

Retail Marijuana Scientific Advisory Committee

Public Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2015

In Attendance: Andris Antoniskis MD, Dennis McCarty PhD, Heather Zwickey PhD, Jane Ishmael PhD, Julia Dilley PhD, Kathleen Carlson MS PhD, Marcus Watt RPh, Mike Van Dyke PhD CIH, Richard Farmer PhD, Tim McAfee MD MPH, Katrina Hedberg MD MPH, Bruce Gutelius MD MPH

Guests: Lillian Shirley, Public Health Director

Staff: Dawn Quitugua, Gabriela Tanaka, Michael Tynan, Jonathan Modie, Steve Wagner, Pamela Martin, Gabriella Luther

Committee member introductions

Purpose

- Provide scientific input that will inform public health division recommendations related to retail marijuana sales in Oregon.

Objectives

- Protecting children and other vulnerable populations from exposures/adverse health effects.
- Preventing youth initiation of retail marijuana use.
- Monitoring adverse health effects associated with retail marijuana.
- Minimizing risks associated with marijuana products on the retail market.
- Educating population on public health issues related to retail marijuana use.

Charter Review

- Reviewed charter and agreed to remove from draft status.

Maximum THC in single-serving in edibles to minimize adverse effects to vulnerable populations (first time users, children, etc.)

- All committee members support a serving-size between 5 and 10 mgs, with maximum 10 servings per package (totaling between 50 and 100 mgs).
- The committee members reviewed existing and proposed state regulations for single-serving size in other states. Colorado & Washington State regulation is 10 mgs per serving, with Alaska currently undecided, but debating between a 5 and 10 mg serving-size.
- The committee discussed public health implications of serving size amount as it relates to: 1) first time users; 2) impaired driving 3) accidental ingestion by children.

Committee recommendations for maximum THC in a single serving

- Most of the committee members support a single-serving size of 5 mgs with packaging indicating individual single-servings and a maximum of 10 servings in a package (10 x "5 mg" servings totaling 50 mgs per package)
 - 5 mgs is less likely than 10 mgs to cause impairment while driving (it was noted a single serving of alcohol is less than what would cause driving impairment).

- 5 mgs for novice users and other vulnerable populations lessens the potential of harm and overdose.
- Some committee members lean toward a serving size of 10 mgs, with packaging that supports individual single-serving sizes (10 x “10 mg” servings totaling 100 mgs per package; see above).
 - 10 mgs per serving-size is consistent with other states that have legalized retail marijuana (Colorado and Washington).
 - 10 mg single-serving is in-line with usage patterns reported in social media by current users.
 - 10 mg serving-size is more likely to allow consumers to feel psychoactive effects of the marijuana after one serving.

Additional points raised by committee members

- Having packages contain fewer servings might help avoid over-ingestion since a consumer would have to consciously open multiple packages to get a larger serving size.
- The committee also discussed implications of having more servings sold in a single package as it might increase cost and deter purchases by vulnerable populations. Conversely, if cost is too high, people might purchase more on the black market. In addition, packaging itself increases cost (in line with retail tobacco sale).

Identified a list of potential future topics

- 1) Maximum THC of inhaled single-serving of marijuana to minimize adverse effects to vulnerable populations (first time users, children, etc.).
- 2) Information and signage for first time users, pregnant and breast feeding women, adolescents, etc.
- 3) Signage/warning for consuming pharmaceutical/alcohol/nicotine products with marijuana
- 4) Packaging guidance for edibles/non-edibles
- 5) Contaminants/toxicity in the environment
- 6) Long-term chronic effects of marijuana edible vs. inhaled
- 7) Workplace safety
- 8) Data monitoring – specifically survey data, calls to poison control, etc.

Public comment period

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.