



**Draft Minutes of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force
Regulation of Cannabis Production Workgroup
July 26, 2022
Virtual Meeting**

Workgroup Members Present:

Jim Makoso, Co-Lead
Micah Sherman, Co-Lead
Trecia Ehrlich
Justin Nordhorn
Lara Kaminsky
Jessica Tonani

Workgroup Members Absent:

Crystal Oliver
Steve Garrido

Guests and Other Participants:

Throughout the meeting, approximately 24 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. In

Staff Support:

Lauren King

Crystal Ogle

Call to Order

Jim Makoso, Co-Lead, called the public meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file). Lauren King, Staff shared the Zoom protocol, conversation norms, reviewed the agenda and facilitated introduction of members. Task Force Member Dorian Waller and Task Force Advisory Member, Paul Brice are noted as present.

1. Presentation – Proposed Recommendations

Jim Makoso, Co-Lead begins by explaining the purpose of this meeting is to gather feedback the co-leads will use to make a recommendation to the Task Force at the August 23rd meeting. Today will be the final meeting for this workgroup. Mr. Makoso asks Lauren King, Staff to share screen (slides on file). The statute, RCW 69.60.336 section (9)(d), that outlines the ask of this workgroup is shown and read. The ask of

this workgroup is to analyze the social equity impact of moving cannabis production from the Liquor Cannabis Board (LCB) to the Department of Agriculture (WSDA), including employment rights of workers. He then explains that the recommendation is to take steps to move forward with that idea and rationale. The recommendation and rationale are on screen for members to review. Mr. Makoso asks if workgroup members have any questions or comments. One question is if the switch will impact transition time to get social equity licenses? Micah Sherman, Co-Lead explains he does not see a switch in production regulation impacting the issuance of social equity licenses, as they are two separate things.

Jim Makoso, Co-Lead then moves onto the first rationale for the recommendation, which is the HEAL act. The Environmental Justice Task Force helped implement this act and he explains that co-leads are aware of good changes at WSDA regarding equity. These positive changes regarding equity can have a helpful result for social equity applicants. He then asks workgroup members for comment on this rationale.

2. Discussion – Workgroup Member Feedback

Workgroup members had a robust discussion regarding the recommendation and rationale. Member concern around understanding the benefits of moving production regulation from LCB to WSDA as it pertains to social equity is heard. Some members are not sure if there is enough or good evidence of that in practice and that currently it's only based on theory. Some members make the argument that WSDA supports farmers with resources and education. If producers are supported, the industry will be healthy, and the health of the industry has a direct effect on Social Equity applicants. Another point made is if/when federal legalization occurs the WSDA has experience with federally regulated crops. Concern and questions around applicant cost burdens were also heard. Clarification of the recommendation is provided. The workgroup does not want to provide details as to what exactly will be transferred to WSDA and what components the LCB will keep regulation over. The workgroup leaders feel they do not have enough time or resources to consider these details. Further study must be done. Discussion around the term "primary" occurs. Workgroup members are confused by the definition of such a general term. Generally workgroup members feel a more in depth look at roles and responsibilities when including the WSDA will be needed. Cultural differences between the WSDA and LCB were discussed and the impact it may have on social equity applicants. WSDA focuses on relationships, they are not armed, they use softer language such as dispose rather than destroy when speaking about crops. The WSDA can use relationships more than enforcement largely because they have the federal government backing them up. LCB is enforcement focused and they enforce for other state agencies as well. Members discuss the impact this can have on Social Equity.

3. Next Steps – Finalizing Recommendations

Jim Makoso, Co-Lead thanks everyone for the robust discussion. He's feeling good about it and they have heard feedback and strong opinions. He believes there is not

a full consensus but enough for Micah and himself to put a recommendation together. He asks that workgroup members continue to provide feedback over the next month as they begin writing up the recommendation for the August 23rd Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force Meeting.

Adjournment

Jim Makoso, Co-Lead thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 4:31 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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