



State of Vermont
Department of Public Safety
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ROADWAY SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

October 16, 2017

The Roadway Safety Subcommittee meeting was opened at approximately 9:02 AM by Commissioner Thomas Anderson, Chair, with the following in attendance.

Present: Thomas Anderson, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, Chair; Joe Flynn, Secretary of the Agency of Transportation; Dr. Trisha Conti, Director of the Vermont Forensic Laboratory; Bill Mapes, Vermont Emergency Medical Services provider; Captain Mike Major, designee of the Criminal Justice Training Council; Chief Jennifer Morrison, designee of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns; Representative Maxine Grad; Senator Joe Benning; John Campbell, Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs; Marshall Pahl, Office of the Defender General; Judge Brian Grearson, Judiciary; Lieutenant John Flannigan, Vermont State Police; Marie Horbar, Assistant General Counsel, Department of Public Safety; Karen Carr, Executive Assistant, Department of Public Safety; Sergeant James Roy, Colchester Police Department; Representative Ben Joseph; Laura Subin, Vermont Coalition to Regulate Marijuana; Jake Perkinson, Co-Chair of the Governor's Marijuana Advisory Commission; James Pepper, Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs

Introductions made by those in attendance.

Commissioner Anderson recaps Governor Scott's Executive Order No. 15-17 and the two areas Subcommittee is focusing on:

1. Motor Vehicles Injury and Death Endpoint
2. Crime Rates Endpoint

Motor Vehicle Injury and Death Endpoint: informal study group presents PowerPoint (Bill Mapes/Secretary Joe Flynn)

1. Is marijuana use, alone or in combination with other substances, associated with an increased risk of (1) motor vehicle crashes and (2) motor vehicle fatalities?
2. Is marijuana legalization associated with an increased risk of (1) motor vehicle crashes and (2) motor vehicle fatalities?



Discussion:

- With respect to data sets, causation not necessarily marijuana
- Colorado has years of data; other states less data; Washington four years of data
- Did drivers in data also have alcohol in system
- Concerns regarding data collection—i.e., did methods change
- Do the CO reports reflect resident vs. non-resident
- THC levels in plants pre- and post-legalization

Our Goal:

- Subcommittee has focused mandate under the Executive Order for Nov. 15: identify best research and what are the deficiencies of that research

Crime Rates Study Group presents PowerPoint (James Campbell/James Pepper)

- Presented multiple studies/reports

Discussion:

- Causation issues
- Why aren't we waiting till there is better research; goal is to find out what the best research is out there and what does it say; can point out gaps
- Vermont data is not included and should look at it
- Nexus to crime rate difficult to determine
- Comparison to CO experience may not translate to Vermont (i.e., Denver, CO)
- Report can note which data to collect, and start collecting data now

Break: 10:23 AM – 10:34 AM

PowerPoint presentation on template for November 15, 2017 report and next steps (Marie Horbar)

Next Steps:

- October 30, 2017 – All draft summaries and conclusions to be sent to Karen Carr
- November 15, 2017 – Roadway Safety Report to full Commission

The next Roadway Safety Subcommittee meeting was set for November 6, 2017 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at the Emergency Operations Center, Vermont Department of Public Safety.

Chair entertains a motion to accept the September 28, 2017 minutes, so moved by Senator Joe Benning, and seconded by Chief Jennifer Morrison. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:47 AM.

