

**Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council
Legislative Review Meeting #2025-5
CPHAC - Legislative Review Meetings
Tuesday, February 11 · 4:00 – 4:45 PM**

Members Present:

Dr. Deondra Asike
Dr. David Gorelick
Dawn Berkowitz
Dr. Leigh Vinocur
Jason Semanoff
Elizabeth Kromm
Dr. Nishant Shah
Karrissa Miller
Martin Proulx

Members Not Present:

Bethany Young
Delegate Terri L. Hill
Dr. Leah Sera
Dr. Madhumi Mitra
Senator Kramer
Jocelyn Bratton-Payne

MDH Members Present:

Alex Nowalk
Dana Moncrief
Katherine Natafgi
Michelle George
Pamela Williams

Members from Public:

Annie Carver
George Townsend
Mathew Swinburne

1. Open Legislative Review Meeting. 4:05 PM.

- a. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Deondra Asike, Council Chair, at 4:05 PM on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.
- b. Kate Natafji took a roll call, a quorum was present with 8 members. Dr. Asike stated that the Council would entertain a roaming quorum regarding allowing Council members to cast their votes on previous meeting minutes and the letters for review.

2. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes. 4:09 PM.

- a. Dana Moncrief reviewed the meeting minutes for January 15, 2025, January 21, 2025, January 28, 2025, and February 4, 2025. Dr. Asike stated that only substantial edits to meeting minutes would be entertained.
- b. January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes: There were no suggested substantial edits made to the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Dr. Asike asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 15, 2025. Dr. Nishant Shah made the motion and Dawn Berkowitz seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 15, 2025.
- c. January 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes: There were no suggested substantial edits made to the January 21, 2025 meeting minutes. Dr. Asike asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 21, 2025. Karrissa Miller made the motion and Dr. Nishant Shah seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 21, 2025.
- d. January 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes: There were no suggested substantial edits made to the January 28, 2025 meeting minutes. Dr. Asike asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 28, 2025. Karrissa Miller made the motion and Dr. Nishant Shah seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 28, 2025.
- e. February 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Dana Moncrief noted that the roll call vote noting each council member's vote was added to the meeting minutes after it was sent out for review. Dr. Asike asked for a motion to approve the February 4, 2025 meeting minutes with amendments. Dr. Leigh Vinocur made the motion and Karrissa Miller seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve the meeting minutes from February 4, 2025.

3. Discussion of Pending Legislation. 4:18 PM.

Matt Swinburne reviewed the bills the council has taken a position on including upcoming filing dates and hearing dates.

Senate Bill 214 Cannabis - Sale and Distribution - Tetrahydrocannabinol Offenses: Passed and received a favorable report from the Senate Finance Committee.

Senate Bill 215: Cannabis - On-Site Consumption Establishments and Cannabis Events: Has not received a vote yet.

Membership Bill to add the MVA was crossfiled. There are now conflicting bills in the Senate and the House. The bill that was filed in the Senate added the Office of Social Equity, received a favorable vote and crossed over to the House. HB46 that was filed in the House did not add the Office of Social Equity, but also received a favorable vote and crossed over to the Senate. The Senate and House will need to work out the details of the conflicting bills. The House Bill will go to the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Bill will go to Health & Government Operations. No hearing dates have been scheduled. Dr. Asike reminded the council that the legislative work group recommended that the council not take a position on these bills.

HB132 - Cannabis - On-Site Consumption Establishments and Cannabis Events - Letter of Opposition and HB880 - Cannabis - Prohibition on Outdoor Advertising - Repeal - Letter of Opposition. Hearings will be held next week. Dr. Leigh Vinocur will provide virtual testimony and Karrissa Miller will provide in-person testimony with approved talking points.

Dr. Asike reminded the council that during the last meeting, the council voted to add a statement to the end of the Letter of Opposition for HB132 which is as follows:

“Finally, the Council understands that the Senate may be considering amendments to their version of this bill (SB215) which would make allowances for inhaled cannabis products. We deem these amendments unacceptable and stand in complete opposition to adding inhaled or combustible products to the proposed models of onsite consumption establishments and cannabis events given the lack of public health research needed to fully support these commercial frameworks.”

Since there were no substantial edits to the statement from what Delegate Hill recommended during the February 4, 2025 meeting, a vote was not needed.

Dr. Asike reviewed the list of 15 states that prohibit outdoor advertising that were added to the Letter of Opposition for HB880. The fifteen states include Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, and Virginia.

Dr. David Gorelick suggested that the council add information about Canada's laws regarding outdoor cannabis advertising and a study evaluating adolescent exposure to outdoor cannabis advertising. Dr. Asike suggested the council discuss adding this information to the council letter for HB1377. Dana Moncrief suggested that the information be brought up during oral testimony.

A vote was not needed for the HB880 Letter of Opposition because it was voted on during the February 4, 2025 meeting and no further substantial edits were made.

HB1377 - Cannabis – Advertising – Prohibited Locations (Equity in Cannabis Advertising Act). This bill proposes to repeal the outdoor advertising ban but would create a 500 ft. exclusionary zone for outdoor advertising around substance abuse treatment centers and a collection of child-focused locations like schools. This bill also appears to add protections that limit cannabis advertisement including prohibiting cannabis advertisement from untruthful or deceptive statements, making health claims, and advertising that would be attractive to children. However, there are already current laws in place that address these issues. Matt Swinburne suspects that this bill is an attempt to make it seem like outdoor advertising could be safe for children.

The legislative workgroup recommends that the council put forth a letter of opposition against HB1377.

Dr. Asike reminded the council that a similar bill appeared last year. The council did submit a letter of opposition against SB399 - Cannabis - Advertising - Prohibited Locations. The goal would be to take the same position of opposition this year against HB 1377 - Cannabis – Advertising – Prohibited Locations (Equity in Cannabis Advertising Act) with a similar letter.

Concerns were raised that HB1377 is not truly addressing social equity as it claims to do because HB1377 does not address protection of youth, it does not address the impact on the marginalized community, nor does it address health disparities.

Dana Moncrief stated that her team would draft the letter of opposition to HB1377 and she would send it out by the end of the week. The council would need to meet on February 18th, 2025 to vote on the letter. She reminded the council that a quorum must be present to vote.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

5. Position Vote (as necessary):

No position votes were taken during this meeting.

6. Adjourn. 4:38 PM.

Dr. Asike asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karrissa Miller made the motion and Dr. Nishant Shah seconded the motion. All members present were in favor of the motion.