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# CAB Market Participation Sub-Committee Boston Listening Session

Monday, 11.9.2017

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## CAB ATTENDEES

Nichole Snow  
Horace Small  
Matt Allen  
Shanel A. Lindsay  
Kim Napoli  
John Lebeaux

## SESSION OPENING

### Opening Motion

- Called to order at 6:43pm by Shanel A. Lindsay.
  - Shanel gave quick summary of why the Market Participation Subcommittee is so important, and their main goals. (Equity, small businesses, farming, marginalized groups inclusion, access and opportunity.)
  - Acknowledged commissioners Hoffman and Title
    - Steve Hoffman - Chairman of the commission
      - Thanks the volunteer efforts of the Advisory Board and this sub-committee, and the ambitious goals. Spoke a little about the efforts of the commission and their goals.
    - Shaleen Title - Thanks and looking forward to it!
  - Motion to approve last week's meeting minutes - passed by the whole panel
  - Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes. Members on the panel will follow up with questions or comments afterward (likely at a later date) to ensure there is time for every speaker
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- Each member gave a quick one sentence bio of themselves

## COMMUNITY SPEAKERS

### Speaker 1: Jeremy Thompson

- Wondering about what will happen to people with past felonies
- Read an article from a non-Massachusetts newspaper about the disparities for people of color, and wanted to speak to the importance of including everyone in new industry, felons included
- Sees cannabis as a way to bridge gaps, to help level playing field for people with past felonies and leave them with even fewer economic opportunities and opportunities for sustainability.

### Speaker 2: Ellen Brown

- As a veteran and grower, she sees a need for small growers. Spoke about co-op licenses as she is worried the legislation will have too many barriers for small farmers and the grass-roots community
- She is here to advocate for the small growers and farmers
  - a. This industry was not started for the select few to succeed, but for every single person
  - b. The small home grower is the most compassionate and passionate. She requests that this committee keep these people in mind throughout
- She wants to commission to keep in mind for each law: how does this help the industry and the strong small business owners and employees in Massachusetts
- Spoke about resident requirements, making sure applications and fees aren't egregious, and recommended commission not give dispensaries priorities over co-op as the dispensaries have had trouble in Massachusetts and other states keeping up with demand. She wants commission to allow co-ops to sell to dispensaries as well as being allowed to have small retail shops.
- She spoke about how we are losing approx. 22 vets a day, maybe up to 40. The more cannabis we have available to vets, the more we can help them treat themselves without alcohol and pharmaceuticals (or at least help minimize those)

### Speaker 3: Marcus Johnson-Smith

- Owns an accessories and apparel brand/store - Kush Groove
- He is here to speak about his experience as a small business entrepreneur in this industry. He was denied a grant that was meant for small businesses, and was informed through back channels that it was because of the nature of his business (cannabis attire, not cannabis)
- Often thinks about what he could have used that \$3,000 of grant money for including hiring to help the community he is in.
- Loves what he does, but there are challenges and he wants to make sure the commission is thinking about these business side challenges as well during this regulatory process

### Speaker 4: Eric Schwartz

- A part of Farm bug Co-operative
- They support and help in infrastructure for small cannabis businesses
- He is here to speak to the needs of cultivators in this industry
- He believes that our state should allow for smaller grows such as co-ops
- Their idea is that the co-op would be co-branding with each individual farmer's brand, essentially each farmer would be its own brand but they would fall under the umbrella of their co-op.
- Shanel said that the committee is interested in what proposal(s) there are for cultivation licenses
- Eric explained that it is not an under-1-roof model, but that separate farms/cultivators would be under one entity (like an LLC)
- This would allow the co-op to be the infrastructure for individual farms
- Should be owned by members and have no farm cap
- Security should be wide ranging to be inclusive for different types of growers and locations (for example, an outdoor grow would require different specifications than an indoor grow)
- This would Allow the co-op to be the first level of oversight for the farmers, their employees, and the product. This will help sustain quality, much like a farmers market or the local food movement in general

### Speaker 5: Shawn

- A Roslindale resident
- Shawn was charged with a felony and served time for growing
- Shawn spoke to his support for social consumption and co-ops starting immediately to give the little guys the same opportunities as those with deep pockets, as well as helping move more at-risk for prosecution members of our cannabis community out of the unregulated market, therefore reducing risk of incarceration
- Wants to make sure the commission and committee will not be assisting the DA or the Massachusetts state police to help in arrests or being complicit in their crackdown of the unregulated market.
  - a. No one should go to jail while we figure out the laws

### Speaker 6: Khadija Tribble

- Newton resident who is now out of the Harvard Kennedy School for Social Change
- Wants the opportunity to provide relevant good data on creating equitable laws around cannabis and wants to offer himself as a resource to this committee and community
  - a. They want to provide data to help make the committee make the best decisions, in an effort to ensure no one gets left behind
- Spoke about Colorado's 5 million dollars in tax revenue, while simultaneously people are still being incarcerated
- He sees cannabis as a pathway out of recidivism, poverty, etc.
- He worked on removing the requirement for employers to ask about arrests in job applications

### Speaker 7: Maggie Kinsella

- She has been a cultivator for 5 years and a patient for 10 years.

- Maggie spoke to the letter that had been published and recommended postponing co-ops, priority licensing, and social consumption: She was disgusted by the letter.
- She saw a lot of mold in the industry while working at NETA (New England Treatment Access) for a year. She started as trimmer worked up to Harvest Manager
- In August 2016 she was terminated from NETA
- She feels that these groups have been planning to monopolize for a long time
- She submitted complaints to HR over mold that she saw in cultivation and felt she was being ignored . HR's response to her was that they know it is difficult, and that Maggie was looking at it as a patient, but they have always been focused on commercial cultivation
- She submitted a multi-page document with a full timeline of her employment at NETA
  - a. She sent documents and complaint to DPH but does not know if anything was done about it. A former Patient Service Associate (dispensary worker) informed her that patients were in fact bringing back flower to return as it had visible mold on it
- She commended Sage, who did a full batch recall and contacted all patients when mold was found and hopes that will be the very basic of what is required

## Speaker 8: Peter Bernard

- From the Growers Council
- Peter wanted to speak to the letter that had been submitted and said the only word to describe it is Bulls\*#%.
  - a. Spoke to his belief that this is a ploy from people who want to believe that you are stupid enough to not see that they are trying to keep their competitors from coming to market
- He worked on craft licensing with Dick Evans, which will be published tomorrow
- Working on a limited structure using square footage and application fees to make them fair and accessible
- His recommendation is that 3 or more people can show control of \$50,00 and show business acumen to be able to start cultivation

## Speaker 9: Beth Waterfall

- Wants to speak to participation by women in this new industry
- Runs Women Grow whose goal is to empower and teach women to be leaders in this industry. They bring in speakers to talk about a wide range of topics that may help guide people
- Want patients and businesses to be safe
- Women being natural caregivers is a skill worth utilizing
- There are many opportunities for accessibility to women, such as: clear regulations, licenses being affordable and regulations that they can realistically adhere to
- Wants women to be able to operate not in the shady underground illicit market, but ensure they have options
- Wants food standards for edibles and on-site consumption licenses for event planning and small business
- Emphasized that supporting women's participation allows cannabis to help them provide for their family

- Odds still stacked against women in cannabis, as in other industry including such issues as wage gaps
- Wants us to have the Massachusetts cannabis industry be different where women are earning equal and have equal accessibility

### Speaker 10: Cassandra Ferdaro

- Works in education and is indigenous
- Her mother has medical card and her family has been empowered by being able to speak about cannabis as medicine
- Wanted to let everyone in attendance know that Hightimes pays well for stories and articles, if they want to share their story
- Cannabis is still stigmatized, and not just in reference to black and brown communities, but also talking about it in a way that humanizes the culture

### Speaker 11: Apollo Fetalla

- Is a retired lawyer and is involved in urban farming
- Manages a farm in Copley Square that matches re-entry population to internships
- He is concerned that the new industry will not have a place for everyone including in ownership roles
- Emphasized the importance of a co-op being employee owned and that is not too early to begin thinking about how to train and support these communities to grow and run businesses in the regulated market
- Wants to make sure big-agriculture is not controlling

### Speaker 12: Ross Bradshaw

- He has been involved in cannabis in Boston and Colorado for about 5 years
- Spoke to how people of color have been excluded from the industry in every facet, all the way from top to bottom
- Has a hard time seeing this as the next big American industry when so many people are being excluded.
- His home city is 40% is black and Latino, and he is wondering:
  - a. How to instill ownership in a community of people of color. For example, ensuring that the ownership of a company is reflective of the people within that community
  - b. Wants the CAB to consider what we have to do to ensure inclusion moving forward

### Speaker 13: Jacqueline Ortega

- She is hatha yoga teacher and artist, and works with Bang yoga, a cannabis friendly yoga practice
- Practices in privately owned homes and businesses so that her customers can consume in a non-judgmental environment that is consumption friendly
- Many of her customers are cannabis users and very new to yoga, but feel comfortable coming in as they are allowed to medicate

- People need safe places to consume and currently there are no brick and mortar facilities that provide that safety

## Speaker 14: Shawn Cume

- Works with Horse Back farm in Eastern Massachusetts
- Currently sell something, but want to get into cannabis.
- Wants the CAB to focus on access and believes it should be separated for cultivation, consumption, etc. as each has their own challenges
- Unless the committee puts forward guidelines, many individual towns probably will not allow cannabis businesses
- Spoke to the fact that farming is not a right in many Massachusetts cities, so putting it into writing/law is important
- Worked with City of Boston during agricultural re-zoning and spoke to the difficulty inspections processes can bring
- Emphasized that access will have to be led by the commission's recommendations, and if there are none, each city will have its own challenges and might not be able to find solutions without guidelines

## Speaker 15: Leonard Lee

- Works for DPH, but is here as a member of the Roxbury community, and is also a bee keeper
- He has been to every state that has recreational and believes that we can get it right
- In cultivation facilities, people pull him to the side and tell him that they currently make \$11/hr., while handling thousands of dollars' worth of product at a time
- We have an opportunity to inform, to partner, and to get it right from the start
- In Massachusetts, a lot of brown and black people are still incarcerated for marijuana, and thinks the industry should be CORI friendly
- We have an opportunity to create a safe, financially empowering industry and wants black and brown communities to be able to sell and compete in higher socio-economics groups

## Speaker 16: Kamani Jefferson

- Is a lobbyist
- Spoke about Co-ops
  - a. The underground railroad was one of the first co-ops
- Coop definition should be, to name a few:
  - a. Voluntary open memberships
  - b. Democratically controlled
  - c. Member economic participation
  - d. Autonomy and independence
  - e. Education, training, information, and political advocacy
  - f. Concern for the community

## Speaker 17: Chief Samora

- Operates a private club
- There is an issue of equity when it comes to health, as inquiry is saying is that some groups have access to a medication, while otherwise do not
- Private clubs are here and have been here for quite some time
- He has heard about parole officers threatening to re-incarcerate for cannabis as a violation of parole/probation
- Wants CAB to please consider people who are not particularly interested in making money, but want to use cannabis. Whether it is personal, religious, yoga, etc.
- Spoke to the Boston video discussing the required ½ mile separation which keeps a lot of businesses from opening
- Wants to stand up for regular people to be protected (religious, health, etc.) in their use, and then move onto business interests after
- Spoke about how current cannabis laws did very little besides create monopolies and he wants to help people benefit across the board and be protected

### Speaker 18: Adam Ali

- Is a budding cannabis entrepreneur and concerned citizen
- Wanted to know if minutes are publicly available
  - a. Shanel mentioned that they are on .gov Cannabis Commission site.
  - b. Adam requested that they appear in a more timely manner.
- Wants tiering tax brackets for licensing fees
  - a. Yield and square footage space of a dispensary can increase fees i.e. bigger companies that want huge spaces should get charged more for fees to keep it fair
- Currently there are a lot of tools required
- Bigger companies have the investment and can support smaller businesses by subsidizing the cost for small companies and co-ops
  - a. If a small company or co-op wants to expand, they can move up a bracket, and would be expected to help the smaller folks too

### Speaker 19: Michael Latulippe

- Onsite retails licenses to help access to marginalized.
- Current system of retail is outdated. Pushes larger amounts.
- Onsite would only be allowed to sell small amounts.
- Adult consumers in our state deserve a choice if they don't want to bring cannabis home
- This model increases state tax revenue, onsite will pay more for wholesale be they extract the max value at retail end.
- Patients lose the most when it is only large retails (look at sellouts in Vegas)

### Speaker 20: Cara Crabb Burnham and Baby Dash

- Had seizure disorder when pregnant, and didn't want to go on traditional meds. Hospital put a complaint in to children's services because of her cannabis use.
- Add parent protections

- Brigham and women's' has changed their policy
- ALL hospitals need to be mandated to do this
- Cannot go to dispensaries because child not allowed in, but can into pharmacy or liquor store
- Seriously limits parents access to medication.

### Speaker 21: Doug Gross

- Associate prof of research with arthritis patients
- Was a workshop he went to recently called Cannabis as medicine.
- Very little info available to med professionals, but there is a lot of street wisdom.
- Looking for way for advisory board to support these street wisdoms.
- People with chronic disabilities who themselves have found success with cannabis, look for ways to involve these people in pathways to opening up dispensaries and retail
- Importance of onsite consumption to this group because many of them cannot get to retail spaces

### Speaker 22: Scott Brodsky

- Wanted to discuss regulatory industry in mass.
- Thinks it's important that when setting the tone for this industry that we take into account what mass was built on, which is small businesses.
- Ease of access to the market by those who want to get involved, from the small hobbyist to entrepreneurs all across the line
- Having that access and opportunity will allow for diversity of marketplace and will provide better products
- each category is another area for a small business to be able to start small businesses.
- Businesses being run by community members. Mom 'n pop is better than Walmart!

### Speaker 23: Jeremiah McKinnon

- Thinks that community would prefer to have something like an August 1st start date for sale so that all can be down in the same first batch, that CAB would have more time to meet and discuss and make better choices the first time around.

### Speaker 24: Greg Padula

- Former cannabis employee
- NETA cultivation
- First 5 cultivators hired
- Over time people showed signs up injuries
- Pelvis injury issue due to mold and such
- Suffered wrist injuries after a period in cultivation. Gave him a way to see into other facets of the business because he couldn't be in cultivation anymore
- Trained PSA's in Northampton for a month or so.
- After, comes back to Franklin. At this point, wrist injury is serious and he was going to be putting in a worker's comp.

- He got moved into a position where he was Soak entire cannabis plants in hydrogen peroxide, the kind that sizzles and burns your hands if you touch it.
- No ventilation, \$10-\$11/ hr. for being around powdery mildew and mold, with no ventilation
- People calling in sick every week, turnover rate
- He could only smell fire for months after
- About 8 months later, he starts getting calls from past and current employees that we coming down with health problems, many being able to go back to mold
- Nothing has been done, DPH would come do checks, at one point he personally showed the DPH inspector an entire sizzling plant, they did nothing and walked away. And then cited them for a leaf on the floor instead of in can waste bin.

### Speaker 25: Michelle Herman

- A patient and a medical user
- Org to help parents and other users
- Is worried she can't bus off the grown if she is competing with huge dispensaries
- Heard a committee member speak word for word about the letter, seems like a conflict of interest
- Wants to make sure patients are a priority, not just rec
- Wants licenses for wellness professional s, even if there is no consumption
- Social and co-op licenses

### Speaker 26: Tashonda Vincent-Lee

- Advocate, patient, was running mayoral campaign
- Her focus is equitable access and barriers of entry
- In Boston's, disparities in education as well as educational opportunities.
- Giving RMDs
- A preference means that people that afford ½ mil back then will still be getting priority now. Not fair
- Wealth is created by investment businesses,
- Mirror based program, priority given to members of said community, as well as women and vet
- Thought on how to give grants and some other fiscal assistance for marginalized groups to promote access
- Neighborhood based level as well. What people make in different neighborhoods should be considered.

## CLOSING MOTION

Motion to adjourn at 8:27pm, unanimously passed.