



**Minutes of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force
Technical Assistance & Mentorship Workgroup
May 11, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

Workgroup Members Present:

Sheley Anderson, Craft Cannabis Coalition

Tamara Berkley, Co-Lead and Task Force Member

Ian Eisenberg, Industry Representative

Zachary Fairley, Community Representative

Jamie Hoffman, Industry Representative

Raft Hollingsworth, Co-Lead and Task Force Member

Jim Makoso, Industry Representative

Susan Nielson, Dept. of Commerce

Carmen Rivera, Commission on Hispanic Affairs and Task Force Member

Joe Solorio, UFCW Local 21 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, Workgroup Co-Lead called the public meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file). Staff shared the Zoom protocol, conversation norms, and reviewed the agenda. Co-Lead Berkley facilitated introductions.

1. Review Task Force Operating Principles

Co-Lead Raft Hollingsworth asked Staff Member Christy Hoff to review the operating principles (on file). Christy reminded the group that the Task Force (TF) has adopted the Operating Principles. They are not being reviewed for changes by this Work Group (WG), they are being reviewed today simply as guidelines.

2. Discussion: Work Group Scope and Responsibilities

Co-Lead Berkley introduced the agenda item and asked staff to present the WG scope and responsibilities (on file).

One area of discussion was the requirement for mentors in the program to be 51% minority owned/operated. The group brought up the fact that mentors are not required to be licensed in the industry, they could be other professionals in business related fields like tax code, real estate acquisition, etc. Another area of discussion was regarding the two different programs that the Department of Commerce would be administering—a technical assistance grant program a mentorship program.

Some concerns voiced by the group include:

- Potential conflicts of interest between those participating in the TF/WGs and their ability to also apply for SE licensure and technical assistance grants.
- How will funding be divided between applicants? Is the current appropriated budget enough?
- How do we differentiate TA to those that are somewhat established vs. those who are completely new to the industry?

3. Lessons Learned From Other State Social Equity Programs

Raft Hollingsworth, Workgroup Co-Lead introduced the agenda item and Paula Sardinias who gave her presentation (on file). Members suggested offering tax breaks for social equity licensees. They also discussed the program in New York and how they had the benefit of being able to observe other states and to do it right from the beginning. Members discussed cannabis taxes and what goes to the general fund. Members suggested the need for cannabis revenue to be reinvested in communities. A third area of discussion was regarding the point in the application process at which an applicant becomes eligible for a technical assistance grant. The general consensus was that it needs to be after some processing of the application, to a point where it is most likely that the application will be approved.

4. Next Steps

Anzhane Slaughter, staff to the WG said the next full TF meeting is May 25 from 4-7 pm. The next TA & Mentorship WG meeting is June 8 from 1-4 pm. The next Disproportionately Impacted Communities WG meeting is June 16 from 4-7 pm. The next Licensing Work Group meeting is June 30 from 9 am-12 pm. All dates are on the TF website.

Adjournment

Co-Lead Berkley thanked everyone for joining and adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

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