

OCC Research Leadership Subcommittee

Report to July 28, OCC quarterly meeting

The following report is a brief summary of items the research leadership subcommittee's work.

Following on Recommendation #3 of the 2019 Report to the Legislature, the subcommittee has refined the Reference Lab Recommendation which is before you today for your review and consideration for approval in forwarding to the relevant and listed parties.

The subcommittee has also heard presentations from the Ethical Data Alliance on block chain medical records and data storage to provide added security from access or sharing unless authorized, and from Clifford Spencer on his service to patients in long-term residential care facilities due to a debilitating and/or disability. Both presentations provided new information for the subcommittee to consider including monitoring the development of medical data information systems and how they affect cannabis patients and insight into working with licensed health care facilities that receive federal funding and/or grants.

The subcommittee had conversations about the university systems in Washington and California that have well defined policy around cannabis research. These can be used as models to address how to fashion research around the issue of the schools receiving federal funding or grants. These policies provide clear guidance for research projects that are already in progress at nearly every campus in both states and is not as clearly defined within Oregon.

Following this conversation and additional discussions the need for a research consortium and the Oregon Cannabis Commissions role in such a consortium led to initial work on a concept for creating a network of cannabis researchers. While still in the early discussion phase, this consortium could provide a space for a shared a network of vetted researchers who meet certain ethical standards.

The subcommittee has also discussed creating a state public health program Investigational New Drug (IND) program for medical cannabis patients. The concept would create a model where those registered with the OMMP may opt to participate in the research program at the state level, switching from a compliance/enforcement-based model to a model based on patient outcome. All patient transfer activity, grow site management techniques and production data could be routed to a different data reporting system.

The Research Leadership Subcommittee is also exploring assuming the role of providing current research and data resources for the OHA. The subcommittee will be analyzing the work produced by OHA's Retail Marijuana Scientific Advisory Committee which examined and made recommendations from a public health and safety perspective of guidelines for safe use of cannabis following legalization.