

Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council Meeting #12- Minutes
Wednesday, July 16, 2025 · 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Members Present:

Dr. Madhumi Mitra
Dr. Deondra Asike
Dr. David Gorelick
Dr. Leigh Vinocur
Karrissa Miller
Sen. Benjamin Kramer
Elizabeth Kromm
Martin Proulx
Dawn Berkowitz
Jason Semanoff
Del. Terri L Hill
Nishant Shah

Members Not Present:

Jocelyn Bratton-Payne
Bethany Young

MDH Members Present:

Erin Portillo
Kate Natafji
Dana Moncrief
Sara Demetriou
Snehal Gawhale

Members from Public:

Del. Amelia Arria
Malinda Kennedy
Erin Hopwood
Kara Skelton

1. Open Meeting. 4:03 PM.

- a. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Deondra Asike, Council Chair, at 4:03 PM on Wednesday, July 16, 2025.
- b. Erin Portillo took a roll call; 12 members were present at the start of the meeting.
- c. Dr. Asike reviewed the meeting minutes from April 16, 2025. Citing no edits to the minutes, Dr. Asike requested a motion to approve the minutes for the April 16, 2025 meeting. Karrissa Miller motioned to approve the minutes, Dr. Vinocur seconded the motion. The council voted to approve the minutes, Dr. David Gorelick abstained from the vote, there were no objections.
- d. **Upcoming Council Meeting Dates:**
 - Dr. Asike presented proposed changes to the fall meeting schedule to avoid conflicts with religious holidays. The September meeting originally set for Wednesday, September 24 will be moved to Wednesday, September 17, and the October meeting originally set for Wednesday, October 15 will be moved to Thursday, October 16.
 - Dr. Vinocur motioned to approve the revised council dates, and Karrissa Miller seconded. The motion was unanimously approved with no opposition or abstentions.
- e. **Council By-Laws:**

Dr. Deondra Asike led a discussion on council bylaws, clarifying quorum definitions and the role of the vice chair. It was agreed that the vice chair serves the remainder of the chair's term or until unable to perform duties, and that any new vice chair appointment should follow a distinct nomination and election process. Delegate Terri Hill raised the need for a process to remove a chair, vice chair, or member unable or unwilling to fulfill their duties; members agreed to defer this discussion pending legal guidance from the Attorney General.

The discussion then focused on work groups, including proposed language on minimum membership and attendance. Members expressed concern that strict attendance requirements could unfairly penalize contributing members and noted that participation issues often reflect scheduling or work group structure. It was agreed to remove the minimum attendance requirement and emphasize that all council members should participate in at least one active work group. Karrissa Miller highlighted low participation in the Youth Work Group but did not support removing members solely for lack of attendance. Work groups may leverage council meeting time or asynchronous methods to facilitate engagement.

Dr. Gorelick and Dr. Vinocur clarified that the council, not individual work groups, should approve any work group discontinuation via majority vote. Legal clarification from Assistant Attorney General Bethan Haaga confirmed that the “and/or” language in the bylaws allows either of the initial criteria to trigger the council’s vote.

Meeting Closure for Legal Advice: The council voted to close the meeting under Article 3305B to consult the Attorney General regarding the clause on member removals. The meeting was closed to the public at 4:39PM and re-opened at 4:58PM. 12 council members were present when the open meeting reconvened.

2. Young Adult Cannabis Use Patterns In Maryland: An Introduction to the Maryland Collaborative.

Amelia Arria and Cara Skelton provided an overview of the Maryland Collaborative, a policy initiative launched in 2012 to address substance use among college students. The initiative uses research-based, multi-level strategies—combining individual- and environmental-level interventions—to prevent substance use and support academic success. The collaborative engages 19 participating colleges, with presidents designating points of contact to implement campus-specific strategies, including early identification and intervention for at-risk students through academic engagement centers, health services, and athletic programs. Environmental strategies include technical assistance, engagement with local bars to reduce underage or excessive service, and development of campus-specific policy reports.

The Maryland College Alcohol Survey (MD CAS) provides biennial data on student substance use behaviors and related factors to inform prevention efforts. Although not an epidemiologic survey, the data help identify campus-specific prevention targets, track progress, and guide development of trainings, webinars, infographics, and parent-focused resources such as collegeparentsmatter.org. The collaborative also facilitates peer exchanges and quarterly campus council meetings to share successes, challenges, and research-aligned strategies.

Regarding cannabis, MD CAS data show increases in past-year use, particularly among binge drinkers, with 19% of users reporting daily consumption in 2025. Use patterns varied by race and ethnicity, and students commonly used multiple modes, including smoking, edibles, and vaping, often without knowledge of THC concentrations. Some underage students obtained cannabis from dispensaries, peers, or online, and knowledge of campus cannabis policies was limited. Presenters emphasized using these findings to guide practical, campus-specific prevention strategies, correct misperceptions about risks, target frequent users, and leverage trusted relationships between Maryland Collaborative staff and participating colleges to implement evidence-based approaches.

3. Recommendations Report

Dr. Deondra Asike noted that the meeting would transition to work group discussions to allow members to reconnect and review progress on proposed recommendations. Participants were divided into the Data/ Surveillance Work Group, Healthcare Professionals Education Work Group, and Youth Work Group, with some overlap for members involved in the Oversight Consumption Site Work Group. Work group leads were tasked with reviewing the status of recommendations relevant to their group, summarizing progress in one sentence, and guiding activity for the coming months to draft or finalize recommendations for the report.

Council members confirmed that work group leads already had the relevant recommendation documents, and the discussion clarified that the full council would not review the materials at this meeting due to time constraints. Work groups were instructed to focus on the sections applicable to their group and report back on progress in subsequent sessions.

4. Workgroup Breakouts

The council broke into Workgroups at 5:42 PM to discuss their group's recommendations for the council report and set meeting dates for their workgroup to discuss recommendations between Committee meetings.

5. Wrap-Up/Next Steps

Dr. Deondra Asike concluded the meeting by reviewing next steps, noting that work groups should continue their discussions to develop one or more recommendations by October. The next full council meeting is scheduled for September 17, and updated calendar invites will be sent to reflect the revised date. Dr. Asike confirmed that the recommendation tables would be shared with the full council, as work group leads had already received them.

6. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

7. Adjourn. 6:00 PM.

Dr. Asike asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Del. Hill made the motion and Dr. Vinocur seconded the motion. All members present were in favor of the motion.