

North Carolina Advisory Council on Cannabis

Prevention & Treatment Subcommittee

March 26, 2026 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Virtual via Webex Link

Meeting NOTES

Members: Dr. Kimberly McDonald; Lillie Rhodes; Deonte Thomas; Chief David Hess

Attendees: Kayde-ann Miller-Ford, GHSP; Kaycee Deen, Cannabis Working Group Team Lead; Hanaleah Hoberman, Subcommittee Lead; Scott Proescholdbell, NCDHHS; Kenny Benfield, FTA; Mary Beth Cox, NCDHHS; Wayne Lewallen, NC State Crime Lab; Pat Oglesby; James Huckabee; Cameron Clarke; Sarah Preston; John Boccella; Danielle O'Connell; Liz P; Beth; Andrea Steele, The Banks Law Firm

Dr. Kimberly McDonald starts meeting then turns it over to Scott Proescholdbell. He and Mary Beth Cox walk the group line by line through the recommendations listed on the following tabs in the matrix document.

Data Surveillance:

- Seven recommendations listed on data surveillance tab
- We don't want to create new systems – we want to take advantage of existing structures
- Can be done along the line of work for public health epidemiologists
- Work with the agency best suited to access certain information or system
- Keep in mind considerations and challenges for each recommendation
- It's suggested that the group think about including some estimates for cost in final summary of findings
- Important to hire the right people who can provide the recommended service and be the subject matter experts in their respective field
- It's suggested that the agency recommendations should be at the department level instead of the division level
- Should look at other states' (that have legalized cannabis) model and lessons learned

Education & Communication:

- Build upon existing infrastructure – no need to reinvent the wheel
- Five recommendations listed on education & communication tab
- Many of the recommendations are intertwined with data surveillance recommendations
- Funding (especially upfront funding) is key for all recommendations in every category
- Create prevention initiatives to reduce negative harms associated with cannabis

- Provide training to law enforcement, court staff, judicial officials, retailers, etc.
- Establish an advisory group to offer support and guidance in all aspect of public health education

Treatment:

- Similar to other existing treatment modes currently in place
- Five recommendations listed on treatment tab
- Overlaps with data surveillance and education & communication recommendations
- Need additional input from addiction specialists – may invite treatment specialists to speak with the group at future meetings

Recording of today's meeting will be provided to the group for review and future reference. Full working cannabis council will meet at the end of May. Thereafter, phase 2 sub-committees will start meeting. The sub-committees' recommendations will go into December's report.

Adjourn/Next Meeting: Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. Next meeting will be on Monday, April 6th 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm.