

Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council Meeting #6

The Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council held a public meeting on 01/17/2024. The meeting was virtual from 4PM-6PM.

Members Present

Dr. Deondra Asike, MD
Dr. David Gorelick, MD, PhD
Dr. Leigh Vinocur, MD
Karrissa Miller, MPH
Dr. Elizabeth Kromm, PhD
Dawn Berkowitz, MPH
Dr. Leah Sera, PharmD
Martin Proulx
Sara Barra
Jason Semanoff
Jocelyn Bratton-Payne

Members Not Present

Mathew Swinburne, Esq
Dr. Madhumi Mitra, PhD
Dorothy Lennig
Nora Urbietta Eidelman
Senator Benjamin Kramer
Delegate Terri L. Hill, MD

MDH Staff Present

Dana Moncrief
Alex Nowalk
Susannah Beckerman
Snehal Gawhale
Recquel James
Nikardi A. Hynes
Nattacha Munakata
Sabrina Chase

Presenters

Nikardi A. Hynes
Dr. Tim Kerns

Members of the Public Present

Arinze Ifekauche
Christine Boyd
Rebecca Jackson
Myra Wieman

I. Meeting called to order by Dr. Deondra Asike

4:04PM

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Deondra Asike, Council Vice-Chair, at 4:04 PM on January 17, 2024. Dr. Asike extended a warm welcome and expressed gratitude to the Council members in attendance. She took a moment to acknowledge the absence of the Council Chair, Mathew Swinburne. Dr. Asike provided a comprehensive overview of the meeting agenda. Dana Moncrief took roll call; a quorum was present.

II. December Meeting Minutes

4:08 PM

Dana Moncrief highlighted that the December meeting minutes underwent revisions based on feedback from David Gorelick. Notably, 'MDH' was removed from the heading in Section I. In the Bylaws section, 'the legal council for MDH' was added to clearly identify the entity responsible for reviewing the bylaws. 'In the absence of Dr. Sera' was introduced for additional clarity. The phrase '(dependent upon if a bill is proposed)' was refined to '(if a bill is proposed)' to enhance precision. In the Youth Cannabis Use Mitigation section, the term 'prescribed' was substituted

with 'certified for,' and formatting updates were implemented to improve readability. Dr. Asike sought a motion to approve the minutes with the mentioned edits. David Gorelick moved the motion to approve, and Leah Sera seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Council Updates

4:10PM

Dana Moncrief outlined the MDH Clean Indoor Air Act revisions introduced during the 2024 Legislative Session, emphasizing the inclusion of electronic smoking devices in the products prohibited for use in indoor public places. Discussions ensued on supporting the Act, with Dawn Berkowitz seeking clarification and Dr. David Gorelick delineating potential avenues. Dana stressed the need for council approval before action. Dr. Elizabeth Kromm advocated for a comprehensive understanding of timeframes, leading to Dr. Asike's motion to support the Act, Leah Sera moved the motion to support the Act, seconded by Dr. David Gorelick. The unanimous decision reflected the council's commitment.

IV. Meeting Preference Voting for Legislative Meetings

4:19PM

Chair Dr. Deondra Asike initiated a structured process to gauge the council members' preferences regarding the timing of future Tuesday meetings. Seeking efficiency, she directed Dana Moncrief to conduct a roll call, asking each member to indicate their preference between a 10:00 AM or 3:00 PM meeting slot. Dr. Deondra Asike, starting the proceedings, expressed a preference for afternoon sessions. Following, Dr. Leigh Vinocur conveyed flexibility, though favoring mornings. Dr. Leah Sera unequivocally opted for afternoon sessions, while Dr. David Gorelick expressed a strong inclination towards afternoons, with a conditional availability for mornings if necessary. Jocelyn Bratton-Payne stated a preference for mornings but indicated readiness for either time slot. Karrissa Miller leaned towards mornings, mirroring Dr. Elizabeth Kromm's stance of neutrality towards either option. Dawn Berkowitz, while preferring afternoons, affirmed her flexibility. Sara Barra distinctly favored morning sessions.

V. Reviewing and Preparing for the Bylaws Meeting

4:24PM

Dr. Deondra Asike then shifted the focus to the review of the council's bylaws. She informed the members that the revised bylaws had been distributed via email earlier that day and urged everyone to carefully review them. Dr. Asike emphasized the importance of this review process in ensuring that the bylaws accurately reflect the council's procedures and guidelines. Dr. Asike notified the members that there would be a dedicated meeting next month solely for discussing and approving the bylaws, demonstrating the council's commitment to transparency and inclusivity in decision-making. She encouraged all members to actively engage in the review process and come prepared to contribute to the discussion during the upcoming meeting.

VI. Update on MDH Cannabis Data Dashboard 4:25PM

Dr. Deondra Asike then prompted Dana Moncrief to provide an update on the MDH Cannabis Data Dashboard. Ms. Moncrief deferred to Dr. Elizabeth Kromm to deliver the update. Dr. Kromm began by acknowledging that the project was still in the validation phase due to the integration of various data sources. She emphasized the importance of accuracy before sharing any information with the council. Dr. Kromm outlined the objectives of the dashboard, highlighting its dual purpose for internal and public use to assess the impact of cannabis

legalization on public health. She mentioned efforts to align with existing dashboards while incorporating additional data sources to provide a comprehensive overview. Dr. Kromm presented a snapshot of the data sources currently available, including healthcare data, surveys, and poison control information. During the presentation, Dr. David Gorelick raised inquiries about accessing court databases for cannabis-related convictions, the inclusion of Maryland hospitals in the data, and accessing national surveys for Maryland-specific data. Dr. Kromm assured the Council that she would explore these options further. Karrissa Miller queried whether the dashboard captured data on medicinal versus non-medicinal cannabis use. Dr. Kromm acknowledged the importance of this distinction and indicated that while some data sources may provide insights into usage types, clarity would be crucial in presenting the data accurately. The exchange demonstrated a comprehensive effort to develop a robust data dashboard while addressing potential gaps and ensuring data accuracy for informed decision-making.

VII. Presentation: Overview of Maryland's Youth Risk Behavior Survey/Youth Tobacco Survey 4:31PM

Dr. Asike introduced Nikardi Hynes from the Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control, who provided an overview of Maryland's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), detailing their significance in understanding youth behaviors and substance use trends. Ms. Hynes outlined the surveys' evolution, methodology, and data collection process, emphasizing their adaptability to stakeholder feedback. She addressed cannabis-related questions, discussed data validity criteria, and highlighted the surveys' role in informing policy decisions. Nikardi's presentation underscored the importance of YRBS and YTS in monitoring youth behaviors and addressing public health challenges.

VIII. Presentation: Cannabis and Impaired Driving by Dr. Tim Kearns 4:48PM

Dr. Deondra Asike introduced Dr. Tim Kearns, Director of the Highway Safety Office for the Motor Vehicle Administration, for a presentation on cannabis and impaired driving. Dr. Kearns stressed the importance of calling road incidents "crashes" to highlight their preventable nature and discussed highway safety trends in Maryland. He outlined the Safe System Approach principles and addressed the shift from alcohol to poly-substance impairment, particularly cannabis. Dr. Kearns highlighted challenges in detecting cannabis impairment, the increase in cannabis-related crashes post-legalization, and the need for roadside tests to aid law enforcement. Concerns about impairment thresholds, the impact of medical cannabis programs on crash rates, and legal implications were raised during the discussion. Dr. Kearns concluded by emphasizing the importance of distinguishing between different sources of impairment and implementing comprehensive measures to tackle impaired driving effectively.

IX. Workgroup Breakout Sessions 5:20PM

X. Main Meeting - Workgroup Report Outs 5:45PM

The main meeting resumed with Dana Moncrief announcing the return of all participants. Dr. Asike then called for a report from the Youth Mitigation Workgroup, with Karissa Miller providing an overview of the group's priorities. The group agreed to hold monthly meetings on the first

Wednesday of each month from 11:00 to 12:00, with notes circulated 48 hours in advance for thorough preparation. Karissa outlined three primary goals focusing on educational materials for cannabis establishments, cannabis-impaired motor vehicle operation, and unregulated cannabis use by youth, emphasizing the importance of audience-appropriate messaging and collaboration with stakeholders.

Following Karissa's report, Dr. Leah Sera from the Data Workgroup shared updates on their progress. The group discussed filling out an action template to identify important concepts for addition to surveys, focusing on youth, adults, and pregnant/breastfeeding women. The group also aimed to assess existing surveys to pinpoint gaps in data collection. Although the group did not finalize a standing monthly meeting, they planned to follow up to determine a suitable schedule, considering communication protocols outlined by Dana Moncrief.

Deondra then requested the results of a voting session regarding preferred meeting times for legislative-related activities. Dana Moncrief presented the outcomes, indicating a preference for afternoons among the members, with a few expressing no preference. Ultimately, it was decided to schedule meetings in the afternoon, with flexibility to cancel if not needed.

XII. Public Comments 5.55PM

Deondra opened the floor for public comments, allowing five minutes for any input. No public comments were provided.

XIII. Adjournment 5.56PM

Dr. Asike announced the date and time for the next council meeting scheduled for April 17th at 4:00 pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Asike, moved by Leah Sera, approved with unanimous agreement, Dr. Asike officially adjourned the meeting at 5.56 PM, expressing gratitude to all participants for their contributions.

Next Council Meeting: April 17, 2024, 4-6PM