



**Draft Minutes of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force
Technical Assistance & Mentorship Workgroup
July 20, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

Workgroup Members Present:

Rick Anderson, Department of
Commerce
Tamara Berkley, Co-Lead and Task
Force Member
Ian Eisenberg, Industry Representative
Jamie Hoffman, Industry Representative

Raft Hollingsworth, Co-Lead and Task
Force Member
Jim Makoso, Industry Representative
Carmen Rivera, Commission on
Hispanic Affairs and Task Force
Member

Workgroup Members Absent:

Sheley Anderson, Craft Cannabis
Coalition
Zachary Fairley, Community
Representative

Joe Solorio, UFCW Local 21 and Task
Force Member

Guests and Other Participants:

Throughout the meeting, approximately 14 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

Co-Lead Raft Hollingsworth called the public meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file). Anzhane Slaughter, Task Force Staff, shared the Zoom protocol, conversation norms, and reviewed the agenda. Co-Lead Tamara Berkley facilitated introductions of members and asked the question "Do you see Technical Assistance & Mentorship as most needed before or after licensure?"

Most (but not all) members indicated more support was needed after licensure to help ensure a successful business. Members also indicated the need that applicants would have understanding and navigating the application process and other steps that occur before you are issued a license.

1. Discussion: Technical Assistance Grant Program

Co-Lead Hollingsworth initiated discussion by posing two questions:

- How do we recommend Commerce spend the funding in fiscal year 2022?
- How do we recommend Commerce spend the funding in future fiscal years?

After reviewing and discussing what statute allows the FY22 funding to be used for, the group discussed several ideas and concerns regarding the current funding.

- Department of Commerce should use some, or potentially all, of the current fiscal year funding under its authority to create a mentorship program to develop education and training resources. Resources should be focused mostly on cannabis-specific business needs but also include general business information. Resources could include online and in-person group courses and one-on-one mentorship support.
- The TF may also need to submit recommendations to the Legislature for statutory changes. Workgroup members agreed that in addition to technical assistance, new licensees should have access to financial assistance grants. Workgroup members also strongly agreed that the allocation of funding for the social equity technical assistance needed to be increased. In addition, any unspent funding from the 2022 fiscal year should be added to the allocation for fiscal year 2023. Members also discussed how current licensees (retail, producer, and processor) that meet the definition of social equity applicants should also be eligible for financial assistance.

Members discussed how 2023 fiscal year funding should be focused on providing financial and technical assistance grants for new and current social equity licensees. Member Hollingsworth concluded by saying they would prepare an initial recommendation to provide to the full TF at its July 27 meeting.

2. Next Steps

Anzhane shared the upcoming Task Force and Work Group schedule.

Adjournment

Co-Leads Hollingsworth and Berkley thanked the group and asked members to continue thinking of topics that would make good mentorship and technical assistance subjects and adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

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