

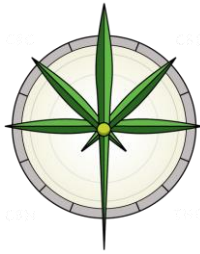
9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**CANNABIS**  
RESEARCH  
**CONFERENCE**

SENTINEL HOTEL  
OCTOBER 6-8, 2025  
PORTLAND, OREGON

EXPLORING  
NEW **CANNABIS**  
**RESEARCH** FRONTIERS

This PDF has been edited to include  
only one session of the conference.  
See full program book here.

PROGRAM BOOK



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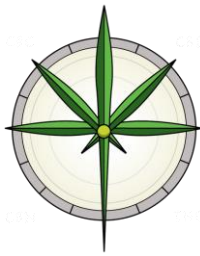
*ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, POLICY, AND REGULATION*

***BUDDING PARTNERSHIPS: CULTIVATING CANNABIS  
KNOWLEDGE THROUGH MULTI-SECTOR  
COLLABORATION***

***CHAIR: SARAH OKEY***

The historic relationship between cannabis policymakers, researchers, industry, and public health has experienced both tension and hurdles. However, the rapidly changing cannabis landscape requires stronger collaboration and partnerships to continue keeping communities safe while allowing the legal market to flourish. Today, policymakers value evidence-based decision making, researchers need government support to advance scientific knowledge, and public health and industry members recognize they share common values towards improving responsible use and well-being.

This session explored success stories where collaborative initiatives among varied sectors have supported cannabis research, policy decisions, industry trends, and public health efforts. This session additionally highlighted continued barriers for collaboration, such as regulatory hurdles, funding limitations, and communication gaps. Pathways to continue fostering more productive partnerships were also discussed. The session was chaired by Dr. Sarah Okey, lead researcher at the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board.



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**0074 - FROM TOXIC TRENDS TO THOUGHTFUL ACTION: LEVERAGING  
INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION AND POISON CENTER DATA TO ADVANCE  
INFORMED DECISION MAKING**

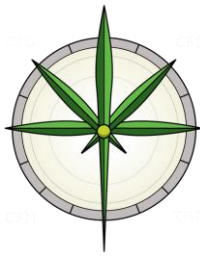
TYLER WATSON, NICK GLODOSKY, JIMMY LEONARD, ALEX SIROTZKI, SARAH OKEY

***SESSION: BUDDING PARTNERSHIPS: CULTIVATING CANNABIS KNOWLEDGE  
THROUGH MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION***

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 10:30 AM - 10:55 AM | ROOM LIBRARY, FLOOR 2**

The rapidly evolving landscape of cannabis use presents a complex challenge for state regulatory agencies, which encompass regulated markets with continued industry product expansions, unregulated markets (e.g., illicit markets), and grey markets (e.g., intoxicating hemp cannabinoids through the farm bill). Effectively navigating this dynamic environment demands a responsive, data-informed approach to ensure that state agencies and local jurisdictions can intervene swiftly and strategically. Poison control centers serve as vital public health surveillance systems and are uniquely positioned to capture real-time data on substance use, adverse events, unintentional exposures, and emerging hazards. To help inform statewide policy decisions, the Washington state liquor and cannabis board (LCB) collaborated with the Washington poison center (WAPC) to acquire a comprehensive dataset that captures 10 years of poison center calls related to cannabis and hemp products. The goal of this collaboration is to strengthen informed, effective rulemaking for the state and to allow various stakeholders to tailor programs based on their unique community needs.

This presentation summarized state- and national-level trends in poison call data related to the cannabis and hemp-derived products. The presentation explored tools (e.g., interactive dashboards) that the LCB research program is developing to identify emerging substances of concern and track trends over time. In addition, the presentation shared the long-term strategic vision for this collaboration with WAPC to help close the gap between public health surveillance data and policy in Washington state, and lessons learned from this collaborative effort. Finally, the presentation described the importance of collaboration to ensure that Washington state has informed regulatory decision-making processes and equitable public health data insights into substance use trends and product safety.



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**0089 - SHARED UNDERSTANDING: EXPLORING BUDTENDER PRACTICES  
THROUGH RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION**  
NICK GLODOSKY, TYLER WATSON, SARAH OKEY

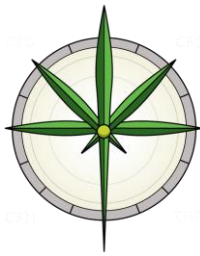
***SESSION: BUDDING PARTNERSHIPS: CULTIVATING CANNABIS KNOWLEDGE  
THROUGH MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION***

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 12:15 PM - 12:40 PM | ROOM LIBRARY, FLOOR 2**

More adults have access to legal cannabis than ever before. Most people who purchase cannabis in retail stores rely on budtenders to help them make decisions about what products to purchase. However, little is currently known about what information budtenders use to make decisions when purchasing cannabis themselves, what roles they see themselves occupying in the decision-making process for their customers, and to what extent they are open to further education. For government agencies and researchers, retail cannabis workers can be a hard-to-reach population due to quick employee turnover rates, historical government and public health distrust, and more. Innovative collaborative efforts are needed to build trust and insight into this group that regularly interacts and informs cannabis use among the adult-use population.

This presentation focused on a series of collaborative efforts focused on expanding scientific and regulatory understanding of cannabis retail workers by the Washington state liquor and cannabis board. The discussion first reviewed techniques used to broaden the reach of participation into the retail cannabis space. Then, the presentation shared recently published findings as well as novel results from several collaborative initiatives. With expertise in translational psychology, Dr. Nick Glodosky described the importance of continued research collaboration and education to advance both public health efforts and legal cannabis market growth.





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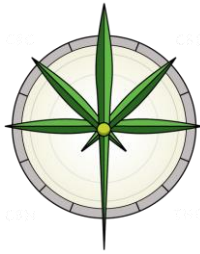
**0024 - BUILDING BRIDGES: A STRATEGY FOR BRINGING TOGETHER PUBLIC HEALTH AND CANNABIS INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS**  
KRISTEN HALEY, SARAH OKEY

***SESSION: BUDDING PARTNERSHIPS: CULTIVATING CANNABIS KNOWLEDGE THROUGH MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION***

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 12:45 PM - 1:10 PM | ROOM LIBRARY, FLOOR 2**

The relationship between public health and cannabis stakeholders can be difficult to navigate. These group dynamics can be tense for numerous reasons, which can lead government agencies to hold disparate and siloed conversations which then stymie growth and delay necessary policy change. The rapidly changing cannabis landscape requires new and creative collaborations to bring together these historically distinct stakeholders.

This presentation discussed a first of its kind public health and cannabis industry workgroup hosted by the public health education liaison at the Washington state liquor and cannabis board. This workgroup focused on the potential risks associated with high-THC with the goal to identify realistic solutions through rules, legislation, and other programs. Presenter Kristen Haley is a renowned public health expert with over 15 years' experience working at the community- and state- level centering her work around increasing audience and partner engagement. She discussed practical strategies for initiating and sustaining collaborations, gathering actionable feedback, and reaching consensus among many competing interests. The session concluded with ideas for continuing to grow cannabis partnerships into the future.



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**0003 - BUILDING KNOWLEDGE FROM THE GROUND UP: COMMUNITY  
PERSPECTIVES ON CANNABIS LEGISLATION AND ITS IMPACTS**

DIANA AUGUSTIN, NAJMA DAHIR-ABDULLA, RHONDA JONES-WEBB, KYLE HILL

***SESSION: BUDDING PARTNERSHIPS: CULTIVATING CANNABIS KNOWLEDGE  
THROUGH MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION***

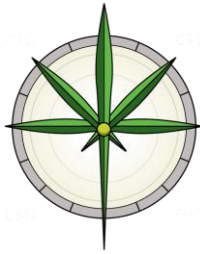
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 9:30 AM - 9:55 AM | ROOM LIBRARY, FLOOR 2**

In 2023, Minnesota became one of the latest U.S. states to legalize recreational cannabis use. While legalization has opened the door for economic and health policy reform, its impact on historically marginalized communities—particularly American Indian and African American populations—remains understudied. These communities have been disproportionately impacted by past cannabis criminalization, yet their perspectives are often excluded from research and policy discussions. This study seeks to understand community perceptions of cannabis legalization, with a focus on cultural significance, applications to health and wellness, economic opportunities, and social equity.

The cannabis research center at the university of Minnesota is conducting a series of focus groups with American Indian and African American adults (aged 21 and older) living in Minnesota. Focus groups are held in both virtual and in-person formats, with participant recruitment carried out through partnerships with trusted community organizations and targeted outreach. Each group includes 6–9 participants and is stratified by race/ethnicity, age, gender, and location to ensure diverse representation. Facilitators guide discussions using a semi-structured protocol covering topics such as cultural norms around cannabis, perceived health and social impacts of legalization, and views on emerging cannabis-related policies. Sessions are audio recorded (with participant consent), transcribed, and will undergo thematic analysis using an inductive coding process to identify key themes aligned with the study's research questions.

As this is an ongoing study, final results are not yet available. However, preliminary discussions suggest a wide range of perspectives shaped by historical context, generational attitudes, and varying levels of trust in cannabis policy reform. Participants are raising concerns about equitable access to the legal cannabis industry and lingering stigma rooted in prior criminalization.

This project centers community voices with the ultimate aim of informing more equitable and culturally responsive cannabis policies in Minnesota. Findings will contribute to public discourse and policy development by highlighting the lived experiences, concerns, and aspirations of American Indian and African American residents. Results will be shared through community briefings, academic publications, and stakeholder engagement efforts.



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**0008 - CONNECTING FIELDS TO MARKETS: USING FTOT TO MAP HEMP SUPPLY CHAINS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**  
PING HUNG HSIEH

***SESSION: BUDDING PARTNERSHIPS: CULTIVATING CANNABIS KNOWLEDGE THROUGH MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION***

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 10:00 AM - 10:25 AM | ROOM LIBRARY, FLOOR 2**

As the industrial hemp market matures, building an efficient and scalable supply chain has become essential to supporting growers, processors, and downstream consumers. Yet, few tools are available to help stakeholders evaluate transportation logistics and infrastructure needs specific to hemp. This case study presents a collaboration between a regional hemp production company and a university-based research team to explore how transportation modeling tools can inform strategic planning in emerging hemp markets.

The project employed the freight and fuel transportation optimization tool (FTOT), developed by the U.S. department of transportation, to simulate hemp logistics scenarios across Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Using real-world data provided by the company, researchers incorporated field locations, processing facility constraints, and market destinations into FTOT to model a range of potential supply chain strategies. The tool integrated geospatial data with routing algorithms to identify optimal transportation flows, assess infrastructure limitations, and evaluate cost trade-offs under multiple network configurations.

In this session, FTOT scenario results focused on transportation cost and infrastructure access constraints for scaling hemp production will be presented. The impact of critical logistics and facility planning decisions on cost and supply chain resilience, such as the relative advantages of centralized processing versus distributed processing, will be demonstrated through a set of FTOT scenarios. The analysis will also highlight the importance of multimodal access (road and rail) in minimizing freight cost volatility over longer distances. FTOT's visual and quantitative outputs support decision-making around facility location selection and provide insight into how regional production shifts affect network efficiency. This collaborative effort demonstrates how applied modeling tools can bridge academic research and industry needs, offering a replicable framework to guide supply chain development in the evolving hemp sector.

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ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-  
FORT COLLINS



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RESEARCH PROGRAM MANAGER  
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