

Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

# **Education Program Update**

Matt McCallum



# 2023

- Creation of the Education Program
  - Creation of Education Manager reporting to Cannabis Captain
  - Creation of Noncommissioned Consultant Supervisors (one on the east side of the state, one on the west)
  - Consultants no longer report to commissioned staff
  - Education Specialist and Advertising Coordinator moved under program
  - Increased number of Cannabis Consultants
  - FTE received for social equity licensee work
- Adjusting workflow, policy/procedure
  - Final inspection
  - Tax reporting



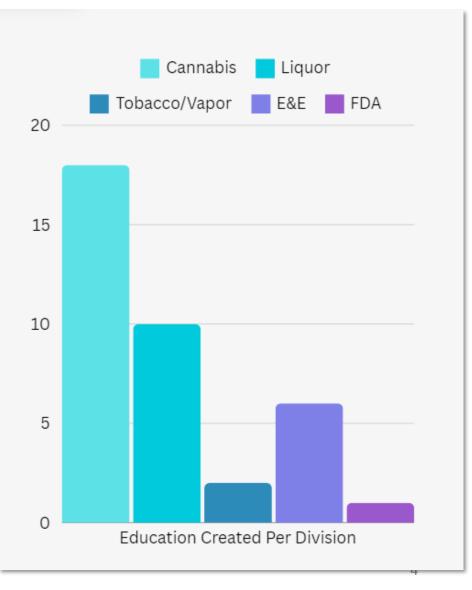
# 2024

- Reorganization of the Education Program
  - Education Manager reclassified: WMS 1 to WMS 2
  - Education Program moved under DC of Administration
  - FTE received from Cannabis Waste Bill upgraded to a 3<sup>rd</sup> cannabis Consultant Supervisor
  - Conversion of vacant LEO positions to 4 Liquor Consultant positions (please note 3 MIW consultant positions not included under Education Program)
  - Transfer process was created and utilized for Consultant positions



### **Education Specialist**

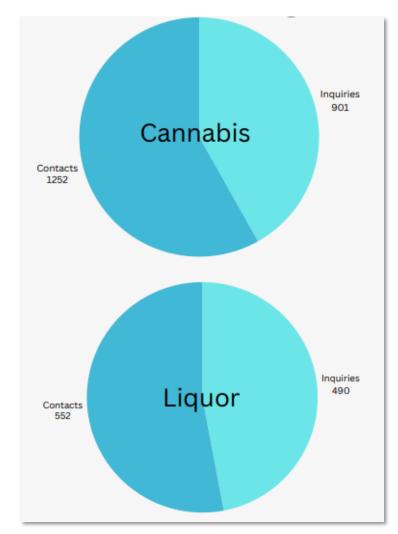
- Creates External Education for Licensees
- Coordinates with other divisions and communications
- Education creation for all Enforcement and Education units
- Examples include:
  - Compliance Guides
  - Enforcement Bulletins
  - Presentations
  - Newsletters
  - Graphics
  - Law and Rule Enforcement Guides





### **Advertising Coordinator**

- Manages MIW inbox
- Liquor Sweepstakes proposals
- Liquor Rebate proposals
- Appealing to youth complaints
- Signage issues
- General advertising inquiries and complaints
- Works closely with licensing on packaging and labeling
- Officer and licensee inquiries
- SME for Enforcement's review of proposed legislation on advertising
- Prohibited practice SME
- Investigative packets of media evidence for investigations





### **Cannabis Consultants**

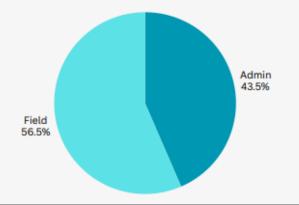
- Cannabis Premises Checks
  - Final Inspections
  - Annual Inspections
  - Alterations Inspections
- Consultation Visits
- Responsible Sales Classes
- Licensee Support
- Education and Outreach
- Non-public safety complaints
- Tax reporting support
- Notices to Correct (NTC's)
- Daily EN reporting
- Monthly data reporting

### **FY24**

#### **Consultant Data**

Notice to Correct	807
Violations Addressed via NTC	1,335
Violations Escalated	31
Annual Inspections	777
Final Inspections	333
Final Inspections Returned to Licensing	29
Premises Checks	3,323







## Liquor Compliance Consultants

- Liquor Compliance Consultants will provide technical assistance and education in support of the state's licensed liquor industry.
- Consultants will work with licensees and/or permit holders to understand applicable rules and laws to stay in compliance to avoid potential enforcement action, such as fines or other consequences.
- Initial Duties Include:
  - Stakeholder outreach
  - Responsible Liquor Sales (RLS) training
  - Annual inspections
  - Responsible Vendor Program (RVP) premises checks
  - Identifying liquor licensed locations that have not applied to RVP and providing education on how to enroll
  - Expired licenses
  - NTC's
  - Minor complaint education and assistance
  - Delinquent or missing reports
  - Alteration photos and measurements



# **Training Process**

### 8 Week field training program:

- One week with supervisor
- Three weeks with commissioned police officers
- Three weeks with experienced compliance consultant
- Final week with supervisor

### Training reporting:

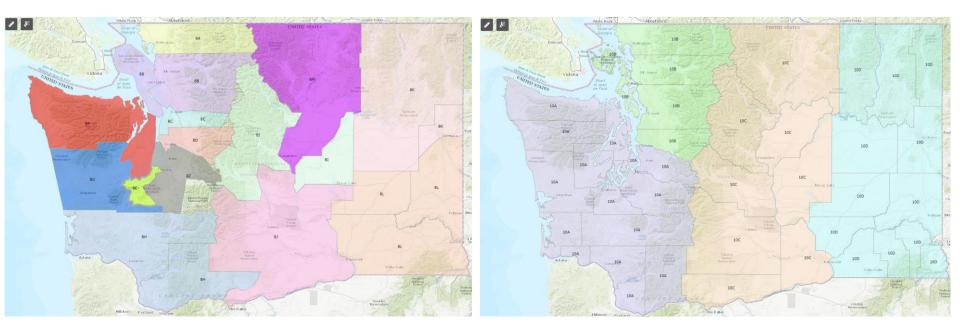
- Daily observation reports
- Weekly rates of progress
- Training checklist and tests
- Coordination with training team
- Trainer, supervisor, manager, and DC review



### **Region Maps**

#### **Cannabis Consultant Areas**

#### **Liquor Consultant Areas**





## Notice to Correct

- RCW 69.50.562(1)(a)
- WAC 314-55-502 describes what needs to be included on the NTC form
  - Detailed description of the noncompliant condition
  - The text of the applicable rule
  - A statement of what is needed to achieve compliance
  - The date by which the bard requires compliance to be achieved
  - Notice of the means to contact any technical assistance services provided by the board or others
  - Notice of when, where, and to whom a request to extend the time to achieve compliance for good cause may be filed with the board
- Consultants do not write warnings of any kind

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## Complaints

### **Internal Complaints**

- Reports from the Finance Audit team
- Monthly tax report from finance
- Expired license report
- Failures in QA testing or Random Sampling that are below "action levels"

### **External Complaints**

- Complaints from licensees that are not public safety related
- Licensees checking with Enforcement about proposals from other licensees or businesses
- Former employees of retail licensees
- Assigned to Education staff
- Determine if complaint has enough information to write an NTC or not
- Visit licensees in person and discuss the complaint
- If clear a violation exists, and NTC is issued
- If unclear education is provided that is identical to what would be with an NTC



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## Questions?