



Board Caucus Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 10:00 am
This meeting was held in a hybrid environment

Meeting Minutes

CAUCUS ATTENDEES

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

GUESTS

Rick Garza, Director
Justin Nordhorn, Policy and External Affairs Director

At 10:00 am, Dustin Dickson announced that the meeting lobbies were open, and the recording had begun.

At 10:00 am, Chair Postman convened the meeting.

NATIONAL CANNABIS REGULATORS ASSOCIATION (CANNRA)

Rick Garza, Director, Ollie Garrett, Board Member, Jim Vollendroff Board Member, Justin Nordhorn, Policy and External Affairs Director

Rick Garza: Sure. Thank you. So, as you know, we met last week, there were 32 states present, but 160 attendees, and many of our staff had roles in presenting on panels. One of the things I wanted to do, because I was thinking we'd do it at the next EMT because I didn't give people much time, it's because we got folks that were there that are not in EMT. So, I would like everyone that was present to come to the next EMT and kind of present what was the number one thing you gained from the conference specifically. So that you can kind of hear and everyone can hear, because it was a really full two days' worth of information.

Chair Postman: You mean EMT tomorrow?

Rick Garza: No, I was thinking the next one, David, so I give people time to consider what they would like to bring back to share with everyone. I mean, I could do it that way. Jim, and Ollie, you were there, whatever you think. But I can just quickly share that Justin was part of a panel on structural factors and markets, basically, looking at the way that different states put their markets together, some vertically integrated some not, some with caps, some not, what are the implications of that. And so, I thought it was really one of the more interesting panels and Justin spoke to our experience. Then the next one was a cannabinoid hemp update from the states and, and Kathy Hoffman was on that panel. All the states, as we have talked about, are struggling with what to do. That all comes back to the Farm Bill. Toward the end of the

discussion, there was a belief that, 'you know, what we need to do as CANNRA, the Cannabis Regulators Association, is we need to be involved in working with the Congress on that Farm Bill that is going to be reauthorized and see if we can help have any impact in changing and clarifying the hemp provision that created all the problems that we have today.' So there seemed to be widespread belief that that's something that the individual states are struggling to find an answer to, we are all doing it a little bit differently. We need to redo that hemp provision in the Farm Bill. And then Penny Allen, one of our assistant AGs, in the afternoon was on a panel that talked about litigation in case law updates, what is happening in many of the states really interesting discussion there. Then at the end of the day, Josh Bolender, our captain in Enforcement, was part of a panel with other states talking about, how do you deal with violations and sanctions? Why and when do you cancel licenses? And I thought that it was an interesting discussion with one of our staff. Then the next day, Josh, when was on another panel, "Best Practices for Field Surveys and Inspections," compliance, do you use your decoy operations, many of the things that we have been doing for years on the alcohol space that we are now doing in the cannabis space, and there was Jason Hansen from Oregon, who is the co-chair of that committee, was the person who moderated that panel. That was interesting. So, we had Justin, Kathy, Josh, and Penny on several panels, and so I will stop there, and like I said, we will come back with the team and share individually what we gained from the conference. I will stop there.

Member Garrett: I missed the entire first day because I was traveling, I was on the way there. So, it sounds like in talking to folks once I got there that evening, I think that's great what Rick just suggested, because they were filling me in on a lot of things that had taken place on day one and the conversations and things. The first CANNRA conference I went to, and I think it was in Boston, and it was actually just a pretty much U-shaped round-the-room type. At that time, that's how small it was, because there was based on the states there was already legal and some looking to get legal. So, to see how it had grown to over 32 states, and the number of attendees, I thought it was impressive to see how CANNRA has grown, and to listen to all of the states talk about the different ways that they are doing things and the things that they are doing. The first one on Wednesday morning that I sat through and listening to some states talking about their packaging, and what their packaging looks like, and I think somebody said they started out with everything had to be black and white or something like that but just to see how people start out, how they evolve, and take a look to say, well, this did not work, that did not work. Why there was necessary. One of the things that Becky and I were listening to is when they were saying the importance of having a chemist on staff, and on and on. It's little things that you don't think of that you pick up at those conferences, of why certain things are in place and the importance of those things. So, that was really good to see and hear the networking and talking to folks from other states. One of the things and everyone I went up to, I just said, 'What are you doing as far as social equity, how is your social equity?' It's still the same. Nobody has gotten it right or got it at all. I think even though we are late getting in with social equity, we are still far ahead of the other states by having a program now that we are putting in place. So, that was interesting. I have a lot of follow up conversations with folks that want to hear more about our social equity program and what it is we are doing. But I am anxious to hear from our staff on the meetings that I missed because even on Wednesday between having to leave and not

attend because of Board meeting, and then later that day, I had a three hour social equity meeting, the cannabis taskforce meeting, that took me away from some of the things, but I was able to go back, meet people and network and ask questions.

Member Vollendroff: Yeah, and I will just add, I think that having staff who are present speak to us at Executive Management Team (EMT) is a great idea. I think, in fact, we should do that anytime somebody goes to a national conference, is to come back and report so we can learn. One of the values, I think, for me was that it reinforces some of the things we are already doing well, and we are teaching other states from our own experience, and I think there is a lot of value in that and relationship building. But we also learned a whole lot from the sessions that we attended, things that we can consider. One that I really liked was a discussion from Illinois, where they talked about person-centered policymaking. And it really is around social equity, and they invest 20% of their tax revenues back into the community, particularly communities that have been impacted by the War on Drugs. My question to them was, well, can that be extended to other communities that also have also been impacted? Because I do believe we need to reinvest in communities with some of the tax revenue. So, communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs, recovery communities, youth and young adults, etc. So, just some really good conversation. I also sat in on one, it was actually a plenary on standards in lab testing and product safety that was extremely interesting. And that is the one where Ollie mentioned already, where they talked about our staff, and what type of staff we should have on in terms of chemists and folks who can help us develop some of these policies. It was excellent, and I am a big proponent of staff attending national conferences for the purpose of networking and hearing and learning what is happening around the country but also sharing what we do here locally.

Chair Postman: Yeah, for sure. Part of it is what LCB does is pretty unique. And as you both said, we are far out ahead of it. So just the ability to talk to other people who know what we are doing is valuable for people. Also, we hear often, and I know other states do, people were always pointing to the other state, 'well, why don't you do what they do?' Or 'everything is going great in this state.' And then you go, and you get to hear what's behind that story. But I find that valuable, too. So, good. I am glad you went. I see Justin's here and I think we should definitely do what Rick suggested, but Justin, since you're there, could I ask you one question about that market structures panel that that you were on? What was your takeaway? Was there a sense of, one that is working better than others? Is there a market structure that people are evolving to, perhaps? What is your takeaway from that?

Justin Nordhorn: No. So, as we were presenting on the infrastructure components, it was kind of a compare and contrast in some regards. New York is modeling their program after very similar to our program, but there are pros and cons to whether you are a three-tier model, or you are vertical integration [model]. And I think, when people are looking at some of the questions that came out as part of that particular panel had to do with looking forward, how is this going to be impacted on the federalization issues? What about medical cannabis? Some of those types of equations come in, and so when we look at the structures that are in place, are you going to be able to help your current licensees try to be successful once it opens up broader? Or are we

going to see large companies' kind of come in and do things? So how are we positioned? Is the three-tier model in a good position to be able to assist in a number of ways, and what kind of limitations are there as well? So, it's really more around exploring how did we get to where we are at? What kind of factors come into play? We went through many iterations, in the conversation since 2012, that really play a part in this, and so we were able to kind of showcase that New York, again, is trying to mirror some of that. Illinois was on the panel, they do things a bit differently, and I think a lot of the medical states are still doing things a little bit differently as well. So, it will be interesting with, not to go into too much detail here, but between the infrastructure conversation and the standards conversation, when you are talking about what states are doing, those two are going to play an important role together as this thing moves forward, because how are states going to be able to interact with each other if standards are different, and those types of things. So, I think that is really something we need to look at.

Member Vollendroff: This is another topic. So, I just wanted to [cuts out briefly] I didn't get to attend, but I did follow up with some of the folks who attended, and it was on using data to inform regulations, and from the conversations I had with people on that it was sounded very interesting. One of the areas that I am really interested in is, how do we use data and research to advance policy and to evaluate whether programs and decisions that we are making are in fact, achieving the outcome that we intend or the intended outcomes? It was just really interesting, and there are states that have research sections within their agency, and I am really interested in furthering those conversations and looking at how do we use data and research and evaluation within the LCB in the future?

Chair Postman: Yeah, good point. Mary Segawa and I met with Public Health and Prevention folks yesterday, and one of the things they said was, the best sort of way to keep, we are talking mostly about cannabis, but all our products out of hands of children, starts with good policy. It is not just an education program or science, right? It really is that programmatic thing and Jim, you engaged in a conversation with those researchers we had about that. I thought they gave us good feedback of our basic sort of foundational policies on these things, but we need to look at what we can do. We had some good ideas yesterday, too, that I think we are going to follow up on. So, one thing I wonder from any view was what is the over under on federal action on legalization or decriminalization? Anybody there think it is imminent? Rick, did you hear from your guys there?

Rick Garza: Well, I did not hear anything more. I think people were so frustrated that the Banking Act, the Safe Banking Act did not move, that people thought 'My goodness, if we cannot even get that to move, then how will we get the Congress to really take seriously legalization?' So honestly, I did not, unless some of you heard something different, there was not a whole lot of encouragement there or expectation that the feds are going to move quickly. It was more, we have got these issues like hemp cannabinoids out there, and how do we address that state by state? And how do we get the Congress to at least work that now that authorization is up? But I think David, there was not a whole lot of discussion, because I do not think people are really encouraged that something is going to happen soon.

Chair Postman: Yeah, that makes sense. Okay. Great. Well, I am glad you all were there, and I look forward to the staff presentations that you suggested, Rick, and CANNRA probably wouldn't be what it is without what Rick and a few other pioneers did. So, it looks like it is really paying off, Rick. Nice job on that, and someday, I will try to attend one of those, it would be good.

BOARD MEMBER AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT REPORTS

Chair Postman: The only thing we have left is a Board member and Executive Assistant report, and I do just want to talk a little bit about our schedule, since the three of us cannot talk about these things otherwise. But if staff says they don't have anything we need to act on between now and January, that really means we do not need a Board Meeting, which then there is no Caucus then to prep for those. At this point, I think we should cancel the Board Meeting next week, which is the 21, and the Caucus the next two weeks. After tomorrow's EMT, essentially, we would have no meetings until the first of the year, but I wanted to hear from both of you to make sure you did not have anything you were hoping we would cover or take action on before the end of the year.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 am.

Minutes approved this 7th day of January 2026



Jim Vollendroff
Board Chair



Ollie Garrett
Board Member



Peter Holmes
Board Member

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

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