



Deschutes County Cannabis Advisory Panel

Meeting #18: Monday, April 20, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Only

MEETING FORMAT

The Cannabis Advisory Panel will conduct this meeting virtually. Members of the public may listen, view, and/or participate in this meeting using Zoom. Using Zoom is free of charge.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86922528714?pwd=f9c5PONYnh3QbdPVbwMWgtNgUOxOjd.1>

Meeting ID: 869 2252 8714 followed by the passcode: 152083.

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
1. Introductions	Welcome attendees
2. Approval of January 26, 2026, Minutes <i>See Packet: Draft minutes</i>	Approve Minutes
3. Committee Chair Update	Information and discussion <i>10 minutes</i>
4. Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">Next meeting: tentatively scheduled for July 20, 2026	
Wrap up and Adjourn	



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El condado de Deschutes anima a las personas con discapacidad a participar en todos los programas y actividades. Esta reunión/evento es accesible. Hay disponibles servicios de intérprete de lengua de señas y de otros idiomas, dispositivos de escucha asistida, materiales en formatos alternativos como braille, letra grande, formatos electrónicos, traducciones o cualquier otra adaptación, con solicitud previa y sin ningún costo. Haga su solicitud al menos 24 horas antes de la reunión/el evento llamando a Administrative Services al (541) 388-6570 o envíe un correo electrónico a DMAC@deschutes.org.



Minutes

Deschutes County Cannabis Advisory Panel

Meeting #17: Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

This meeting was conducted in person and by Zoom. It was video recorded and can be accessed at the Deschutes County Meeting Portal website www.deschutes.org/meetings.

I. Introductions / Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Cannabis Advisory Panel Chair Liz Lotochinski. Present in person: Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager; Liz Lotochinski, Chair and Committee Member; Mary Fleischman, Committee Member; Dr. Andrew Aasen, Committee Member; Jeremy Giffen, Committee Member; Anthony Ramos, Committee Member; Clint Baltzor, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office; Angie Havniear, Deschutes County Code Enforcement; Jeff Williams, Lead Specialist with Code Enforcement; Trevor Stevens, Community Justice; Sonya Littledeer-Evans, Community Justice; Amy Nortrom, Community Justice; Jess Neuwirth, Public Health, Jeff Price, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office; and Bryan Husband, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. Present online: Matt Hurt, Committee Member; and Gary Bracelin, Committee Member.

II. Approval of October 20, 2025, Minutes

Mary Fleischmann moved to approve the minutes. Andrew Aasen seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Presentation on Cannabis Tax Revenue: Mid-Year Updates from Departments who Received Funds in FY '26 and Proposals from County Departments Requesting Funds for FY '27

Prior to the departmental presentations, Jen Patterson shared an updated Finance forecast that was not included in the packet. Finance was waiting on updated cannabis tax revenue information before finalizing an estimate for FY 27. Staff reported Finance forecasted a slight decrease from the prior year, with **\$183,000** anticipated to be available for distribution for FY 27.

Liz Lotochinski confirmed the panel would proceed in the agenda's presentation order—Community Development, Community Justice, Health Services, and Sheriff's Department—and verified that remote participants could view the presentation materials being shared.

Community Development (Code Enforcement), Angie Havniear introduced Jeff Williams and stated they would blend their mid-year recap and the FY 27 request, with Williams providing case-related updates as part of the report. Havniear thanked the panel for the prior allocation of **\$20,000** and stated that the funding materially affected departmental capacity by allowing Code Enforcement to move illegal cannabis complaints to the front of their workload, ahead of other pending complaints, and to coordinate on-site work with Sheriff's Office partners as part of investigation and follow-up activities.

Community Justice (Juvenile), Trevor Stevens, Sonia Littledeer-Evans, and Amy Nortrom presented for Community Justice. They described the Juvenile Division mission as reducing risk, repairing harms, and creating opportunity, and outlined juvenile probation services, behavioral health services (prevention and intervention), and juvenile detention services, including the facility's regional role.

In their FY 27 proposal, Community Justice stated their requested amount was **\$50,000** to support Functional Family Therapy and development of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) assessment and outpatient treatment support programming. Staff described the need to cover work that is not billable while they continue efforts to make services billable, including through Oregon Health Plan (OHP) billing structures. They also reported they had been pursuing a capacity grant referred to as an "1115 waiver," but that due to federal law changes the funding for that grant was pulled; they stated that the jail was also working on a similar grant and that those funds were likewise pulled, removing an anticipated resource for capacity services.

Community Justice then shared that they brought impact statements drawn from therapists and Community Justice Officers (CJOs) to illustrate how services are affecting youth. As part of this, panel members were asked to read case summaries.

Health Services, Jess Neuwirth provided a mid-year update framed around a comprehensive prevention approach that includes both environmental strategies and individual strategies, describing the work as using evidence-based prevention practices that must occur in concert. Health Services noted that, with cannabis legalization, there are multiple policy and design elements (including access barriers and enforcement components) that protect youth, and that cannabis-specific prevention work often focuses on individual and family/community supports that influence youth behavior. Staff stated that prevention impacts are often "behind the scenes," with intended outcomes including youth not entering juvenile justice systems and fewer law enforcement calls. Neuwirth described focus areas including school- and healthcare-based prevention, youth engagement, advocacy, and community awareness, and stated that the CAP-funded activities are part of broader substance misuse prevention efforts.

Neuwirth also discussed prevention concepts and local context, describing shared risk and protective factors and how strengthening protective factors (such as family connection and parental monitoring) can reduce the likelihood of substance misuse and other risk behaviors. Staff further reported that adolescent substance use rates in Deschutes County trend higher than the Oregon average, and that Oregon cannabis use trends higher than the national average.

In their proposal, Health Services discussed prior-year funding levels and described continued investment needs tied to family-focused resources and messaging. Staff stated that the prior year's investment was **\$58,000**, and they are requesting **\$60,000** for FY 27. They are requesting CAP support for layers of the prevention approach, including continuation of the "Start the Conversation" campaign for families, maintenance of family resources, and skill-building opportunities, while using other funding sources to round out staffing and additional materials (including print resources) to amplify multiple investments. Neuwirth reported the campaign included English and Spanish components, described work on English-language adaptations and Spanish versions that used native Spanish speakers and local participants, and stated the campaign was driving traffic to a website with vetted resources.

Sheriff's Department, Tony Ramos described the department's broader funding environment and how it intersects with marijuana enforcement capacity. The department stated that the Sheriff's Office primarily funds its marijuana program through a state grant (described in the meeting as a "CJC" grant) and that the most recent award cycle resulted in a substantial reduction. The department stated they applied for **\$900,000** (described as covering two detectives and an analyst, plus investigative costs such as lab calibrations and database systems) and were awarded **\$263,000** over a two-year period and reported they had been functioning off that grant since approximately 2018 or 2019. A further explanation was provided that statewide funds available through the program had declined (with an example that prior years were as high as \$20 million distributed across counties, and the most recent year was \$10 million), more counties applied, and the awarding committee used a scoring method that included legislative priorities and "marijuana activity," described as pounds seized; Deschutes County was described as

scoring lower on the marijuana activity component due to fewer large outdoor grows relative to some other counties.

The Sheriff's Office described operational decisions and mid-year conditions, including that to extend available funds they planned to staff one detective with limited supplies for an estimated period of approximately 14 months. They stated that their intelligence analyst was a vital part of the team, but that the analyst's salary, previously grant-funded, was absorbed by the Sheriff's Office and was not fully covered by remaining grant funds, and they stated the CAP award would be used to supplement salaries and supplies for the team. The department also reported that in 2023 they had 10 hemp grow sites and that this had decreased to 7, noting that the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) continues to monitor and regulate hemp licenses. They stated that due to reduced visible outdoor grows, the team focus had been on indoor activity. They also described using Oregon Water Resources and County code tools alongside criminal enforcement, stating their intent to impose civil and financial penalties where available as part of dismantling illegal organizations.

The Sheriff's Office provided selected enforcement activity metrics for 2025, reporting **10 search warrants, 10 arrests, and 3 guns**. They reported approximately **5,600 pounds of processed marijuana** and **24 pounds of edibles** and stated that plant counts were reduced in part because enforcement encounters were sometimes after harvest, resulting in more processed product being found rather than plants in pots. They described encountering smaller grow configurations such as garage-style shop buildings and some greenhouses. They also reported encountering more butane honey oil (BHO) lab activity than in prior years.

In closing remarks Jeff Price asked the panel to consider the Sheriff's Office financial constraints, stating that reduced funding required difficult decisions and that some training and supplies previously funded were no longer able to be funded. The department stated the marijuana team had decreased from **2.5 to 1.5 FTE**, and while they submitted **\$60,000** due to the request cap described in the process, they asked for consideration of funding closer to historical levels in the **\$95,000 to \$100,000** range.

IV. CAP Discussion and Determination for Budget Recommendations

The CAP began its budget recommendation discussion by confirming the estimated FY 27 cannabis tax revenue available for distribution was \$183,000 and that the written departmental requests received totaled \$190,000, creating a gap between requested funds and the forecast available for allocation. The CAP reiterated the written request amounts as Community Development (Code Enforcement) \$20,000; Community Justice \$50,000; Health Services \$60,000; and Sheriff's Department \$60,000, with clarification that the Sheriff's Department stated during its presentation it requested \$60,000 due to the request parameters communicated, while indicating it would accept additional funding if available.

The CAP also discussed the purpose of the CAP's recommendations, with reference to the CAP charter and ORS code on use of the tax revenue: increase public safety measures related to marijuana in the county, and issues related to production, processing, wholesaling, and distribution of marijuana in the unincorporated area subject to County jurisdiction.

The CAP discussed program impacts and prioritization considerations. One member noted that Health Services appeared to be using its funds effectively and referenced reviewing Health Services' reported numbers and contacts when considering "bang for the buck" in the allocation discussion. Members also discussed whether the Sheriff's Department could receive additional funding given the Sheriff's Department's report of reduced external funding and stated preference by some members to direct additional funds to enforcement capacity.

During this discussion, the CAP considered a couple of different funding allocations. One proposal was a recommendation to allocate \$20,000 for Community Development, \$33,000 for Community Justice, \$60,000 for Health Services, and \$70,000 for the Sheriff's Department. As members walked through the \$70,000 Sheriff's Department figure, clarification was provided that the written request in the packet was

\$60,000 based on the request parameters communicated to departments, and the Sheriff's Department had indicated it would accept additional funding if the Panel recommended an amount above the written request.

A second proposal was to allocate 20,000 for Community Development, \$33,000 for Community Justice, \$50,000 for Health Services, and \$80,000 for the Sheriff's Department. The CAP discussed the ongoing nature of prevention messaging and raised questions about the cost structure of media campaigns (including questions about startup costs versus ongoing costs and impressions, and comparisons to social media and streaming/television ad costs). The CAP considered whether additional funds would have a more direct effect if directed to the Sheriff's Department rather than supporting continued prevention messaging.

After discussion, the Panel proceeded to formal action. Andrew Aasen moved to support Liz Lotochinski's allocation recommendation of: \$20,000 to Community Development, \$33,000 to Community Justice, \$50,000 to Health Services, and \$80,000 to the Sheriff's Office. Jeremy Giffen seconded the motion. The recommendation passed unanimously with Anthony Ramos abstaining from the vote.

V. Committee Chair Update

The CAP ran out of time for this item and will address it during the April 20, 2026, meeting.

VI. Public Comments

No public comments

VI. Wrap up and Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. The Advisory Panel tentatively agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom **ONLY**.

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