

GOVERNOR'S MARIJUANA IMPACT ASSESSMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

10/31/15 | 8:00-12:00 | Room 1699, Herschler Building

Meeting called by Co-Chairs Forslund and Reed

Type of meeting Fourth Meeting

Facilitator Cari Cuffney, WDH

Note taker Franz Fuchs, WDH

Timekeeper Cari Cuffney, WDH

Attendees: Thomas Forslund, Chair; Mike Reed, Co-Chair; Dr. Rodney Wambeam, Pete Obermueller, Rob Black, Doug Miyamoto, Rep. James Byrd, Dr. Stephen Bieber, Dr. Charles Ksir, Steve Butler, Stephanie Pyle, Lt. Col. Ratliff, Dan Noble, Peter Michael, Steve Corsi, Tom Gorman, Ernie Johnson, Dr. Michael Enright

Notes

8:07 - Meeting called to order.

8:08 - Minutes reviewed and approved.

0809 – Rob Black (WDE) provides Education Subcommittee update.

- Higher education experience in CO, difficulty in getting information from universities, use of medical marijuana on “drug-free campus”, presence of dispensaries near campus.
- Number of accidental ingestions in CO has increased by children/unsuspecting adults/pets. Hospitalizations/ED visits upwards. 3 deaths tied to recreational marijuana.
- Potential effects on Wind River Reservation

0829 – Rep. Byrd provides update on Legislative subcommittee, which is working with Rep. Loucks to author position paper.

- Discussion from Directors Cox, Noble and Forslund on presentation by Colorado Department of Revenue.

0857 – Director Nobel provides update on Revenue/Agriculture subcommittee.

- Revenue – attempting to estimate fiscal impact (revenue/cost).
 - Chronic pain as primary dx. Estimated ~ \$19 million in gross revenue; sales tax yielding \$1 million, of which State would receive \$540K. Administration of program will be expensive. CO has 55 FTE, authorized 85 (includes recreational).
 - Licensing fees - \$1500 max charged. @ 23 grow facilities, ~80K generated per year. CO has higher fees, but Wyoming ballot initiative wouldn't allow this.
- Testing potency is important; this cannot be done in Wyoming yet.
- Committee discussion on needing ‘break-even’ analysis. Department of Revenue will study Vermont example.
- Discussion on potential scenarios and scope of report -- concurrence that the report should be more comprehensive than just the ballot initiative.

1000 – Stephanie Pyle provides update on the Health subcommittee, to include:

- Marijuana composition and interaction with other drugs.
- Hospitalizations/ER visits.
- Addictive elements, evidence-based treatment.
- Potential health benefits.
- Other externalities – motor vehicle crashes, state government costs, pesticides.

1003 – Lt. Col. Ratliff and Ernie Johnson provide update on Criminal Justice Subcommittee. Data collection efforts will focus on the fraction of marijuana-related incidents among all arrests, DUIs, fatal crashes. Data will be stratified by demographic subgroups.

1021 – Director Miyamoto provides update on Agriculture subcommittee. The committee has focused on three areas: pesticide use, industrial hemp seed distribution and cultivation, and analytical services (e.g lab testing) that could be provided by the State.

- Where help seeds initially come from is unclear. Often acquired under the auspices of university research projects.
- Worldwide hemp production in 2012 totaled around 200K acres. Hundreds of end uses, typically from fibers (rope/clothing) or oil extraction (e.g. biofuels).

1033 – Research subcommittee update presented by Steve Butler. The committee has received 55 submissions. Not all subcommittees have submitted material. Dr. Ksir explained the review process, providing examples of evaluations.

1058 - 1143: Discussion on scope of report. Committee discussed the need to consider various scenarios; e.g. status quo, medical marijuana, full recreational use. Significant points made:

Even with medical marijuana, there are several gradations of implementation in multiple states (MN, VT, NJ, CA). General lack of data makes it difficult to determine impact across small policy differences.

Ballot initiative (Peggy A. Kelly) needs to be one of the benchmarks.

Governor requested study of recreational marijuana as well.

1143 - Dr. Rodney Wambeam motions that “subcommittees may consider (a) status quo (b) medical marijuana (VT – WY (Peggy A. Kelly) - CO), (c) full recreational, as appropriate.” Motion seconded by Steve Butler.

1149 – Rep. Byrd proposes friendly amendment – “as relevant” as opposed to “as appropriate.” Seconded by Steve Butler. Passed. Discussion on whether or not this motion would give research committee a valuable product.

1158 - Steve Butler proposes amending “shall” to “may”. Seconded by Director Cox, passed. Motion carries, unanimously:

In writing their reports, the GMIAC subcommittees shall consider the following scenarios: (a) Status quo, (b) Medical marijuana legalization, ranging from the limited VT scenario to the Peggy A. Kelly initiative to the less-restrictive CO policy, (c) Recreational legalization, as relevant. Subcommittees do not have to report on every scenario if not applicable; the team compiling the final report shall structure it accordingly.

1159-1202 - Due date for subcommittee reports set for December 1st.

1205 – Public Comment. Deborah Palm (resident of Albin, WY and Denver, CO) testified to her use of medical marijuana in treating symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Is currently looking at growing hemp in Carney, NE. Attended meeting to observe proceedings, particularly with respect to hemp growing.

1206 - Cari will put out Doodle poll for next meeting to discuss subcommittee reports.

1210 – Meeting adjourned.