

GOVERNOR'S MARIJUANA IMPACT ASSESSMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

12/18/15 | 8:00-12:00 | Room 1699, Herschler Building

Meeting called by	Co-Chairs Forslund and Reed	Attendees: Director Forslund, Chair; Mike Reed, Co-Chair; Director Corsi, Director Cox, AG Michael, Col. Haller, Lt. Col. Ratliff, Dr. Wendy Braund, Director Lampert, Director Noble, Deputy Director Berry, Pete Obermueller, Stephanie Pyle, Director Miyamoto (phone), Dr. Ksir, Steve Butler, Robert Black, Ernie Johnson, Shelly Simonton, Dr. Enright (phone)
Type of meeting	Fifth Meeting	
Facilitator	Cari Cuffney, WDH	
Note taker	Franz Fuchs, WDH	
Timekeeper	Cari Cuffney, WDH	

Notes

8:15 - Meeting called to order

8:16 - Minutes reviewed, approved

8:17 - Dr. Braund provides update on Health Subcommittee report

- Evidence generally inconclusive. There are many studies demonstrating associations between marijuana use and health effects, but difficult to establish causality.
- Report attempts to draw conclusions along several topical areas, looked at impacts based on status quo (no legalization), medical legalization and recreational legalization.
- Discussion on positive and negative health impacts, for example:
 - Good evidence that smoking marijuana has negative impacts on developing brain (fetal through adolescence)
 - Chronic use impacts other chronic conditions; e.g. smoking marijuana similar to smoking cigarettes in this regard. Some compounds perhaps more carcinogenic than tobacco when burned.
 - Associated traffic injuries, crashes, elderly falls.
 - Some evidence that cannabidiol is beneficial for seizures in children.
 - Potential PTSD, glaucoma studies, but evidence not as solid, due to marijuana being a Schedule I drug.

8:29 - Director Lampert, Lt. Col. Ratliff and Col. Haller provide update on Criminal Justice Subcommittee; focusing on complications with legalization:

- Drugged driving is less frequently detected than drunk driving; don't have tools in place (e.g. ignition interlocks don't measure metabolized THC). Some discussion on determining valid causation between marijuana and traffic accidents.
- Rates among 8th, 10th, 12th graders higher than for other illicit drugs.
- Association with homeless, increased crime (e.g. in Denver).
- Cross-border trafficking.

8:46 – Director Noble provides update on Revenue report.

- Prevalence of medical marijuana linked to implementation:
 - Vermont is strict: need to demonstrate 6-month relationship with physician before receiving card, thus small percent of medical marijuana patients.
 - Minnesota has similar requirements, only 4 authorized dispensaries.
 - Where “chronic pain” is considered acceptable diagnosis, more frequent.
- Depts. of Revenue typically administer in most states.
- Testing requirements associated with Peggy A. Kelly and requirement to audit facilities make administration difficult; both medical and recreational have similar budgetary impact.
- If other fees (e.g. similar to tobacco or alcohol) were allowed, could cover costs, but as initiative is written, there are likely not sufficient revenue from sales tax and licensing to pay for administrative costs.

8:59 – Director Corsi questions whether amotivational effects of marijuana could increase enrollment and reliance on State/Federal benefits programs (e.g. SSI/SSDI, Medicaid, SNAP)

9:03 - Stacia Berry, Deputy Director of Agriculture provides Agriculture report update.

- Implementation would be similar across various scenarios; main difference would be in commodities allowed (marijuana vs. industrial hemp).
 - Technical Services – impact in pesticide regulation.
 - Industrial hemp importation permit requires an individual be accountable. Additionally, seeds cannot be mailed, so there are added shipping costs.
 - Analytical services.
 - Consumer Protection, particularly as regards edibles. Marijuana is not “generally-recognized as safe”, would be considered an adulterant. There may be conflicts with Wyoming laws if individuals were trying to distribute edibles out of licensed/certified commercial kitchen.
 - Conflicts with FDA, federal regulation generally.
- Director Miyamoto notes that State-Federal divide on the issue the cause of most of the complications. There is anecdotal information from CO that their consumer services division is getting pushback from FDA, ineligible for some federal grants. Some WY programs that are supported by federal grants could be at risk.

9:09 - Discussion on cash logistics due to banking restrictions.

9:11 - Rob Black provides Education Subcommittee update.

- Similar conclusions as Health; research is incomplete or mixed.
- Generally speaking, there is a 2% higher use in youth associated with less restrictive marijuana laws.
- Attitude to marijuana in states with medical marijuana laws may be predisposed to use, so law itself may not have had the impact. Difficult to determine causation.
- Est. 3,000 children in Wyoming currently estimated as users.
- Norms in State matter.

Director Corsi notes that the costs at Boys School run \$245/day per boy and \$284/day at the Girls School.

- 88-89% of incoming kids had association with drug use.
- 2% potential increase in drug use would be a concern.

Discussion in Statewide marijuana use estimates and survey methodology (Prevention Needs Assessment vs. Youth Risk Behavioral Survey)

9:30 - Ernie Johnson notes that WASCOP is collecting data on substance abuse in arrest data, to include alcohol, methamphetamines, marijuana .

- In 2014, 7.6% of arrests involved marijuana
- In 2015, 13.4% increase; largest increase in females > 21. 75 more additional arrests.
- Additional statistics provided to Steve Butler.

9:34 - Shelly Simonton notes importance of municipal autonomy on the issue.

9:35 – Rep. Byrd provides update on the Legislative Subcommittee.

- LSO analysis of Peggy A Kelly indicates that it would need substantial legislative amendments for it to work in WY. Revenue is one area where the initiative is misdirected.
- Dept. of Revenue is best positioned to regulate/enforce
- Local component is critical (opt-in/out)
- Discussion on whether to proactively deal with the issue or assume that initiative will go away. Members note that the GMIAC reports will be an important body of knowledge going forward.

10:06 – Presentation by Dr. Ksir and Steve Butler on FDA approval process

- Unlikely that marijuana will ever be approved by the FDA:
 - Plants vary widely by THC and CBD content, plus other chemicals. Can't approve plant per se.
 - Smoking as delivery mechanism.
 - Drug is not patentable
 - Companies are active in developing drugs from THC and CBD, however.

10:20 – Steve Butler updates on Research Subcommittee.

- Timeline for report release – mid-January.

10:23 – Public comment.

10:27 – Next steps

10:30 – Meeting adjourned.