



Draft Minutes of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force
June 28, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Task Force Members Present:

Rep. Melanie Morgan	Tamara Berkley
Sen. Curtis King	Raft Hollingsworth
Carmen Rivera	Monica Martinez
Michelle Merriweather	Micah Sherman
David Mendoza	Jim Makoso
Joe Solorio	Joyce Bruce
Ollie Garrett	Alison Beason

Task Force Members Absent:

Rep. Kelly Chambers	Craig Bill
Sen. Rebecca Saldaña	Pablo Antonio Gonzalez
Dorian Waller	

Guests and Other Participants:

Throughout the meeting, approximately 31 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 2:00 p.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file). Rep. Morgan gave an overview of the work the Task Force will do this year as well as a rough timeline, then asks Anzhane to share zoom protocols. Anzhane Slughter, Staff shared the Zoom protocol, conversation norms, and facilitated member roll call.

1. Approval of Agenda & Meeting Minutes

Rep. Melanie Morgan, Chair asks Anzhane to share the April 26th meeting minutes and today's meeting agenda on screen for all to see.

Motion: Approve Agenda for June 26th Meeting as written

Motion/Second: Sen. Curtis King, Member/Michelle Merriweather, Member
Approved Unanimously

Motion: Approval of April 26th Meeting Minutes as written

Motion/Second: Joe Solario, Member/Michelle Merriweather, Member
Motion passed by Acclimation. Yea: 13 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1

2. Election of Co-Chair

Anzhane Slaughter, Staff opens the discussion of electing a Co-Chair and explains that according to Bylaws, Article II, Elections/Terms of Office: there are to be 2 Co-Chairs. The Community member Co-Chair officer position has been vacant since 2021. Members should elect a community representative who is a Task Force member for the vacant Co-Chair seat. Members were provided a copy of Bylaws prior to the meeting and Anzhane reminds the public that Bylaws are also available on our website. Anzhane read through the job duties of the Co-Chair and explained members who are not legislative members are eligible. Rep. Melanie Morgan, Chair added additional duties of the Co-Chair position that were not outlined. Sen. Curtis King, Member nominates Jim Makoso. Jim Makoso, Community Task Force Member accepts nomination.

Anzhane calls for other nominations, hearing none, she calls for vote.

Motion: Elect Jim Makoso as Co-Chair

Motion passed unanimously

Jim Makoso, Co-Chair takes a moment to address the Task Force. He appreciates the nomination and vote of confidence.

3. Amendment to Bylaws

Due to legislative change since the formation of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force Bylaw adoption, the following amendments are proposed. Staff provides a visual aid on screen.

To increase membership from 18 to 20.

Membership:

1. As described in Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1443 (Sec. 3.2(i)(J)(iii-iv)), the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force (Task Force) has 20 members – four members of the Legislature; two members holding cannabis retail licenses; two members that currently hold a producer license, two members that currently hold a processor license.

Motion: To accept the changes as written for membership section, first proposal.

Motion/Second: Sen. Curtis King, Member/Ollie Garrett, Member

Motion passed by acclimation: Yea 12 Nay 0 Abstain 0

To amend the date of authority expiration for the Task Force as it reads in House Bill 1443 (Sec. 3.12).

Terms of Office:

2. The authority for the Task Force expires June 30, 2023

Motion: To accept the changes as written for Terms of Office date, second proposal.

Motion/Second: Micah Sherman, Member/Tamara Berkley, Member

Motion passed by acclimation: Yea: 11 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

Rep. Melanie Morgan, Co-Chair suggests the Task Force combine all four proposed amendments into one vote, for the sake of time.

Motion: To combine the four proposed amendments to the Bylaws into one vote.

Motion/Second: Sen. Curtis King, Member/Tamara Berkley, Member

Motion passed by acclimation: Yea: 12 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

To amend the procedures to conduct Task Force business using Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1443.

Rules of Procedure

Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1443 (Sec. 3.1)

To amend the interpretation of rules and procedures using Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1443.

Liberal Construction of Rules

Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1443 (Section 3)

Motion: To update the Bylaws as presented.

Motion/Second: Michelle Merriweather, Member/Tamara Berkley, Member

Motion passed by acclimation: Yea: 12 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

4. Department of Commerce – Update on Technical Assistance & Mentorship Program

Alison Beason, Life Science and Global Sector Lead from the Department of Commerce, with assistance from Brandi Yanez Garcia, Social Equity in Cannabis Program & Contract Manager from the Department of Commerce present an update on the Technical Assistance & Mentorship Program at the Department of Commerce. This program came from the Task Force recommendations and they hope to implement October 2022 onward. The program is module-based containing standardized cannabis-specific business learning basics. The module courses will include Business Development, Sales and Marketing, as well as Capital and Finance. They hope to implement mentorship January – June 2023. They will host two gatherings, one in the beginning to find mentor/mentee matches and another at the end to report back with support in between.

After the presentation, Rep. Melanie Morgan, Co-Chair opens the floor to Task Force members with questions. Sen. Curtis King, Member, asks if mentors will be paid for their time and service. After learning that mentors will be paid, Rep. Melanie Morgan, Co-Chair asks where the money for paying mentors will come from. Alison Beason of the Department of Commerce explains that funds will come from Technical Assistance programing. These funds are available for this year and the upcoming 2 years. Rep. Melanie Morgan, Co-Chair inquires if they plan to have a pilot person complete the program before implementing it. Alison Beason, of the Department of Commerce, explains they have done a lot of research and have spoken to agencies in California and Colorado who have done similar programs. They have built upon their knowledge and the first cohort to complete the program will provide any needed feedback and information on implementation. She has confidence they have done their homework enough to put the system into motion. Jim Makoso, Co-Chair asks if the program will be required of applicants and the Task Force learns there is no requirement. Jim also asks if the Department of Commerce will be trying to coordinate with the LCB to launch programs at the same time. They will be trying to coordinate launch with the LCB. Rep. Melanie Morgan, Co-Chair asks if there other questions on the update. Hearing none, she moves onto Good of the Order.

Good of the Order & Adjournment

Rep. Melanie Morgan, Task Force Co-Chair opens the floor to good of the order. Jim Makoso, Co-Chair speaks to public comment. He reminds Task Force members to take a look at the public comments they receive. Rep. Melanie Morgan, Co-Chair, reminds Task Force members that if they want to reply to public comment, they can do so via Staff. Joe Solorio, Member is representing UFCW 21 labor union and briefs Task Force members on some concerns the union has seen in the cannabis retail workers rights movement. Rep. Melanie Morgan, Co-Chair reminds him that this time is for Task Force business only and that the Task Force has no authority over worker rights. Rep. Melanie Morgan, Co-Chair then adjourns the meeting at 3:01 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 TTY users can dial 711.

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