

**Cannabis Public Health Advisory Ad Hoc Full-Council Meeting -Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2026 · 4:00 – 5:00pm**

Members Present:

Dr. Madhumi Mitra
Dr. Deondra Asike
Dr. David Gorelick
Jocelyn Bratton-Payne
Karrissa Miller
Dawn Berkowitz
Jason Semanoff
Del. Terri L Hill
Audrey Johnson
Dr. Nishant Shah
Christine Nizer
Dr. Leigh Vinocur
Dr. Elizabeth Kromm

Members Not Present:

Sen. Benjamin Kramer
Martin Proulx
Arinze Ifekauche

MDH Staff Present:

Erin Portillo
Dana Moncrief
Kate Natafgi

**LRC- Cannabis Technical Staff
Present:**

Mathew Swinburne
Annie Carver
George Townsend

Members from Public:

None

1. Open Meeting. 4:01 PM.

- a. Dr. Deondra Asike officially called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. on April 28, 2026.
- b. Kate Natafji took a roll call; a quorum of 9 members was present. Additional members joined as the meeting continued. Dr. Asike stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the collaborative's response to MCA's proposed regulations.

2. Review/Discussion of MCA Proposed Regulations

Annie Carver (LRC) presented an overview of the Maryland Cannabis Administration's proposed cannabis regulations and noted that the current comment period represented the primary opportunity for substantive public feedback. She reviewed proposed regulations related to therapeutic and medical claims in cannabis advertising, health and safety information for micro dispensary deliveries, expanded packaging and labeling restrictions aimed at reducing youth appeal, and the regulation of sublingual cannabis pouches.

Ms. Carver explained that the proposed definition of therapeutic or medical claims would apply to both explicit and implicit health claims and aligned with consumer protection goals. She also summarized proposed packaging restrictions limiting imagery, font styles, anthropomorphic graphics, and sensory features that could appeal to minors.

Council members discussed concerns related to sublingual cannabis pouches, including rapid absorption, dosing, tampering risks, and unintended adverse effects. Ms. Carver also shared findings from a review of regulations in other states regarding similar products.

3. Council Feedback Review and Vote

Dr. Asike led a review of the Council's draft public comment letter to the Maryland Cannabis Administration. Members discussed revisions related to consumer education materials, packaging guidance, and recommendations for pouch-specific labeling and warnings addressing tampering risks and appropriate use. MCA representatives clarified that standardized multilingual educational materials were already planned for micro dispensary deliveries.

The Council approved submission of the revised public comment letter. Delegate Terri Hill made the motion, which was seconded by Karrissa Miller and Dr. Leigh Vinocur. Dawn Berkowitz and Jason Semanoff abstained. Dr. Asike stated that the comments would be finalized and submitted before the deadline.

4. Public Comment

No comments from the public.

5. Adjournment 5:01 pm