



## Minutes Deschutes County Cannabis Advisory Panel

Meeting #11: Monday, April 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room, 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

This meeting was conducted in person and by video. It was video recorded and can be accessed at the Deschutes County Meeting Portal website [www.deschutes.org/meetings](http://www.deschutes.org/meetings).

### I. Introductions / Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by Cannabis Advisory Panel (CAP) Chair Liz Lotochinski. Present in person: Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Liz Lotochinski; Mary Fleischmann; Jeremy Giffin; Gary Bracelin; Andrew Aasen; Detective Dustin Miller, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office; Jess Neuwirth, Deschutes County Public Health, Angela Havnear, Deschutes County Community Development, and Trevor Stephens, Deschutes County Community Justice. Present on Zoom: Matt Hurt.

### II. Approval of January 24, 2024, Minutes

Mary Fleischman moved to approve the minutes. Gary Bracelin seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

### III. Proposed allocation of FY '25 Cannabis Tax Revenue

The Cannabis Advisory Panel (CAP) provides recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on how Deschutes County should spend its annual cannabis tax revenue. The cannabis tax revenue for the current fiscal year is \$182,000. The forecasted cannabis tax revenue for FY '24-'25 is \$185,811. Four departments requested cannabis tax revenue. The CAP heard presentations from all four departments and then determine budget recommendations for the Board of Commissioners to consider. Jen Patterson will bring the CAP budget recommendations before the Board this Wednesday April 24, 2024.

The budget requests to consider are as follows:

1. Community Justice, \$55,000
  - i. \$25,000 for a one-year contract to implement a substance abuse/use disorder treatment youth program.
  - ii. \$10,000 to help support department based substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services for youth.
  - iii. \$20,000 to help fund "Moving On" therapy program workshop. Moving On is an Adult Parole and Probation gender responsive cognitive behavioral therapy program.
2. Community Development Department (CDD), \$20,000
  - i. Code Enforcement related to cannabis code complaints.
3. Health Services, \$60,000
  - i. To continue paid media advertising focused on supporting parents and guardians to talk with children about cannabis and other drugs.
4. Sheriff's Office, \$100,000

- i. To continue the funding support of a cannabis detective.

#### **IV. Presentation on Cannabis Tax Revenue Proposals from County Departments**

Trevor Stephens spoke on behalf of Community Justice who is requesting \$55,000 in funds for three priorities. \$25,000 for First Light Peer Support Services, \$10,000 to help cover the cost of a contract for a pilot program for department based SUD treatment services, and \$20,000 to fund 32 workshop hours for the gender responsive cognitive behavioral therapy program “Moving On”.

Angie Havnear from CDD is requesting \$20,000 to help offset the cost of code enforcement officers who work alongside the Sheriff’s Office to support law and code enforcement of illegal grow operations. CDD continues to provide code enforcement on callouts with the Sheriff’s Office. CDD will be onsite during callouts anywhere from several hours to half a day to investigate wire, plumbing and other hazards. Last Fiscal Year CDD had about 733 cases submitted to code enforcement and 8 were paired with the Sheriff’s Office. CDD has updated their process for their code enforcement program which has proved more efficient and is staying within budget.

Jess Neuwirth from Health Services is requesting \$60,000 to continue paid media advertising focused on supporting parents and guardians in the County to talk with children about cannabis and other drug use. Funds would be used to improve dialog between parents and children by continuing a conversation with a campaign called “Start the Conversation”. A total of four spots were developed and disseminated in English and Spanish. Additionally, an updated website was launched in March 2023: [sharedfuturecoalition.org](http://sharedfuturecoalition.org). The new website has seen seven times the number of user visits compared to the previous website and the ad campaign reached 65,000 households and over 2 million views.

The Sheriff’s Office is requesting \$100,000 for staff support, which partially covers one detective.

#### **V. CAP discussion and determination for budget recommendations**

The CAP discussed whether they wanted to recommend any revenue to be spent on a PSA outreach campaign to landowners to bring awareness of their responsibilities on what their properties are being used for. Dustin Miller let the committee know that the Sheriff’s Office sends a notice when they see a violation on property – essentially putting them on notice. CAP members indicated that they don’t see an individual PSA campaign is particularly needed. CAP members don’t want to move forward with this concept and instead would prefer to focus on allocating revenue dollars with the four County departments requesting funding.

CAP members discussed the Community Justice request and brought up concerns that the funds they requested and were granted from last Fiscal Year have yet to be spent. CAP members were interested in learning why Community Justice is not going after any Measure 110 funds in support of their priority requests. Liz Lotochinski suggested not funding priorities 1 & 3 and reasoned that funds should not go toward brand new initiatives; her preference would be to fund priority 2. Matt Hurt concurs with the CAP members on priority funding, however indicated that First Light Peer Support Services does provide valuable support and education for teens. Liz requested an informal vote by priority to gauge interest. No CAP members were in favor of funding priority 1, four CAP members were in support of funding priority 2, and no CAP members were in favor of funding priority 3.

CAP members discussed the CDD request for funds to be used for code enforcement. Jeremy Giffin questioned whether the funds go to code enforcement for cannabis violations versus just a general code enforcement fund for the department. Gary Bracelin mentioned that between CDD’s January presentation and tonight’s presentation to the CAP that it appears that CDD is prioritizing cannabis specific code violations. Dustin Miller stated that the coordination from CDD has really improved over the last year and there is an open and consistent line of communication to bring properties into code compliance. Gary Bracelin believes that the money allocated to CDD last year

is getting the most bang for the buck and that CDD has really stepped up their game when it comes to enforcement. Andrew Aasen stated that the money granted to CDD is making a substantial impact overall for code enforcement and is indifferent to whether their request is funded.

CAP members discussed the Health Services request for \$60,000 to use toward their ad campaign. Gary Bracelin believes this is probably where the money is best spent and the most valuable tool in the whole process. Liz Lotochinski agrees and believes the campaign opens the conversation between parents and children for all types of topics. Jeremy Giffin also agrees and pointed out that this is the only budget request for PSAs and seems very effective. Matt Hurt believes it's money well spent, and that Health Services provided very specific goals on what the grant money will be used for.

CAP members discussed the Sheriff's Office request and received clarification how much they requested and received last year (requested \$75,000 and received \$92,000).

Liz Lotochinski recapped the budget recommendation discussion to date: CAP is narrowing the requests to \$10,000 for Community Justice, \$20,000 for CDD, \$60,000 for Health Services, and \$95,000 for the Sheriff's Office.

Andrew Aasen recommended not giving Community Justice any funding as they have not spent the money to date from last year's budget and is indifferent to CDD funding. Dustin Miller mentioned that the partnership has been very successful with CDD and finds it very beneficial.

The CAP then narrowed the budget recommendations to the following two options and took a vote:

1. \$10,000 to Community Justice, \$20,000 to Community Development, \$60,000 to Health Services, and \$95,000 to Sheriff's Office.
2. \$5,811 to Community Justice, \$20,000 to Community Development, \$60,000 to Health Services, and \$100,000 to Sheriff's Office.

Matt Hurt and Jeremy Giffin voted for option 1. Gary Bracelin, Dustin Miller, Andrew Aasen, Liz Lotochinski, and Mary Fleischmann voted for option 2. Jen Patterson will recommend option 2 for the Board of County Commissioners consideration.

## **VI. Public Comments**

No public comments

## **VII. Next Steps**

Next meeting topics will include a Presentation from CDD on Code Compliance Summary of the 2024 Annual Reporting Season. Jen Patterson will reach out to Behavioral Health to inquire about a potential presentation on trends of substance abuse in the County. Jen Patterson will inquire with Legal and Administration to see if it is possible to reduce the number of CAP meetings from quarterly to a less frequent timeline as well as potential to engage city partners like the City of Redmond who has been engaging in discussions about amending cannabis business use within city limits.

## **VIII. Wrap up and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The CAP agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday, July 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Allen Room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,  
Deschutes County Administrative Services