

Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council Meeting #3
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2023
3:00 - 5:00 PM

The Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council Meeting held a public meeting on 10/18/2023, called to order at 3:03 PM by Dana Moncrief.

Members Present

Dorothy Lennig
Dr. Madhumi Mitra, Ph.D.
Mathew Swinburne, Esq
Dr. Deondra P. Asike, M.D.
Dr. Leigh Vinocur, M.D.
Dr. David A. Gorelick, M.D., Ph.D.
Dr. Leah Sera, PharmD
Senator Benjamin Kramer
Dawn Berkowitz
Martin Proulx
Sara Barra
Nora Ubrieta Eidelman
Dr. Elizabeth Kromm, PhD
Delegate Terri Hill, M.D.
Karrissa Miller, MSW

Members Not Present

Jocelyn Bratton-Payne, MSW

MDH Staff Present

Dana Moncrief
Alexandra Nowalk
Christopher McGrath
Michelle George
Milan Reed
Pamela R. Williams
Susannah Beckerman
Greer Peacock
Snehal Gawhale

Members of the Public Present

Christine Boyd
Bethany Young
Johanna Keller
Palmer Hopwood
Rebecca Jackson
Timothy Dupree

I. Meeting Opening

Dana Moncrief, the Director of the Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control (CTPC), called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. Dana Moncrief took roll call; a quorum was present

II. Welcome and Business

3:03 PM

Review/Approval of Minutes: Dana Moncrief noted a correction to Nora Eidelman's name on the September 26, 2023 meeting minutes. Senator Ben Kramer moved to approve the minutes from the Council's September 26, 2023 meeting with the corrections made; Dr. Gorelick seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Reminders/Duties: Dana Moncrief reminded the Council to complete a survey to prepare for the 2024 meeting cadence and a survey for chair nominations. Ms. Moncrief discussed two upcoming meetings: November 15, 2023 from 3:00-5:00 PM and on December 14, 2023. Ms. Moncrief reminded the Council to complete Financial Disclosures with the Ethics Commission and to ensure each Governor-Appointed member has been sworn in. Council duties were reviewed, along with the legislative report steps and submission timeline.

Tax Distribution: Dana Moncrief reviewed the tax distribution of adult-use cannabis sales revenue.

III. Cannabis Public Health Data Sources and Insights

3:19 PM

Dawn Berkowitz, Deputy Director of the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA), presented the findings from the Maryland Cannabis Use Baseline Study.

Dawn Berkowitz reviewed the recommendations that the Council is tasked with, as well as an overview of “public health”.

Public Health Concerns with Adult-Use Legalization: National reports and findings from other states show that evidence is inconsistent and, in some cases, inconclusive regarding public health outcomes from adult-use cannabis legalization. Ms. Berkowitz reviewed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s six pillars to guide public health cannabis control efforts with different populations of interest.

Key Findings from Maryland’s Cannabis Use Baseline Study: The Baseline Study was submitted March 1, 2023 to the State Legislature and will be repeated biannually. Based on key findings, MCA made recommendations to improve cannabis-related surveillance; to reduce youth use and access; to reduce use during pregnancy; to reduce accidental poisonings; to reduce cannabis-impaired driving; to study the link between cannabis-use and mental health; and to study cannabis “dose,” problem use, and increase healthcare provider education.

IV. Work Group Breakouts

3:56 PM

Data/ Surveillance: Discussed key takeaways from the Baseline Study findings and how Maryland can improve data collection.

- a. Other Recommendations: Dr. Vinocur recommended the collection of data on the effects that adult-use cannabis has on overdose rates from other substances.
- b. Recommendations and data sources missing from report: Dr. Sera recommended that the Council focus less on “dose” and more on recommendations on youth use, mental

health, and public safety. Dr. Sera noted that a definition is needed for “problem use” in terms of adult-use cannabis consumption and that recommendations should target those who need help with “problem use” rather than stigmatizing all legal cannabis users. Dr. Vinocur noted that urine screenings during pregnancy will disproportionately affect people of color.

Youth Cannabis-Use Mitigation: Discussed key takeaways from the Baseline Study findings in relation to preventing youth cannabis use.

- a. Other Recommendations: Provide education and determine what is causing an increase in poison control calls; discuss legal vs. illegal measures for obtaining cannabis; expose youth to readily available information surrounding cannabis; additional study necessary of regulated vs. unregulated cannabis and how cannabis is accessed in the case of accidental poisonings; provide educational awareness of what Maryland licensed products look like vs. unregulated products.

V. Reconvene/ Wrap- Up

4:52 PM

VI. Public Comment

4:55 PM

Dana Moncrief opened the meeting for public comments; no member of the public provided comment.

VII. Adjournment

4:56 PM

Leah Sera moved to adjourn the meeting, Karrissa Miller seconded the motion and the motion passed.