



## Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 10:00 am  
This meeting was held in a hybrid environment

### Meeting Minutes

---

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair David Postman called the regular meeting of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board to order at 10:00 am on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Member Ollie Garrett and Member Jim Vollendroff were also present.

#### 2. CANNABIS CENTRAL REPORTING SYSTEM (CCRS) UPDATE AND REMINDER

**George Williams, Chief Information Officer and Executive Sponsor**

George Williams: Good morning, Chairman, Board Member Vollendroff and Board Member Garrett, thank you for allowing me to say a few things. This would be a quick update; I want to say to everybody that CCRS is still currently on track for the January 9 go live date. There were some concerns expressed by the integrator community, as well as some of the licensee community about the timing of all this, but we did carefully plan this out so we would avoid the holidays as much as possible. I also want to thank the innovator community, as well as the team for delicately working on finding bugs that are going on to occlude, even this morning, we are finding things that we can fix and address to make sure that they get corrected before the go live date so everything is currently on track. We are excited about the next step.

#### 3. RULEMAKING TIMELINES – ALL INDUSTRIES

**Kathy Hoffman, PhD, Policy and Rules Manager**

Kathy Hoffman: Good morning, Chair Postman, board members Garrett and Vollendroff. Yesterday I gave a pretty comprehensive overview of rulemaking timeline, so I will just give a very brief nutshell version this morning. That is, on the alcohol side, we will see the rule petition concerning private club memberships moving forward in February. We are also moving forward with a cloud storage project that has implications for the alcohol side of the house, but primarily on the cannabis side of the house. We will start that rulemaking on January 18. Then moving on to the cannabis side of the house, we are making progress on curating the World Cafe discussions, and Jack will bring something to you on, I think we said yesterday, February 1, but really, it is going to be at caucus on January 31. He will have that material put together for you and make alignment between what we heard in the World Cafe, and how that might impact our existing rules at this point. Cassidy will be moving the cannabis advertising project forward here in the coming weeks. She is also going to bring CR-101 for you concerning the minors on premises. So that was minors on licensed premises, and also minors working with contractors that might enter licensed premises. That is moving forward as well. Then Jeff will bring the cannabis sampling-- that is another rule petition that you accepted last year-- to the board on February 1. Then the other thing I

wanted to bring up that I did not mention yesterday, is that Cassidy will be bringing a rule petition recommendation to you on January 18 and that is a petition we received last year, late last year, that has to do with allowing additional processor licenses to be issued, so more on that to come in the coming weeks.

#### **4. ALCOHOL RELATED RULEMAKING**

##### **ACTION ITEM 4A – Rules Petition Review and Consideration**

**Kathy Hoffman, PhD, Policy and Rules Manager**

Kathy Hoffman, PhD, Policy and Rules Manager began the briefing with materials (HANDOUT 4A). If I may, I will go on to the rule petition. This morning, I am bringing a petition for your consideration that was submitted on November 9 by Josh McDonald of the Washington Wine Institute. Mr. McDonald requests that the agency consider amending WAC 314- 17-015 to allow class 13 permit holders, these are alcohol server permits, to open bottles and pour alcohol for customers away from a customer's table in the same way that they can perform these duties at a customer's table. This activity was offered as a temporary allowance during the pandemic, and that allowance expired in September of last year, and Mr. McDonnell asserts that this allowance was 'extremely helpful to those licensees utilizing 18 to 20 year old employees in new ways to support their industry' and he also asserts that the rule change would have minimal effect. In looking at whether this request is statutorily authorized, current law describes two types of alcohol server permits, and those are the class 12 and 13, and these are distinguished by the types of activities that each can perform. So, put simply, a class 12 can sell or mix alcohol or spirits, and a class 13 can only serve alcohol, spirits, wines, or beer for consumption in an on-premise license facility. RCW 662310 is the pertinent statute here, and it does not specify or limit where service can take place, or even expressly authorize a class 13 permit holder to open as opposed to serve beer or wine. It is fair to say that the legislature was very clear about their intentions for these permits, and we further clarified the role and allowable service privileges of the MAST 13 permit and rule, and we have done that in two sections of rule. These are the rules that Mr. McDonald cites and also WAC 314-11-040, pertaining to duties that people under 21 perform on a license premise. So, the limited scope of this request does not exceed our statutory authority. There is that part of the analysis, but to complete our analysis, we turn to our divisions, and each of their perspectives are presented in the document that I shared with you. I want to draw your attention to feedback offered specifically by our licensing division, our public health and prevention liaison, and then turn to our social equity and DEIB analysis, because these are sort of new features of our world petition responses. Licensing expressed four major concerns and the first has to do with how closely the proposed expansion may come to actual bartending. The second has to do with the presence of minors in restricted areas, such as behind the bar. The third has to do with the alignment of the two rule sections rather than the single section that Mr. McDonald references. The fourth concerns the impacts of updating MAST training for our current 21 MAST training providers. I know I have summarized those briefly, but those are the high points of their licensing concerns. Our public health and prevention liaison expressed concern about the increased access, expectations and oversight when underage persons may potentially be allowed behind the bar, and whether this activity aligns with our overall purpose of public health and safety and preventing underage use. Then finally, I want to take a minute and speak to our social equity and DEIB analysis, since it is new to rule petitions, but a very critical lens through which we consider policy and will want to emphasize that health inequities are not solely related to access to health care services. There are many other determinants of health and equity that are related to living and working conditions. The inequity in alcohol related harm in the US exists based on a number of factors, including economic status, education, gender, ethnicity, and place of residence. In general, certain socio-economic groups experience higher levels of alcohol related harms

than other groups with the same level of alcohol consumption. While this request does not necessarily appear to amplify those inequities directly, there are other factors such as working conditions, and whether disallowance would be absorbed in socially equitable conditions is what I began to look to this as part of the analysis. It was a very high level, we could not go really deep on this at this point. As I mentioned yesterday, some literature suggests that this age group may be vulnerable to worker exploitation, because they fall outside of some of the labor laws designed to protect minors under 18. These workers are considered to be minors in the places they work, and the research on this issue is emerging, and I hope I have given you an idea of that in the follow up that I provided you for yesterday, but I want to make sure that you are aware of these factors and information as part of your decision making this morning. To conclude, I want to again underscore the concern expressed by agency staff, and the broader implications of this petition, but for that reason, we recommend that this petition be accepted for further exploration, and discussion across the entire authorizing environment, considering all of the elements that will be offered here. This gives us an opportunity to determine whether rules are needed, or if there are alternative approaches that we should consider. For these reasons, I ask for the approval of this petition for rulemaking this morning. I am happy to answer any questions.

Chair Postman: Good. Questions for Dr. Hoffman or comments on this from the Board.

Member Garrett: Kathy, were you able to get the answer to the question I had yesterday regarding how we had been doing this, were there any issues?

Kathy Hoffman: I did, I reached out to enforcement and the answer was no, there had been no enforcement action at all. Then I sent you a fairly detailed email this morning, I do not know if you have seen it yet. Take a look at that. I walk you through a high-level analysis of the social determinants of health inequities, the reports that we looked at from the European Union, and the World Health Organization report that's dated 2018 that was actually issued in 2020. Then there is another really interesting piece called 'The Dimensions of Problem Drinking and My Views' about restaurant workers, written from a 2009 perspective, but it gives you an idea of some of the concerns related to worker safety, but also use exposure, so it gives you both elements.

Member Vollendroff: So I just have a quick comment. My initial thought on this is I am not excited about this request for a couple of reasons, and one is that I take seriously the access to substances by young people, and although this is not about young people using, it does increase access. So having said that, I think that the question that member Garrett asked yesterday is really important and thank you for following up on that. I have given that some thought since yesterday, and one thing I am also concerned about is that sometimes it is hard to tell immediate impacts versus long term policy decisions and the impacts long term. I am concerned about the long-term policy implications as well as the immediate, so it's something I am definitely interested in looking at. I said this yesterday, and I think it is important, that when a reasonable request comes before the board, and we have the statutory authority to make a decision, I think it is important that we stop and think about it, and that we have some meaningful conversation and research so from that perspective, I support this request. I appreciate the time and look forward to looking at this further.

Member Garrett: And I agree, in thinking about it, and knowing the aspect of why they are asking for this, and based on staffing, to see rather than automatic, just saying no, is there a way to get to a yes, by putting certain things in process. That one of the things that we have been talking about is instead of automatically saying no, let us look at if we could get to a yes and what that would look like. So, I am anxious to hear the conversations and conclusions at them.

Chair Postman: Yeah, I think that is right, and so I think that recommendation to accept is the right one, we need to have more of a conversation. This has already sparked some interesting conversations at our meetings and briefings, and I appreciate that. On the question of exploitation, I think we will have time to talk about all of that as the process goes. As somebody who worked in restaurants, for a long time, my only youth jobs were in restaurants, I did not find them a dangerous place, and that concern was raised in one of the things you had sent Kathy, that hospitality is inherently dangerous for younger people, I do not think that was the case then. There is the question of access to alcohol. I think that exists anytime you work in a restaurant where it serves alcohol and beer, but we do need to make sure we have hard lines on what can be done and should not be done. So, member Garrett, I think you are right, we have to look at, is there a way to do this in a in a safe way, the slippery slope argument could be used against any idea at any time, and so I think we have to really bear down on that and look at what is the right thing. I do not think we should be loosening our regulations, just for the reason that it is harder to hire adult workers today, that is not a good reason to reduce safety, but that does not mean that those rules today are set at the exact right place in my mind, so I look forward to that conversation. Where do we set that bar, and how do we do it? It is important to look at this in that broad way, and so I appreciate Dr. Hoffman, you and the staff throughout the agency looking at this from all the different aspects, but it has been said, if we have the authority to do this, and it is a reasonable request, we should have that conversation with other people, not just ourselves. So, this allows us to open it up to the industry and others to hear from and I will be interested to hear what we hear, I am not sure what will be. So, with that, if there are no other questions or comments, I will call for motion to approve the rules petition that amends WAC 314-17-015, to expand MAST 13 permit activity, is there a motion?

**Member Garrett moved to accept the rules petition that amends WAC 314-17-015, to expand MAST 13 permit activity. Member Vollendroff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Postman invited citizens to address the Board regarding any issues related to LCB business.

Bailey Hirschberg: Bailey Hirschberg, Washington NORML. You wondered what seven and a half years of always getting your receipt at the retailer looks like I just thought I would set this over there. In the 2023 legislative session, you guys face the strong possibility that the agency will be asked to weigh in, for or against legislation that would raise cannabis taxes. Board Member Jim Vollendroff raised the issue of modifying these taxes based on cannabis concentrations in comments on December 13. And a similar call was made in a UW ADAI recommendation to lawmakers. I have said before that cannabis consumers are like every other American, and unfortunately for you guys, like every other American, we are not fans of higher taxation. Depending on what website you check, Washington's cost of living is in the range of 13 to 20% higher than the national. When added together, the excise and average local sales tax here in Washington on cannabis places taxation of about 46% of the product's value. Then there is the availability of unregulated cannabinoid items in both the commercial and illicit markets, inflation in the state throughout 2022. It makes perfect sense that we would see reports that cannabis sales have declined for the first time in 2021 or in the previous year. What makes no sense is that an agency with a value of customer focus would agree to any kind of tax increase at a time like this. Researchers have told the board directly that even with this tax rate, our cannabis remains competitively priced. Consumers are more likely to get their cannabis and therefore pay taxes into the Washington system. I know because I am one of them, but I also have heard time and again how the tax rate and the market structure delivers competitive prices to me by putting the squeeze on the smallest producers and processors. In 2021,

Washington's population was just under 20% of California's, yet that same year, we took in 42% of the amount of tax revenue for cannabis that they did, and that was according to the National Council of State Legislatures. Cannabis is sure to deliver us hundreds of millions of dollars no matter what we do in 2023. I understand that there are good intentions in wanting to use price to drive consumer choice, but loyal customers should be rewarded with savings, not price hikes in the name of their own health. Rather than agreeing however reluctantly to legislative changes, raising costs of products you hope the public will not buy, why not lower excise taxes on products you want them to buy. I am not personally convinced that this is the best approach, but a varying tax rate based on product concentration delivers consumer choice. It can drive them by lowering costs just as easy as by raising them. I ask the board agency leaders and specifically the new Director of Legislative relations, Mark Webster, to keep the consumers' pocketbook and health in mind during the coming legislative session and to lobby against or offer amendments to lower any attempts to increase the tax rate on cannabis consumers. Thank you guys.

Josh McDonald: Good morning, Chair Postman, Board members Garrett and Vollendroff. Thank you so much for your time today. Happy New Year. I look forward to working with you all in 2023, and in a very positive productive fashion. But first, I just want to say a quick thank you for this really thoughtful dialogue today, and for your support, moving forward with the 101 from the rules petition that we put forward as the Washington Wine Industry and myself. So, thank you so much for that reasonable request to come in to have a discussion. We will appreciate you and your thoughts and your staff's approach to that to that request, so thank you so much. Also, thank you Dr. Hoffman for a thorough review and discussion on our petition and the impacts on the entire scope of our industry and our overall community. So, we appreciate that. I will keep this very brief and to say we are very excited to engage in this discussion. I look forward to bringing forward folks that work in our industry, to talk to you about how positive this is for them. This as we discussed, this is an allowance that we utilized very effectively and we think very, as the numbers show, with no violations and no challenges. It is really a very positive way to help us in this time to give these folks our voices and more opportunities to work with it in a responsible, mature fashion, and one that is certainly going to want to be hopefully helpful, long term. We know it will be so with that. Thank you so much for your time today. Happy to answer any questions. But again, I just really appreciate your support to move forward with this and we look forward to discussion. Thank you.

Damian Mims: Good morning, my name is Damian Mimms, executive treasurer for Black Excellence Cannabis. I would like to speak to you all today about the truth. The truth is black and brown people have not had a fair and equitable opportunity in any industry in the state. That being said, I would like to move on to discuss the solution. Sometimes we get caught up in focusing on the wrongs and not spending enough time on working on making it right. Moving in the direction of correcting problems. The past can be done much easier if you have the proper tools, which includes teamwork, leadership, hard work, and in my opinion, most importantly, faith in a higher power. Sometimes it is all we have to help us through challenging times. I see here today, members of LCB, as a group sitting in the table trying to work on making it right. That has not always been true, but through changes in leadership and membership, I believe there is an effort to move in the right direction. I believe that to be true for folks on both sides of the table. Those types of changes are sometimes necessary, that the narrative needs to be changed. There will always be opposition to change. It is only natural, but I like to see is for the people who are working on equity, to focus on those positive voices out there. Do not ignore the past as very important, and it is what makes us who we are. The past is what we must learn from. For those that would like to keep tearing down black and brown people, if you are openly and publicly speaking ill of people in support of Black and Brown equity, I really hope it is not a black or brown person doing it. It is time to break the perpetual cycle of tearing down our own kind, meaning Black and Brown folks, and start to build us up.

Peter Manning: Good afternoon, Chair Postman, Board members Ollie Garrett and Jim Vollendroff. My name is Peter Manning. I am with Black Excellence in Cannabis. We are happy with LCB, we have been not so happy in the past, but we are happy with the leadership that they currently have. We are happy with the direction that LCB is going. We truly believe in Governor Inslee, the promise he made to us two years ago in his office when he said that he was going to bring about drastic changes to the LCB. We do want him to know that we recognize those changes and see them. We understand that not everybody can see what we see as proof. Black Excellence in Cannabis has made it our mission to be solution based, and we have changed our leadership to reflect that. We have taken on the approach never to attack a person for their personal beliefs, disbeliefs, or personal habits or whatever that may be. We strictly go after the solution based; we go after what matters. What matters to us now in the black and brown community is equity. We have been closed out of a cannabis industry for the last eight years. I have diligently worked since 2014 on bringing this to light in Washington state. When I first embarked on this journey, I was criticized and I was also labeled as a nutcase, someone who is delusional, but the end result proves my point to be true because I am here before the Board talking about social equity, and I am an active member in a group base, which is Black Excellence in Cannabis, fighting for social equity. Truth to power is spoken. I believe LCB is moving forward in the right direction. I understand that the stores, the black and brown community, the target date is sometime early April. I am proud to say that, I am happy to say that. As far as the groups that are criticizing this black movement, this is sad to see that this comes from black people like myself. Duane Dunn did an interview with KING 5 two and a half weeks ago, he was criticized by the same group, as disinformation and Duane Dunn spoke truth to power. He said that the current processes and producers that are white are flooding the market for cannabis to drive down the retail value of the stores, which is going to hurt social equity for as far as investments. That was insightful. I do not know how anyone black could criticize that, that truth spoken by that man, that Black man, that owns a retail store in Tacoma. We need to stop with the infighting and get with the program and work for all black and brown people. This needs to stop, needs to come to an end. We need to vet the leadership that we have in those groups to see if they speak truth to power. You cannot tell me a person that has three locations, or three retail stores had a problem with social equity. If any, there is a black man that has had that opportunity to have three retail stores in our community and he is the one leading the way for this nonsense. There is no equity here. He most definitely had equity, and he lost that through his own actions, and other black people have not had the right to that equity. We are happy here in Black Excellence in Cannabis with the direction to LCB is going. You guys have done a great job. Thank you.

Tyler Conway: Good morning, thank you for your time. I represent Black Excellence in Cannabis. I could sit up here and talk about the LCB in the past, but I would like to move forward with solutions. I would like to say I am very happy with the LCB with the direction it decided to take and trying to right a wrong that was done to the black and brown communities. Yes, I am happy but at the same time, I am realizing that we are not promised each day and would like to see even more focus on building up our communities. Very important that we are able to create generational wealth for our children that we have been getting shut out from. Change is inevitable so it might as well be for the better. I hope that the LCB continues with the needed work and together I know that we can actually create a marijuana industry that is inclusive for everyone, not just for a certain sector of society. Thank you for your time.

Mike Asai: Good morning, Board members Postman, Garrett, and Vollendroff. My name is Mike Asai, founder of Emerald City Collective, first downtown Seattle dispensary in 2010. I am also the Vice President of Black Excellence in Cannabis, nonprofit organization fighting for Black and Brown inclusion in the billion-dollar cannabis market. I am going read a quote from Dr. [Martin Luther] King [Jr.]. This is the month that we celebrate him, but we should not only just celebrate him this month, we should celebrate him all the time. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that." - Dr. King. I piggyback on what Tyler, Peter, and Damian said. Yes, I am happy

with the direction the LCB is going, but I must say this, I am highly disappointed at a lot of things that have currently been going on, and one of the things is those that were there during the medical takeover, not merger, those at the LCB, that are still alive, are still there. The board is different. There are some new employees. My belief is those that were there during the fiasco, during when Black and Brown were cut out and yes, there were whites that were cut out, the fact is all the medical pioneers but the majority were cut out. To sit here for the past two years watching this taskforce, watching the delay tactics, watching everything transpire, it has just been disheartening. The trauma has never gone away. I walked with holes in my shoes downtown Seattle in 2010 looking for a location. I did not have much money in my pocket, but I had a great idea. It took courage. I was empowered by the first Black collective in Washington State, and I was empowered by a lot of others. The pioneers are the ones who built this foundation. It is the Liquor *Cannabis* Board because of the pioneers who built this foundation, and I have to say to the politicians or whoever, have made the suggestions that the medical was an illicit market, it is a slap in the face. We were not illicit, we were a business, we were licensed, and we paid taxes. This is the reason why we have what we have today is because of the pioneers like myself, Peter Manning, Michael Perry, and many, many, many others. I want to thank Ollie Garrett. I want to thank Paul Sardinas. I want to thank Peter Manning. I want to thank Representative Pettigrew. I want to thank Senator Soldaña. I want to thank Representative Debra Entenman. I may have left some out but I want to thank them for bringing social equity to Washington. But I have to say this, on my one time visit to LCB, Beth Lehman treated me with disrespect, and I am really shocked and surprised that she is still working for the LCB. Thank you.

Shawn DeNae: Thank you, and good morning. Happy New Year to everybody. I have a couple of topics that I want to get through in the four minutes, so forgive me if I rush a little bit, but my name is Shawn DeNae Wagonseller, I am the owner of a tier two producer processor license up in north Snohomish County. I also sit on the board of the Cannabis Alliance and the Sun and Craft Growers Association. Today I speak on behalf of myself just encompassing topics that I have been involved in conversations with other stakeholders. We all see reports on overproduction state by state by state, and Washington is not unique to this. The supply and demand are in a vast imbalance. Reports show that the demand of the Washington consumer is pretty much maxed out, they are utilizing 502 to a great, great degree. So, to balance this supply and demand, supply side is the only option that we have, and LCB does seem to have the tools to address this. We see through reports that there are over 1000 licensed producers, yet less than 600 of us are actually doing any form of business transactions. I wonder if the LCB is open to utilizing tools, like reducing canopy limits, or sunseting dormant licenses, or allowing full canopy only with proof of percentage of sales, there are ways to correct this imbalance, and I am just hoping that the LCB board of directors has some sway to implement that imbalance. Tagging on to that. There are also lots of, I would like to offer an observation on the high THC topic, lots of discussion about that right now. And to just kind of explain in real simple terms, how I believe this is happening, or why, is that green matter has a really short shelf life, while oils and concentrates have a very, very long shelf life. A lot of the overproduction is going into concentrates to preserve those cannabinoids from the overproduction, then that causes those oils to be dumped on the market for very, very cheap. Right now, you can go into a store and be offered seven grams of dab oil for 70 bucks, that is 10 bucks a gram. Now, we grow and we concentrate and we do all of that, and I am telling you, there is no way that you can grow the plant, harvest the plant, extract the plant, gram it up into one gram packages with all the packaging costs, and then deliver it to a store for less than three bucks a gram, which is which is what is happening. 70 grams of oil for 70 bucks, this exploits young people and people on limited budgets, which is what the prevention community is showing is happening. Now we can prevent that impact by just enforcing the rule that you cannot sell below your costs. I do not know how LCB does that. I do not know how you figure that out, but that one thing alone would help correct the issue that we are seeing in a glut of oils that are being dumped on the market cheap and impacting the health of the community. There are solutions and I

believe they exist in enforcement not only in canopy but in selling below your costs. So, I hope you have the tenacity and the want to tackle that looking at from that angle. Thank you so much.

David Busby: Thanks for having me, Happy New Year everybody. I am here. You are not even going to believe this, but I want to talk about CCRS. I am very excited that you guys have ditched that lead form and move to the CSV upload (?). I am still not really happy about moving CSV files around, but I spent a lot of time working in the banking industry, and surprised the amount of data you can move with the CSV file so, cumbersome gets the job done. So, I guess you know what they say, if it is not that great but it works, then it is great. Right? I am pretty happy about that. We are at about 87% success on our testing against that thing which is pretty good. I would have liked to have been a little further along before the launch on the ninth. I am a little disappointed that for like the third or fourth time now, the LCB has dropped a pretty big breaking change on to the industry and done so with a pretty short notice during the holiday season. The interim thing when we lost BioTrack waiting for MJ Freeway was over the Thanksgiving, Christmas New Year holiday. The last CCRS drop happened during this this holiday time. I do not know if the LCB is intentionally pushing work out to everybody else that is not them during the holiday season, but maybe we could do things in like February and March and not have so much change to the industry around "Croptober", and then Thanksgiving, and then these New Year's holidays. When we get a notice from you guys, everybody has got a full schedule, you all have got a full schedule, we got a full schedule. So if new information drops, takes us two weeks to get to that information, and then two weeks to work on the information. We have only been allocated with a total of four weeks, so this is difficult, and not just for myself, but in communications with the other software service providers, including the ones that are larger than we are that a lot of them are having the same difficulties with this file, and some have not actually been able to get it to go quite yet at all, which is pretty concerning, because we have five calendar days left. Otherwise, this is a big deal. We operate in a whole bunch of other states. I am out here in Massachusetts right now, and we all use Metrc outside of Washington, right? In Metrc you cannot do business to business transactions in your own particular piece of software, you have to leave that software, go into Metric, to press the final button, and then move on to the SAP and that is cumbersome for all of the licensees. It is not that way in Washington. So, despite all of my fist shaking and hollering, this is actually pretty good. So that is where I am at so far, and shout out to your service desk, who have been pretty quick with my emails and getting stuff done answered after five o'clock even. So, appreciate that. Thank you.

Gregory Foster: Good morning, folks, and likewise, Happy New Year, it is good to see you. I am going to address CCRS today. I am Gregory Foster with Cannabis Observer, and I am also engaged with the Washington Cannabis Integrators Alliance, who have helped with a lot of the remarks that I will share here today but today, but I am speaking on my own recognizance. Also wanted to extend thanks to CIO George Williams for the difficult job that he has faced with limited resources to manage the CCRS project, and for his continued willingness to engage with integrators and licensees to try to achieve the best outcomes that are possible within the constraints of the state and the system that is operating there. Really, I want to focus more on kind of what is next and beyond the January 9, time period, and CCRS 2.0. It is my understanding that there currently are not plans for any further development of CCRS beyond the 2.0 release and that is pretty understandable for a lot of different reasons. The CCRS system was actually intended as an interim stopgap measure just to enable us to get off of MJ Freeway, which is terrible, and everyone agrees about that, and it was adapted from that kind of interim software system that was developed during the transition to BioTrack to MJ Freeway because surprise, MJ Freeway did not actually deliver on time. This was an adaptation of that system from multiple years ago, which was already kind of vetted, allowed on the network and, and familiar to CRAT staff. Now, when we were talking during the traceability 2.0 workgroup days, we talked all about how we could develop a more limited reporting-oriented system or go towards something like that, but there is just not a lot of big



traceability vendors out there that we have not already been through, and so the choice was made to go ahead and step to CCRS for a time, and it was adapted and built on to improve over what was before. With Monday's release, it is good that it's happening. I think everyone agrees that kind of normalizing things to have everything VCSV to not require this manifest webform is a good step, but it is still wanting, right? It is not an ideal system, and right now there are competing priorities for IT staff's time, the social equity program needs to be launched. The systems modernization project is, as you put it, Chair Postman, the huge battleship that is moving that received \$34 billion in the governor's proposed budget for the next biennium, that is going to be moving along. Really, my concern is, I think without prioritization of next steps, either from LCB leadership or from the legislature, dedicated budget, dedicated staff would help and ask your IT team, they will tell you, they agree that CCRS is not ideal. We could develop an API pretty simply, it is within reach, but it needs to receive that sort of input mature and leadership from you. Thank you for your time.

Christopher King: I am unmuting. Great. All right, terrific. We are going to usher in a new era in 2023 of transparency and sunshine, and to that end, the first thing I just want to note real quickly, but I have a quick question. Do we yet have a date certain when the finalists will be selected? Are those three candidates to monitor and implement the social equity lottery this time?

Chair Postman: I do not have an answer that question we will have to have someone get back.

Christopher King: All right, because that is kind of partial to what we are trying to do here and your believability as an agency in terms of moving forward. Next, I noticed that when certain black people get up like Peter Manning, get up and they start talking Mike Asai, I am not taking away anything those guys ever did in their lives. They did some great work, no doubt about it, but I noticed when they talk, they never bring up Aaron Barfield, Sandy Sod, Ben or Kevin Shelton. Those guys were around back in the day too, but just because they are not bootlickers for the LCB, these guys do not get the same comment, the same respect because, oh, they are aligned with King, who is by the way, the only civil rights lawyer out here is actually talking about stuff that matters. Anyway, I have also worked with Breon Corbray. How many of you are familiar with the with the Ogden memo? I am the one who told Breon about the Ogden memo and how Jenny Durkin violated that when she was a US prosecutor to run him into the ground. Also, in terms of transparency and sunshining on false claims that Peter Manning does not attack people. Everybody knows that Aaron Barfield is the genius behind Black Excellence [in Cannabis] and it is his brainchild, and for you to say, Mr. Postman you do not care who is running what agency? What group? That is not right, man, because his intellectual property was stolen. Aaron Barfield is on the front page of the Seattle Times talking about Blacks having their property stolen from them. And at this point, Aaron Barfield issued a cease and desist letter. I have Peter Manning lying and saying the Aaron Barfield is a convicted felon for \$80,000. I have him lying and saying that I am disbarred. Where does it end? Who is telling the truth and who is lying? I have Peter Manning walking into court last week, saying that he did not see the hearing date, as noted because the pages stuck together. Who is believing that? Now, let us get on with this. Next. I want some sunshine on the fact that nobody has ever explained what happened to the letter that Kevin Shelton sent to Ollie Garrett that was crafted, that was the brainchild of Nate Miles and those guys, he sent the letter off. It was within the last couple of years. What is the statute of limitations? This is a racketeering scheme. It was under the table. He sent a letter to Ollie and nobody has explained what the protocol is for getting letters like that from him from anybody. Nobody has explained what happened to his letter? It just went "poof"! Okay, there is no sunshine there, next. SB 5052 required a fair and level playing field in terms of the lottery and in no time, there is no time limitation on that. That level playing field never happened, and there is still a compelling governmental interest to go ahead and just give these people these licenses. I have told you the constitutional framework a long time ago, compelling governmental interest, narrowly tailored, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, because I read

the lawsuit for the guys at Cushmark, your four out of 556 shops in Washington are black. Four! I am not talking about the past, I am talking about right now, and you still cannot even tell us a date certain for when we are going to have a finalist as to who is going to administer the program. Jesus Christ on a bicycle. Also, so you have got a trustee of Saterburg, you going keep telling lies about how you are going to raid this field or shut down these illegal places and all that stuff. That is nonsense. They are back in business, I see the reviews in October after they were shut down and raided, and they had other violations going on. I am not, as the British would say, taking a piss on them directly, but they are doing illegal stuff, and you are allowing them to do the things that blacks cannot do.

Ahmed King: Hello, hello. Hope everybody is having a blessed day. Glad you all woke up, glad that everybody is being productive. I am also again representing Black Excellence in Cannabis first, and definitely recognizing Peter Manning as president, the originator. Really appreciate that brother and Mike Asai, and all of you LCB board members for what you do. United, we stand, divided we fall. Government was created for the people by the people. So again, I appreciate everyone here. I would like to say that Black Excellence in Cannabis, we are happy. Yet, I have to agree with what Mike Asai said and do not forget the past, especially the past traumas. I am sitting here right now in my work van, and I am in front of Evergreen Markets south where I had to deliver to this morning. Again, I am grateful to have a job, I definitely would like to be working for myself, or as the truth to power and the fact stands, we had this brick and mortar spot before. This brick and mortar spot is what it is today, so I would love to be enjoying some of that generational wealth. Albeit here I am today still blessed part of a great organization, that is on the forefront for black and brown people when it comes to social equity in the cannabis, and legal cannabis, not only in Washington State, but nationwide. I would like to read something. 'Press forward at all times, climbing forward toward that higher ground of the harmonious society that shapes the laws of man to the laws of God.' That is a quote actually from Adam Clayton Powell Jr. If you do not know who that is, I suggest you google him to look him up. With that being said, I was always raised to continue to push forward. So even in that trauma, we push forward and work and things are being accomplished, and things are being done. Damian said earlier that there will always be opposition, we also understand that, but we are coming with solutions, so I would say to anyone who is listening online, anybody who is there in person today, if you have not been affiliated with us would like to work with us, and to create solutions. Even if you have a disagreement, reach out to us, you can reach out to me, I am at [king@blackexcellenceincannabis.org](mailto:king@blackexcellenceincannabis.org). Or if you are there in person, please go ahead and shake the hand of Peter Manning or Damian Mims. It is sad that we do have opposition at times, but a brother was born for adversity. What I will say to this, I will not even address things well I will extend though, is the hand to sit down and have a conversation, because again, united we stand, divided we fall. Imagine if we could come to a common ground in terms, because when it comes to social equity and these licenses, even with all the trends and things that different things are going on, they definitely need to be in the hands of black and brown people because we have waited long enough and missed out on a lot of generational wealth, Also with that being said, sitting here as a delivery driver, what I would also like to say to you LCB, when it comes to manifesting in different things, I think there could be a better way and a better process for everybody such as ACH for all stores, and also more delivery driver protections. My job can be viewed as pretty dangerous a lot of times, especially with things going on. With that being said, again, represent Black Excellence in Cannabis. I am the Executive Secretary, please reach out to us work with us, not against us. Not at all. Everybody have a blessed, wonderful productive day. Again, thank you, all of you, LCB. Board members, I cannot name all of you, I do not have enough time, so I am looking forward to speaking with you all again, and working in the future, and thanks to Black Excellence in Cannabis members appreciate you, brothers. Thank you.

## **6. EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Employee Retirements – Rick Garza, Director

Rick Garza, Director, announced plans for his retirement in July.

**7. ADJOURN**

Chair Postman adjourned the meeting at 11:11 am

Minutes approved this 15th day of January 2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Vollendroff  
Board Chair



\_\_\_\_\_  
Ollie Garrett  
Board Member

Minutes prepared by: Deborah Soper, Administrative Assistant to the Board

*Complete meeting packets are available online: [http://lcb.wa.gov/boardmeetings/board\\_meetings](http://lcb.wa.gov/boardmeetings/board_meetings)  
For questions about agendas or meeting materials you may email [gretchen.frost@lcb.wa.gov](mailto:gretchen.frost@lcb.wa.gov) or call 360.664.1656*

**LCB Mission** - Promote public safety, public health, and trust through fair administration, education, and enforcement of liquor, cannabis, tobacco, and vapor laws.