



**Draft Minutes of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force
Technical Assistance & Mentorship Workgroup
June 8, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

Workgroup Members Present:

Tamara Berkley, Co-Lead and Task Force Member

Ian Eisenberg, Industry Representative
Raft Hollingsworth, Co-Lead and Task Force Member

Jim Makoso, Industry Representative

Carmen Rivera, CoHA and Task Force Member

Zachary Fairley, Community Representative

Jamie Hoffman, Industry Representative

Workgroup Members Absent:

Sheley Anderson, CCC and Industry Representative

Susan Nielson, Industry Representative

Joe Solorio, UFCS and Task Force Member

Guests and Other Participants:

Throughout the meeting, approximately 25 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

Anzhane Slaughter

Call to Order

Tamara Berkley, Co-Lead, called the public meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file). Staff shared the Zoom protocol, conversation norms, and reviewed the agenda. Raft Hollingsworth, Co-Lead facilitated roll call and introductions of members.

1. Briefing: Technical Assistance and Mentorship Program

Tamara Berkley, Co-Lead introduced Rick Anderson, Dept. Of Commerce. Rick presented a briefing (on file) which provided a summary of the Technical Assistance & Mentorship Grant Program as defined by HB 1443.

2. Discussion: Technical Assistance and Mentorship Program

The first discussion topic centered on funding for the program. Some of the group's concerns included if the money must be spent by the recipient within the FY it was received, whether or not the money will carry over into the next FY, and if the money allotted to the program would be enough. After confirmation that the funding will NOT carry over through FYs and discussing the potential timeframe for this program, the group agreed that they need to make the recommendation to the TF to request changes to statute through legislation so that it does carry over. The group also agreed that the current funding for the program would not be enough, but needs more time to develop the program and come up with a number that would be feasible to request.

The second discussion topic centered on determining who will be eligible for the grants and technical assistance. The group agreed that the money and assistance needs to go to those who will be getting the licenses, but the group did not come to a consensus on how that should be determined. Some concerns included ensuring the money goes to the most marginalized and viable applicants and whether or not the grants should be nested in the licensing process. One potential solution identified by the group was to require that some form of business viability elements be included in the SE plans that will be used in grant applications.

The third discussion topic centered on what types of assistance and mentorship would be most useful to the applicants. The group identified several subjects that they felt were essential to success that can be difficult for new businesses including; tax and employment law, financial advice, real estate, local ordinances, and zoning laws. One idea the group developed was to offer a crash course in cannabis business 101, including credit unions commonly used, fees, taxes, and knowledgeable people in the industry. Another idea the group developed was that everyone who gets licensed through the SE program gets an equal share of the grant money and can spend it on an approved list of providers or services depending on what they need. Lastly, the group identified the need for general mentorship during the application process and thought that having "town hall" with LCB and Department of Commerce regarding the program, application process, and available assistance would benefit the applicants greatly. One thing the group still needs to work through is the definition and distinction between financial assistance and technical assistance which will help identify exactly how the grant money can be used by the applicants.

The fourth discussion topic centered on identifying who should be eligible to provide the mentorship and receive compensation through the program. The group generally agreed that having a "menu" of approved services and mentors that applicants can choose from would be preferred. One concern was that if the approved mentorship providers are also required to meet the 51% minority ownership requirement, it would needlessly limit the pool of mentors. Another concern voiced by the group was that mentors needed to be vetted thoroughly and have an understanding that they

need to make themselves readily available to the applicants if they want to be eligible for compensation through the program.

3. Next Steps

Anzhane Slaughter, Staff member provided next steps for the WG. The next TA&M WG meeting is July 20th 1-4pm. The next DIA WG meeting is June 16th 4-7pm and will focus on social equity plans to prioritize applications. The next Licensing WG meeting is June 30th 9am-12pm and will focus on whether or not we need more retail licenses, and if so, how many. The next full TF meeting is July 27th.

Adjournment

Tamara Berkley, Co-leas thanked everyone for attending. She thanked Rick for his participation and sticking around for Q&A. Raft Hollingsworth, Co-Lead thanked folks for a lively discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

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