Washington State
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Deliberative Dialogue Session 2
Concerning Evaluation of THC Compounds:
Cannabis Plant Chemistry

July 20, 2021 – 1:00PM – 4:00PM

Via WebEx Only

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Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board
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Olympia WA 98502

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Overall meeting goal: To continue to build an understanding of cannabis plant chemistry perspectives.

Today's dialogue intentions:

- Provide a continued platform for panelists to share and discuss plant chemistry perspective;
- Increase opportunity for genuine, respectful moderated dialogue between all participants; and
- Begin dialogue that may be used to inform evaluation of THC compound rule and policy development.

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Why are we here?

- LCB issued a Policy Statement #PS-21-01 concerning THC compounds other than delta-9 on April 28, 2021.
- LCB began rule development by way of inquiry on May 12, 2021; inquiry was expanded on July 7, 2021.
- LCB would like to continue discussion concerning cannabis plant chemistry to inform rule development.

How will data be collected, shared, and presented to decision makers?

- Comments received will be added to an Excel workbook, organized by theme, and analyzed.
- Comments will be presented to the Board for review and discussion.
- LCB will share recordings and comment tables externally.

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Meeting Protocol

Participant Roles:

- Panelist
- Moderator
- Participant/listener

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What is Deliberative Dialogue?

- *" Deliberative dialogue differs from other forms of public discourse — such as debate, negotiation, brainstorming, consensus-building — because the objective is not so much to talk together as to **think together**, not so much to reach a conclusion as to discover where a conclusion might lie. Thinking together involves **listening deeply to other points of view**, **exploring new ideas** and perspectives, **searching for points of agreement**, and **bringing unexamined assumptions into the open**."*

See http://www.resolutioncollaborative.com/deliberative-dialogue/

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How is deliberative dialogue different from debate?

Deliberative dialogue versus debate

DELIBERATIVE DIALOGUE	DEBATE
Collaborative	Oppositional
Common ground	Points of divergence
Listening to find meaning	Listening to find flaws
Listening to find agreement	Listening to find points to argue
Openness to being wrong	Determination to be right
Weighing alternatives	Winning
Assumes that others have pieces of the answer and all can find it together	Assumes there is a right answer and someone has it
Involves concern for the other person	Involves countering others

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Dialogue Protocol

What are the ground rules for deliberative dialogue?

- The purpose of dialogue is to understand and learn from one another (you cannot "win" a dialogue).
- This is not a debate; we are not seeking points of divergence, listening to find flaws, or points to argue.
- There is no "right" answer.
- All dialogue participants speak for themselves; not as representatives of others' interests.
- In dialogue, everyone is treated as an equal; leave status and stereotypes at the door.
- Be open and listen to others, especially when you disagree. Suspend judgment.
- Identify and test assumptions – even your own.
- *Listen carefully and respectfully to the views of others; acknowledge you have heard the other, especially when you disagree.*
- Look for common ground.
- Respect all points of view.
- **The moderators objectively guides the discussion.**
- **During the meeting, please direct questions concerning technological concerns to staff, not the moderator.**
- Since this is a public work session, anything shared has the potential to become part of a public record.

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Dialogue Protocol

Dialogue Format

- Panel introduction: Each panelist will briefly introduce themselves.
- Moderated panel discussion/dialogue. Participants listen.
- Moderated participant questions and panel responses.
  - Use the hand-raise feature to indicate you have a question;
  - Participants will be called on in the order received.

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Who is Here?

In the chat box, please share:

- Your name
- Who you are affiliated with or represent (if comfortable sharing)
- Why you are interested in this topic

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Panelist Introductions

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Moderated Panel Question and Discussion

1. What are the three general categories of cannabinoids?

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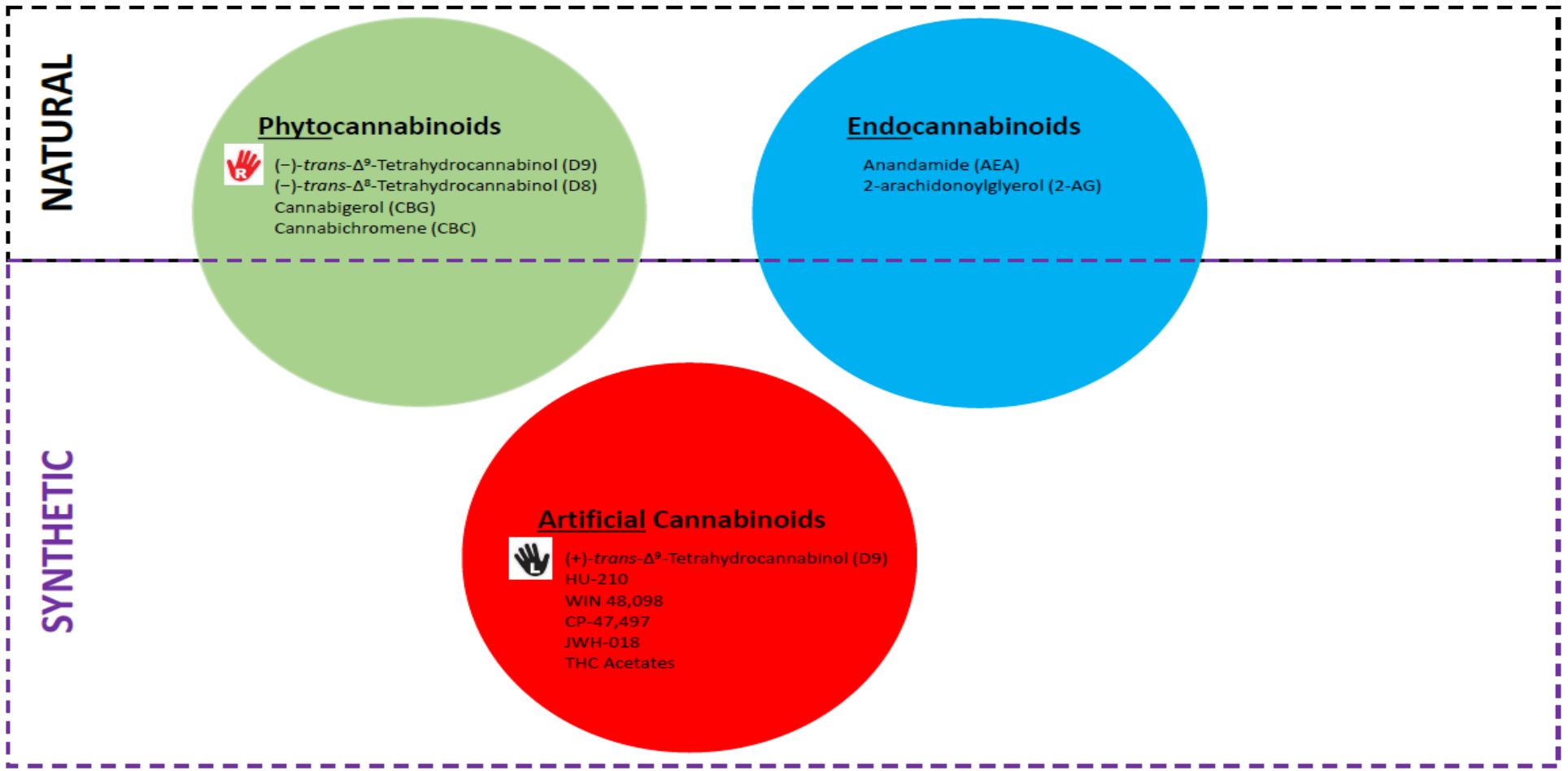

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Moderated Panel Question and Discussion

2. Is there a way to determine which cannabinoids are impairing and to make relative comparisons between different cannabinoids (both exogenous and endogenous)?

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Moderated Panel Question and Discussion

3. Do you think consumers should be informed whether a product has undergone a chemical synthesis?

4. What is the safety of the chemicals being used? Literature describes the use of sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, methylene chloride, benzene, toluene, toluenesulfonic acid (p-TSA), and other chemicals.

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Participant Question Session

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From Kent Haehl, Monday, July 19, 2021, 2:21PM

1. Hemp-derived THC is analytically identical (when tested in a state certified testing lab) as THC from other extraction methods because it is the same molecule. Correct? It is simply the same thing created with a new method.

1. In Washington for a licensed Producer to compliantly enhance an existing marijuana product with CBD the CBD Isolate is required to be tested for pesticides and heavy metals twice. By contrast all other marijuana products in Washington are NOT required to pass a mandatory pesticide and heavy metals test. Wouldn’t that make enhanced products the safest products in i502?

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From Rusty Sutterland, Monday July 19, 2021, 2:58PM:

1. When considering Hemp Sourced THC my understanding is that there are two major concerns.

    Safety of the product
    Competitive nature to marijuana derived THC.

2. If there was no safety concern, then would new innovations such as the Hemp Sourced THC be allowed? While (-) trans Delta 9 THC is the predominant THC stereoisomer found in cannabis, there are also other Delta 9 THC stereo isomers that can be found in cannabis. It has been studied that the stereoisomers are 100 times less potent than the predominant (-) trans Delta 9 THC. Will both Marijuana and Hemp sourced THC need to be stereoisomer tested even though the other stereoisomers are 100 times less potent?

3. Dronabinol which is a pharma grade THC product is not a "synthetic" THC such as the designer drugs like Spice and K2 but a true THC molecule made from an organic synthesis process. –However, it is not Hemp or plant derived. The pharmaceutical drug Dronabinol contains the same stereo isomers that have been previously discussed as points of concern. Does anyone know what is the concentration of the stereo isomers in Dronabinol?

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From Blade Boden, Monday July 19, 2021, 2:58PM:

1. Several states are in the process of approving or have already created a regulatory framework for hemp-derived THC. With national legalization on the horizon and interstate commerce soon to be a reality what should Washington be doing to embrace this innovation and regulate it?

2. If the argument is being made that there are potential "unknowns" in Hemp-derived THC products, the same argument can also be made that there are potential "unknowns" within other more commonly known extractions to produce THC products. How does one effectively regulate one version of the same compound (delta-9 THC) to a greater degree than traditional extraction methods with a greater percentage of “unknowns” relative to total cannabinoids?

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From Mark Tegen, Monday July 19, 2021, 3:08PM:

1. A lot of people get confused or do not understand the difference between “Hemp Sourced” THC and “Synthetic” THC. “Synthetic THC” is the historical term that was originally meant to describe designer drugs that mimic cannabinoids but that are not THC. This includes K2 and spice and other designer drugs. To avoid confusion can the term “Hemp Sourced” be used when referencing the conversion of hemp or CBD to THC instead of “synthetic THC”?

2. Analytical laboratories always have a standard deviation in their measurements. From numerous conversations I have had it seems that a typical cannabis laboratory will have a potency standard deviation of plus or minus 5%. Therefore, if a pure oil that was truly 100% cannabinoids was analyzed then it would be reasonable to expect results that range from 95-105% total cannabinoids. If a hemp sourced THC was analyzed and the total cannabinoid concentration was also between 95-105% THC then would this be considered an acceptable value to bring to market? If not, then what would be an acceptable value?

3. The analysis of cannabis oil derived THC from Marijuana plants typically does not add up to >95% quantifiable material. Is there a goal to identify and quantitate these other unknown components?

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Wrap up

Next steps

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Questions?

Contact Kathy Hoffman, Policy and Rules Manager
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Thank you!