



Board Caucus Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 10:00am

This meeting was held via web conference only

Meeting Minutes

CAUCUS ATTENDEES

Chair David Postman
Member Ollie Garrett
Member Jim Vollendroff
Dustin Dickson, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chair Postman announced the consideration of the April 26 Board Caucus minutes was postponed until a later meeting date.

INTRODUCTIONS WITH NEW BOARD MEMBER – JIM VOLLENDROFF

Chair Postman: We're going to introduce our new Board Member, Jim Vollendroff. Today is his first official day, right, Jim?

Member Vollendroff: Yes!

Chair Postman: We've had a chance to talk a little bit between his announcement and today. Those who are watching may know this, because you pay attention – Jim comes from the behavioral health field. He just came from serving as the Behavioral Health Science Advisor for Policy and Advocacy for the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington (US). This was really the apex of a great career in behavioral health.

In 2019, he was recruited to be the founding director of the Harborview / UW Medicine Behavioral Health Institute and did that until 2021. He really brings a breadth of experience in that field as well as working in different forms at public agencies over the years. One of the real impressive things is that before he was appointed, there was a letter signed by 22 legislators to the Governor urging his appointment. So, he is well known among lawmakers, policy makers and others in the field.

Speaking on behalf of Member Garrett, we're really excited to have you, Jim. Welcome!

Member Vollendroff: Thank you, thank you so much! I'm excited to be here, I really am. I am excited to work with both of you, in particular. I started onboarding somewhat last week, and I've

been really impressed with the staff of the LCB, and the engagement in the community, in this work, so I'm really excited about it.

Chair Postman: Good. It's a great staff, that's for sure. It's been a while since we've had a full Board.

Member Garrett: Maybe now I can take a vacation.

Chair Postman: Actually, I'm glad you raised that – I'm taking vacation next week. I forgot to mention that or put it on the calendar. We'll deal with those scheduling things later.

Member Garrett: What days are you going to be gone?

Chair Postman: I am going to be gone the 11th through the 17th.

Member Garrett: That's good to know.

Chair Postman: Sorry... I went to the calendar this morning and realized. We might have to move one or two things, but we'll figure that out.

Member Vollendroff: That's going to be one of the challenges of me transitioning from the UW is that I come with a lot of built-up vacation time. I'll have to get my vacation in, even though I just started.

Chair Postman: Well, we have two strategies – we either can all time it at the same time and postpone all our meetings, or we make sure there's always two of us. It depends on what's on the agendas. The Board meeting next week is a pretty robust agenda so we might have to think about which of those issues we might postpone until all three are there – axe throwing is on there, THC compounds, a public hearing – there's a lot going on and it would have been good for me to give people notice. But, anyhow, back to you, Jim.

We are really excited! One of the things that we've talked about is having more conversations in these meetings, particularly in Caucus, which is a free-flowing light agenda, usually, and this will be a place where we can bring issues like scheduling. This is our opportunity to talk. This is designed for the Board to get ready for the Board Meeting and to deal with any other business. It's usually a pretty short agenda, usually not quite as short as today's, but there's room there to do things. I look forward to hearing from you about what you might want to add to that, any reports or briefings, whatever you'd like. We have that ability, and as you've already mentioned and seen, the staff is – has a wealth of knowledge and experience and is eager to come and talk to us about what they do, so we should take advantage of that.

Member Vollendroff: I am definitely looking forward to that. In many ways I'm seeing this as a career change. So, although I have years of experience in behavioral health, I was also a provider for many years before I went into public policy – so I have the experience of working on the business side, if you will, of behavioral health and what I'm super excited and eager to learn about is the business side of the organizations and licensees that the LCB regulates. I'm interested in looking at how the businesses operate. I come from this as a partnership opportunity to help businesses thrive, while taking seriously the role and responsibility and the

mission of the organization around public safety. So, working together to advance the business side of things while making sure we're paying attention to the mission of the organization is really exciting to me. Again, although this behavioral health background that I have I think will be a great addition to the Board, I'm also a person who's naturally curious and I'm looking forward to meeting with the teams within the LCB and all the licensees and individuals in the community and getting to know everybody in the coming months.

Chair Postman: That's been one of the cool things for me is to get out and see the operations, and to do the ride-alongs with Enforcement, and getting to know some of the licensees myself and to see what they do. Particularly on the cannabis side, which is all so new as an industry and a science and everything else, it's just fascinating to see what work is being done out there. It's just really impressive.

Member Vollendroff: And it's evolving fast. Just looking at the history in the last ten years, it's just continuing to evolve.

Chair Postman: Yes, in the last year, even. I can tell you that when I came in last March and we were talking about "delta-8, delta-8", then all of a sudden, a couple months later, it was "no, it's delta-9, no, it's this" and now people are telling be that people are turning yeast into THC. It's just moving so fast.

Member Garrett: Right!

Chair Postman: And we need more research. UW and Washington State University both got a little bump in their funding for cannabis related research this last session. We were encouraged the other day – Rick and I were talking with Senator Keiser – she said the LCB should be in touch with the universities and tell them what you are looking for, what would help you. We're going to be able to add a little staff here, too, I believe. Keeping up with the science is – in any regulatory agency, particularly the new ones, because the industries have a lot more people than we do...

Member Vollendroff: Yes.

Chair Postman: ...focused on the work and developing new things. We have to play catch up. It's really hard. I remember covering telecommunications in the late 80's and early 90's, and it was the same dynamic. So much was developing so fast on the industry side, the regulators and the courts didn't even know what it was.

Member Vollendroff: That's another area where I feel like I bring at least some connections, if nothing else, with the UW in particular and the work they are doing around cannabis science and addiction science in general. There's a session on Friday called "Catching up on cannabis science" that's funded by the Garvey Institute for Brain Health Solutions – any time I know of those things, I'm happy to pass that information on and I look forward to bringing folks that can help us understand the science of all this to the table.

Chair Postman: Have you met with Mary Segawa yet?

Member Vollendroff: Mary and I are meeting later today or tomorrow.

Chair Postman: Did I cut you off, Ollie?

Member Garrett: No, I was just saying welcome again to Jim.

Member Vollendroff: Thank you. It's been great talking with both of you and getting to know you. I look forward to working with you both on these important issues.

Chair Postman: And, of course, we'll never speak again... [laughter] ... because now that you're a Board Member so we have to make sure that two of us never do business together unless we're in public.

Member Garrett: This is our once-a-week time to talk to each other.

Chair Postman: We'll find ways to get to know each other better, I'm sure. Let Dustin know if there's anything any of us can do to help, or if there is anything in particular that you want to do – one of the things we talked about is with all these different projects going on, what are the ones you are interested in and what is Ollie doing and what am I doing. As far as I'm concerned, we can mix that all up, too. Let's find time to talk with us and the public about those issues and how we want to do that. We need to talk at some point soon about the Advisory Councils and what we envision there and how to make those a going concern.

I really appreciate the energy you're bringing, Jim, it's great.

Member Vollendroff: That sounds really good. Dustin has been amazing – extremely helpful on-boarding, very organized. I've been very impressed with the process. I have on-boarded with several organizations and this is amongst the best, so that's been really great.

I was mentioning to Dustin this morning – I was reviewing the website over the weekend – there's a health and wellness group within the LCB that mentioned they were looking for members. That's something I may be interested in, internally, within the LCB. Health and wellness are an important part of my own personal recovery, my own personal journey, and so I'm always interested in physical health and activities like this. So, I may do something like that in the LCB. I'm looking both internally and externally for ways to connect and get to know folks.

Chair Postman: Good! You just ran the Boston Marathon, right?

Member Vollendroff: I did just run the Boston Marathon, yes. Second time.

Chair Postman: Oh, I didn't realize, wow...

Member Vollendroff: The good news is – I ran the first one in 2011, and the one I just ran I ran 14 minutes faster.

Chair Postman: So, when you say health and wellness is important, you're not kidding. That's really something. Ollie, I told Jim I was going to run the Boston Marathon this year but I didn't think the two of us should be in the same place at the same time [laughter] so maybe next year.

I think any of the internal committees or things of that sort, which I haven't been able to do, but that's something I should look at too, that would be great. I know the staff appreciate it when we're engaged that way too.

BOARD MEMBER AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT REPORTS

No additional reports.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.

Minutes approved this 5th day of November 2025

		Not Present
_____ Jim Vollendroff Board Chair	_____ Ollie Garrett Board Member	_____ Peter Holmes 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.
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