
Pete Shafer: Good morning, everyone. My name is Joe Belluck, I'm the Chair of the Cannabis Advisory Board. I want to start by thanking Roswell for hosting us and being so gracious and generous for this meeting and other meetings. It's great to be here in Buffalo. It's our first meeting outside of New York City. I spent three years here attending UB Law School, living on Hewitt Avenue off of Bailey, and it's good to be back in this great community. We are going to start today with a meeting of our Industry and Market Subcommittee that is chaired by Pete Shafer who is joining us virtually. And I just wanted to start by thanking Pete and Allan Gandelman who is here in person for all the work that they've done, not just on this subcommittee, but also in encouraging and advocating for farmers and other licensees. They put in a lot of time uncompensated time both on this subcommittee, but also generally to advocate for farmers and other licensees and a lot of the recent changes and things that have been done like the waiver and other things, the potency tax, they have a big role to play in it, and people in the industry should thank them for the time they put in personally, and professionally on this. So, with that, I'm going to turn it over to Pete.

Pete Shafer: Thanks, Joe. Can you hear me okay? Okay, great. Hello, welcome everyone, I'm Pete Shafer, Chair of the Cannabis Advisory Board Industry and Market subcommittee, recognizing we have a majority of board members present, I am pleased to call to order another meeting of the Cannabis Advisory Board's Industry and Market subcommittee, and welcome all of you who are participating in person or via real time livestream. I would also like to note that voting members such as myself, Alejandro Alvarez, Dr. Junella Chin, Gary Johnson, Nikki Kateman, Armando Rosado are joining via livestream from private location due to extra ordinary circumstances that restrict travel. As always, this meeting is being livestreamed, live captioning is available in both English and Spanish to individuals watching online. This meeting is also being recorded, and the transcript will be available to the public on the OCM website, cannabis.ny.gov. additional information on Cannabis Advisory Board meetings is available on the OCM website.

Now, I'll go over the agenda for today's Industry and Market subcommittee meeting. So, next we'll have a presentation from the office. John Kagia, Director of Policy to give us a market update, overview on delinquent payment plan, preoperational inspection reminders, then we'll dive into a subcommittee discussion. We have a few bullet points we want to cover. And that will be it for the Industry and subcommittee meeting. So, just some welcome remarks, and welcome, and thank you again committee members who are joining in person today in Buffalo. I'm sorry I couldn't make it myself to kick things off. I would like to revisit the Mission and Purpose of the subcommittee. The Industry and Market subcommittee has been formed to provide guidance and recommendations about issues related to cannabis licensing, license application process, cannabis licensing banking, market stability, industry development, i.e. cultivation, seed to sale system, etc. I look forward to continuing these important discussions as we continue standing up this new industry. For our next agenda item, I'm going to pass it over to John Kagia to provide some market updates. John, please take it from here, thanks.

John Kagia: Thanks, very much Pete, and thank you to the board members, and thank you to everyone who has come to attend this meeting in person, and who is joining us online. John Kagia,

I'm the Director of Policy of the Office of Cannabis Management, and I'm delighted to continue the discussion we've been having on the state of growth and evolution of New York's legal cannabis market. One of the kind of baseline reference numbers that gives us an orientation of the emergence of legal cannabis in New York is our retail sales data. Between March and April, we saw an increase in our monthly retail revenue from roughly \$33 million to \$38 million, up 15% month over month increase. And since we launched our retail sales in January 2023; we have now generated nearly \$284 million. But one of the data points I think is starting to get really compelling as we look at how quickly the market has started to scale, is the number of retail stores that we have reporting into us each month. So, it's kind of the bottom of the bar chart, we have the numbers of stores that we have operational on our bridge across each month. We started off in January of 23, with one store, by December of 23, following the end of the injunction that delayed our retail opening, we had 32 stores open, and since then we've opened an additional 53 stores, so for April, we averaged 86 stores reporting, and we currently have over 130 stores approved to operate. We have basically been growing about 20 stores per month, and we're expecting to actually start to ramp up beyond that based on the accelerated pace of licensing that's coming. So, very strong indicators already. I was looking at the data from the last week of April coming into the first week of May, and we are already on pace to shatter the numbers that we saw in April. So, a very bullish outlook for where we are.

I want to drill in just a little bit because we are only two week out from 4/20 and there is a lot of interest in how sales were going to perform on 4/20. So, when we last convened, we were proudly crowing that we had just broken \$8 million a week for our weekly sales. We started trending up toward \$9 million in sales, but the week of 4/20, we saw nearly \$11 million in sales that week, and across all of our retailers, we saw roughly 30% week over week increase in demand. So, and I think that was driver by a convergence of things. We had our retailers drive a lot of engagement with consumers up and prepped for the 4/20 activities. There was a lot of discussion in the week ramping up on what to expect, and how to prepare for 4/20. And clearly, there were a lot of consumers who 4/20 was something that was well understood, but this is one of the first times they could participate in 4/20 um through legal channels. Finally, it also helped that 4/20 was on a weekend. So, as part of our walkabout, I popped into Washington Square Park, and having now been there 2 years in a row post legalization, the weekend certainly helped drive engagement because folks had free time and were able to come out and celebrate the day. So, even though we've seen a slight decline from 10.8 million because of the 4/20 bump down to 9.8, at 9.8 million for the week after 4/20 that would still have been the best performing week we've had. So, it's dropped a little bit since then, but still higher than when we had been on trend for prior, and I think a good indication of the momentum that continues to build.

And then a final kind of lens in which to think about the pace of which we are growing, we're just comparing our revenue growth over the two years. So, in 2023, year in total we did \$160 million in sales including about \$10 million that we did through the Cannabis Grower Showcase Program that ran for the second half of 2023. We have already done through end of April \$132 million by the end of May we will surpass our 2023 total. And so, by the time we get through the first half of 2024, we're expecting to be in the \$200 million range if not more than that. So, really good momentum for the year, very excited to continue to get more stores opening, and through the course of the CAB meetings we're going to have to date, there will be more discussion about enforcement. But one of the things that, as we think about how growth is expected to evolve in the months ahead, is the catalytic effect that we start to see as enforcement starts to constrict the access to the

unregulated market, specifically the stores that are operating illegally, and we're expecting that to help further drive consumers into the legal regulated environment. So, tremendous momentum so far, \$38 million for the first quarter of 24, sorry for the second quarter of 24 through April, puts us on great pace, and I think this is just going to continue to accelerate based on the continued acceleration of licensing, and the ramp up in our enforcement efforts following the approval of the new enforcement part.

So, with that, a few of the points that we wanted to set the table on as we look at some of the work that the office is going to be doing in the coming months, and then too, to help prepare our licensees, particularly our preoperational licensees to make sure they are addressing some of the issues that we have seen that have impacted how folks are able to get their doors open.

So, first, I wanted to visit delinquent payments. The program was just going live at our last CAB meeting and just wanted to remind folks what this delinquent payment program is and how it is being implemented. So, first, delinquent reporting happens when retailers are more than 30 days late on their payments to their suppliers. Once a retailer has hit that 30-day payment threshold, the suppliers are required to report them to the Office, and at that point, following that notification, the retailer is put on a delinquent payment reporting list. When a retailer is on the delinquent payment reporting list, it puts on hold their ability to purchase product on credit. All products, when a licensee, when a retailer is on the delinquent payment list, must be done as cash on delivery, and so, the part of the privilege in being timely in your payments is to ensure that you can continue to operate on a credit based model, but once you're on the delinquent payment list, the retailer is no longer able to accept product on credit, and must pay in full for the product they are receiving on delivery. Once the supplier has received the payment in full, they will notify the office that the retailer has paid out what is owed, and then the office will remove that retailer from the COD list from the delinquent payment list, and then they will be able to resume their payment as scheduled. The delinquent payment list is published monthly. We have extensive information about how the delinquent payment process managed on our website, so please review the FAQ's if you're not familiar with that. And then the office makes available to our suppliers all of the retailers who appear on that list. For the suppliers to report the delinquent payments, please submit the retailers by a COD reporting at OCM.ny.gov, and if you have any additional questions, you can send them through that e-mail as well.

To date, the delinquent payment process has been somewhat limited. We know that this has been a profoundly busy season for many of our operators, the out building relationships with all of these stores that we have had open, we have now opened maybe 100 stores since December, but we just want to remind folks this is a regulatory requirement, and the Office does expect adherence to these regulations both amongst retailers who should be timing the payments, and amongst the suppliers who will be required to report this.

So, second kind of set of notifications and reminders that we wanted to communicate; first is for our Adult Use Conditional Cultivators and Adult Use Conditional Processors who are in the process of transitioning from conditional status to full and final licensure status. All applications to transition from an AUCC or an AUCP were due on May 3rd, last Friday, and we saw a tremendous amount of activity in the first couple of days of May as far as getting those applications in. So, thank you everybody who submitted those applications on a timely basis. Those licensees who did not submit their applications in a timely way or who did not intend to continue to operate under the conditional license status, may apply to the Office for authority to continue to operate until a

determination is made on the status of their license. However, the authority to operate on a conditional basis expires in June, and at that point, all cannabis activity must cease. For our producers, you cannot grow, many process package cannabis for the conditional processors. You cannot manufacture, sell, or distribute product. All operations must cease at the end of the conditional period.

And then a final point for our Adult Use Conditional Cultivators which is an important update to the ability to transition and secure processing capacity. We have expanded the processor authorizations for our conditional cultivators, so they are eligible to transition to both a Type 1 and a Type 2 processor, not just to the Type 3, which would grant license, and with the ability to transition to a Type 1 or Type 2 processor, just reminder that those two types of processors do have GMP requirements. So, please make sure that you are able to adhere to those requirements, as you make those application process.

And then, finally, for our transition for licensees. Just a reminder that the distributor license is a separate license once you have made the transition. So, if you are a conditional processor or a conditional cultivator who was self-distributing prior to the expiration of the conditional period, you will need a distributor license to continue to distribute your product, boost transition. The ability to secure the distribution license, that remains open after the transition, so there isn't a cut-off there. Just flagging that you will need that if you are going to continue to distribute your own product. And for those who had registered with the Department of Tax and Finance and were doing self-distribution, under the CCCP program, you will need to reregister with the Department of Tax and Finance, make sure that your payments are being captured there.

Given that the Board recently voted to waive the licensing fees for the transition on Adult Use Conditional Cultivators, for the licensees who had made the payment of the licensing fee before that license fee waiver went into effect, the Office is working on a process by which we will refund you for that license payment. We will just need a few weeks to get that done, so please give us 4 to 6 weeks to implement those reimbursements. But I just wanted to reassure folks that if you had made the payment for your licensing fee, that fee is going to be waived and it will take us a month to a month and a half to process those reimbursements.

For our retailers, we have to make sure that we are all aligned on some of the requirements that can help ensure that your preoperational inspection will go smoothly and that you will be able to get your stores open as quickly as possible. So, in discussion with the Compliance Unit, there's several things that we have found that have negatively impacted the ability for our retailers to get open because ones might appearance and compliance. So, I just wanted to call out a few. So, first, on the security camera requirements, you are required to have a 60-day retention policy. This is standard across the market, not 30-days, not 45-days, it is a 60-day requirement, so please make sure you have that.

Two, if you have a certificate of occupancy, do make sure that it reflects the business that you are operating. And specifically, make sure that your certificate of occupancy meets the municipal requirements for the COO's. We understand that some municipalities approach the certificate of occupancy process differently. But if you do require your COO to be updated by municipality, please make sure you have that done before you request the reop inspections.

Also, related to security, one of our security requirements is to try and ensure the safety and security of both personnel and of the high value product and capital that is on-site. So, we've

encountered several instances where the coverage of the security cameras on-site didn't adequately cover the entire property, so there were blind spots. There was furniture moved in the way of the security cameras. So, please look closely at the coverage of your security apparatus, your security infrastructure to make sure the entire facility is visible through the security footage.

PLMA. Under our packaging and labeling marketing advertising rules, there are several rules around signage both inside and outside the store. We urge you and remain you to review the PLMA rules as they are currently, to ensure that you are complying with those rules. Unfortunately, we have had several instances where folks really stretch on the interpretation of these rules and had to make adjustments that delayed them getting open. The rules currently are what they are. We are certainly having a robust discussion and we're going to discuss some of that this afternoon on potential amendments to PLMA but based on the rules as they currently are, please make sure you're in compliance there.

Two final things, on inventory and inventory management, as we kind of prepare to start transitioning to buyer trend, we are still in the weekly inventory reporting template workflow in which every retailer is required to report to the office their inventory on hand and their sales by flat files to the office. The office has a template that we have iterated several times. Many of our retailers are reporting these now in a very seamless way. So, please study that and make sure you have got this dialed in, it will really help streamline things for both sides as you're getting operational.

And then, the final point, and this is really the one I wanted to stress because it's caused a lot of anxiety for a lot of our operators. Please do not schedule your opening until we have completed your preop's inspection. We've had several folks schedule the openings and then at midnight telling us that we need to get our staff over to their facilities at 8:00 a.m. so they could be ready for the grand opening. Folks just doesn't work that way, and it can't work that way because it's not fair to you to ensure that you and the community that you're rallying to support your operations have the best experience possible and given the amount of work that the team is currently dealing with. It works most seamlessly if everybody is able to schedule out the work and get this done. So, can't stress enough, please don't schedule your openings until you have your preops inspection scheduled, especially because we have seen enough instances where we have found things that folks have had to go and remedy that have delayed their openings. We just don't want you to have to deal with that. So, don't schedule until you've gotten the green light to proceed from the office.

Quickly on FAQs around the market's operationalization. So, the office has been working on a series of frequently asked questions that will help all of our stakeholders better understand the licensing process, where we are in the license review process, and what's going to happen on the next steps. The FAQ document is very substantial, and it covers everything from how the queueing of licenses or applicants was done. How the review process is working. And what the outlook is for the market's roll out. But one of the questions we've certainly gotten a lot of, and I just wanted to offer as a teaser before we roll out these FAQs at the beginning of the week next week, is a question around this queueing of applications. So, we had two broadly speaking application pools. Those who applied in November for retail and micro business licenses with locations, and those who applied in December for the retail micro business and other supplier licenses processing cultivation and distribution. For each pool of applications, for the applicants who qualified for extra priority, and extra priority, to remind everyone were folks who were from communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition whose income was 80% of the median

income in the jurisdiction in which they live, and who had a cannabis prosecution for themselves or somebody in their family. For the applicants who qualified for extra priority, each of the applications was given two additional spots in the queue. But all of the applications were included in the pool as single applications, so a 1 for 1 for each application. The office then used a random number generator to generate a sequence of numbers that reflected the number of applications in the pool. So, for example, if there were 1000 applications in a given pool, the random number generator would create a sequence of number from 1 to 1000 that would correspond to each applicant. That random number generator sequence then became the order in which the queues were going to be received. Random number generators are created using a seed number and that seed number ensures replicability of results. So, using a random number generator, you will input the seed, and then the random number generator will algorithmically use that seed to generate the sequence of numbers from 1 to 1000 in the example I just gave. To ensure true randomization of the random number generator seed, we use the pick 4 lottery numbers drawn from the afternoon, sorry, the Win 4 lottery numbers drawn from the afternoon that the randomized queuing took place. So, the 4 lottery numbers served as the seed for the random number generator, and that ensures that if you used that number of the lottery numbers in the random number generator, you would always get the same result. It ensured that was a totally random number that was used as input. We literally waited for the results from the Win 4 lottery to occur and as soon as the drawing happened, we took those numbers and implemented them in the RNG, and this entire process was audited by an independent third party to ensure that ostensibly these elements of randomization in the use of the lottery numbers and in the use of the RNG adhered to the protocol as designed for true randomization. So, a big technical, but just wanted to help explain how the Que was generated and this was just one of the dozens of dozens of questions that we go into quite robust detail on FAQs that are forthcoming. So, we encourage all of our stakeholders to review the FAQs once published in the beginning of next week. I think it's going to provide a lot of kind of clarity on process and implementation of our process.

One final point to pose. We have three very significant reports on deck through the end of the year that are I think going to bring relevance to the work being done by this subcommittee. The first that is due October 2024, is what we're calling the Implementation Study. And the Implementation Study, it is required by the law, and it requires us to review how effectively or how successfully we have been able to achieve the key goals of MRTA, New York's Cannabis law. And it allows us to kind of benchmark our process for assessing our performance, the data that we are collecting or the data processes that we're going to need to institute to ensure that we can continue to monitor our performance relative to the goals described in the MRTA.

Second, is what we're calling the Market Report, and this is closer to an economic study that looks at two key aspects of the market; one is how effective has the office been in achieving the social and economic equity goals of the market? Two, how effective has the programmatic implementation of this market being in achieving market fairness? So, how is the opportunity in this market spread across the state and spread across the stakeholders? Are there opportunities to assess some of the rules to enhance the ability for the stakeholders in the markets to compete in a fair and equitable way? And what lessons have been learned as we look out at the first couple of years of retail sales for 3 years of the program. Then finally how are we doing in our supply chain? How are we doing with the building and the balancing of our cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, and retail?

And then finally, we have the Annual Report, which as we have done in previous years just takes a full wholistic look at the size growth evolution of this market, the lessons that we are learning, the key that's used that are influencing the growth, health, and dynamics within the market, and then the factors that we are looking out for that could influence the future of New York's market. For example, one of the issues that we're going to be considering under the annual report will be the fast moving developments related to legalization. So, three big studies. There are going to be a lot of connective tissue between the three of them, but certainly working with the stakeholders around this table and in the market to do the story telling in these three themes related to market, but wanted to ensure that this subcommittee was aware that these reports are coming, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that we do our reporting robustly on these teams. So, with that, I will return this back to you to begin discussions.

Pete Shafer: Thank you very much, John, I appreciate that rundown interesting data in there. Before we jump into the discussion portion, do any of the subcommittee members have any comments or questions for John after that presentation? Okay, hearing nothing specific. John, I did just have one question, you mentioned that the delinquent payment list is posted monthly, but that's updated weekly correct?

John Kagia: Yes, weekly.

Pete Shafer: Okay, I just wanted to clarify.

John Kagia: That's a really important clarification. I wouldn't want anybody to be on a hook for a month before they can get taken off.

Pete Shafer: So, it's weekly, I think it's Wednesdays or something like that?

John Kagia: Yep.

Pete Shafer: Alright, hearing no other comments or questions on John's report, I'll jump right into it. I apologize for the next meeting here, I know we're running over, but there's a few things we do want to talk about in this subcommittee meeting. So, I'll jump into the first, just a continuing conversation regarding track and trace. And license holders received another notice recently in the last couple of weeks regarding track and trace, specifically bio track, specifically digital UID numbers and we as a subcommittee, I think just want to just talk about track and trace in general speak here and ensure that the steps we're taking for track and trace are in line with the original intent of track and trace, right? And so, some of the questions in discussions are ensuring that we're not just piling on expenses here and asking for additional administrative duties and extra expense for people throughout the supply chain, especially when we're talking about UID's and for people that don't know, they are digital essentially digital ID's that are assigned to crops at various stages of production in simple terms. And so, if we're asking license holders to pay an additional fee for these UID's we want to 1) make sure it's not redundant. We want to make sure it's in line with the intent of track and trace. So, that's one piece of this. The other piece of this is we're unclear still about the timeline for implementation. So, again, there's a lot of angst in the industry about track and trace and bio track implementation, and we're trying to ease some of that angst and make sure that what we're asking license holders to do is in line with the intent to track and trace. So, for example, is track and trace an intent to be a tool for reporting, is it intended to confirm tax revenue? Is it intended to prevent transshipping of problem from out of state? Is it intended to give us an ability to recall product? Is it all of the above. And if so, are these new asks

by the OCM in line with those intent in really achieving those objectives? And I think it's just an important conversation to have before we just ask everybody to do this. so, I think it's an important discussion. So, again two-fold, requesting for an updated timeline of where we're at with implementation of bio track as the track and trace, and request for clarification of the intent of track and trace to make sure it makes sense. So, I just want to open that up for discussion.

Joe Belluck: John, I assume you're going to give the answer. So, it is a little bit after 1:00, when we were supposed to start the meeting of the full Cannabis Advisory Board, and I will do some opening remarks in a minute, but the second agenda item on the Cannabis Advisory Board agenda was related to the Industry and Market subcommittee, so we're going to use that time now to continue the conversation that Pete has started. And John, if you can give a full but brief answer to Pete's two questions to start us off, that would be great.

John Kagia: Thank you. Brief about bio track. So, maybe I'll start with the second question first which I think is a really important question on why is cannabis one of the few plants, one of the few sectors of the economy where you have a seed to sale system in place? And seed to sale, as it sounds, is really a system a technology-based ecosystem that allows you to track every single plant from the moment it goes into the soil, to the moment that it ends up on retail store shelves, and ideally into the consumer's basket. There are several reasons driving this, and I think you enumerated many of those reasons, Pete. It is to ensure all traceability. To let us know where the products have come from, and we have a good understanding of production and sell. It helps the office understand our supply chain. This market is growing very, very quickly, and the more we understand about how much is being produced, and how much is coming kind of in the ground, we can anticipate the future cost ourselves and that tells us where we are on a capacity basis. Absolutely critical for recalls, understanding which batches, if you're trying to initiate a recall, understanding and being able to trace back products back to their point of origin. The utility of these type of data is that it actually makes recalls far more targeted, so you're not having to recall everything produced by a farmer if it appears that it's a small batch or a small case instance. Right now, we are seeing a deluge of product being diverted out of legal markets in other legal states and being diverted into New York, not necessarily into our legal market, but being diverted into the state. Managing diversion and ensuring that 1) we are not having product going out of our ecosystem, and 2) that we're not having product from other jurisdictions being inverted into our legal market is a critical piece. So, being able to use these data or these systems to ensure that we are producing and selling in New York is grown and made in New York, is vitally important. So, the seed to sale system also finally, it helps with reporting significantly helps with reporting because it creates an automated system for the office to be able to fully track what is quite a complex market. We have tried to take lessons from other jurisdictions that have implemented seed to sale, and tried to adapt the implementation protocol for New York to reflect the particular aspects of our market, but we do understand, this is going to be a substantive change from the way things have been done to date.

On timing, we are still looking at the switch being turned on in late summer at which point our producers will have 60 days to then get onto the seed to sale system. For folks who have been concerned about having to start doing this particularly during planting season right now, I don't think that's going to be as much of a concern, you'll have time to focus on putting seeds in the ground and getting your cultivation operation prepped. And for those of you who are transitioning, you'll have time to get through what we understand is going to be a normally busy season. But we are hopeful that the extra time that it has taken for us to ensure that this system is dialed in, has

given folks to focus on their other priorities, and allow the other systems that they use to prepare for this integration which we believe will help make things quite a bit easier. I will say, while we're certainly kind of open to continuing this discussion on ensuring that the implementation of this is kind of balances the twin objectives of enabling us to achieve all of our reporting and data reporting and consumer protection requirements, but also, we wanted to be minimally disruptive to our operators. We are certainly not trying to make work for the sake of it. Getting onto the systems may take a little time, and we're certainly going to be working closely with licensees to make sure that folks have the support that they need to deploy these systems. But we are still a couple of months out, and then you'll have the 60-days post access to the API to be able to implement this. We will work very closely with the licensees to ensure that this can be done in as seamlessly ways as possible.

Pete Shafer: Thank you, John. I think it's, thank you for the timeline, that's helpful, late summer. I think it's important to just reiterate that many of the objectives are already being accomplished by way of GMP requirements, especially as we move processing of flower under the umbrella of processing licenses now and they're required to have GMP certification, many of those objectives are required in GMP certification. So, I just want to make sure we're not being redundant in asking people 1) to do more work, and 2) to incur extra cost for systems that may already be in place, if there's another tool. So, specifically, the industry just wants to take a second look when you're asking them to purchase a UID, digital ID for 10 cents for every digital tag, just to be clear, that's the recent notice that the license holders were given. What that translates into, if somebody has to plant 20,000 auto flowers in a 1 acre crop, that's an additional \$2,000 expense. We are just very mindful of waiving cultivator licensing fees and then right on the coattails of that, we hit them with a digital UID tag fee for track and trace, when a lot of those things can be accomplished in other ways. So, I think it's an important conversation to have in the interest of time, unless anybody has any other comments, I just wanted to put that out there.

John Kagia: Valuable and noted feedback, Pete and we'll certainly take this one back.

Allan Gandleman: I'll be brief on this one in terms of the timeline, so you're expecting that for everyone harvesting in let's call it October 1st, they'll have their plant tag on their plants prior to harvest because post-harvest, it will be pretty difficult, if we're talking about individual UID plant tags. And not that we're going to resolve that issue now but it's something to pay attention to. And to Pete's point about the intent of bio track and the track and trace system, it always comes down to enforcement, and I think we see what's happening in the California market where at least 50% of their supply chain is leaving their state and coming here. So, I think that's definitely something to be aware of, cause right now it does feel like a double whammy both of the cost and the way that bio track is being implemented here, not only is it a plant tag, it's a 10 cent UID on every time you transfer the material and it changes form, plus every case of prerolled, etc. which I think is not common in most other states. So, I think there's just like a few little implementation things we might want to look at later this year after the harvest season really, or right before the harvest season, depending on what the goal is on the plant tags. So, that's it.

Pete Shafer: Just to bookend that, I think it's in everybody's interest to confirm we're getting the tax revenue and that's the point of this body, right? And make sure we need a mechanism for controlling transshipping from out of state and ensuring we can recall. So, all those things are important, I'm not trying to skirt those just want to have a discussion for redundancies and additional fees. So, that's the point of that discussion.

I'll switch gears to the PLMA discussion. In the interest of time, I'll try to highlight just a couple of things, and again pose some questions. Maybe John, you can give us some direction. But one was just a better discussion of brand licenses. That topic was broached before and there are brands existing and unlicensed brands right, that are using white labeling as a way to get to the market. So, are there applications out for brand licensing? I'm sorry, if we've already gone over this, but do we know how many people have applied for those? Is there a deadline for when a brand must have a license in order to operate in New York, and have any been awarded yet? Can you talk to that a little bit as part one of the PLMA discussion?

John Kagia: Sure, so we envision brands operating this space in two ways; one is by securing the Type 3 processor license which is the brand license. The other is a TPI within an existing either producer approved processor who's authority would be operating under. The distinction there being if you get a Type 3 processor license, then you have the ability to kind of minimally touch the product. You can package and label product. If you are doing it through a branding agreement, through a group as a TPI within an operator, then you would not have the ability to touch product, and the company you're working with the cultivator or processor you'd be working with would be the only one who would have authority to do those. So, there are a couple of ways in which you can do this. But in both cases, the brands themselves would be required to adhere to all of our standard rules. For the cultivators and processors who have brands operating under their authority, then if they are placed under your authority, then you have some responsibility. We will not have regulatory oversight over those brands, the responsibility for compliance adherence falls onto the company who is managing those brands, or who's producing and distributing those brands. So, just something to be aware of if you're a cultivator or processor, whether that's kind of the responsibility you want to assume in this market.

There is no deadline to apply for the Type 3 processor license. The intent was to open it up and once we opened it up we keep it open. We certainly welcome folks to apply for this Type 3 license. We think it's a critical way to significantly expand brand diversity in the market without necessarily having to create new supply, since most of these are either buying flower or value-added products from the Type 1 and Type 2 manufacturers, the Type 3 processors, the brand license creates a vector by which you can sell more product without having to create more supply in the market. So, we're not intending to cap the number of Type 3 processor licenses. We will issue, we will keep that brand application open. I will need to confirm whether we've issued any from the November application cycle, but we are certainly going to start having those at pace in short order that was part of the supply licenses that we're starting to issue from the November and December application window. But we're expecting to see quite a lot of interest in this license, and we're welcoming brands from New York, brands from across the country to come in and participate in this market.

Pete Shafer: So just to clarify that, there is no brand license, it's either a Type 3 processor license or if a brand is interested in coming up with an agreement with an existing processor or cultivator, then that is just under a TPI agreement, right?

John Kagia: Yes, that's right. We've been using the Type 3 processor license as we've been calling that the brand license but yes, that is the Type 3 processor license, and it does authorize you to package and brand the product. So, you become a regulated entity in the state, but with nominal kind of product touching authority.

Pete Shafer: Got it. Okay, there are two other points I want to make, I'm going to throw them both out there and then up for discussion. But there was some discussion in last meetings on event licensing, and/or the idea of merging the idea of a grower showcase and allowing licensees to table at stores and having a pathway to education direct from brands. Any update for us?

John Kagia: Yes, this is an issue that's moving with some speed. Office is working on developing regulations governing events which will begin as ostensibly an adaptation of the model under which we are operating the cannabis grocery cases. We have certainly taken a lot of lessons from that and are working to get that done. There is going to be two parts to getting this event authorization approved. 1) Legislative component, so we're working to try and get approval of that component. But we're in parallel to developing regulations that would authorize this so that once we have the legal authority to do this through the legislative process, then we'll spool up the regulations for this and hopefully get this thing rolled out quite quickly. The regulations will need to go through the standard public comment period and process, but we certainly see the interest in this. We think it is a very significant opportunity to both expand consumer access and provide opportunities, as you say for consumer education. We will be changing some of the rules, at least as currently proposed, currently envisioned. Yes, you will still be able to showcase but some of the rules that we had about cannabis grow showcase around representation and product minimums, the number of licenses you have to participate, all of that goes away. I think we can allow this to operate as a truly kind of a free market sort of way. So, retailers would be able to do this on their own without having cultivators or processors be with them, though they would have the ability to have cultivators and processors also participate. If the cultivators or processors participated it would be on a showcase basis not on a retail basis, and all of the other standard reporting requirements would still apply. So, this one is moving as quickly as one can move when you require legislative authority, and approval of the regulations. But we're kind of in the process of kicking off both of those elements and should have the event permit ready to go probably later this year.

Pete Shafer: Thank you for moving that forward. We look forward to an update. I just have one last comment, and it's for future discussion, I think some information that we would love to see as a subcommittee in the future from OCM data would be this is really high-level information but any data you have to help us in the future, if there's any information regarding what the current supply side capacity is vs. the current retail need. I think that's an important discussion for this subcommittee to have going forward as we talk about things and make recommendations to the Board with regards to licensing and things like that. I think that's important information to have. Current supply side capacity vs. retail market needs, does that make sense?

John Kagia: Yes, that makes complete sense and maybe two quick points there. 1) We will be able to give a read out of where we see the supply side based on where we will be in licensing by the time we get to the next board meeting which will actually give us quite a bit of clarity on where the conditional cultivators, what type of licenses they will need to apply to transition to, because of the production caps for each type of license. We'll have much better visibility on the maximum kind of capacity thresholds might be there. 2) It's been interesting to see, we've been seeing new brands coming on the market faster than we can keep up with the data coding around this. I had a meeting about this yesterday, and our kind of data analytics team is working furiously to try and code and understand how that side is involved in terms of brand diversification, and product innovation in the marketplace. And then we will certainly have a much clearer sense of retail self-brew by the time we reconvene. So, happy to provide a detailed readout then. Too, this question on supply side capacity and retail alignment is one of the critical aspects that we're going to be looking at in

the yearend market report, so it's going to take us a little while to do that piece. But it is something that we're certainly going to be looking at very closely and happy to report out on that as we work to the larger report at the end of the year.

Pete Shafer: Okay, thank you. Any other discussion or any other points open for discussion?

Allan Gandelman: Pete, real quick you mentioned the PLMA regs and we kind of glossed over it and John, you had mentioned that they were being looked at again potentially. Can you just explain what's going on with those so we're aware as a subcommittee?

John Kagia: Sure, I'll actually turn it over to my colleague, Lyla Hunt who has popped up. Hi, Lyla welcome back. If you could do the readout on that.

Pete Shafer: In three minutes.

Lyla Hunt: Yes, you got it chair. So, thank you for the time and Allan for the question. We're just receiving comments on packaging, labeling, marketing, and advertising on PLMA regulations right now. We're starting to get them from _____ membership and so in the interest of time, Allan, I would say our runway here is medium sized. Meaning, we're expecting these to have a timeline in the middle of the summer. So, if we can start to get comments sooner rather than later, you can submit them to the regulations shared mailbox but copy John and myself, and we'll make sure we're going through those comments from the subcommittee members that would be a great bit of feedback in collaboration that we would very much so welcome.

Allan Gandelman: Awesome, thank you Lyla.

Lyla Hunt: Thanks, Allen.

Pete Shafer: Great. There is potential for maybe the subcommittee to have a working meeting to propose some suggestions on that. Okay, any other points of discussion on the subcommittee? Alright, hearing none, thank you for the discussion today. May I please have a motion to adjourn this meeting.

Allan Gandelman: So moved.

Male: Second.

Pete Shafer: Alright, thank you. Any discussion or comment by any board member? Hearing none, I'll call for a vote. All in favor?

All: Aye.

Pete Shafer: Opposed, abstentions. Alright motion to adjourn this meeting carries, thank you all. I apologize for the delay, thanks for everybody's' patience. We will now adjourn.

Joe Belluck: Alright, we are going to move right into our meeting of the Cannabis Advisory Board. As I mentioned at the beginning, my name is Joe Belluck, I'm the Chair of the Cannabis Advisory Board. We have a majority of our board members present either in person or joining us via livestream due to extraordinary circumstances. I want to start just by again, thanking Roswell for hosting us and their generosity. I want to acknowledge the Cannabis Advisory Board members who are here in person, many of whom reside here in Buffalo, and it's important that we do these meetings around the state and not just in New York City or Albany. So, here in person, we have Shawndra Redfern from Buffalo, Allan Gandelman who needs no introduction, Sara Ravenhall who

is with the New York State Association of County Health Officials, E. Arthur Duncan from Buffalo, and Leonard Skroll who is with Homes and Community Renewal, and you're also from Buffalo. So, as I mentioned, I attended law school here from 1991 to 1994, it's great to be back. I still have a strong connection with the law school. When I attended here there was a hydroponic store in Cheektowaga, I'm not sure if it's still there, I think it was called Harvest Moon, but I remember going there on several visits while I was attending law school here. I also wanted to, since we're here in Buffalo, acknowledge Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes for all her effort in getting this law passed and her continued advocacy in helping to amend and shape the law and the rollout. I know she meets with Chris Alexander frequently and I also meet with her and her staff, and she has been indispensable to this process. Also, since we're in her hometown, I wanted to acknowledge and thank the Governor in her efforts and her team to try to improve the Cannabis market. Her focus on enforcement which Chris is going to talk about in a little bit, but it's terrific to have the level of engagement that we do from the Governor, her team right now, and I think it's going to lead to a lot of improvements. As I say at every meeting, this is a challenging effort creating a new industry from scratch. Chris and his team work tirelessly to try to get this program off the ground with not enough resources or staff, and we should not let any meeting pass without acknowledging their efforts and the work that they're doing. Those of us who are in these positions see every day how hard they are working. We may have disagreements, and people may question some of the steps, but nobody should question the 24/7 work ethic and efforts that Chris and his team are putting in. And I will just say one thing that I think we all in these roles need to do better at, and that's in customer service to the licensees and potential licensees. We have to remember that OCM is not just a regulatory agency that has to hold licensees and people in the market accountable, we also have to give them customer service, try to answer their questions, and be transparent. These are business owners and potential business owners who have spent a lot of time and their own money and put their financial and their family's financial state at risk. I get a lot of phone calls every week that sound something like, "I'm about to open a dispensary and I can't get my product list approved." "I got proximity protection, and it was taken away." "I own a farm and I want to set up a farm stand to sell cannabis". These are questions that we need to be able to answer and answer quickly so that these businesses can operate as efficiently as possible. So, I think we just all need to remember and focus on the customer service part of what we're doing.

Okay, with that being said, I would like to have a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

Female: I'll motion.

Male: I second the motion.

Joe Belluck: Okay, anyone opposed? Alright with that, we are going to turn the meeting over to OCM's executive director, Chris Alexander, to give us an update on a number of items.

Chris Alexander: Thank you, Chairman Belluck, and I appreciate always the recognition of the work being done by so many here in the background. Shout out to the _____ team for all the work that they've been doing. And I thank you for acknowledging them. We've got a lot going on right now, and I want to start with a quick legislative update.

This is budget season and the activity in Albany is going to have significant impacts on the market that we are building here. I just want to make sure that all of our stakeholders out there. I'm going to start with enforcement. This obviously has been an ongoing issue and challenge for

municipalities across the state. The office has, as of last year, stepped into the role to take the civic enforcement responsibility and work to close down these stores with a primary focus on ensuring that our market has a chance to survive, and a secondary but also primary goal of making sure that products that haven't been properly tested are not entering the supply chain and being consumed by New Yorkers. You've heard me for years now talk about the frustration that these shops have caused and so I'm thankful for the work that's been done to expand our ability to close down these shops. We've been ceasing product for a while, but it's been difficult to get the closures done, and now we've got some additional powers to do that. So, I'll go through those really quickly.

The first thing is, we have an expanded authority to padlock stores, and this is the point I was making before, we've been previously been able to inspect and cease product, but had a pretty lengthy court process to get closures done. So, now, with the recognition that these shops, many of these shops are selling products that would likely be contaminated and a lot of folks selling to young people, we will be issuing immediate padlocks upon inspection which will be followed by an administrative hearing where folks can present their cases. But we will move into padlock these doors on the front end. Landlords who fail to comply will be subject to penalties up to 5 times the rent or \$50,000 and a \$50,000 fine for landlords as well. expanded local authority also allows city governments to adopt their own laws to maintain control of the illicit cannabis sales in their jurisdiction. I think New York City's Administrative code changes were included in the actual bill, and our office will be working with municipalities doing trainings to help them craft and develop their approaches. But the guidelines are in the executive budget.

The governor also announced that we would be putting together a taskforce of agencies, obviously it's been said we don't have enough people just yet here at OCM and so utilizing other inspectors, data analysts, other staff from other agencies will be pulled together, are being pulled together real time to support this effort and start to close these stores down in a broader way.

And then lastly, obviously the presence of these shops in the city is concerning and Iona Sharp Sheriff's office who has been a partner through this and will be helping to take on this action, on these issues, these shops in New York City.

Before we move on from this, I just want to say that this is obviously a pretty significant effort, this problem has grown to a significant level. But I want to remind everybody why we did this, why we legalized, why we created these opportunities, and a huge part of that was public health and ensuring that if folks are going to be using cannabis, they can use product that has been tested properly and has gone through our supply chain. So, the message to consumers to not shop at these stores despite how beautiful they may look in some cases remains. So, we've been really focused on social media, and digital campaigns, relaunching our ____ Legal Campaign to ensure that we're informing consumers of where our regulated legal shops are and that those are the places they should go to purchase their cannabis and cannabis products.

We also had some significant changes to our tax structure. Two or three main ones here. The medical excise tax has been reduced from 7 to 3.15% for medical cannabis products. We also have seen the THC potency tax removed, and now a flat wholesale tax being instituted in its place. That's still coupled with the 4% local tax with an effective rate around 13% for the market which is a solid base. We have some competitive pricing across our market so, pleased to see these steps taken but also know that we're always going to be fine tuning and making sure that we're staying at

a price point where consumers continue to appreciate. And that's from John's report, we will see that they have been participating in shopping at our stores.

And then, I'll just provide a quick licensing update on where we are right now. We have currently 139 CAURD licensees with locations that are operating or approved retail locations. Some are operating, some are about to open imminently. We still have a 9 TDOs which will be transiting shortly, but we do have 333 approved retail dispensary locations, folks with provision licenses rather than are still in process which will include the Adult Use folks from the CAURD program as well as from the most recent windows. I want to point to one stack that's actually not here, and that is just the amount of locations that have been protected across the state which we presented in previous board meetings which shows the footprint of potentially viable retail locations which continues to be very geographically diverse. We can send around those numbers in a bit. But there's a lot of locations that have been identified and folks going through the process of completing their build out and finishing up.

And just a note on licensing. Obviously, this continues to be a complicated and arduous process. Big shout out as always to our licensing team who are doing the best they can to continue to move through these complicated applications and ensure that New York's operators are folks who are ready and eligible to operate in the state. There is a lot of different levels of review, and as always, I was pushing on applicants to make sure they're being responsive. I know that there can definitely be frustration when you feel like you've sent in information but maybe you didn't send it in the right way and the office has to kind of take that step to correct. So, we'll continue to finetune our process, and of course, looking forward to some additional resources to move a bit faster.

And of course, one thing that we haven't ever lost sight of is our commitment to making sure that the licensees and the supply chain is diverse. The numbers that you see here on the screen just around 40% of majority minority owned businesses is obviously a significant increase when compared to the rest of the country, but we've also seen strong representation across all of our SEE categories and our supply chain and in the applicants who are currently under review, I believe 67 or so percent of which were SEE. So, we are really proud of the ability on a market that represents real New Yorkers and 57% right now of our Adult Use Licenses are SEE owned, and this is really important for us. This is the mandate we were given and why we spent so much time to make sure that the folks we were giving these opportunities to are able to hold and grow their businesses. Before handing the mic over to John, I just want to give one quick note on changes coming down on the federal level. The US Department of Justice recommended that cannabis be scheduled as a schedule 3 controlled substance representing a size in shift in cannabis policy across the country that we expect will reduce barriers for operators in the supply chain, and hopefully reduce hurdles to conduct research on cannabis and more. We will be monitoring what happens on the federal level. From our intel, will take some time, but we will definitely be preparing our market for what comes next. And, of course, we still look forward to a more comprehensive approach that does what we've done here, which is acknowledge the harms as well of prohibition, and ensures that people who have been impacted have a path forward. At this time, I'll pass it over to John for our market update, bridged from our last subcommittee meeting.

Joe Belluck: I was going to say, John, is this basically the same update you just gave?

John Kagia: Literally about the same, was exactly the same thing, but there are a lot of folks who are already in the room. So, maybe I'll just make a point that Chris has made about the map which is that we've reviewed nearly 900 locations for community protection which gives us a really good

indication of where how much retail is about to come online, plus the number of locations that will receive protection. But in terms of the members, I think most board members _____ and attended the last round, so I don't need to.

Joe Belluck: I think the takeaway from your update that you just gave earlier is the \$132 million in retail sales year to date, which is basically we're not even halfway through the year and we're basically at the same number or close to it for the entire year last year. So, if you need any evidence of growth in what we're doing, I think these are the numbers.

Chris Alexander: I think just one thing to add as John was doing his presentation during the subcommittee meeting is just remembering what it takes to scale this market. We had estimates at the start of this way back when that it would go about 5 years till we got to a mature market, at the range and size of that market, it would be low estimate \$5 billion and could go significantly higher from there. There is a ton of road ahead but I think the continued growth and momentum, is John's favorite word, is definitely indicative of the fact that 1) consumers are transitioning to our stores. These businesses are getting more efficient in their operations as well, and I think that what is most important here is that we are really the fact that we've been able to grow in the way we've been able to grow with such a small business footprint is something that really should be recognized, because that is the challenge. How do we ensure that this opportunity is being spread across different economic situations, and I think we've been able to achieve at least the start of that here.

Joe Belluck: I don't want to put Allan on the spot, but I'm going to put Allan on the spot. A lot of the farmers and growers that I'm hearing from are telling me that they're concerned about being able to grow this year and are worried about keeping up with the demand. Could you give us a few minutes on that Allan?

Allan Gandelman: Are you hearing they're worried about keeping up with the demand or that they don't know if they can grow this year because their license...

Joe Belluck: correct, the latter, the latter.

Allan Gandelman: Their license is in transition. Yeah, so this is a tough one. I don't know the numbers, but we're not sure how many AUCCs who are doing an outdoor grow or transitioning to a micro business. And so, we have kind of a fork in the road. The AUCC's were continuing their outdoor are mostly fine because they like, John you said, they can keep doing what they're doing this year and they're not going to be affected by this June 30th deadline. The other I think the fork is for people transitioning to the greenhouse or transitioning to a micro, they don't necessarily want to plant an outdoor crop and then get their transition in the summer, and not be able to like move into their greenhouse or start their micro. So, I think just in terms of the timing of the licenses, there is some concern about if that's what you're asking Joe, that people might be doing another outdoor grow even though maybe they wanted to move into the greenhouse or they wanted to move into the micro. So, there's people stuck there. And then in terms of like the supply chain that we talked about we're not totally clear on how much material is left over from 2022/23. Obviously, with this kind of growth, it's starting to make its way through the system. There's definitely still a lot of material sitting in storage, I know that for sure. And I know the commodity prices are continuing to decline, which is going to happen until we like level out at you know I think the original project was a couple hundred stores, which sounds like we're on our way there. So, I think a lot of people are just in limbo in term of they're not sure what to do for this year, and it's May 7th and people are starting

their seeds like now-ish. So, Joe, if that's kind of the feedback you're getting, that's the general summary.

Joe Belluck: And I think anything OCM can do to address this transition issue would be helpful cause I think it's causing a lot of the growers some angst who are in that situation.

Chris Alexander: Yeah, I can just comment and just say that obviously, there's a lot happening at the same time, and we'll definitely be prioritizing the review of those transition applications, so folks aren't waiting too long. We tried to provide as much notice, obviously at the start but knew that things would be time tight at the end of this window for that program. But thankfully, a good amount of folks did apply at the end of last year and those are still moving. But of the group that just submitted this week, we'll be going through that and try to push those out as quickly as possible. I think we've already submitted communications out this week around kind of the associated activities. I think that communication went out this week, and if it didn't then it will come soon processing and distribution as well. But we're going to try to provide as much clarity as possible but I guess the only help is that we had this earlier window where a bunch of folks were able to get in.

Allan Gandelman: I'm curious, do you know off the top of your head Chris, or John, how many people waited to apply to the last minute for that transition?

Chris Alexander: I don't, about half.

John Kagia: It was less than half that was a bigger number.

Allan Gandelman: Okay, so that's where I think a lot of the...

John Kagia: _____ for the audience and for the board members, part of what's creating some of the squeeze now is that a lot of folks waited until the last minute. We've been ringing this bell for a long time because we were precisely worried about this. So, we started ringing this bell in September because we knew it was going to be a process that was going to be review required. That we were going to be dealing with Adult Use Application window when it opened. And so we accepted the first wave of applications through the end of last year. We opened the applications at the beginning of the year and continue to accept applications. But the position we've been trying to avoid for months was where we were getting in fact part of the reason why we set the deadline for May 5th is because we didn't want to be getting applications in on June 29th for people whose authorizations were going to end of June 30th. For reasons that hopefully you'll understand, there are a lot of folks who waited till the very last minute to make their calls, I understand these are complicated decisions, verifications how your business wants to grow, but because of that delay, it's meant that we've got all these materials now that we need to review for a very large number of producers and whose transition is going to be governed by the review of these submissions and at the same time we are reviewing the Adult Use side as well. We are moving furiously to try and get through these reviews for everyone. But the delay and when we got these applications in and the number of applications that we got in right at the finish line is going to mean that we do need a little time now to process them.

Joe Belluck: Thank you. I think we continue to be frustrated as a CAB that we're not consulted more by the CCB and having more input, but I think this type of discussion shows exactly why it's important to bring this up because there are two sides to all of these concerns, and we hear anecdotes from people who call, and then there is another side to it, that people are waiting and

putting additional pressure on the resources of OCM. So, I think just this brief discussion underscores what the role of the CAB is and can be in providing a forum for talking about all of the issues that were raised in the market, subcommittee, the licensing, these types of issues so that we can vet them and try to collectively get to the best place. So, thank you.

Allan Gandelman: Yeah, and I'll just say the TPI process can be expensive depending on your business structure and unfortunately, as I have experienced, sometimes the OCM e-mails go into the junk folder and you miss them for 2 or 3 weeks, and that puts you weeks behind. So, I will just also stress for any license holder still waiting, check that junk and spam folder like every single day, cause stuff for me definitely ended up in there for some strange reason.

Joe Belluck: Alright. Community Grants.

Chris Alexander: Yes, our team and Ali, will give an update here.

Joe Belluck: And just before Ali begins, I just want to say briefly that we are in the process of hiring somebody to help us launch the Community Grants Reinvestment, we are moving through the interview process and I'm hopeful that the CAB will have a person at OCM soon to help us get this off the ground and work with Chris and his team, and the CAB to have a successful rollout of our fund. Ali.

Ali Lepech: Hi, can you guys hear me?

Joe Belluck: Yes.

Ali Lepech: Great. Yeah, we are definitely looking forward to having someone come on but in the meantime happy to give you a brief update of where we are at. So, our working group, which we've met you guys before in our subcommittee meeting but includes members from the social and economic equity team, and the policy team, so we're kind of partnering up, and we've been drafting up grant opportunities, focused on ensuring that the pilot year of the Community Grant Reinvestment Fund is successfully distributed to community-based programs across the State of New York. Based off of discussion during the last CGRF committee meeting, the first year's grants will be focused on youth supports, that umbrella, and then the pillars that the subcommittee expressed that should be the main focal points which would be workforce, housing, and mental health services. So, we've been in discussions, we've been drafting and now we're in discussions with OGS to iron out just some of the grant's final details with this draft. And once that draft is complete, we are planning on sharing with the CAB subcommittee for comment and discussion, and we are also aiming to ensure that community-based organizations of all sizes are aware of the steps necessary to apply for this grant. So, OCM's external affairs team will be conducting grant readiness sessions at communities across the state prior to the release of the grant application. And these trainings will be designed to help organizations better understand the application process, the statewide financial system SFS, and the opportunities that come with state grant funding generally, and the launch for those trainings I believe is May 21st, and the anticipated release date for the grant application is still expected for this summer with awards being announced in the fall. That's what I have for the general update, and I'm happy to answer any questions, but yeah, we're just working on getting it drafted and shared as soon as we can. I can pass it back to Chair Belluck.

Joe Belluck: Thank you, and just let me be clear since we're here in Buffalo, these grants are going to be given out throughout the state. They are going to be given out in this community and other

communities that were disproportionately impacted. It's been a goal of Chris and the Governor and the CAB to make sure that we make the most use of these dollars and put them back into communities like Buffalo. So, we are hoping this is going to be a very positive and transformative effort across the state. So, Chris, is there anything else you wanted to update us on?

Chris Alexander: No, obviously, getting some additional support to lead this effort, so the interviews around that are conducted as you said, and just as far as the drafting of the RFA, I was in the process and so excited to share a draft with you all eminently, as we just kind of finalize this with OGS, finalize the draft for your input. So, just excited to keep moving forward.

Joe Belluck: Excellent.

Ebro Darden: Can you guys hear me? Is there a way for us to provide some more concrete timelines around the rollout of not only the actual policy around this but times tables on when we would be able to get dollars into the community? Are we at that stage yet?

Ali Lepech: So, a lot of this just depends on like how long things take with OGS, so we are still on track to get things out the application out in the summertime like we talked about in that first meeting. As long as things go well with OGS, and we can get eligibility handled and make sure that we're prioritizing communities across the state, because we're really trying to focus on CDI and underrepresented areas and make sure that people are aware of this grant. So, it's still on track for that, still on track for the awardees to be announced in the fall, but as far as the disbursement of the funds, I am not at liberty to say exactly when that's going to happen, but I do know that we're on track for those original dates that we talked about originally.

Ebro Darden: I would hope that after we are able to do this just like many things we've done, things can take time when you're doing it the first time. But in years to come, hopefully we can kind of lock into a calendar and a cadence so that the communities that need these funds can depend on us to deliver on that cadence.

Ali Lepech: Yep, that's completely true, and I think it's just important to note that this is first of all, the first year, so we're trying to make sure that the pilot round is done right and it sets sort of a precedent for when we do have somebody full-time on staff and then, things like getting grants out on like a renewal basis can speed things up, whereas the first round, from what I understand just takes a little bit longer cause, yeah, it's just the technicality, I totally agree.

Chris Alexander: And Ebro, yes, there absolutely will be a cadence where folks know like this is the timeframe, this is the 60 days when we're accepting these grants moving forward. I think the two things that are challenging here outside of just kind of the money being sent out, it's also just making sure that we thought about an expanded the potential pool of applicants as wide as possible. Because once they're in our network, once we've contacted them, it will definitely be easier the next go around to have them trained, prepared, and ready to submit tighter applications. We're seeing that right now with licensing right, deficiencies, etc. It takes time for folks to get use to this process, but was that Mark, I see a question in chat.

Joe Belluck: Mark in response to your questions, the materials are being drafted and will be circulated so there's a subcommittee of the CAB that's working on it. But if you or any CAB member would like to have any input into it, we'll make sure that happens.

Chris Alexander: And just to speak to just process wise, there is generally a form approach to these things, and then we include criteria pulled from the survey responses from previous meetings that we've had with the subcommittees, so, it's not something that kind a runaway train here, it's full time and space for a meaningful engagement with the rest of the CAB.

Sarah: Yeah, thank you Ali and Chris for the update. Chris, you were mentioning the survey, I believe that all the CAB members had the ability to give input into that so that's what's being used to create the RFA, thank you. Okay, great, so this is exciting to hear. I just want to confirm that in addition to community-based organizations, local government entities are eligible to apply for these grants as well, that includes local health departments, local departments of social service, and local governmental units that provide mental health services in communities.

Chris Alexander: Yes, at this time local governments are included.

Joe Belluck: Alright, yes Al we can see and hear you.

Allan Clear: Thanks. So, maybe I missed this, what happened to the harm reduction element that was in this funding, Sarah proposed harm reduction as organizations, then it became harm reduction in youth, I see the harm reduction element has disappeared.

Chris Alexander: No, no, not disappeared. I think well, 1) I think the last conversation we had where I was pointing to the separate funds that are going from our revenue funds to OASAS to provide some...

Allan Clear: OASAS?

Chris Alexander: Yeah, 20% of our revenue goes to support prevention education. So, there is that funding that's already moving as part of this, and I think I can for the next CAB meeting provide an update from them on that, but it was just for this initial award since there's already a stream of funding going to treatment prevention, education, etc. that we would take this money and focus on a gap that existed and then as we grow the fund every year, remember this will continue to grow, we will be able to kind of pull everything back in, if that funding stream isn't operating efficiently, we can always make those changes.

Allan Clear: That does not please me. Alright, thanks.

Sarah: I guess that was helpful. So, there's a different pool of funding going through OASAS. Are they follow, like so are you saying at the next CAB meeting maybe we can get an update on how that will flow.

Chris Alexander: Exactly. So, remember there's the, we got the 40 that are going into this fund that we're talking about now, that 40%, we got 40% going into the state lottery fund to support education, and then that last 20 goes and is administered by OASAS to support the broad arena of drug treatment prevention and education. And so that was the comment last time was okay, was a stream of 20% of the revenues that we're bringing in this year that John was just talking about that will be flowing to these programs, it will largely probably be to existing programs. And then we have a whole list of other items that we have to find a way to fund, and I think the recommendation from the discussion was, let's take this initial award, cover an area that's not being covered, and then as we expand we can pull in other parts of that listing from the creation of the fund that other programs we can support.

Sarah: So, I just worry that we may not be able, I want to make sure that the voice of the CAB is included in whatever process or funding is happening through OASAS, and I don't know if that's happening yet.

Chris Alexander: It's not designed exactly in that way, but I think we can definitely open up those lines of communication so that we can direct those funds in some way.

Joe Belluck: So, do we want to make sure that we get updated at the next CAB meeting?

Chris Alexander: Yeah, we can do that.

Allan Clear: Just to point out I raise the issue of harm reduction, and twice you mentioned OASAS doing prevention treatment and whatever else they do and didn't mention harm reduction. So, you don't look at OASAS either as a harm reduction entity.

Joe Belluck: I don't think Allan, there is anything that would prohibit grants going for harm reduction related to youth in this first round. It's broadly defined to impact youth and children, but there's nothing that would prohibit...

Chris Alexander: it's not limiting right now, it's just what we presented. Plus, as we go through the drafting process we can amend and update. But the reason I mentioned OASAS in that way and I didn't explicitly mention harm reduction is because it's going to be support grant programs that they have to create. So, I didn't want to confine whatever programs that are going to come from that funding stream, as I don't know right now, so I'll get that information and come back to you Allan.

Allan Clear: But the elements of the CAB asked for harm reduction, and now you passed it over to OASAS even though Mary's on the CAB. The CAB asked for harm reduction, and just because it was explicit in here before, there was youth and harm reduction, and now there's nothing to preclude anyone applying to do youth and harm reduction but it was explicit before, not implicit.

Joe Belluck: Alright, we can look at that.

Allan clear: This funding is supposed to be addressing the impact of the war on drugs and there's no clearer evidence of social service agencies address the war on drugs than harm reduction organizations.

Chris Alexander: I fully agree Allan, I grew up in that space, so I fully agree and understand. When we get the draft, we'll get the draft to you so we can fine tune it and make sure we are capturing any programs that we want to capture.

Joe Belluck: And we can add it was one of the focal points. I don't think you should walk away from today's presentation thinking that it's not going to be a focal point of what we're doing. So, if it's important along with mental health and the other items to specifically call that out, we can do that.

Allan Clear: I do have, I'm not walking away from this discussion, I have a conflict right now and the meeting started late. I'm going to throw my chair out the window.

Joe Belluck: Thank you for your contribution.

Allan Clear: So, anyway thank you, and I'll see you at the next meeting if not before. Bye.

Joe Belluck: Alright, anybody else have anything they want to say before we adjourn? Alright with that, I want to thank everybody for attending and all the board members for participating. We will let you know when our next meeting is. Please note that the information related to the Cannabis Advisory Board is on the website cannabis.ny.gov. With that can I have a motion to adjourn?

Sarah: Motion.

Joe Belluck: Anyone opposed? Alright, thank you all, and we're going ...

Chris Alexander: We have one more subcommittee meeting led by Dr. Junella Chin I know we started late; we are all caught up, but we cannot start early. So, we do have 6 minutes before the start of that committee meeting, see you back in 5. Dr. Chin are you ready?

Dr. Junella Chin: How's my audio?

Chris alexander: Excellent, thank you. With that we can begin, take it away.

Dr. Junella Chin: Hello, and welcome everyone, I'm not Junella Chin, Vice Chair of the New York State Cannabis Advisory Board, and Chris of the Health, Safety and Research subcommittee. It is great to be with you here today for a meeting of the Health, Safety and Research subcommittee. Recognizing that we have a majority of subcommittees present, I am pleased to call to order today's meeting. As always, this meeting will be recorded. The transcript will be available to the public on the office of cannabis management's website cannabis.ny.gov. Life captioning in both English and Spanish is available to individuals viewing the livestream. Additional information on cannabis advisory board meetings are available on the OCM website. Today's subcommittee will include several different items. We will begin with health and safety updates from the Office of Cannabis Management. Then an overview of public health resources, educational materials, and data monitoring activities undertaken by OCM. And we'll conclude with an open discussion from subcommittee members. Now, before our updates from the OCM, I just want to briefly review the focus and membership of this subcommittee. The health, safety research subcommittee was organized to provide guidance and recommendations on issues related to public health, health and safety including compliance, medical cannabis including the medical cannabis program, critical and provider topics as well as issues related to cannabis research. Thank you all again to the subcommittee members who were able to join us both in person and virtually today.

Now, to our first update from the office of Cannabis Management, we will be hearing from Nicole Rosa, Director of Health and Safety, Nakesha Abel, Deputy Directory of Health and Safety, and Lyla Hunt, Deputy Director of Public Health, and Campaigns. Thank you all for joining us today. I'll turn the floor over first to Nicole Rosa, OCM's Director of Health and Safety.

Nicole Rosa: Thank you, Dr. Chin, and good afternoon all subcommittee members. Health, Safety and Research are critical components of the work that the office does, and we're very excited to be here today to provide some updates to the subcommittee. As you can see on this slide, protecting public health and safety involves a multifaceted approach from the office where we provide oversight for laboratory testing, as well as inspections and audits, data surveillance, and so much more. We also focus on educational efforts as we develop different policies and procedures for the office.

So, I'll get started with an update on the Adult Use laboratory Testing statistics. So, laboratory testing is one of the ways that we work to protect public health and safety of consumers in New

York State. The office does require testing for several different contaminants including things like microbials, metals, residual solvents, pesticides, mycotoxins, moisture content, water activity, and foreign materials. Licensees who last failed this laboratory testing contributing those lots for sale to consumers. On this slide, you will see there is a QR code that can be scanned and will provide information about the specific laboratory testing limits for the various contaminants. This table shows a summary of the testing that has been conducted in the Adult Use market, and as you can see here, the volume of testing from the 4th quarter of 2023 to the 1st quarter of 2024, has increased a big which is not surprising as it relates to the increase in the dispensary activity in the Adult Use market as more of the dispensaries become operational. Also, looking at the most recent quarters data, you can see that 95% of the last passed this laboratory testing for contaminants. Of the 5% that failed testing, the majority of those were for flower products and the top contaminants that we identified as reasons for failure include aspergillus, metals and pesticides. These testing safeguards do highlight the importance of the regulated market for products available for consumers.

At our last subcommittee meeting, we shared information regarding the office's public incident recording form. We have included a QR code here as well, which can be scanned to access the reporting form on the office's website.

For those product quality issues that were recorded, here's what we found. The majority of those incidents are tied to unregulated entities. So, 125 out of the 206 incidents recorded were related to unregulated entities that have been forwarded as an enforcement related matter for investigation. 44 incidents were reported without sufficient details to evaluate. So, for example, there might not have been information about the dispensary or the location where we couldn't attribute it to regulated vs. unregulated or there was no lot number, so just an inability to trace back for further information. For the remaining 37 incidents that we were able to evaluate, the information didn't substantiate a quality concern that would warrant further action such as a recall. These are states that we continue to evaluate as they come in.

And the other piece to the public incident reporting form that we have is the adverse event data. So, in addition to selecting products quality concerns, the user can select adverse events as their key concern. So, for those reports received, 124 or 86.1% again were actually reported related to an unregulated entity. For those that came from regulated entities we had 16, 3 of which were for medical products, and the remaining were for adult use products. Again, in this case, as we monitored those events tied to these regulated products, most of them were typical effects that would be expected with cannabis such as dizziness or some sort of hypersensitivity or coughing related to inhaled product. We didn't find anything that again, demonstrated a pattern with multiple lots or multiple products where we had to dig deeper for a quarantine or a recall matter. We will continue to monitor these stats as well.

At this point I will turn it over to Erica ____ who will give an update on the poison center data.

Erica: Thank you. So, these data come from the two poison centers in New York State, the New York City Poison Center and the Upstate New York Poison Center and aggregated to give us a state view. This is showing all of the cannabis related exposures reported to the poison centers. Last year, there were over 1,500 cases of cannabis exposures reported in New York State, and that included all cannabis product types. And that's an increase from around 600 cases in 2018. And just noting that this increase resembles trends we're seeing nationally as well across the same time period. As you can see here by the orange bar on the bottom, this increase is primarily driven

by the pediatric population, those aged 0 birth to 19. And similar to what we are observing in our adverse event reporting, it's really looking like these are primarily products from the illicit market that are packaged in a way to resemble other foods and candies that are typically marked to children, and this type of packaging is not allowed in the regulated adult use program.

And of the 1,500 cases reported last year about 65% of them involved cannabis edibles specifically so this chart is showing cases of where cannabis edible exposure was reported by age. As you can see, while there's been an increase across all age groups, again it's really the youngest age group, those aged birth to 5 years old that increased the most. There were only 5 cannabis edible exposures reported among those age 5 and younger back in 2018, and that rose to 358 last year in 2023. Again, evidence suggests that this increase is primarily driven by those illicit products that are packaged in a way where children can mistake them for other food or candy that they typically eat. We also find from the data that children are most likely to find cannabis products at home and be exposed at home which is why our public messaging about the importance of safe storage is so critical. So, as we keep saying to everyone, products should be locked up and stored out of reach and out of sight of young people. Now, I will turn it over to Dr. Abel on research updates.

Dr. Abel: Thank you, Erica and good afternoon, everyone. We will be sharing some brief updates about the cannabis research license and the medical cannabis program. So, section 38 of the Cannabis law provides for a cannabis research license. This license authorizes individuals to produce, process, and purchase cannabis for any such purposes. Earlier this year, the board approved our first two cannabis research places, and since then we continue to accept new applications on a rolling basis.

The office has been providing application support to researchers and encourages anybody who needs assistance completing their applications, reach out to the research until at research@ocm.ny.gov. Additionally, we are developing education materials to help encourage interested parties to apply. The office has also been working on efforts to help foster collaborations and support for researchers.

We are currently working on compiling a list of licensees and others who might be willing to assist applicants. On this screen, you'll find some of the ways one could commit to help a research licensee. That includes donating or selling cannabis or cannabis products, allowing researchers to use your OCM approved site to conduct studies. Assisting researchers with the development of new products. Or providing access to testing services or equipment to help support those studies. We encourage licensees and other entities willing to support researchers to scan the QR code on the screen and submit the form.

Now despite the critical need for research, we do want to remind everyone that there is still quite a bit of published literature and information available, especially on the clinical applications of cannabis.

So, to help the public, the office has implemented two new educational initiatives related to the medical cannabis program. The first is the Medical Cannabis Advisory Council or MCAC. This is the workgroup charges with developing clinical guidance, documents, and resources that will help guide a practitioner who might be interested in treating patients with medical cannabis. The _____(cut out) patient tools and treatment protocols. The initial focus on the four main clinical priority areas, and they are inflammatory bowel disorders, developmental and behavioral disorders such as ADHD and Autism, Women's health conditions including endometriosis, ovarian

cysts, and pelvic and breast disorders, and mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression and mood disorders.

The names of the members are displayed on the slide before you and we want to extend our deepest appreciation to all of the council members for their commitment to this work. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Chin and Dr. Brenda Robinson who have served as the Chair and Vice Chair for this council term which will run about 2 years. Lastly, we want to thank subcommittee members Chin, Clair and Ravenhall for their assistance in the application review process.

The second initiative that the Office has implemented is the medical cannabis ambassador program or MCAP. These ambassadors are charged with conducting presentations and trainings across the state on topics such as the endocannabinoid system and cannabis patient care. Healthcare providers and other organizations interested in a presentation can submit a request using the QR code on the screen.

Before you'll find the names of our new ambassadors, and again we'd like to express our deep appreciation for them for their commitment to advancing cannabis, science, and education.

And finally, I am very pleased to announce that on Friday, September 20th, the office will be sponsoring its very first statewide Medical Cannabis Symposium. The event will be held in Buffalo, New York and will be co-hosted by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. This event will be geared towards healthcare providers interested in learning more about cannabinoids and clinical practice. There will be a call for speakers going out soon, and individuals who are interested in presenting should monitor the website found at the QR code on the screen. And with that, I will pass it to Lyla Hunt.

Lyla Hunt: Thank you, Keshia. And good afternoon, everyone. To sister with the education and outreach opportunities related to Medical Cannabis Program that Keshia just spoke to, we wanted to give a recap of the recent medical cannabis program campaign that the office launched early this past year. You will see staff on the screen there that show the reach that we were able to receive with the largely digital run bilingual campaign. We highlighted voices of existing medical providers and medical pharmacists as well as a patient all within the program. We've learned from previous campaign experiences that hearing the voices of individuals with lived experience help to be the best, real ambassadors for the program. So, we're excited to see that this ad buy was able to target patients, practitioners, and pharmacists each alike, and we sistered the effort with additional presentations both online and in person statewide to make sure that we're continuing to build momentum and garner support for the medical cannabis program, as we do that good education and outreach.

Next, and this is really to sort of pick up where we last left off with this subcommittee is we developed a series of additional educational resources, sort of appending onto what was existing. So, this is just to highlight those for each of you. So, these are based on different program areas or different areas that this subcommittee had identified for need for additional research. So, one is related to concentrates. We know that higher THC products for newer consumers, also folks that are not familiar with them represents a new sort of swath a new terrain related to cannabis and might have increased risk because of that dose dependent relationship with THC. So, this resource explains what is a concentrate, and what safety concerns do folks need to be aware of. We also have a guide to cannabis, and this is outside of the medical cannabis program, but more broadly

for adult use geared towards older adults. And that was something that we'd spoken about the last time the subcommittee met. To build this resource, we met and engaged with service providers who serve older adult communities to really see what areas would be of most interest to those folks. So, that sort of fed into the development of that resource. And then, the remaining medical cannabis program resources you see highlighted on your screen here were released in addition to the recent medical cannabis campaign patient rights and protection, practitioner rights and protection, so its sort of both sides, all sides of the medical cannabis program highlighted and spelled out for folks. So, those resources are all available if you scan that QR code along with a whole compendium of additional educational resources. And then to key in on our resource that we specifically developed with members of the subcommittee here, we've developed this Fentanyl in cannabis facts and unknowns. Earlier this afternoon, we heard from Executive Director, Chris Alexander, about the enforcement related efforts and there's been a ton of confusion in this information related to Fentanyl in cannabis. That was a major subject that we explored on our last subcommittee session. So, in conjunction and, thank you to OASAS, Mary Brewster specifically who is on the line, and to Allan Clear with the Department of Health, we developed these fact sheets to just at its core first and fundamentally help make sure that we're addressing the myth of Fentanyl in cannabis. There have been zero verified incidents of fentanyl contamination in cannabis, and we continue to see headlines that indicate otherwise, but again, without lot substantiation, that's the point that we wanted to zero in on here. Overarching the discussion, of course, is the concern that we speak to all the time, and fundamental point that we want to make sure is sort of held front and center which is with all the uncertainty of what is in unregulated cannabis supply, the best way to access safer products is from the regulated industry. So, that is definitely the number 1 takeaway. And then also, just a special shoutout to Sarah Ravenhall and her team who hosted OASAS, DOH and OCM altogether to address her members, the members of the different local health departments across the state to help underscore and explain this resource, and sort of more broadly, the information related to it. So, I wanted to just follow up from our last subcommittee discussion there. And I'll hand it back to Erica now to walk through some additional essential public health information to highlight.

Erica: Sure, thank you. I'm going to share just a few highlights from the International Cannabis Policy Study. It's a rigorous survey of residents ages 16 to 65 and it's literally hundreds of questions about consumption and purchasing, risk behaviors, perceptions around cannabis and hemp, and it's administered by the University of Waterloo in Canada, and it provides of both New York State and national estimates for comparison. We are anticipating our 2023 report later this spring and we'll share that once we have it, but in the meantime, we have data for 2018 to 2022. And here we are looking at method of consumption or mode of consumption afforded by people who had consumed in the past year. So, as you can see, surprisingly, flower is the most common mode of consumption at the top, however it has been decreasing over the past 5 years, and that's a trend we're seeing in other surveys and consistent with national rates and rates that we're seeing in other legalized states. Edibles have overtaken vap wheels as a second most common method increasing 60% over that 5-year time period to 59% of consumers reporting that they consumed using edibles in 2022. And while a small portion of consumers choose to consume cannabis as drinks, tinctures or topicals, I just call those out as modes that have been relatively increasing by relatively large margins over the past 5-year period. And oral oils, they were the one form that had kind of a larger relative decrease, decreasing from 30% to 24% of consumers.

And here we are looking at people who reported consuming cannabis in the past year, but they were asked how do they usually get their cannabis. And they could select more than one source, just not that. But most consumers purchased cannabis from either a dealer or a friend, and that could have included a delivery component and indeed we found that almost half of their purchases include a delivery component from a dealer or friend. About 2 in 5 consumers purchased cannabis from a retail store, but these data were collected in the fall of 2022, so there were not regulated adult use retail stores at the time, so they were purchasing from other retail outlets, not from the regulated industry. About 1 in 5 consumers purchased cannabis from a medical dispensary, and 8% source from home grow and that could have been either growing on their own or someone else is home growing on their behalf.

Another issue that we encounter frequently in our public messaging and in our surveys is consumer confusion about what is cannabis vs. hemp and what is Delta-8 THC and other marketed cannabinoids. So, in 2022, ICPS respondents were asked whether they heard about Delta-8 THC products, but they were also asked about Delta-9 THC, Delta-10 and then also they were asked about Delta-4 which is a fictional cannabinoid that is not actually marketed, in case anyone is confused for a second. But it was used to gage this recording by consumers. So, we can see there is more familiarity with Delta-8 THC with 20% of all respondents regardless of their consumer status reported having heard of Delta-8 THC in New York State. It is also interesting to note that the purple bar is jurisdictions in the United States where cannabis is not legal, and that has the highest awareness of Delta-8 which might speak to the strength of hemp markets in those jurisdictions. But is it interesting to see about the same proportion of New Yorkers reported having heard of Delta-9 THC which is really a classic THC as the same amount reported having heard of Delta-4, so it really makes us question about what people understand and what they're responding to. And then, on the bottom, it shows that of those people who did report that they have heard of Delta-8 products before, 23% also reported having consumed Delta-8 products. So, it will be interesting when we get our 2023 report, we're excited to share that with you because they did some expanded questioning around cannabinoids and familiarity with what people know about marketing cannabinoids, so that will be helpful to look at together. So, thank you all for your time today, and I'm going to turn it back to Committee Chair, Dr. Chin.

Dr. Chin: Thank you so much everyone. At this time I'd like to open the floor to subcommittee members for any discussion.

Chris Alexander: If I could, I just wanted to reach out to the team and really to point something out here that I think has been lacking for some years, but also lacking across the country, and that's the investment that the state is making in the medical program. You all just saw a list of programs, of events, of educational opportunities, resources, and of dollars going behind New York's medical program, so I just wanted to reaffirm our commitment to making sure that we will be a state where our program grows after legalization, not shrinks. So, thank you to the team for the work that they continue to do, and you Dr. Chin for leading the subcommittee.

Sarah: Yeah, this is Sarah, I think the data is really exciting and great to share. I can't wait to see more from 2023. I'm really interested and concerned about health disparities in some of the unintentional exposures of the product, and I saw the poison control data, and I understand that this is incidents from both the unregulated market, as well as potentially the regulated market, but I'm wondering if any of that data could be extrapolated or overlaid with residents income in that area, average income in that area, ethnicity, race, maybe language. I don't know what is collected

by poison control, but looking at health disparities is something that is really of interest to me and perhaps OCM has plans to do that already.

Erica: Yeah, that is definitely on our list of things that we want to look at. The thing with the poison center data is its based on what the caller provides and what they're able to get, so it's not always, the primary purpose is to address the exposure, so sometimes some of those demographic information are missing or they aren't able to get it in follow up. But I think the idea of using essentially geography and other data sources to just kind of see if there's some association there, a good idea.

Female: Absolutely, I would also add there's some great data out of Colorado from the Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center, so I think its in the areas where our data might be lacking, if there's other states that might have some data to help supplement, we could do a bit of a cross jurisdictional analysis to take a look at that great cross section, Sarah, for sure.

Sarah: I think that's great. And then, Chris, you had mentioned the investment in the medical cannabis program which is absolutely wonderful to hear. Can you speak at all as to what OCM is doing in regard to affordability of medical cannabis for those who can't access it?

Chris Alexander: Yeah, absolutely, I mean obviously the tax change was really helpful. Folks wanted it to actually go further, and I think we're in agreement that we want to make sure that this program is as accessible as possible. We have investigated or looked at programs where we can create funds to support purchasing of medical cannabis by patients in the state. Those are still in the early process of formation, but something that we think will make a lot of sense, obviously allowing our registered organizations to also participate in the adult use side comes with some strings including commitments to patient affordability plans that have been submitted now by our registered organizations, and those include programs that they can use to provide discounts, etc. to patients in the program. Those are some off the top, Nicole you want to add anything there?

Nicole Rosa: Yeah, no, I think you hit some good points, and as you all know, we did release an application for additional registered organizations. So, with that comes an expanded marketplace with more access points for consumers as well as the different selection of product availability. So, the monitoring, the economics of the market there with the additional players over the next several months.

Dr. Junella Chin : I have a quick question, for SEE storage, just going back to the increased reporting for poison control, the safe storage education is mandatory for the adult use dispensaries, right? They have to educate consumers on that?

Female: Yeah, Dr. Chin, I can take this one. So, a few things to flag there 1) across all of our educational campaigns we continue at the office side to message around the importance of safe storage. I think that's one of the areas where you see with safe storage, it's a combination really addressing the issue is a combination of policy, a combination of education, and education has to be from both the consumer side and from the regulatory agency side. With our other health agency partners, I know that this is a message that they continue to echo and share as well. And then in terms of the dispensary requirement, two things; so, our dispensaries make available our OCM driven educational materials. Some of the local health departments have started to develop those materials as well. And then, we also will be offering later in the summer, a course that is required of all staff members across the supply chain actually in New York State which will be responsible

workforce training, which I think is an area that the subcommittee might perhaps be interested in. So, we will continue to provide updates to this group as that rolls out. We're really excited to be really the only state that developed our own course content there, and so the safe storage method is front and center.

Dr. Junella Chin: Thank you so much.

Sarah: Speaking of that, local health departments are just preparing for their busy season going out into communities running their community fairs, working with community-based organizations to provide education, and I don't want them to forget that cannabis safety should be on whatever messaging they're giving out. Is there any update on like the printing clearing house, or I'll just send out a blast reminder to have them include whatever is on the OCM website when they're going out.

Female: Unfortunately, at this time Sarah, I think the latter is the answer. We definitely want to be able to prioritize having more like _____(cut out) but right now we're pointing to QR codes, website resources, and any support that we can get on the local level will be most welcome and appreciated while we wait to have more of a long-term solution for mass, mass printing.

Sarah: Got it, on it.

Chris Alexander: I was going to say if there is opportunities for participation in joining our team, there is a lot of education events, and I want to volunteer them to come out and support some of these health fairs if possible. Or even our ambassadors.

Dr. Junella Chin: I was just about to say that. Utilizing the ambassador program and making sure to loop in those safety precautions. Dr. Abel could you talk a little bit about, I know you said there were two research licenses, is there any feedback from those licensees to any challenges initiating research?

Dr. Abel: So, they haven't reported any challenges initiating research, I think on the onset of the upturn application there was some questions and some support we needed to provide them to get through that. a lot of these applicants that we're seeing are small businesses and so perhaps they haven't put together a research protocol or understood all the requirements in the application. But no real issues starting their research. We have engaged with other researchers who are having some trouble with getting approval, or finding funding to support their studies, so that was kind of the genesis of that collaborator's list so that we could start making some connections for them to help foster that support.

Dr. Junella Chin: Okay, great, thank you. Alright, any other questions from subcommittee members? Alright, well thank you all to our members for participating in today's meeting, and to everyone who has joined us in person, and to those who are watching by a livestream. Important note, on the next Cannabis Advisory Meeting, please note that the time, location, and livestream link will be shared on cannabis.ny.gov in advance of the next cannabis advisory meeting. A recording of today's meeting, minutes, and a transcription will be posted as well. This concludes our business today. May I please have a motion to adjourn this meeting?

Sarah: I'll motion.

Dr. Junella Chin: So moved. May I have second on the motion? I guess I can second, it's just us.

Sarah: Dr. Chin, I feel like you can second it.

Dr. Junella Chin: Yeah, I guess I can. Alright. I will call for a vote. All in favor?

All: Aye.

Dr. Junella Chin: Opposed, none. Abstentions none. Alright, the motion to adjourn this meeting carries. Thank you all for joining us today and don't forget to stay tuned for our full Cannabis Advisory Board Meeting, that's it. We're adjourned, thank you.