



## Executive Management Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 1:30 pm

This meeting was held in a hybrid environment

### Meeting Minutes

#### EMT ATTENDEES

Chair David Postman  
Member Ollie Garrett  
Member Jim Vollendroff  
Rick Garza, Director  
Toni Hood, Deputy Director  
Chandra Wax, Director of Enforcement and Education  
Brian Smith, Communications Director  
Becky Smith, Licensing & Regulation Director  
Justin Nordhorn, Director of Policy and External Affairs  
Marc Webster, Director of Legislative Relations  
Dustin Dickson, Executive Assistant to the Board  
Gloria Hong, Special Assistant to the Director

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#### LICENSING UPDATE -- BECKY

Becky shared information about some of the activities that BUILD, the Black United in Leadership and Diversity has planned during the annual observance of Black History Month. She provided updates on the social equity program, and that the Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIA) maps are online.

In addition, the number of special occasion licenses has increased to nearly what they were pre-pandemic. Also, Customer Service collaborated with Enforcement recently to reduce the number of expired licenses.

Licensing is working to speed up the processing time of the cannabis licenses.

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#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – MARC

Marc reported that there was a hearing in the House yesterday on the THC Bill, 1612. Both the cannabis and hemp industries remain very concerned about the THC threshold that is in the bill, but they remain split on what to do with it. Hemp would like that threshold raised, while the 502 sector wants it dramatically reduced or even brought to zero.

LCB is fielding a number of questions from legislators on a bill, one in the House, one in the Senate, that would prevent LCB officers from stopping a youth suspected of purchasing tobacco or vape products while underage. It would allow the compliance checks that we do, but not allow them to stop a youth coming out of a tobacco shop, as an example. We are working with the sponsor in the Senate, Senator Saldaña, and in the House to try to clarify what our needs are and making sure that we do not remove a tool to hold those stores accountable for their actions, but making sure we are still able to cite stores who are selling to underage buyers.

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#### **ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION UPDATE – CHANDRA**

Chandra shared some statistics regarding the number of licensees that her team is managing, including the number of complaints, education and violation contacts, and successful resolutions.

There have been no new complaints or internal affairs issues for the year, but there is one pending resolution from last year.

The team is doing a lot of recruiting and training to fill vacant positions.

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#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA UPDATE – BRIAN**

Brian briefed on a recent Seattle Times article that came across negative and was not an accurate representation of the agency. Brian has reached out and has a meeting scheduled with the editor to discuss what the agency has been doing recently, and the resources we offer them for future articles.

He provided examples of how the Communications team engages the stakeholders, and also how they keep the LCB staff informed.

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#### **POLICY UPDATE – JUSTIN**

Justin provided updates on the Policy team's activities, including researching sampling issues, the pesticide rule evaluation work, the cannabis science taskforce, and tribal outreach. They are fielding comments on the THC bill, increasing public health outreach, participating on CANNRA committees, and meeting with prime sponsors of a delivery bill.

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#### **GENERAL AGENCY UPDATE – TONI**

Toni shared positive feedback received at the Employee Appreciation Breakfast, gave an update on the System Modernization Project (SMP), and informed that the LCB prevailed in the Brinkmeyer case.

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#### **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – RICK**

Rick detailed the number of employees in LCB and other agencies that are active in the Cannabis Regulators Association (CANNRA) committees and provided additional background and information on the Association.

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Meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Minutes approved this 15th day of January 2025



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Jim Vollendroff  
Board Chair



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Ollie Garrett  
Board Member

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

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