

Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council Meeting #5

The Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council held a public meeting on 12/14/2023. The meeting was virtual from 1pm - 3pm.

Members Present

Dr. Madhumi Mitra, PhD
Dr. Deondra Asike, MD
Dr. David Gorelick, MD, PhD
Jocelyn Bratton-Payne
Mathew Swinburne, Esq
Dr. Leigh Vinocur, MD
Karrissa Miller, MPH
Senator Benjamin Kramer
Elizabeth Kromm, PhD
Martin Proulx
Dawn Berkowitz, MPH
Delegate Terri L. Hill, MD
Sara Barra
Jason Semanoff

Members Not Present

Dorothy Lennig
Dr. Leah Sera, PharmD
Nora Urbieta Eidelman

MDH Staff Present

Alex Nowalk
Naseeb Kibria
Dana Moncrief
Susannah Beckerman
Bethan Haaga
Greer Peacock
Pamela R. Williams
Sabrina Chase

Members of the Public Present

Christine Boyd
Rebecca Jackson
Justin Noel
Rupshikha Sen
Loise Silva Novochadlo Taliaferro

I. Meeting called to order by Mathew Swinburne

1:02 PM

Mathew Swinburne, Council Chair, welcomed and thanked the Council. He gave an overview of the Council's actions: the legislative report was submitted and is being reviewed by MDH. Mr. Swinburne took roll call; a quorum was present.

II. November Meeting Minutes

1:08 PM

Mathew Swinburne noted a correction to the spelling of Dorothy Lennig's name and updated Dr. David Gorelick's title on the Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2023. Mr. Swinburne motioned to approve minutes with corrections, Dr. Leigh Vinocur seconded motion, and the motion passed.

III. Council Business/ Chair Updates

1:13 PM

Mathew Swinburne reviewed the meeting agenda and presented chair updates.

- A. Bylaws: The bylaws were not ready to be shared for the December 14 meeting. They are being reviewed by the legal council for MDH and will be sent out to the Council members before the meeting on January 17.
- B. A speaker survey was sent to the Council to ensure that the Council has a foundational understanding regarding some key issues.
 - a. Considering a Cannabis boot camp consisting of several speakers to educate the Council on key issues
- C. Mathew Swinburne discussed developing a workplan and goals of the Council.
 - a. Dr. Leah Sera to lead the Data/Surveillance workgroup and Karrissa Miller to lead the Youth Cannabis Use Mitigation workgroup.
 - b. Dr. Deondra Asike volunteered to lead the Data/Surveillance workgroup for the December 14 meeting in the absence of Dr. Sera.
- D. Meeting Goals:
 - a. Establish primary goals of the workgroups
 - b. Establish a timeline for the implementation of work plans
 - c. Establish time for workgroups to meet outside of quarterly Council meetings
- E. Plans and goals of the workgroups will be discussed in the January meeting.
- F. April is the intended deadline for Council’s work plan.
- G. Weekly meetings for the Council during the legislative session (if a bill is proposed) were discussed. The legislative workgroup will decide when these meetings are.
 - a. A quorum is not needed for these meetings; they are not public.

IV. Open Meetings Act Overview

1:38 PM

Mathew Swinburne opened the floor: the Council had the choice to close the Open Meetings Act overview Speaker portion of the meeting to the public. There was no motion to make the meeting private. Bethan Haaga presented on the Open Meetings Act and informed the Council on the procedures to follow for public and private meetings. Ms. Haaga provided links to the Open Meetings Act Compliance Board page, Attorney General's FAQ on Open Meetings Act, and online training to the Council.

V. Workgroup Breakouts

2:08 PM

Data/ Surveillance:

- A. Improve local and statewide surveillance instruments by identifying data gaps and proposing potential solutions to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA); look at what other states are doing as “models” for Maryland data collection.
 - a. Dawn Berkowitz explained that MDH has jurisdiction over statewide surveys; MCA is working out gaps in data collection and made recommendations to MDH to add specific questions to these surveys.

- b. Dr. Elizabeth Kromm explained that MDH can present updates on questions added to statewide surveys at the next Council meeting; MDH is also working on a data dashboard modeled after other states real-time cannabis dashboards.
- B. Add questions around youth access, usual source, risk perceptions, knowledge/attitudes, problem use/addiction, driving while impaired (YRBS/YTS) and monitoring cannabis-use in pregnant and breastfeeding persons (PRAMS).
- C. Ensure data is collected on other priority populations such as the elderly (65+), justice-involved youth, youth involved in the foster care system, out of school youth, and youth experiencing mental health challenges.
- D. Recognize inherent biases in cannabis use data collected in emergency departments (i.e., ICD-10 codes) and emphasize a harm-reduction approach to data collection and surveillance.
- E. Research cannabis-use links to youth mental health by reviewing existing surveys that collect youth mental health data and proposing additional data analysis (i.e., cross-tabs).

Youth Cannabis-Use Mitigation:

- A. Improve statewide and jurisdiction level data collection and surveillance
 - a. Delegate Terri Hill discussed including a differentiation between youth being certified for medical cannabis and illegal cannabis-use.
- B. Prioritize data collection and programs that address youth problem use and impaired driving.
 - a. Mathew Swinburne discussed interest in how this affects driver's education courses and the success of MCA education efforts and identifying groups to partner with.
 - b. Delegate Terri Hill discussed expanding impaired driving to include other motor vehicles (i.e., planes, boats, motorcycles, etc.) and heavy machinery/equipment.
- C. Elucidate the relationship between youth access to and use of cannabis products.
 - a. Mathew Swinburne expressed interest in the impact of the licensed consumption sites and understanding their effects on traffic safety and if it impacts youth risk perception of cannabis-use.
 - b. The workgroup shares concerns about the true distinctions between hemp products and cannabis products.
 - c. Potential goal: trending youth use data and potential health concerns related to use to make future policy recommendations, advocacy, and outreach efforts.

VI. Reconvene/ Workgroup Reports

2:43 PM

Dr. Deondra Asike summarized the discussion from the Data/ Surveillance workgroup.

- A. The workgroup will take recommendation 1, plan to improve the surveillance and establish key metrics

- a. Intend to focus on youth and other vulnerable populations such as pregnant and breastfeeding individuals.
- b. Open to monthly meetings.
- c. Looking forward: Examining the surveillance tracker that already exists to create a plan by April.

Karrissa Miller summarized the discussion from the Youth Cannabis-Use Mitigation workgroup.

- A. Monthly meetings were not discussed.
- B. Intend to ensure that data collection efforts by the committee are tracking separately medical use vs. recreational use.
- C. Interested in how Cannabis-Use is being discussed in relation to impaired driving in Driver's Education courses.
- D. Discussed recommendation 3 at length: Interested in how consumption sites will impact youth-use; Interested in understanding the differences between hemp and cannabis products as well as if there is a risk associated with "intoxicating hemp" products.
- E. Looking forward: Intend to discuss mental health in regards to youth cannabis use in the January meeting.

VII. Wrap-Up

2:55 PM

Mathew Swinburne noted that the Council will receive information before the January meeting concerning bylaws and goals of the Council.

VIII. Public Comment

2:56 PM

Mathew Swinburn opened the meeting to public comment. No public comment was provided.

IX. Adjourn

2:57 PM

Dr. Leigh Vinocur motioned to adjourn the meeting. Senator Benjamin Kramer seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM.

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