

**Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 17, 2024**  
**4:00 to 6:00 PM Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Elizabeth Kromm  
Dr. Madhumi Mitra  
Dr. Deondra Asike  
Dr. Leah Sera  
Sara Barra  
Dr. David Gorelick  
Dawn Berkowitz  
Karrissa Miller  
Dr. Leigh Vinocur  
Martin Proulx  
Nora Urbietta Eidelman  
Delegate Terri L. Hill

**Members Not Present:**

Senator Benjamin Kramer  
Jocelyn Bratton-Payne  
Dorothy Lennig  
Jason Semanoff

**MDH Members Present:**

Dana Moncrief

Alex Nowalk  
Susannah Beckerman  
Sabrina Chase  
Bethan Haaga  
Pamela Williams  
Snehal Gawhale

**Members from Public:**

Elease Booke  
Hanno Petras  
Manjula Paul  
Rebecca Jackson  
Johanna Heller  
Mark Johnson  
Ellen Delaplaine  
Christine Boyd  
Mary Gordon

**Presenters:**

Mathew Swinburne  
Suzannah Ward

**I. Opening of Meeting (4.00 PM)**

The meeting was called to order at 4.02 PM by Deondra Asike. The agenda was reviewed, and the meeting was confirmed to be open to the public. Recording for record-keeping was agreed upon with no objections.

**II. Roll Call (4.04 PM)**

Dana Moncrief conducted the roll call, confirming a quorum.

**III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (4.05 PM)**

**January 17th Meeting Minutes:** Deondra Asike moved to the review of the minutes from the January 17th meeting. David Gorelick moved to approve the minutes with his suggested amendments. Leah Sera seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with no nays or abstentions.

**March 5th Ad Hoc Meeting Minutes:** Dr. Asike reviewed the ad hoc meeting minutes for March 5th. David Gorelick provided his suggested amendments. He moved to approve the minutes with the amendments. Dawn Berkowitz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with no nays or abstentions.

**IV. Closed Session (4.16 PM)**

Ms. Moncrief announced that the Council would enter a closed session to discuss legal matters - General Provisions Art. §3-305(b)(7).

**V. Presentation on Legislative Session (4.35 PM)**

Following the return from the breakout session, Deondra Asike confirmed the presence of the presenters, including Mathew Swinburne from the Legal Resource Center. Mathew Swinburne reviewed key bills from the 2024 Maryland General Assembly session, highlighting Senate Bill 399 on outdoor cannabis advertising, an amendment to the Maryland Clean Indoor Air Act to include vaping, and HB 805 on zoning and community protest provisions. He also discussed the failed employment protection bill for legal cannabis use outside work hours. During the Q&A, Mathew Swinburne addressed David Gorelick's queries on the exclusionary zones for dispensaries and zoning restrictions for other cannabis facilities, confirming local jurisdictions' abilities and state standards. Dr. Asike thanked Mathew Swinburne for his insights before proceeding with the agenda.

**VI. Presentation on Cannabis and School Health Education (4.52 PM)**

Deondra Asike introduced Suzannah Ward, the Coordinator of Comprehensive Health Education at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Suzannah Ward shared her slides and discussed the shift to skills-based health education focusing on practical skills like self-management and advocacy. She detailed the 2019 COMAR regulation mandating health education and professional development for educators. Ms. Ward also covered new cannabis regulations for child care facilities, including safety and training protocols. Addressing cannabis in schools, she outlined guidelines for administering medical cannabis and advocated for restorative discipline policies over punitive measures. Dr. Madhumi Mitra raised concerns about cannabis odor on campus, to which Ms. Ward and Dawn Berkowitz offered support and resources. Ms. Ward concluded by emphasizing early education on substance use, starting in third grade for nicotine and in fifth grade for cannabis.

**VII. Youth Mitigation Work Group Report (5.27 PM)**

Karrissa Miller provided an update on behalf of the Youth Mitigation Work Group. The group plans to refocus on educational materials specifically for youth, understanding their engagement, and prioritizing youth use mitigation strategies. The group aims to narrow their scope from broader educational materials to those targeting youth and impaired driving education within school settings. The next meeting is scheduled for the first Wednesday of May, with ongoing asynchronous work via a Google Document.

**VIII. Data Surveillance Work Group Report (5.31 PM)**

Leah Sera reported on the Data Surveillance Work Group. The group identified three focus areas: adult use, youth use, and use during pregnancy. Leah Sera read out the detailed recommendations proposed by the Data Surveillance Work Group for the council's consideration. Recommendations include adding relevant questions to existing surveys, enhancing data collection on cannabis use during pregnancy through PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System), and having Maryland participate in the International Cannabis Policy Survey for Maryland. Dr. Askike read out the recommendations and called for a motion to adopt them, which was moved by Dawn Berkowitz and seconded by David Gorelick. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. New Work Group Proposal (5.37 PM)**

Deondra Asike proposed a new work group to study and recommend training for healthcare providers on cannabis use. The scope includes basic training on the endocannabinoid system, cannabis pharmacology, dosing, potential drug interactions, screening for cannabis use, and prevention strategies. David Gorelick suggested including

prevention activities alongside screening, which was agreed upon. Interested members were asked to contact Dr. Asike or Ms. Moncrief, and the group is expected to present their action template at the next Council meeting.

**X. Public Comment (5.46 PM)**

Mark Johnson from the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation raised a question about research funding opportunities. Dawn Berkowitz clarified that the Maryland Cannabis Administration does not typically fund research, focusing instead on data collection and surveillance.

**XI. Adjournment (5.54 PM)**

Deondra Asike called for a motion to adjourn, which was moved by David Gorelick and seconded by Leigh Vinocur. The motion passed without objection, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM.

**Next Council Meeting: July 17, 2024**