

**Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council Legislative Meeting -Minutes  
Tuesday, January 27, 2026 · 3:00 – 4:00pm**

**Members Present:**

Dr. Madhumi Mitra  
Dr. Deondra Asike  
Dr. David Gorelick  
Dr. Leigh Vinocur  
Karrissa Miller  
Dr. Elizabeth Kromm  
Dawn Berkowitz  
Jason Semanoff  
Del. Terri L Hill  
Arinze Ifekauche

**Members Not Present:**

Jocelyn Bratton-Payne  
Sen. Benjamin Kramer  
Martin Proulx  
Dr. Nishant Shah  
Audrey Johnson  
Christine Nizer

**MDH Members Present:**

Erin Portillo  
Dana Moncrief  
Kate Natafji  
Alexandra Nowalk

**Members from Public:**

None.

## **1. Open Meeting. 3:03 PM.**

- a. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Deondra Asike, Council Chair, at 3:03 PM on Tuesday, January 27, 2026
- b. Kate Natafji took a roll call; 10 members were present, representing a quorum.
- c. Dr. Asike reviewed the December Minutes for the group. Leigh Vinocur motioned to approve the minutes with Karrissa Miller seconding. The minutes were approved with no abstentions.

## **2. Review/Discussion of Pending Legislation**

- a. SB 110/ HB114 Motor Vehicles – Accidents – Required Testing for Impaired Driving (Mateo’s Law)  
Mathew Swinburne presented a bill, previously introduced last year as Matteo’s Law, which would remove law enforcement discretion in administering both breath and blood tests following motor vehicle accidents resulting in fatal or life-threatening injuries. Currently, officers must have reasonable suspicion of impairment and may choose either a breath test, a blood test, or both. The proposed law would require administration of both tests in all such cases.

Council members discussed the implications for cannabis detection, noting that while the bill references alcohol and other drugs, it does not specifically mention cannabis. The Council agreed that a Letter of Information would be submitted rather than taking a formal position. The letter aims to provide scientific context on cannabis pharmacology and blood levels, emphasizing that unlike alcohol, cannabis can remain in the system long after impairment has passed, and there is no validated cutoff for impairment. Council members highlighted concerns about removing officer discretion, as individuals could test positive for cannabis without being impaired, and current testing cannot reliably distinguish recent use from past use.

## **3. Position review and votes (as appropriate)**

- a. The Council voted to move forward with submitting the letter of information. Seven members voted in favor and three members abstained.

## **4. Public Comment**

No members of the public were present.

## **5. Adjournment- 4:02 pm.**