



**Draft Minutes of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force
Technical Assistance & Mentorship Workgroup
August 10, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

Workgroup Members Present:

Sheley Anderson, CCC and Industry Representative
Ian Eisenberg, Industry Representative
Zachary Fairley, Community Representative
Raft Hollingsworth, Co-Lead and Task Force Member

Jim Makoso, Industry Representative
Carmen Rivera, CoHA and Task Force Member
Joe Solorio, UFCS and Task Force Member

Workgroup Members Absent:

Tamara Berkley, Co-Lead and Task Force Member

Jamie Hoffman, Industry Representative
Susan Nielson, Dept. of Commerce

Guests and Other Participants:

Rick Anderson, Dept. of Commerce, joined in lieu of Susan Nielson. Throughout the meeting, approximately 19 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

Raft Hollingsworth, 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 introductions of members.

1. Proposal – Fiscal Year 2022 Mentorship Program

Raft Hollingsworth, Co-lead explains the purpose of this meeting is for workgroup is to finish preparations of the proposals to submit to the TF. Anzhane Slaughter, Staff shared Proposal #1 (on file). The group agreed that the first proposal is what had been discussed in previous meetings. There was discussion around further detail

needed or the inclusion of an evolving statement to be included and the possibility of using open-ended wording such as “could” may be helpful. Some questions and comments included the idea of 1-on-1 mentorship and how the idea isn’t practical due to the number of applicants and the timeline involved.

2. Proposal – Legislative Changes to 2023 Fiscal Appropriation

Anzhane Slaughter, Staff shared Proposal #2 (on file). Discussion included wanting to increase the funds allowed and if financial assistance should be opened to current licensees. One thought was if opened to current licensees, some applicants of TA&M funds may not need mentorship. In general the group agreed to include current licensees who meet SE criteria in addition to SE applicants.

Public comment contained concerns about wording of statute to include minorities and women, that women opens it up to any woman, minority or not. Additionally, there was concern raised from community about a conflict of interest for those WG and TF members who qualify for SE and are current license holders. Public comment was also supportive of the need for more funds and taxes was an area suggested for funding.

3. Discussion: Community Re-investment

Raft Hollingsworth, Co-lead started a conversation about the cannabis tax revenue and broke down general fund contributions. The workgroup agreed that the funds should go to community. They discussed what percentage of those funds should go to increase the allocation of funding to Commerce for the TA/mentorship program. Members suggested that not all the funding should go to support cannabis businesses and they discussed the importance of broader community support (education, affordable housing, etc). Members agreed 15% going to TA/mentorship and low interest loans – the other 85% would go to community reinvestment such as: housing (affordable development in DIAs, tenant relief, down-payment assistance, home rehab), early childhood education, addiction treatment , workforce development, civil legal aid and mental health. It was mentioned that the state of Illinois may be a resource in community reinvestment. Workgroup members also discussed the max amount of a grant.

Community members expressed that the whole community was affected by the war on drugs and we need to reinvest in those communities. Community members suggested the cap for any individual grant to social equity license holders should be \$150K per year.

4. Next Steps

Anzhane Slaughter, staff shared dates for future meetings

Good of the Order & Adjournment

Raft Hollingsworth, Co-lead thanked the group for their efforts and input and adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

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