

MARYLAND CANNABIS PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

2025 Recommendations

Pursuant to Health General Article § 13–4506

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D.
Secretary

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ABBREVIATIONS	
ATCC	Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CTPC	Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control
FY	Fiscal Year
HB	House Bill
LHD	Local Health Department
LRC-Cannabis	University of Maryland Baltimore, Francis King Carey School of Law, Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy - Cannabis
MCA	Maryland Cannabis Administration
MCUBS	Maryland Cannabis Use Biannual Study
MDH	Maryland Department of Health
MSDE	Maryland State Department of Education
PRAMS	Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System
SB	Senate Bill
THC	Tetrahydrocannabinol
The Council	Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council

Background

During the 2022 legislative session, state lawmakers passed House Bill (HB) 1 and amended the Maryland Constitution to legalize cannabis consumption and possession for individuals aged 21 years and older, contingent upon voter adoption of this constitutional amendment during the following general election.¹ Maryland voters passed the referendum on November 8, 2022, which took effect on July 1, 2023. The Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council (the Council) and the Cannabis Public Health Fund were established through HB 837, the Cannabis Reform Act, which also passed during the 2022 Maryland Legislative Session.²

Pursuant to HB 837, the Council was created to “study and make recommendations regarding:

1. The promotion of public health and mitigation of youth use of, misuse of, and addiction to cannabis;
2. Data collection and reporting of data that measures the impact of cannabis consumption and legalization;
3. The impact of cannabis legalization on the education, behavioral health, and somatic health of individuals under the age of 21 years;
4. Initiatives to prevent cannabis use by individuals under the age of 21 years, including educational programs for use in school;
5. Public health campaigns on cannabis;
6. Advertising, labeling, product testing, and quality control requirements;
7. Training for health care providers related to cannabis use;
8. Best practices regarding requirements to reduce the appeal of cannabis to minors, including advertising, potency, packaging, and labeling standards; and
9. Any other issues that advance public health related to cannabis use and legalization.”³

The Council must report these findings and recommendations annually to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) administers the Cannabis Public Health Fund, which is used in part to provide staff support and technical assistance to the Council in performing its duties.

Council Membership

Effective as of October 1, 2025, the Council has 19 member positions: 10 members are appointed by the Governor, and nine members serve as ex-officio or their designee. The statute has specific requirements for member roles and term limits.⁴ Each appointed Council member serves a four-year term, which is staggered to ensure continuity of Council operations. During the 2025 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly enacted Chapter 365 of the Acts of 2025 that added two new members to the Council.⁵ The Council now includes seats for the Administrator of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, or their designee, and the Executive Director of the Office of Social Equity in the Department of Social and Economic Mobility, or their designee.⁶ Current Council members are listed in Tables 1 and 2 below; there are three vacancies.

¹Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2022 (HB 1). Accessed 18 Aug 2025 at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2022RS/chapters_noln/Ch_45_hb0001E.pdf>.

²Chapter 26 of the Acts of 2022 (HB 837). Accessed 18 Aug 2025 at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2022RS/chapters_noln/Ch_26_hb0837E.pdf>

³Ibid. fn 2

⁴Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council, Health - General, § 13-4502 (2023). Accessed 18 Aug 2025 at <<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/laws/StatuteText?article=ghg§ion=13-4502&enactments=true>>

⁵Chapter 365 of the Acts of 2025 (SB 222). Accessed 24 Sept 2025 at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/chapters_noln/Ch_365_sb0222T.pdf>

⁶Chapter 605 of the Acts of 2025 (HB 1253 - Department of Social and Economic Mobility - Established), effective October 1, 2025, transferred the Office of Social Equity from the Maryland Cannabis Administration to the Department of Social and Economic Mobility.

Table 1. Governor-Appointed Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council Members (2025)

Governor-Appointed Positions	
Council Member Name	Council Role(s)
Dr. Deondra P. Asike, M.D. <i>Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine</i>	Health Care Provider with Experience in Cannabis <i>Council Chair</i> <i>Lead, Legislative Workgroup</i>
Karrissa Miller, M.S.W. <i>Pinnacle CT, LLC and US Cannalytics</i>	Representative from a Laboratory that Tests Cannabis <i>Council Vice-Chair</i> <i>Lead, Youth Cannabis Use Mitigation Workgroup</i>
Dr. Leigh Vinocur, M.D. <i>Ananda Medical Practice</i>	Public Health Professional with Cannabis Experience <i>Lead, Healthcare Professionals Education Workgroup</i>
Dr. David A. Gorelick, M.D., Ph.D. <i>University of Maryland, School of Medicine</i>	Health Care Provider with Experience in Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery
Jocelyn Bratton-Payne, M.S.W. <i>New Hope Treatment Center</i>	Experience with Cannabis Use Disorder
Dr. Madhumi Mitra, Ph.D. <i>University of Maryland Eastern Shore</i>	Representative from a Historically Black College or University
Arinze Ifekauche <i>Deputy Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs</i>	Representative from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy
Vacant	Individual with 5+ years in Health or Social Equity
Vacant	Pharmacist Licensed in Maryland
Vacant	Academic Researcher with Expertise in Cannabis Law and Policy

Table 2. Ex-Officio/Designee Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council Members (2025)

Ex-Officio/Designee Positions
Senator Benjamin Kramer <i>Member from the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate</i>
Delegate Terri Hill, M.D. <i>Member from the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House</i>
Dawn Berkowitz, M.P.H., CHES <i>Designee for the Director of Maryland Cannabis Administration Lead, Data and Surveillance Workgroup</i>
Elizabeth Edsall Kromm, Ph.D., M.Sc. <i>Designee for the Secretary of Health</i>
Jason Semanoff <i>Designee for the State Superintendent of Schools</i>
Martin Proulx, M.B.A. <i>Designee for the Secretary of Agriculture</i>
Nishant Shah, M.D. <i>Designee for the Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health Lead, On-site Consumption Workgroup</i>
Christine Nizer <i>Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Administration ⁷</i>
Audrey Johnson <i>Executive Director of the Office of Social Equity in the Department of Social and Economic Mobility ⁷</i>

Council Activities

Continuing its capacity building activities in 2025, the Council identified drugged driving and on-site consumption as issues that required its attention. The full Council met virtually five times between January 2025 and October 2025 (January 15, April 16, July 16, September 17, and October 16). The Council also held six legislative meetings to vote on positions for proposed legislation (January 21, January 28, February 4, February 11, February 18, and February 25). One ad-hoc meeting is planned for December 10, 2025 to approve the Council bylaws. Council meeting dates, agendas, and minutes are posted on the Council website.⁸ Meeting details can be found in the Appendix.

⁷ Council positions for the Motor Vehicle Administration and the Office of Social Equity were filled effective October 1, 2025, in accordance with Chapter 365 of the Acts of 2025.

⁸ <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ohpetup/council/Pages/default.aspx>

Several guest speakers presented in 2025 on current federal, state, and local activities. Representatives from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE); MDH; Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA); Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy - Cannabis at the Francis King Carey School of Law, University of Maryland Baltimore (LRC-Cannabis); and the Maryland Collaborative discussed topics such as cannabis laboratory testing, vaping and cannabis, the Maryland Cannabis Use Biannual Study (MCUBS), and adult and youth cannabis use data.

Council Workgroup Activities

While statute does not require workgroups, it does allow the Council to form workgroups to assist in the work of the Council. Workgroups, with the exception of the Legislative Workgroup, meet monthly, with three to seven members in each. Members are able to participate in more than one workgroup if they choose to do so. An interim Legislative Workgroup was formed during the 2025 Legislative Session (January to April 2025).

In 2025, the Council Chair identified “leads” to guide workgroup goals, priorities, and actionable tasks needed to refine recommendations outlined in the 2024 report.⁹ Workgroups make recommendations for full Council approval and members leverage their professional activities to advance recommendations made by the workgroups while collaborating with relevant state agencies. Workgroup compositions, objectives, and the recommendations they produced, as well as efforts by other entities to act on those recommendations, are outlined below.

Youth Cannabis Use Mitigation Workgroup	
Members	Karrissa Miller, M.S.W., Workgroup Lead ; Madhumi Mitra, Ph.D.; Del. Terri Hill, M.D.; Jocelyn Bratton-Payne, M.S.W.; Jason Semanoff; Sen. Benjamin Kramer
Objectives	• Improve statewide and jurisdiction-level data collection and surveillance. • Prioritize data collection and programs that address youth problem use and impaired driving. • Determine the relationship between youth access to and use of cannabis products. • Utilize trending youth use data and potential health concerns related to use to make future policy recommendations, advocacy, and outreach efforts.
Activities and Efforts to Implement Recommendations	• MSDE updated its Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework, a process which occurs every eight years. The MDH Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control (CTPC) contributed guidance on educating students about the short- and long-term health effects of cannabis use; cannabis-impaired driving; predatory youth marketing practices of tobacco, nicotine, and vape companies; and

⁹ Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council. (2024, December 1). *2024 Annual Legislative Recommendations Report* [PDF]. Accessed 1 Oct 2025, at <https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MDH/HG13-4506_2024.pdf>

	the socio-ecological factors that impact cannabis use to the updated Framework. • MCA collaborated with MDH to develop and launch the MCA BeCannabisSmart “Talk to Your Teen” parent youth cannabis prevention guide.¹⁰ • MDH, in collaboration with MCA, held focus groups with Maryland middle and high school students, which will inform an upcoming statewide youth cannabis use prevention campaign. • MDH provided grants to all 24 local health departments (LHDs) in 2025 for youth-focused cannabis prevention and control planning and implementation of evidence-based public health interventions for cannabis use.
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Data and Surveillance Workgroup	
Members	Dawn Berkowitz, M.P.H., CHES, Workgroup Lead; David Gorelick, M.D., Ph.D.; Leigh Vinocur, M.D.; Elizabeth Kromm Ph.D., M.Sc.; Martin Proulx, M.B.A.; Deondra Asike, M.D.
Objectives	• Improve local and statewide surveillance instruments by identifying data gaps and proposing potential solutions to MDH and MCA. • Add questions around youth access, usual source, risk perceptions, knowledge/attitudes, problem use/addiction, and driving while impaired to the Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey/Youth Tobacco Survey and around monitoring cannabis-use in pregnant and breastfeeding persons to the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). • 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. • Recognize inherent biases in cannabis use data collected in emergency departments (i.e., International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision [ICD-10] codes) and emphasize a harm-reduction approach to data collection and surveillance. • Research cannabis use links to youth mental health by reviewing existing surveys that collect youth mental health data and proposing additional data analysis.
Activities and Efforts to Implement Recommendations	• The MDH CTPC included cannabis-specific questions on the 2024 Youth Risk Behavior Survey/Youth Tobacco Survey; nine questions were included for high school students on topics including frequency of use, perceived increase of use among peers, and reasons for and risk perceptions of use. Fewer questions were included for middle

¹⁰ Maryland Cannabis Administration. (n.d.). *Talking to teens about cannabis: A youth prevention resource* [PDF]. Accessed 30 Sept 2025, at <<https://cannabis.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/BeCannabisSmart/talking-to-teens-brochure.pdf>>

	school students, and focused on ever-use, frequency of use, and having ridden in a car with a cannabis-impaired driver. ● MCA participated in the 2024 Wave 7 of the International Cannabis Policy Study for Maryland to collect data from 2,700 adult Marylanders on topics including cannabis storage, cessation, risk perceptions and stigma, and knowledge of cannabis laws.¹¹
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Healthcare Professionals Education Workgroup	
Members	Leigh Vinocur, M.D., Workgroup Lead ; David Gorelick M.D., Ph.D.; Deondra Asike, M.D., Nishant Shah, M.D.
Objectives	Study and recommend training for healthcare providers on cannabis use, dosing, potential drug interactions, screening for cannabis use and use disorder, and prevention strategies.
Activities and Efforts to Implement Recommendations	● MCA facilitated three roundtable sessions with healthcare providers in the State who were credentialed to certify patients for medical cannabis, to learn about existing or needed technical and training resources. The sessions identified variances in provider knowledge and potential benefits of continuing education offerings. ● MDH conducted a preliminary search for available cannabis training and technical resources, and compiled results into a list for future discussion and review with health professional certifying boards and other relevant stakeholders. ● In 2025, Council member Dr. Shah presented at an LRC-Cannabis-organized webinar on substance use disorder and cannabis use disorder, and shared various behavioral and mental health resources. Seventy-seven (77) participants, including LHD staff, attended the webinar.

On-Site Consumption Workgroup	
Members	Nishant Shah, M.D., Workgroup Lead ; Dawn Berkowitz, M.P.H., CHES; Martin Proulx, M.B.A.
Objectives	Study available data related to on-site cannabis consumption sites and their public health impacts.
Activities and Efforts to Implement Recommendations	The workgroup did not meet in 2025 given on-site consumption did not pass in the 2025 legislative session.

¹¹ Cannabis Project. (n.d.). *Publications*. Accessed 1 Oct 2025, at <<https://cannabisproject.ca/publications/>>

Legislative Workgroup	
Members	Deondra Asike, M.D., Workgroup Lead; David Gorelick M.D., Ph.D.; Leigh Vinocur, M.D.; Karrissa Miller, M.S.W., Nishant Shah, M.D
Objectives	Review pertinent legislation proposed during the General Assembly Session and determine if the content aligns with the Council’s focus and should be moved for full Council review.
Activities and Efforts to Implement Recommendations	Reviewed several pieces of legislation, moving four bills forward for the full Council to review and vote on positions: ○ Senate Bill (SB) 215: This bill would have expanded and regulated on-site cannabis consumption establishments and events, set related licensing and operational rules, and adjusted dispensary licensing and tax provisions. This bill was signed into law in April 2025 with major amendments, which delayed the implementation of on-site cannabis consumption sites, and revised the title to Cannabis Reform - Revisions.^{12,13} ■ The Council submitted a Letter of Opposition to this bill.¹⁴ ■ Council Chair Dr. Deondra Asike and Council member Dr. Leigh Vinocur provided oral testimony against this bill on behalf of the Council. ○ SB 214: This bill made it illegal to sell or distribute certain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)-containing products unless they meet licensing, potency, packaging, and labeling standards; it also allowed Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) enforcement officers to issue citations and seize unlawful products, and established fines for violations.¹⁵ This bill was signed into law in April 2025. ■ The Council submitted a Letter of Support for this bill.¹⁶ ○ HB 880: This bill would have repealed Maryland’s ban on outdoor cannabis advertising and allowed such advertising under certain restrictions.¹⁷ HB 880 was withdrawn by the bill sponsor prior to the committee hearing. The Council intended to submit a Letter of Opposition against this bill. ○ HB 1377: This bill would have replaced Maryland’s outdoor cannabis advertising ban with prohibitions on ads within 500 feet

¹² Chapter 120 of the Acts of 2025 (SB 215). Accessed 1 Oct 2025, at

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/chapters_noln/Ch_120_sb0215T.pdf>

¹³ The original title was *SB215/HB132 - Cannabis -On-Site Consumption Establishments and Cannabis Events*

¹⁴ Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council. (n.d.). *SB 215/HB 132 - Cannabis - On-Site Consumption Establishments and Cannabis Events - Letter of Opposition*. Accessed 1 Oct 2025 at

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/cmte_testimony/2025/fin/15MGC7pCQR1dsZNAaURdBqluS6uwPmsol.pdf>

¹⁵ Maryland General Assembly. (2025, April 8). *Chapter 58 – Senate Bill 214: Cannabis – Sale and Distribution – Tetrahydrocannabinol Offenses* [PDF]. Accessed 1 Oct 2025, at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/chapters_noln/Ch_58_sb0214T.pdf>

¹⁶ Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council. (n.d.). *SB 214/ HB 12 Cannabis - Sale and Distribution - Tetrahydrocannabinol Offenses- Letter of Support*. Accessed 1 Oct 2025 at

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/cmte_testimony/2025/fin/19YhdHv1Se-IBvdC3ny1LO4UHwWMiT11o.pdf>

¹⁷ Maryland General Assembly. (2025, January 30). *House Bill 880: Cannabis – Prohibition on Outdoor Advertising – Repeal* [PDF]. Accessed 1 Oct 2025, at <<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0880f.pdf>>

	of youth-oriented centers or treatment facilities and required licensees to get advisory opinions on ad compliance.¹⁸ This bill did not pass. ■ The Council submitted a Letter of Opposition against this bill, but did not provide oral testimony.¹⁹ ○ HB 1392: This bill would have made it a misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail or a fine up to \$1,000, to smoke, vape, or consume cannabis in a vehicle when a minor was present. This bill did not pass. ■ The Council submitted a Letter of Information in response to this bill and did not provide oral testimony.²⁰
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Past Council Activities and Efforts to Implement Recommendations

Driven by past years' recommendations, and in addition to the accomplishments mentioned in the preceding tables, Council members and MDH have taken action to better monitor, address, and anticipate the public health impact of adult-use cannabis legalization in the State, including the following:

- In fiscal year (FY) 2024, MDH funded 14 LHDs with program planning grants to establish a cannabis specific public health framework and provide cannabis education. In FY 2025, MDH funded 23 counties for planning, implementation, and cannabis prevention and control grants. In FY 2026, MDH is funding all 24 counties to plan and implement cannabis prevention and education activities. For all grants, youth cannabis use prevention is a primary focus.
- Members of the Council leadership team met with school health counselors and school-based organizations in late 2024 to talk about their needs in addressing cannabis prevention and treatment with youth. In-person exchanges with experts was highlighted as a need. Since FY 2024, MDH has recommended LHDs dedicate a portion of their funding to sponsoring staff, educator, and community leader participation in specific evidence-based educator-focused trainings, and has worked with the LRC-Cannabis to organize other interactive cannabis public health trainings and conferences.
- MDH collaborated with MCA to fund the development and placement of public health messaging related to cannabis use. Three campaigns were developed: impaired driving, safe storage, and smoke-free spaces. Using the campaign materials, MDH and MCA collaborated to provide a cannabis media toolkit to LHDs. This toolkit provides downloadable visual branding assets that LHDs can co-brand and place throughout their jurisdictions, which helps spread awareness and consistent messaging across the state.
- In FY 2024, the Council collected and circulated relevant scientific articles regarding the link between cannabis use and mental health issues. In FY 2024 and FY 2025, messages about the association between cannabis use and adverse mental health outcomes were included in MCA cannabis prevention and responsible use resources, and have since been integrated into many LHD cannabis prevention and control activities.

¹⁸ Maryland General Assembly. (2025, February 7). House Bill 1377: Cannabis – Advertising – Prohibited Locations (Equity in Cannabis Advertising Act) [PDF]. Accessed 1 Oct 2025, at <<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1377F.pdf>>

¹⁹ Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council. (n.d.). *HB 1377 - Cannabis - Advertising - Prohibited Locations (Equity in Cannabis Advertising Act) - Letter of Opposition*. Accessed 1 Oct 2025 at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/cmte_testimony/2025/ecom/1t-MqjcoPOSmbXlayH4t53Jx2SHV68nz.pdf>

²⁰ Maryland General Assembly. (2025, February 7). House Bill 1392: Vehicle laws – Cannabis use in motor vehicles with minor occupant – Prohibition [PDF]. Accessed 1 Oct 2025, at <<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1392F.pdf>>

- In FY 2025 and planned for FY 2026, messages about how high-potency THC products can impact youth and adults' health were and will be increasingly included in some MCA materials, which LHDs also use.
- In 2025, the MDH CTPC Cannabis Public Health Branch is working with MDH's Maternal and Child Health Bureau to analyze cannabis use data collected on the Phase 9 PRAMS Opioid and Prescription Drug Use supplement, which speaks specifically to cannabis use during pregnancy. The data gathered from this supplemental questionnaire will guide potential additions to the Phase 10 questionnaire.

2025 Council Recommendations

The Council has been diligent in meeting its charge to study and make recommendations on the public health impacts of adult use cannabis legalization. Providing education and utilizing member expertise in workgroups, the Council has further refined and expanded the recommendations from previous years. Council recommendations are listed below.

1. *Data and Surveillance*

- a. MCA and MDH should develop a written document that provides an overview of comprehensive cannabis use surveillance in the state utilizing, at a minimum, the data sources and key measures identified in the legislatively mandated Maryland Cannabis Use Biannual Study (MCUBS).²¹
- b. MDH should maintain inclusion of the optional marijuana module in the annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System state survey, with a prioritization on state-added questions focusing on cannabis-impaired driving and secondhand cannabis smoke exposure.
- c. MCA and the ATCC should study the range of THC content of products sold in Maryland and the potential public health impact of high potency products.
- d. MCA, in partnership with MDH, should explore the capability of querying the state health information exchange – Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) – to extract diagnoses of cannabis use disorder.

2. *Youth Cannabis Use Mitigation*

- a. MDH should allocate resources from the Maryland Cannabis Public Health Fund to assist MSDE to establish a statewide and equitably funded online training model for all Maryland educators and counselors to use as part of their continuing education programming to ensure school-based professionals have access to both existing evidence-based tools (e.g., Stanford REACH Lab's²² cannabis prevention and alternative to suspension curricula or other states' relevant materials) aligned with the MDH Behavioral Health Administration's Strategic Prevention Framework for substance use and abuse, as well as ongoing training to best support Maryland youth and

²¹ Maryland Cannabis Administration. (2025, June). 2025 Maryland Cannabis Use Biannual Study: Summary Report (vF1) [PDF]. Retrieved 1 Oct 2025, at <https://cannabis.maryland.gov/Documents/2025_PDF_Files/Reports%202025/2025%20Maryland%20Cannabis%20Use%20Biannual%20Study%20Summary%20Report%20-%20vF1.pdf>

²² Stanford Medicine | REACH Lab. (2025). *Cannabis Awareness & Prevention Toolkit*. Accessed 10 Oct 2025, at <<https://med.stanford.edu/cannabispreventiontoolkit.html>>

families.

- b. MSDE should replace the term “marijuana” with “cannabis” throughout the Comprehensive Health Education Standards and Framework so students can receive health education that is grounded in contemporary understanding, free of outdated or biased terminology, and responsive to the needs of diverse communities.

3. *Healthcare Professionals Education*

- a. MDH and MCA should work with the Maryland health professional licensing boards to determine the feasibility of providing and maintaining a list on their websites of available evidence-based online cannabis educational programs for healthcare providers in Maryland that are not sponsored by or associated with the cannabis industry. Such a list would include:
 - i. Information on the sponsor of the program, including their accreditation, if any, whether non-profit or commercial, and any other associated entities that were involved in program development;
 - ii. A link to sign up for the program;
 - iii. The cost (if any);
 - iv. Relevant professional education credits offered (if any);
 - v. Which of the cannabis-related topics recommended by the Council are included in the program from the list in the Council’s 2024 Annual Report:
 - The endogenous cannabinoid (endocannabinoid) system;
 - Cannabinoids;
 - Plant derived (phytocannabinoid);
 - Synthetic;
 - Cannabis Pharmacology;
 - Interactions with medications;
 - Potential benefits;
 - Adverse effects; and
 - Prevention, screening, and treatment for cannabis use disorder.

Maryland Department of Health Activities

MDH has undertaken a variety of activities to build its own capacity to support the recommendations of the Council. As highlighted in Table 3 below, MDH follows a public health framework, incorporating the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cannabis Strategy²³ and evidence-based practices and lessons learned from the CDC Best Practices for Comprehensive State Tobacco Control Programs.²⁴ The framework components are noted below.

²³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2025, March 7). What CDC is doing. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed 18 Aug. 2025 at <https://www.cdc.gov/cannabis/about/what-cdc-is-doing.html#cdc_generic_section_2-cdcs-cannabis-strategy>

²⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, May 14). Evidence-based guides for states. Smoking and Tobacco Use. Accessed 18 Aug. 2025 at <<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/php/state-and-community-work/guides-for-states.html>>

Table 3: MDH Cannabis Public Health Framework

<i>CDC Cannabis Strategy Strategic Pillars</i>	<i>CDC Best Practices for Comprehensive State Tobacco Control Program Components</i>
● Build State/Local Capacity ● Improve Public Knowledge and Awareness ● Partner with Public Safety, Schools, and Communities ● Support Providers and Health Systems ● Monitor Trends ● Advance Research	● Administrative/Infrastructure ● State- and Community-based Interventions ● Mass Reach Health Communications Interventions ● Cessation and Health Systems Interventions ● Surveillance and Evaluation

These strategies align with the Council’s requirements as previously listed in the Background section of this report. In 2025, MDH collaborated with partners to realize several key accomplishments under the strategies, as summarized below.

- **Improve public knowledge and awareness.**

MCA ran several seasonal cannabis prevention and public health campaigns (safe storage, impaired driving, cannabis-free public spaces and clean air) throughout 2025 around high-travel and traditionally higher cannabis sales periods, including holidays, summer breaks, and specific sporting events. These campaigns and other media assets were made available to LHDs for distribution under MDH’s FY 2025 Cannabis Prevention and Control grants. In addition to MCA-led dissemination, these materials were used in approximately 11 campaigns across nine counties via the Cannabis Prevention and Control grants within FY 2025.

In early 2025, MCA also shared a “Talk to Your Teens About Cannabis” guide²⁵ on its BeCannabisSmart website to help parents talk about cannabis with their adolescent and teenage children. This material was also used by multiple LHDs under their FY 2025 Cannabis Prevention and Control grants.

- **Improve public knowledge and awareness; build local capacity; partner with public safety, schools, and communities.**

MDH awarded funding to all 24 LHDs in 2025 to increase capacity to implement new programs and strategies that address the public health impacts related to adult-use cannabis legalization. LHDs use this funding to establish local partnerships and develop community-based approaches to cannabis use prevention by building infrastructure to prevent youth cannabis use, promote substance use disorder counseling and treatment, collect data on the effects of cannabis legalization, provide healthcare provider training, and launch education and public awareness campaigns related to cannabis use, including funding for educational programs to be used in schools.

Grant activities engaged 21,744 youth, 646 parents and educators, and 85 community organizations in FY 2025.

²⁵ Maryland Cannabis Administration. (n.d.). *BeCannabisSmart*. Accessed 1 Oct 2025, at <<https://cannabis.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/BeCannabisSmart/talking-to-teens-brochure.pdf>>

- **Building state and local capacity.**

In 2025, MDH renewed its five-year contract with the LRC-Cannabis to provide legal technical assistance and support on cannabis public health policy. Through this partnership, the LRC-Cannabis shared research findings with the Council on cannabis-related public health issues, offered overviews of proposed legislation and regulations, and collaborated with MDH to host the first annual Maryland Cannabis and Public Health Conference for LHDs and other public health professionals on May 14, 2025. Dr. Asike, the Council Chair, provided the keynote address for the conference. In addition, MDH continued to provide regular technical assistance to LHDs as they developed and implemented cannabis prevention and control strategies, approaches, and activities.

In FY 2025, the LRC-Cannabis responded to 279 technical assistance requests, hosted four webinars, and created four fact sheets and four trainings on various cannabis public health topics.

- **Monitoring trends and advancing research.**

In 2025, MDH drafted survey instruments intended for LHDs to use to assess youth, adult, and healthcare provider cannabis knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and trusted information sources and preferences. This survey will be used in future years to help monitor cannabis trends on a county-specific level and inform county-level and statewide cannabis prevention and public health activities.

Conclusion

The Council remains committed to advancing its work across the key areas of focus identified throughout this report. By continuing to strengthen and expand Maryland's cannabis public health infrastructure, the Council will ensure that its efforts are responsive to emerging challenges, grounded in evidence, and centered on the health and well-being of communities across the state.

Appendix - 2025 Council Meetings²⁶

Date and Format	Agenda
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 <i>Virtual Meeting</i>	Presentation: - Michelle Sallin from MCA provided an overview of current state laboratory testing requirements. - Cliff Mitchell and Dana Moncrief from MDH shared information with the Council about an unfolding public health issue regarding teenagers being hospitalized with breathing issues after vaping cannabis. Council Activities: - The Council reviewed language of HB 132/ SB 215 that would have authorized MCA to begin issuing licenses for on-site cannabis consumption sites. - The Council voted to proceed with a Letter of Opposition to the bill. Public Comment Period: A member of the public suggested that the Council incorporate additional points regarding cannabis advertising restrictions into its Letter of Opposition regarding HB 132/SB 215 after hearing the Council’s discussion during the meeting.
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 <i>Virtual Legislative Meeting</i>	Council Activities: - The Council reviewed a Letter of Opposition from the Council regarding HB 132/SB 215, which would have authorized MCA to begin issuing licenses for on-site cannabis consumption sites. - The Council approved the language of the Letter of Opposition for submission to the General Assembly. Public Comment Period: No comments from members of the public.
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 <i>Virtual Legislative Meeting</i>	Council Activities: - The Council reviewed talking points for the Council’s oral testimony in opposition to SB 215, which would have authorized MCA to begin issuing licenses for on-site cannabis consumption sites. - The Council reviewed a Letter of Support from the Council regarding SB 214, which would increase ATCC enforcement actions against unlicensed cannabis products, mainly Delta 8 and Delta 10 THC products.

²⁶ Note: In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, minutes from all the Council meetings can be found on the Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council’s website: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ohpetup/council/Pages/default.aspx>

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	• The Council approved the language of the Letter of Support for submission to the General Assembly. Public Comment Period: No comments from members of the public.
Tuesday, February 4, 2025 <i>Virtual Legislative Meeting</i>	Council Activities: • The Council discussed revisions to the letter submitted in opposition to SB 215 based on the discussion from the public hearing regarding HB 132. • The Council reviewed a Letter of Opposition for HB 880, which would have repealed existing prohibitions on outdoor advertising for cannabis in the state. Public Comment Period: No comments from members of the public.
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 <i>Virtual Legislative Meeting</i>	Council Activities: • The Council received an overview of several pieces of legislation that the Council had taken positions on since the start of the legislative session, including SB 214, SB 215, SB 222, HB 132, HB 46, and HB 880. • The Council strategized about oral testimony for the upcoming hearing for HB 132. • The Council discussed HB 1377, which would have removed many of the prohibitions against outdoor cannabis advertisements. • The Council voted to proceed with a Letter of Opposition to HB 1377. Public Comment Period: No comments from members of the public.
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 <i>Virtual Legislative Meeting</i>	Council Activities: • The Council received an update from the University of Maryland's LRC-Cannabis about legislation the Council had previously reviewed during the legislative session. • The Council reviewed the Letter of Opposition drafted in response to HB 1377, which would have removed many of the prohibitions against outdoor cannabis advertisements. • The Council voted to approve the drafted Letter of Opposition for HB 1377. • The Council also discussed HB 1392, which would have prohibited the smoking, vaping, or consuming cannabis as a passenger in a vehicle if a minor is present. • The Council voted to proceed with a Letter of Information in

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	response to HB 1377. Public Comment Period: No comments from members of the public.
Tuesday, February 25, 2025 <i>Virtual Legislative Meeting</i>	Council Activities: • The Council reviewed and approved the Letter of Information drafted for HB 1392. • The Council voted to submit the Letter of Information for HB 1392. Public Comment Period: No comments from members of the public.
Wednesday, April 16, 2025 <i>Virtual Meeting</i>	Council Activities: • The Council received an overview of cannabis related activities and legislation from the 2025 session. • MCA provided an overview of insights from the 2025 MCUBS. Public Comment Period: No comments from members of the public.
Wednesday, July 16, 2025 <i>Virtual Meeting</i>	Presentations: • The Maryland Collaborative presented an overview of young adult cannabis use patterns in Maryland. Council Activities: • The Council reviewed and discussed the updated Council bylaws. • The Council workgroups convened to discuss recommendations for the Council's 2025 Recommendations Report. Public Comment Period: No comments from members of the public.
Wednesday, September 17, 2025 <i>Virtual Meeting</i>	Council Activities: • Council workgroups convened to discuss recommendations for the Council's 2025 Recommendations Report. • The full Council discussed and voted on workgroup recommendations. Public Comment Period: No comments from members of the public.

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Thursday, October 16, 2025 <i>Virtual Meeting</i>	Presentations: ● MCA presented the results of the 2024 Wave 7 International Cannabis Policy Study. Council Activities: ● The Council welcomed newly appointed members from the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, and the Office of Social Equity in the Department of Social and Economic Mobility. ● The Council voted to approve submitting a Letter of Support to the Maryland State Board of Education in favor of replacing the term <i>marijuana</i> with <i>cannabis</i> in the revised Comprehensive Health Education Standards and Framework. ● The Council voted to approve the 2025 Recommendations Report. Public Comment Period: No comments from members of the public.
Wednesday, December 10, 2025 <i>Virtual Meeting</i>	Council Activities: ● The Council will discuss finalizing the Council’s bylaws and vote on whether to approve.