



**Draft Minutes of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force
Disproportionately Impacted Communities Workgroup
July 12, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

Workgroup Members Present:

Michelle Cadigan, University of Washington
Darlene Conley, Industry Representative
Alexes Harris, University of Washington
Lacrecia Hill, Cannabis Equity Advocate

Alison Holcomb, ACLU
Cherie MacLeod, Co-Lead and Task Force Member
Sarah Ross-Viles, Public Health Seattle & King County
Yasmin Trudeau, Task Force Member

Workgroup Members Absent:

Rick Dimmer, City of Seattle
David Mendoza, Task Force Member

Christopher Poulos, Co-Lead and Task Force Member

Guests and Other Participants:

Throughout the meeting, approximately 26 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

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

1. Small Group Breakouts

Social Equity Applicant Small Group

Yasmin Trudeau, Workgroup Member, gave some background on herself and her work and opened the discussion by asking if expected workforce composition should be a part of the social equity plan (SEP). The group generally agreed that this should not be a requirement for SEPs. Participants discussed that businesses owned by

BIPOC members naturally create workforces that are diverse. Participants also feared that requiring an applicant to set workforce diversity measures prior to licensure would limit the workforce pool, create an unneeded barrier to entry, and potentially invite legal action.

Member Trudeau asked if neighborhood characteristics of the location where the social equity applicant intends to operate should be a part of the SEP. The group did not come to a consensus on whether or not this should be a requirement. Thoughts and concerns included that applicants should be allowed to operate wherever they will be most successful and that because of how difficult it already is to find viable retail locations we should not impose further barriers regarding location.

Disproportionately Impacted Area Small Group

Co-Lead MacLeod introduced the idea of a ranking approach for Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs). She also reiterated that the group hasn't decided on the breadth of convictions to use, whether that's cannabis, all drugs, or a combination. She also notified the group of the hurdles they are facing in obtaining and using court data.

Michelle Cadigan, Workgroup Member, provided an overview of the formula that she has been developing and how they will be used to identify DIAs. She explained why using participation in income-based programs was not viable and discussed other variables that may be used. Alexes Harris, Workgroup Member, said the formula would be a standardized statistical equation with a program that allows those who will be using it to produce the ranking numbers for DIAs.

Some thoughts and concerns the group had included the challenge of using strictly cannabis convictions as an indicator, that using time periods (decades) would be most beneficial in capturing changes to DIAs due to gentrification, and that this mapping tool needs to be available to the applicants as well.

2. Report Out From Small Groups

Social Equity Applicant Small Group

Member Trudeau shared that the group came to a general consensus that expected workforce composition should not be a requirement for SE plans. She also shared that the group did not come to a consensus regarding requiring neighborhood characteristics of the location where the social equity applicant intends to operate should be a part of the SE plan.

Disproportionately Impacted Area Small Group

Co-Lead MacLeod shared that they expect to have preliminary draft recommendations at the July 27 Task Force meeting, but will need to conduct more work to have concrete recommendations for the September meeting. She identified the hurdles the group is having with court data. She confirmed that they'll use high unemployment, median income, and demographic indicators as well and that the

group is looking at also using multipliers to address the higher rates of cannabis convictions within BIPOC communities. Lastly, she mentioned that the group is waiting on data for all drug charges.

3. Next Steps

Anzhane covered next steps and shared future meeting dates.

Adjournment

Co-Lead MacLeod thanked the group for their participation and time and adjourned the meeting at 7:03 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.

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington • 98504-7990
360-236-4110 • wsboh@sboh.wa.gov • sboh.wa.gov