachusetts to rank locations and assign points to applications based on several factors, including an applicant's race/ethnicity.

2. Report Out from Small Groups

Social Equity Applicant Small Group

The group wants to use the inclusive definition of "family member" from the Paid Family Medical Leave legislation. The group wants a low barrier option to demonstrate relationship between the applicant and their family member who has been convicted. They suggest requiring a short explanation from applicants about who their family member is and how they were impacted by their conviction. They will continue the discussion about Social Equity Plans at the next meeting.

Disproportionately Impacted Area Small Group

Agreed to use census tracts for unit of area and discussed using multiple layers of indicators to further filter applicants. Michelle Cadigan, Workgroup Member, will meet with staff from the Massachusetts program to learn about their ranking and point system. Michelle Cadigan, Workgroup Member will create maps for a few tracts – Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Pasco, Vancouver, Bellingham, and Yakima. She will apply multiple indicators to see how it looks across the state to determine if we will reach the communities we want to reach.

3. Next Steps

The TA&M Workgroup meeting will be on May 11 – first foundation setting meeting. The next full Task Force meeting is May 25. The next DIA Workgroup meeting on June 16. Staff will send out any further homework assignments if needed.

Adjournment

Cherie MacLeod, Co-Lead thanked everyone for joining and said the Governor signed HB 1443 today. Chris Poulos, Co-Lead said he is excited to continue to learn from this work. They adjourned the meeting at 6:27 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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