



**Draft Minutes of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force**  
**January 24, 2022**  
Virtual Meeting

**Task Force Members Present:**

Rep. Kelly Chambers	Tamara Berkley
Rep. Melanie Morgan	Raft Hollingsworth
Sen. Rebecca Saldaña	Monica Martinez
Carmen Rivera	Micah Sherman
Craig Bill	Jim Makoso
Michelle Merriweather	Dorian Waller
Joe Solorio	Joyce Bruce
Ollie Garrett	

**Task Force Members Absent:**

Sen. Curtis King	Pablo Antonio Gonzalez
David Mendoza	Jessica Camacho
Sharon Swanson	

**Guests and Other Participants:**

Throughout the meeting, approximately 64 members of the public joined and participated. The Task Force thanks all of those who attended and shared their time, expertise, and lived experience to help shape this important work.

**Staff Support:**

Anzhane Slaughter	Crystal Ogle
Lauren King	

**Call to Order**

Representative Melanie Morgan, Chair, called the public meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file). Anzhane Slaughter, Staff shared the Zoom protocol, conversation norms, and reviewed the agenda. Anzhane Slaughter, Staff facilitated introductions of members.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Rep. Melanie Morgan, Chair asks Anzhane Slaughter, Staff to share the agenda on screen for Task Force members to view.

**Motion:** Approve Agenda for January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting

**Motion/Second:** Micah Sherman/Ollie Garrett

Approved unanimously

## 2. Approval of October 28th Meeting Minutes

Rep. Melanie Morgan, Chair asks Anzhane Slaughter, Staff to share October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes on screen for Task Force members to view.

**Motion:** Approve the minutes as written

**Motion/Second:** Michelle Merriweather/Sen. Rebecca Saldaña

Approved unanimously

## Approval of November 16th Meeting Minutes

Rep. Melanie Morgan, Chair asks Anzhane Slaughter, Staff to share November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes on screen for Task Force members to view.

**Motion:** Approve the minutes as written

**Motion/Second:** Michelle Merriweather/Ollie Garrett

Approved unanimously

## 3. Recap of Task Force Work

Representative Melanie Morgan, Chair gave an update on bills currently being heard in both chambers, and thanked people for participating in the process. She also gave an update on the rubric the DIA workgroup submitted to the Liquor Cannabis Board (LCB) for review. The LCB provided a counter rubric recommendation they will put into practice. Rep. Morgan provides more confidence to Task Force members by letting them know the counter rubric was approved by Dr. Johnson from the Office of Equity. She encourages people to testify in the House and Senate hearings for more support, then turns it over to Anzhane Slaughter, Staff to recap recommendations made thus far.

Anzhane Slaughter, Staff, read through recommendations (on file) and reminded everyone that they are available on the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force website as well. Recap is summarized as follows:

Liquor and Cannabis Board: Defining family, defining family member, ranking formulas and indicators to determine Disproportionately Impacted Areas.

Department of Commerce: Details of the cannabis mentorship program and financial assistance to social equity cannabis licensees, eligibility criteria.

Legislative Requests: Community Reinvestment Fund using 50% of cannabis tax revenue, any new cannabis licenses reserved for social equity through 2029 (including new license types), social equity licenses eligible for mobility, reduce

buffer zones from 1000 ft to 500 ft (excluding elementary schools, secondary schools, playgrounds)

#### 4. 2022 Task Force Subgroup Formation

Representative Melanie Morgan, Chair explains that she met with workgroup co-leads to discuss the need for workgroups to complete tasks outlined for 2022. During the meeting, the Chair and Co-leads came up with the following recommendations:

1. Continue the Licensing Workgroup
  - a. Monica Martinez will continue as Co-Lead, supported by Micah Sherman who will be a Co-Lead as well
2. Create 3 new Workgroups
  - a. Community Reinvestment/Workforce Training
    - i. Co-Leads Michelle Merriweather, Tamara Berkley with Raft Hollingsworth as alternate Co-Lead
  - b. Department of Agriculture Regulation
  - c. Homegrow and Nonviolent Conviction Policy

Representative Melanie Morgan, Chair asks those interested in serving on a Workgroup, to reach out to staff. She then opens it up to Workgroup member comments and questions. Raft Hollingsworth, Member wanted to thank Rep. Morgan and Sen. Saldaña for their efforts on the Community Reinvestment fund. Jim Makoso, Member commented that the Department of Agriculture regulation sounds interesting to him. Michelle Merriweather, Member wanted clarification on membership of the workgroups, which will include Task Force and community members.

**Motion:** Approve Continuing of Licensing Workgroup and the formation of new workgroups as outlined.

**Motion/Second:** Michelle Merriweather/Dorian Waller  
Approved unanimously

#### 5. Public Comment

Representative Melanie Morgan, Chair opens the floor to public comment.

Public comment included praise for the work that the Task Force has done as well as support for keeping the rubric as it was originally. Additional comments included concern that there was bias and corruption within the LCB and Task Force as well as disappointment that the social equity program isn't based on Washington State population and leaves out those who make up the Asian and Pacific Islander populations.

Representative Melanie Morgan, Chair appreciates the voicing of concerns and the kudos given. She encourages anyone who didn't get to comment to send an email for the Task Force to review.

## 6. Next Steps

Representative Melanie Morgan, Chair asks that Anzhane Slaughter, Staff review Next Steps. Anzhane asks people interested in being part of the new workgroups to reach out to Crystal Ogle, Staff. She encourages people who are not part of our email distribution list to sign up via our website as this will be the best way to stay informed of meetings once the formation of these workgroups occur.

## Good of the Order & Adjournment

Representative Melanie Morgan, Chair, asks if Task Force members have anything to add. Paul Brice, Advisory Member, brings up buffer zones and small processor licenses. He believes there should be a smaller buffer for social equity applicants with small processing businesses, say a small bakery. Maybe a tier to processor licensing. Sen. Rebecca Saldaña, Member supports the idea and thinks clarifying buffer zones would be good. Micah Sherman, Member says that the Licensing Workgroup will be discussing new license types and one type may be a micro license. Representative Melanie Morgan, Chair informs the Task Force of a Cottage Bill, which allows for small amounts of food created in home to be sold. She wonders if cannabis might follow in such a way. She encourages looking into that bill. Additionally, Rep. Morgan announces media attraction to the Task Force work and updates members on recent articles written. Rep. Morgan was interviewed by Pot Guide, Sen. Saldaña by the Tacoma News Tribune and Jim Buchannan was interviewed recently as well. Micah Sherman, Member also wanted to remind Task Force members that their asks and recommendations were big and while that's sometimes considered a risk, the Task Force got something big in return and he encourages Task Force members to remember that as they go forward.

Representative Melanie Morgan, Chair thanks everyone for attending and participating in today's meeting. She then adjourned the meeting at 2:59 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](mailto:kelie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov) TTY users can dial 711.

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