

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ADVISORY WORKING GROUP ON CANNABIS REGULATION

Mission: *To develop recommendations that will provide a framework for the development of regulations for commercial and personal-use cannabis in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. These recommendations will provide guidance to County policymakers and may also be useful to cities and other counties throughout California that are studying cannabis regulations.*

SUMMARY OF MEETING THREE – Public Health and Safety and Cannabis Cultivation for Personal Use, July 27, 2017

- 1. Topic Area(s):** Youth Access and Exposure to Cannabis (Review and finalize recommendations); Public Health and Safety and Cannabis Cultivation for Personal Use (Overview)
- 2. Working Group Participants:** Donnie Anderson (*California Minority Alliance and Southern California Coalition*), Beth Burnam (*Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains*), Valerie Coachman-Moore (*Coachman-Moore & Associates*), Jonatan Cvetko (*Angeles Emeralds*), Manuel Duran (*Maravilla Businesspersons Association*), Matt Garland (*San Pedro Neighborhood Council*), Dr. Rachel Gonzales-Castaneda (*Azusa Pacific University*), Karren Lane in for Patricia Guerra (*Community Coalition*), Aaron Lachant (*Nelson Hardiman, LLP*), Lynne Lyman (*Drug Policy Alliance*), Javier Montes (*UCBA Trade Association*), Dr. Alisa Padon (*Public Health Institute*), Melahat Rafiei (*Progressive Solutions Consulting*), Arles A. Benavides in for Dr. Monica Sanchez (*Los Angeles County Office of Education*), Dr. Avelardo Valdez (*University of Southern California*), Hon. Vivian Romero (*Mayor, City of Montebello*), and Wayne Sugita (*Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Retired*)
- 3. Facilitators and Presenters:** Joe Nicchitta (*Office of Cannabis Management, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office*), Sheri Dunn Berry (*Community Partners*)
- 4. Decision Making:**
 - The Advisory Working Group members submitted 42 recommendations.
 - From the 42 recommendations, OCM synthesized 18 recommendations for review by the Advisory Working Group. Some recommendations were combined due to

similarity or repetition, not submitted due to conflict with existing state law or set aside for discussion under other topic areas.

- Twelve recommendations listed below were reviewed. Nine were accepted by the group. Three were tabled for later discussion. The remaining seven recommendations will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

5. Decisions on Proposed Final Recommendations on Youth Access and Exposure

Recommendation #1 - Education

The County should produce and widely distribute science-based, non-judgmental information on the risks and potential harms of cannabis use by children and youth. The information should be distributed using methods that are effective in reaching children and youth, as well as their parents, caregivers, and adult family members. The information should be conveyed in an objective, non-judgmental manner that is easily understood by persons with limited literacy and available in all key languages. Cannabis retail businesses should be required to post this information in a highly visible place.

Recommendation #2 - Education

The County should provide science-based, non-judgmental education and prevention resources for youth, and work with educators and youth service providers on effective ways to inform youth about the harms of underage recreational cannabis use, including but not limited to peer-to-peer and early intervention strategies for drug abuse prevention.

Recommendation #3 - Education

The County should provide science-based, non-judgmental education and prevention resources to ensure that local regulations allow for safe, responsible medical cannabis use by persons under the age of 21 where recommended by a doctor, and provide education to parents and caregivers about safe storage and responsible use practices to prevent underage nonmedical access to cannabis.

Recommendation #4 - Education

The County should prioritize the use of cannabis tax revenue to provide schools and youth service providers with accurate, science-based, non-judgmental and comprehensive education, prevention strategies and early risk-reduction interventions that aim to prevent underage recreational use; other supportive programming, such as after-school and out-of-school activities will also be prioritized.

Recommendation #5 - Education

The County should work with schools, school districts, and youth centers to post signage at facility entrances stating that the possession of cannabis is prohibited. Signage should be highly visible and in multiple languages.

Recommendation #6 - Public Consumption

Decision Note: The Working Group agreed they will need further discussion during recommendations on public health and safety.

The County should develop and implement a comprehensive secondhand smoke ordinance, which would address both tobacco and cannabis smoke, to reduce health risks to youth, employees, and other members of the public.

Recommendation #7 - Packaging/Labeling

The County should ensure sufficient resources and funding to enforce state laws requiring child-resistant exit packaging for all products sold at retail or delivered to consumers.

Recommendation #8 - Age Verification

The County should conduct regular unannounced compliance checks, no less than twice yearly, to ensure cannabis retailers comply with age-restriction laws, and should establish progressive penalties, up to and including license revocation, for cannabis retailers, including delivery services that do not comply with age-restriction laws.

Recommendation #9 - Age Verification

The County should require all retail cannabis sales personnel to complete documented training on age verification requirements, accepted age-verification practices, including but not limited to electronic age verification practices and other techniques to prevent underage youth from entering or loitering in the vicinity of retail outlets. Cannabis retailers should be held accountable for ensuring that all retail sales employees complete training before conducting sales. Progressive consequences (penalties including fines and suspensions to operate) should be implemented and should include license revocation, where appropriate. The County should conduct regular compliance checks with cannabis retailers.

Recommendation #10 - Age Verification

Decision Note: The Working Group agreed they will need further discussion during recommendations on retailers.

The County should implement appropriate regulations on the retail delivery of cannabis to ensure that delivery does not become an avenue for underage youth to access cannabis. Such regulations could include the use of age-verification technology during deliveries and special recordkeeping requirements. When considering regulations for retail cannabis delivery, the County Board of Supervisors should review research concerning youth access to alcohol in jurisdictions where alcohol delivery is permitted.

Recommendation #11 - Fines/Penalties

The County should evaluate the feasibility of adding cannabis to a social host ordinance that holds individuals responsible for knowingly providing a place on property they control where nonmedical underage cannabis use takes place, regardless of who provides the cannabis products.

Recommendation #12 - Public Consumption

Decision Note: The Working Group agreed they will need further discussion during recommendations on public health and safety.

The County should preclude the smoking of cannabis within 1,000 feet of schools (K-12), day care centers (including preschools), youth centers, parks, libraries, and public transportation stops near those places, except upon the grounds of a private residence and provided cannabis smoke cannot be detected on the grounds of the school, day care center, youth center, park, library, or public transportation stop.

Process Note: Due to time constraints, the Advisory Working Group agreed to table discussion of the remaining seven recommendations until next week's meeting.

6. Panel: Perspectives on Public Health & Safety & Cannabis Cultivation for Personal Use

Elizabeth Padilla, LA County District Attorney's Office; Nick Stewart-Oaten, LA County Public Defender's Office; Bruce Brodie, LA County Alternate Public Defender's Office; Glenn Walsh, LA County Sheriff's Department

7. Public Comment: Adam Vine, nonprofit leader, relayed that since cannabis legalization in Colorado was enacted, teen usage has not increased, but arrest rates for black and Latino youth have increased. He requested that equitable enforcement be made a priority for the Advisory Working Group to prevent more mass incarceration of people of color. He also supported the need to include more youth voices in the recommendation process.

8. Next Advisory Group Meeting: August 3, 2017

Topic: Cannabis Retailers

Location: Community Partners (Suite C), 1000 North Alameda St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

9. Appendix: Advisory Working Group Meeting Three Agenda

Los Angeles County Advisory Working Group on Cannabis Regulation

AGENDA Meeting 3: Thursday, July 27, 2017

- 9:00 AM** Welcome and Check-in
- 9:05 AM** Agenda Review and Meeting Goals
- 9:10 AM** Final Recommendations on Youth Access and Exposure Recommendations
- Facilitated group discussion to reach consensus on recommendations submitted by working group members
- 10:30 AM** Break
- 10:40 AM** Overview of Issues: Public Health and Safety & Cannabis Cultivation for Personal Use
- Summary of key topics to consider
 - State law provisions and potential LA County Actions
 - Questions for reflection and discussion
- 11:10 AM** Perspectives on Public Health and Safety & Cannabis Cultivation for Personal Use
- Glenn Walsh, LA County Sheriff's Department
 - Elizabeth Padilla, LA County District Attorney's Office
 - Bruce Brodie, LA County Alternate Public Defender's Office
 - Nick Stewart-Oaten, LA County Public Defender's Office
- 11:50 AM** Public Comments
- 12:00 PM** End