

Governor's Marijuana Impact Assessment Council
Education Subcommittee

ADOPTED MINUTES

Friday, Oct. 9, 2015

Present were Rob Black, Brian Cox, Brian Farmer, Jason Garman, Monica Keele and Doreen McGlade.

Welcome and roll call

Facilitator Rob Black of WDE called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. He asked if the committee was comfortable not using Robert's Rules of Order and proceeding on a more informal basis. Members replied in the affirmative.

Minutes of Sept. 30, 2015

The committee adopted the minutes of Sept. 30, 2015, without correction.

Self-introductions

Members who had not done so at earlier meetings were asked to offer brief biographies.

Monica Keele said she is the AWARE program coordinator at the University of Wyoming, a position she took in July. She is a recent graduate of the Colorado School of Public Health with a master's degree in public health. She had worked in the Alcohol and Other Drugs Division of the Colorado State University Health Network. In that position, she performed some work with marijuana messaging.

Jason Garman offered that he has been counselor at Johnson Junior High School in Cheyenne for the past seven years and is swim coach at South High. He graduated with a degree in psychology from the UW and a master's in counseling.

Discussion of issues related to marijuana's effect on youth

Mr. Black thanked committee members for populating the shared Google Drive spreadsheet with questions for the Governor's Marijuana Impact Assessment Council's final report as well as links to related research.

Brian Cox said he had contacted Christine Harms, director of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, who shared that the entire idea of legal marijuana in Colorado was sold as a tax benefit to the community and revenues would be

distributed to schools. A total of \$40 million was taken off the top and diverted to disaster relief funding for the state and the bulk of the remainder to regulatory agencies monitoring, licensing and following up with the dispensaries. Less than 5 percent had been disbursed to schools, she told Mr. Cox, adding that educators felt they were “sold a basket of goods.”

He said he has also contacted Kevin Wong of the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force and Michael Song of the Colorado attorney general’s office, who was preparing a presentation to be delivered in the next few weeks to agencies in Colorado. Mr. Cox said he was hoping to obtain a copy of the presentation. He has also been in contact with Ben Court, an addictions expert with the University of Colorado Hospital Center for Dependency.

Doreen McGlade asked for clarification of the committee’s charge and Mr. Black replied, saying the main tasks are to formulate questions related to the effect or impact of legalization of medical marijuana or recreational marijuana on students and provide those questions along with related research to the Governor’s Marijuana Impact Assessment Council (GMIAC). The council will then task the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center with vetting the research and determining which questions will be included in the final report along with which research to use or cite. The charge of the council is to provide a report to the Legislature examining possible consequences if the state were to legalize marijuana use in any way.

Mr. Cox uploaded a document outlining trends in marijuana use as indicated by the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey as well as data from his own school district. He said that in the 2012-13 school year, 20 marijuana-related behavior issues were reported, which increased to 38 in 2013-14 and 61 last school year. So far in 2015-16, a total of four were reported. The information comes from Laramie County School District 1 discipline records.

Monica Keele reported that she attended a conference in August in which Linda Cooke, the presiding judge in Boulder, Colo., Municipal Court, offered her findings. Judge Cooke’s powerpoint was uploaded to the Google site by Ms. Keele, who noted that the proximity of dispensaries to college campuses influences use by college students, just as nearness of alcohol retailers to colleges also impacts consumption.

She said a good question would be, “Will there be regulations on advertising?” The college newspaper at CSU allowed ads from dispensaries, including a four-page spread on 4/20 (420 is a euphemism for marijuana, and the date of April 20 has become a counterculture holiday). Ms. Keele said the effects of advertising directed toward that college population would be a topic worth considering. The appearance of dispensaries and how they are advertised may also affect usage, she said.

She has been in contact with Colorado universities, but they have been reluctant to share data. She uploaded a document on national survey results of drug use for

people aged 19-55 from 1975 to 2014. Among the findings: non-college students of college age have higher use than their college peers. But between 2007 and 2014, the daily use increase of college students nationally rose from 3.5 percent to 5.9 percent.

Ms. Keele said she believes UW's use has remained steady the last couple years.

Ms. McGlade, in reviewing Judge Cooke's powerpoint, noticed that experts are having difficulty separating cause and effect.

Ms. Keele said another consequence of medical marijuana is its use in drug-free school zones. For example, if a 21-year-old college student who was prescribed marijuana for medical treatment is living on campus and gets caught, does that student have to go through student conduct? She added that students with medical marijuana who moved off campus in Colorado sometimes caused concerns in the neighborhood to which they moved.

Ms. McGlade suggested the need to look at how many children ingest marijuana, and Ms. Keele noted that she had heard a story on NPR in which officials were considering requiring edible marijuana to be shaped like a stop sign to discourage children from use.

Ms. McGlade mentioned an email she had received from Superintendent Balow about a Marijuana Management Symposium in Denver, Nov. 5-6, 2015. Mr. Black said he would look into whether the conference would benefit the committee's work.

GMIAC next meeting

The next meeting of Governor's Marijuana Impact Assessment Council is 8 a.m. Oct. 30 in Room 1699 of the Herschler Building.

Next meeting of subcommittee

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be Oct. 23 at 10 a.m.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.