

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND
OTHER DRUGS
(CAOD)**

Meeting Summary – May 20, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tony Bell, Lou La Monte, Juan Navarro, Sharona R. Nazarian, Mordechai Polityko, Bennett Root, Jr., Monica Sanchez, Johng Ho Song, Denise Tom, Jerry G. Velasco, Wendie Warwick, Howard Winkler and G. Lola Worthington

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Commissioner Cruz Baca, Deena Duncan and Sharon Shelton

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: Commissioners Joseph Essavi, Roger Germanian, Jack Hadjinian and Jihan Judeh

GUEST REGISTER:

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: Meeting Agenda; April Meeting Minutes – Draft; CAOD Resolution re Maintenance of Budgeted Allocations 200518; English - Coronavirus Anxiety Workbook; español - Coronavirus Anxiety Workbook; Racial Ethnic Socioeconomic Data COVID19

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
1. Call to Order	First Chair Bennet W. Root, Jr., County of Los Angeles, to the Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD) Policy and Planning Committee convened the meeting at 1:04 p.m.	
2. Introduction of Commissioners and Guests	Chair Root asked for self-introductions from all Commissioners and guest.	
3. Motion to Excuse Absences	Quorum present. Chair Root asked for a motion to excuse the absence of Commissioner Cruz Baca, Deena Duncan and Sharon Shelton from today's meeting.	Chair Root entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. La Monte, seconded by Com. Polityko and approved. Motion was unanimously carried.

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4. Presentation	<p>Presenter Brad Rowe, Policy Advisor to the UCLA Cannabis Research Initiative gave a presentation on the developments in the use and regulation of marijuana during COVID-19 Pandemic.</p> <p>During the first month of quarantine purchases of marijuana increased by over 200%, new customers increased by 125% and there was an unusual demand for vaping extracts.</p> <p>Per WeedMaps million of new cannabis consumers are at risk for unpleasant experience or accidental overdose. There was an increase in Cannabis Overdose admits to ER post legalization and 9% of new initiates eventually develop abuse or dependence.</p> <p>Since the onset of COVID-19 the cannabis regulatory process has not been a priority. Governor Newsom had proposed simplifying cannabis tax administration by changing the point of collection. The proposed changes move the responsibility for the cultivation excise tax from the final distributor to the first, and for the retail excise tax from the distributor to the retailer. Moving the incidence of this tax to the retailer will eliminate CDTFA's requirement to estimate product mark-up and set wholesale tax rates. The changes will reduce the tax collection burden on the cannabis industry and simplify the tax collection process.</p> <p>The Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA) requires the programs to emphasize accurate education, effective prevention, early intervention, school retention, and timely treatment services for youth, their families, and their caregivers. AUMA requires the allocation of these funds to counties based on demonstrated need. AUMA requires the department to enter into interagency agreements with the State Department of Public Health and the State Department of Education to implement and administer these programs and requires the departments to periodically evaluate the programs that they are funding to determine their effectiveness programs.</p> <p>Mr. Rowe stated that 6% of 12th graders use cannabis daily. This is concerning because we do not know its effects on the development of the adolescent mind. It can also affect academic performance or trigger psychosis.</p> <p>The lack of regulations also has an environmental impact. Regulations must include environmental protection, including clean-up, remediation and enforcement of environmental impacts created by illicit cultivation. Without the appropriate regulations many are using Illicit pesticides that are bad for smoke inhalation or vape of concentrates.</p>	<p>Presenter Brad Rowe to provide presentation slides to Commission Liaison.</p>

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	<p>Many cities are looking at estimated revenue shortfall of 25% and higher for 2020 and are issuing Request for Proposals (RFP), moving to license as remedy to budget deficits. They now see Cannabis as more reliable source of tax revenue.</p> <p>Federal regulation of Cannabis would assist Cannabis businesses with securing banking services. Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019 (SAFE, 2019) prohibits a federal banking regulator from penalizing a depository institution for providing banking services to a legitimate marijuana-related business.</p> <p>Commissioner La Monte spoke about local regulation and taxation.</p> <p>Commissioner Bell asked presenter Brad Rowe how the Cannabis industry should ensure social equity, support small business, ensure local control and provide environmental protections. Mr. Rowe said this can be achieved through better regulations, better State inspections and enforcement, as well as, require community involvement.</p>	
5. Approval of Minutes	Chair Root asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the April 29, 2020 meeting.	Chair Root entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. Nazarian seconded by Com. Song and approved. Motion was carried.
6. Report from Substance Abuse Prevention and Control	<p>Michelle Gibson, MPH, Deputy Division Director for Treatment Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC), provided an update.</p> <p>SAPC has relaxed some of the closures and requirements on the provider network. The maximum number of participants was for group settings was increased from 5 to 10. They have allowed the prevention providers to resume providing services. SAPC will continue to work with network providers on isolation and quarantine practices.</p> <p>Contract Program Auditors will continue reaching out to Providers for continued technical assistance and training with one of the focal points being HIPPA compliant telehealth platforms.</p> <p>Chair Root asked a question concerning the data or</p>	

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	<p>rationale of the increase in group number. Per Ms. Gibson SAPC's increase was in alignment with guidance from the Department of Public Health and mirrors that of Alcohol Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. However, SAPC will continue to monitor its network providers, providers are required to inform SAPC of any patient or staff that receive a positive COVID-19 result.</p> <p>Commissioner Nazarian inquired if there were any stats or research being done on how youth are being affected by the quarantine as it pertains to mental health. Per Michelle that is something that the Department of Mental Health has been looking into.</p> <p>Commissioner Tom inquired about how COVID-19 is affecting the Drug Medical (DMC) budget. Ms. Gibson spoke about expected reduction in realignment funding which is based on states sales tax.</p>	
7. Discussion re Recommendation for the Director of SAPC; Resolution re Budget Maintenance for SUDs	<p>Chair Root asked for a motion to accept the Resolution re Budget Maintenance for SUDs.</p> <p>Chair Root to prepare a letter of support and recommendation for the Director of SAPC.</p>	Chair Root entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. La Monte seconded by Com. Nazarian and approved. Motion was carried.
8. 2020 AI-Impics	Commissioner Warwick stated that the next AI-Impics meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2020. They will be discussing the possibility of the 2020 AI-Impics to be held virtually.	Commissioner Warwick to give AI-Impics committee update on location at the next meeting.
9. Chair Report	<p>Action steps re SUDs in a time of Covid-19 – Commissioner Tom spoke about the Coronavirus Anxiety Workbook and Racial Ethnic Socioeconomic Data for COVID19 handouts that were provided.</p> <p>Commissioner Tom shared the DPH report on COVID-19 by race, ethnicity and socioeconomic data and an anxiety workbook.</p> <p>Commissioners were asked to email the Commission Liaison your mailing address.</p>	

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	Commissioners informed that Human Resources has requested for them to complete DPH Mandatory Trainings.	
10. Comments from Commissioners on Items of Interest	<p>Commissioner Nazarian inquired when Ad Hoc Committee meetings would return.</p> <p>Commissioner Polityko spoke on the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP) white paper on the impact of COVID-19 on the disease of addiction.</p>	<p>Chair Root to follow up with Commission Liaison concerning the return of the Ad Hoc Committee.</p> <p>Commissioner Polityko to submit a copy of the white paper to Chair for review.</p>
11. Public Comments (Comments from the Public on Items of Interest within the Commission's Subject Matter Jurisdiction)	No Public Comment	
12. Adjourn to the next meeting of the Commission	Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.	

Next meeting: TBA