

Vermont Social Equity Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes—September 13, 2021

Deneka Scott calls to order meeting at 3:02 pm.

Attendees

Advisory Committee Members:

- Nader Hasim
- Ashley Reynolds
- Xusana Davis
- TJ Donovan

VT Cannabis Board:

- Julie Hulburd
- Nellie Marvel
- Brynn Hare
- James Pepper

NACB:

- Gina Kranwinkel
- Geoffrey Gallegos
- Deneka Scott

5 members of public

Minutes recorded by Meggan Hau.

Public Comments were noted and are provided on the 'discussion guide.' Review of public comments were done by Deneka Scott.

The Sub-Committee moves on to the discussion guide/deck shared on screen. We discussed last week doing two programs, but for now we will focus on the Social Equity program and go into a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program later.

The NACB Sub-Committee moderator Gina Kranwinkel discussed VT H414 social equity applicant definition and recommendations, residency requirements (must meet at least one of the following criteria):

- (A) At least 51% ownership and control by one or more individuals who have resided for at least 5 of the last 10 years in a disproportionately impacted area;
- (B) At least 51% ownership and control by one or more individuals who: have been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for any cannabis offense that is eligible for expungement; or
- (ii) are a member of an impacted family;
- (C) for applicants with a minimum of 10 full-time employees, an applicant with at least 51% of current employees who
- (i) currently reside in a disproportionately impacted area; or have been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for any cannabis offense that is eligible for expungement or are a member of an impacted family

Geoffrey Gallegos noted for SE criteria section C that it would be important to have these requirements tethered to a profit share with employees.

Ashley Reynolds recommended residency of one year. Nader Hasim recommended two or three years as a residency requirement.

Notable comment(s):

*Xusana Davis- We want to create the minimal possible barrier so we can manage MSO's without excluding people at individual level. I don't think there should no residency requirement, but also don't want it to be so strict to be a barrier.

*Nader Hasim- Did we want to consider people who were charged with civil offenses? Response by Geoffrey Gallegos- Sounds like something available for expungement. Additionally, Gina Kranwinkel said that is a lesser degree of someone arrested or convicted on a charge.

*Ashley Reynolds- something to consider is family members convicted or arrested to qualify for this criteria.

*Xusana Davis- What constitutes family? Could be nontraditional family styles but watch out for loopholes. Mother, father or parental ownership.

*Ashley Reynolds- on full time employee front, does that mean one year? How long will they retain them? Will we include a clause to keep them hired for so long? Gina- There will be criteria around each of these qualifications.

Gina Kranwinkel shared data from CSG Justice Center analysis of data from the Vermont Department of Corrections to show that minorities were impacted. Recommendation that minorities are added as a social equity candidate based on the research. Subcommittee members agree.

Moderator Geoffrey Gallegos also shared information around Disproportionately Impacted Areas and Opportunity Zones (low-income community).

Public Comment Period:

Geoffrey Gallegos opened the floor for public comment at 3:47 PM.

*Mark Hughes- Racial Justice Alliance. 414 is ours, we wrote it. There is quite a bit in here that is being covered and we appreciate it. We shared that information with consultants, and we've been slow to bring forward our full set of recommendations. Member of Cannabis Equity Coalition. We sat down and had conversations about equity in broader conversations, there is a fast pace and we were hoping to see a standard or principal. Legislative body commits to eradicate systemic racism. Participate in a more just and equitable system. Be mindful of the fact that we are talking about how do we start a new market alongside an existing market, taking into account that systemic racism exists. Build a market that is resilient to systemic racism. We will continue to add to this ongoing discussion. Every single one of these subgroups, systemic racism has to be integral component and taken into consideration.

Gina Kranwinkel entertains a motion to approve the subcommittee minutes for the September 9 meeting. Nader Hasim makes motion. Ashley Reynolds seconds.

Adjournment:

Following closing thoughts/comments, Gina Kranwinkel asked for a motion to adjourn. Subcommittee member TJ Donovan motions. TJ Donovan seconds. Meeting is adjourned at 4 pm.

Next Social Equity Sub-Committee meeting is Thursday, September 16 at 3 pm ET.