

SMPC Draft Recommendations and Considerations August 2021

Equity:

- The Equity Subcommittee is currently working with VDH and AHS staff on developing more formal, equity focused recommendations.

Policy:

- Recommend the legislature reconsider a safe level of THC outlined for adult use cannabis to align with the most recent science related to the impact of high levels of THC on mental health.
- Recommend that allowable THC limits for adult use cannabis be reconsidered by the legislature at regular intervals to ensure alignment with evolving scientific research.
- Recommend that Vermont prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco and nicotine products, including menthol flavored products, in advance of the federal prohibitions.
- Recommend that the 30% excise tax on retail sales of cannabis and cannabis products allocated for substance use and misuse prevention be appropriated to the Vermont Department of Health.

Prevention:

- Recommendation for a new Prevention Inventory to be completed to provide more up to date data following the impact of COVID-19 on organizations. This inventory should have an intentional focus on ensuring data captures prevention strategies for the following populations or areas of focus, to inform the development of an equitable and sustainable prevention system in Vermont:
 - School based prevention strategies
 - Older Vermonters
 - Members of the LGBTQ+ community
 - Members of the BIPOC community
 - Low income Vermonters

SMPC Questions on Prevention Infrastructure Discussion

Goal: ADAP may have additional, short-term, federal funding becoming available; this conversation will help inform how to use this funding most effectively to meet current prevention infrastructure needs.

1. Using the [Prevention Inventory](#) and other resources provided, where do we see gaps in our prevention infrastructure or services?
2. What are ways in which potential additional funding could support overcoming those gaps?
3. What is needed to move toward a comprehensive prevention system in Vermont (a SMPC goal)?
4. How do we ensure prevention reaches remote and underserved areas and populations?

Cannabis Control Board
CCB Advisory Committee
Subcommittees and Scope

Listed below are the Cannabis Control Board Advisory Committee subcommittees and a brief description of their scope.

1. Social Equity (scope: program design, applicant program design and execution, ongoing program administration including transferability of social equity licenses)
2. Market Structure, Licensing, Taxes, and Fees (scope: projected market and taxes, projected market size and structure, including analysis of market share by type and application, tax and fee projections, licensing and fees, licensing structure, including eligibility and tiers within each license type)
3. Sustainability (scope: energy efficiency standards, groundwater considerations, solid waste, accommodations for small cultivators, economic sustainability)
4. Public Health (scope: advertising and marketing, packaging and labeling, standard cannabis symbol, DOH oversight)
5. Compliance and Enforcement (scope: retail compliance, including age verification and facility inspection standards, employment and training requirements, record management, model local ordinances and fees, seed to sale tracking, building and produce security, parking, traffic, fire safety, requirements for banking, cash management, and financial transactions, insurance, seizure for unlicensed cultivation/sale, destruction or disposal of adulterated cannabis, adjudication of grievances, transportation requirements, who is conducting enforcement)
6. Medicinal (scope: development of recommendations for future Medical Cannabis Oversight Advisory panel, recommendations for medical program, ensuring continuity of services for patients)
7. Product Safety /Lab Testing (scope: lab testing standards, potency and contaminant testing protocols, pesticides, solvents, heavy metals, mycotoxins and fungal contaminants)
8. Exploratory (scope: new license types, concentrates, potency limits, on-site consumption, special events, curbside sale, delivery, THC tax, hemp program)

Cannabis Control Board Advisory Committee

Board Member	Statutory Position
Shayla Livingston	(A) one member with an expertise in public health appointed by the Governor
Stephanie Smith	(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee
Kim Watson	(C) one member with an expertise in laboratory science or toxicology appointed by the Governor
Nader Hasim	(D) one member with an expertise in systemic social justice and equity issues appointed by the Speaker of the House
Ashley Reynolds	(E) one member with an expertise in women- and minority-owned business ownership appointed by the Speaker of the House
Mark Levine	(F) the Chair of the Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council or designee
Chris Walsh	(G) one member with an expertise in the cannabis industry appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees
Sivan Cotel	(H) one member with an expertise in business management or regulatory compliance appointed by the Treasurer
Tim Wessel	(I) one member with an expertise in municipal issues appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees
Ingrid Jonas	(J) one member with an expertise in public safety appointed by the Attorney General
David Scherr	(K) one member with an expertise in criminal justice reform appointed by the Attorney General
Billy Coster	(L) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee
Jim Romanoff	(M) the Chair of the Cannabis for Symptom Relief Oversight Committee or designee
Meg D'Elia	(N) one member appointed by the Vermont Cannabis Trade Association

Mission and Strategic Vision of the Vermont Cannabis Control Board

7 V.S.A. §843(a) reads: “The Cannabis Control Board is an independent Commission created within the Executive Branch to **safely, equitably, and effectively** implement and administer the laws enabling adult use and medical use of cannabis in Vermont.”

To achieve this mission, the Board has identified seven guiding priorities to serve as its strategic vision in developing a regulatory program for adult-use and medical-use cannabis in Vermont.

- 1. Legacy Market and Small Cultivators.** The Board seeks to encourage small cultivators and entrepreneurs in the legacy market to enter the regulated market by reducing barriers to entry and facilitating innovation.
- 2. Social Equity.** The Board acknowledges the disproportionate impact of the government-led policies created in the War on Drugs, particularly those that impact BIPOC and economically and educationally disadvantaged communities. The Board aspires to play a part in mitigating the harm created by the prohibition of cannabis by building a program that is equitable and accessible. To this end, the Board will prioritize inclusivity in its process of building the program, and endeavor to collect data on the program to inform course corrections.
- 3. Energy, Environment and Land Use.** Vermont can be a trailblazer in the national market by establishing a program that prioritizes environmental stewardship as a foundational principle. As a result, the Board has a fundamental responsibility to encourage and facilitate outdoor and mixed light growing over controlled environment indoor cultivation. The Board will endeavor to educate stakeholders on the goals and intent of the regulatory framework and support industry participants to achieve those goals.
- 4. Youth Prevention and Education.** The Board acknowledges the effects of cannabis use on the cognitive and socio-emotional development of youth and young adults. To this end, the Board will endeavor to develop a program that focuses on the prevention of cannabis use among youth and educates consumers on the risks involved in cannabis consumption.
- 5. Consumer Protection.** It is imperative that Vermont cannabis users have the option to purchase cannabis and cannabis derived products that are tested, labeled, and free from harmful contaminants. To achieve this goal, the Board will rely on the expertise of the Agency of Agriculture to ensure that consumer protection standards are achieved in both the adult-use and medical-use programs in Vermont.
- 6. Medical Program Services.** The Board will ensure that patients maintain a continuity of access to the existing medical program services and will endeavor to reduce the regulatory burden impacting patients and caregivers, ensure that medical cannabis meets quality standards, and facilitate the development of educational programs for health care professionals.
- 7. Public Safety.** Legalizing cannabis and cannabis sales can be a harm reduction policy if done responsibly.