

Jefferson County Marijuana Task Force

August 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Ramey Johnson called the meeting to order. Self-introductions were made.

After a motion by Bob Cantwell and a second by Pat Woodin, the minutes of the July 21, 2014 task force meeting were approved.

Lewis Koski of the Colorado Department of Revenue Marijuana Enforcement Division made a presentation. The following are some highlights:

- The Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division (MMED) was established in 2010. It was expanded to cover commercial medical and retail marijuana with the passage of Amendment 64. The MED does not regulate personal, caregiver, or groups.
- There are approximately 500 centers for medical, 730 grow operations and 150 infused product operations. On January 1, 2014, there were approximately 200 centers for retail, 300 grow operations, and 30 infused product operations. Currently there are approximately 221 establishments still going through the licensing processes. About two thirds of these establishments are on the Front Range between Fort Collins and Pueblo with approximately one half in Denver. On July 1, 2014, the MED started taking licenses for new retail establishments with will be effective on October 1, 2014 at the earliest.
- In reviewing licenses, the MED looks at arrest history and delinquent government obligations of the owners. The MED gives copies of the application to the applicable local government along with one half of the \$5,000 application fee. Local government approval is also required.
- A number of items are part of a risk assessment: surveillance of money exchanges, plant movement, alarms, record keeping, and employee occupational badges. There is detailed inventory tracking and the MED also uses underage operatives to attempt to purchase. (To date, none of the underage operatives have been able to make a purchase at a retail establishment. This operation will be expanded to medical establishments in September.)
- The MED has no enforcement authority over home grows. A buyer can go from one store to the next without limit. The MED does not know the impact of legalization on the black market.
- For infractions that do not affect public safety, there is a nominal fine for a first offense. A subsequent offense may result in a hearing in front of the licensing board.
- For infractions that do affect public safety, there are substantial fines and possible license suspensions.
- If a city or county were to ban retail and medical sale operations, commercial cultivation facilities would be prohibited as well.
- There are a couple of issues that the MED is currently addressing. The licensing regulations were written with the understanding that there will not be a banking option in the near future. There are two work groups looking at edibles. An emergency rule is in place regarding potency and serving size. They are looking at better ways to make edible products more recognizable as marijuana to the general public.

Donna Viverette distributed and New England Journal of Medicine June 5, 2104 article on "The Adverse Health Effects of Marijuana Use."

Jeanie Rossillon agreed to resend any data that the task force might need, as well as the briefing paper and Board of County Commissioner (BCC) resolution regarding medical marijuana. She also agreed to get BCC direction for input on how to share the report with them.

Tom Cantwell moved and Jim McCormick seconded that the task force vote on a recommendation to the BCC at the next full task force meeting – September 8, 2014. The motion carried.

Public Comment:

Vincent Pachelli noted that there is revenue to be made and that he is concerned about over prescription of narcotics.

Jim Otton noted that we are starting to see the negative impacts of medical marijuana use. He is concerned about revenue from a substance that is still federally illegal. He also mentioned that there are several holes in the medical side.

Sally Korff discussed an article in the Sunday Denver Post and another New York Times article.

Laura Altobelu commented that she was attending on behalf of Ronn Nixon and Teri Robnett.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 18, 2014 in the Lookout Mountain Room from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Rather than a regular task force meeting, the subcommittees will be able to meet at that time.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attendees: Patricia Woodin, Charles Tingle, Donna Viverette, John Wolforth, Nate Emswiller, Rebecca Klymkowsky, Lin Browning, Robert Cantwell, Ramey Johnson, Mike Elliott, Tom Gorman, James McCormick, Jeanie Rossillon, Max Raileanu.