



Executive Management Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 1:30 pm

This meeting was held in a hybrid environment

Meeting Minutes

EMT ATTENDEES

Chair Jim Vollendroff
Member Ollie Garrett
Will Lukela, Agency Director
Toni Hood, Deputy Director
Marc Webster, Director of Legislative Relations
Kaitlin Bamba, Deputy Director of Operations
Larry Grant, Director of Enforcement & Education
Justin Nordhorn, Director of Policy & External Affairs
Brian Smith, Communications Director
Gretchen Frost, Executive Assistant to the Board
Gloria Hong, Special Assistant to the Director

GUESTS

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – MARC

Marc shared that the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee tour of cannabis businesses in Tacoma was cancelled, but one may be rescheduled sometime next year. Staff members are looking at how to bring Kratom under a regulated structure, which is a big topic around the country. Marc is still receiving questions about traceability, and LCB will present at JLARC again in early December. The Department of Agriculture is asking for funding for the cannabis lab accreditation work that they do.

LICENSING UPDATE – KAITLIN

Kaitlin reported that the volume of customer service calls has decreased in September, but the demand for Special Occasion Licenses remains consistent, with around 209 applications pending at this time. With the expanded alcohol services bill, staff have been doing a number of presentations and providing resources to potential licensees. The City of Lynnwood has lifted their cannabis ban, and there are currently four retail title certificate holders in Lynnwood.

ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION UPDATE – LARRY

Larry noted that his team just completed their in-service and professional development training, which included state-mandated training for the staff. There have been a lot of questions about the FDA contract, but it got signed and submitted before the federal government shut down. Currently

staff is not impacted by the shutdown because it is funded by user fees from the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. His team is continuing to focus on unlicensed establishments and is primarily advising local jurisdictions. Grant provided a hiring update. There are currently sixteen officer vacancies and five other open positions, with seven possible hires in progress.

POLICY UPDATE – JUSTIN

Justin reported that a lot of work is going on regarding prohibited practices both on the liquor and cannabis sides. Smaller retailers are feeling like they don't have the opportunity for competitive pricing. There are a lot of nuances in pricing, but discriminatory pricing is prohibited by law, with discriminatory being when a product is not offered to retailers in the local market on the same terms. Some of the regulations on the liquor side may be considered for rulemaking on the cannabis side. Uniform pricing is being considered on the cannabis side and the team is also looking at practices that are like anti-trust practices. If a retailer threatens not to purchase from a supplier that sells to their competitor, that forces undue influence and is an attempt to freeze out some of the newer or smaller retailers. That is a prohibited practice and the team is working to make it very clear in the regulations and possibly impose penalties because it is an intentional act.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE – BRIAN

Brian reported that media requests have generally been localized, but one request came from Yakima where they're taking a citizen's advisory vote on whether to end their ban of cannabis, and that story should be out soon. Brian is a member of a small team that has been helping support the divisions working on implementing Executive Order 25-06 and how it will be tracked. Annual Report notices have been sent out to the divisions to begin the process of pulling the Report together.

GENERAL AGENCY UPDATE AND INTRODUCTION -- TONI

Work continues on the LEEADS project, with the number of bugs decreasing, but there is still work to be done. Jessica is working on gathering the information required in order to comply with the Executive Orders 25-03 and 25-06. Our new Human Resources Director, Jonnita Thompson, starts October 16, and she brings years of experience from other state agencies. CFO Spencer Good has taken over executive sponsorship of the Tax & Fee Project, heading up a small steering committee.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – WILL

Will did a ride along in Seattle with a team from Enforcement and participated with Director Grant in Seattle University's Crime and Justice Advisory Committee, talking about current and potential

policies. He also participated in two panels at the University of Washington on cannabis policy, and the similarities and differences between Washington's and Colorado's cannabis policies.

ADDITIONAL TEAM UPDATES AND FINAL BOARD INQUIRIES

None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 Pm.

Minutes approved this 4th day of November 2025



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.
