


## Marijuana Education and Prevention Subcommittee meeting

*Date:* 7/25/2018  
*Location and Time:* VDH, 1 – 2:30 p.m.  
*Present:* Jill Reinhart, Megan Trutor, Mark Levine, Lori Uerz, Mark Redmond, Jolinda LaClair, Rose Gowdey, Amy Minor, David Scherr, Jake Perkinson,  
*Absent:* Guy Roberts, Dawn Poitras, Ann Pugh, Jon Porter, MD, John Searles  
*Meeting Facilitator and Note Taker:* Lori Uerz

<b>Meeting Objectives:</b> Sixth meeting on the marijuana advisory commission, education and prevention subcommittee		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Norman Birenbaum - RI Department of Business Regulation	<p>RI's marijuana regulations and lessons learned.</p> <p>Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI has allowed dispensaries to purchase homegrown cannabis, which proved to be a bad idea. Legislation was changed to allow dispensaries to grow more.</li> <li>• State wide, they have three compassion centers (dispensaries) with 20,000 registered patients.</li> <li>• Physicians do not want to prescribe a medical marijuana card if they are affiliated with a hospital that receives Federal funding.</li> <li>• Gifting has been a problem. It is illicit and creates a gray market (grown legally but sold illegally through a delivery charge or purchase of another item and the marijuana is given away free).</li> <li>• RI purchased excess marijuana grown and it promoted overgrow and issues with electricity usage</li> <li>• RI issues/tracks home grown plants via tags and charges \$25 per plant. Register location and plant seeds. Cannabis is tested before being released.</li> </ul>	 <p>Medical Marijuana Program Overview p</p>

	<p>Approximately only 30% of the home grown is tagged. Inspected 2-6 times per year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their Department of Business Regulation is an independent enforcement for administrative issues, not criminal (that is handled by the State Police).</li> </ul> <p>Guidance for Vermont:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the number of patients to 1500 per dispensary.</li> <li>• Keep an eye on Instagram, it's where the black/gray market is selling</li> <li>• Public Health and Safety should keep an eye on wiring, heat and irrigation usage.</li> <li>• Municipalities should permit electrical, water, etc. instead of cannabis grow limits.</li> <li>• Edibles should not be appealing to children.</li> <li>• Hard to assess a DUI for cannabis, need a way to track/gather data.</li> <li>• Home grow market is hard to regulate, inspect and control</li> <li>• Shouldn't allow dabbing (high concentrate cannabis which has 80 – 90% THC)</li> </ul> <p>Lessons Learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use regulations from alcohol to avoid unlicensed production</li> <li>• Coordination of agencies/departments to determine who will write the regulations</li> <li>• Surveillance data is critical</li> <li>• There is a Regulators Roundtable in October in Boston to discuss best practices (open to DLC).</li> </ul>	
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Next Steps	<p>Hear from all subcommittees:</p> <p><u>School-based programs subcommittee</u> Dawn Poitras</p> <p><u>Subcommittee dealing with potency and alternate delivery systems/edibles/infusibles</u> Guy</p> <p><u>Messaging subcommittee:</u> Megan Trutor, Nancy Erickson, Kathleen Horton</p> <p><u>Community-based programs subcommittee</u> Lori</p> <p><u>Policy subcommittee:</u> Dr. Levine, Shayla Livingston, David Englander</p> <p><u>Research and surveillance</u> – Ann Pugh</p>	
Next Meeting	September 20, 2018, 10 – 11:30 a.m. at VDH	