

Medical Psilocybin - Equity Access, and Cultural Considerations

Committee Meeting Minutes:

Location: MS Teams

Date: 01/07/2026

Time: 17:30

Attendance: Jorge Gonzales, Dominick Zurlo, Brenda Martinez, Ismail Zoutat, Cathy Augeri, Robert Truckner, Jose Garcia, Isabel Ross, Brett Phelps, Herk Rodriguez, Mathew Armstrong, Shane McDaniel, Marcus Ryals, Denali Wilson, Sarah, Ben Edwards, Joanna Leffeld, James Hosobe, Richard Malcolm, Jim Dodson, Meredith McBranch, Abarker, Marlena Robbins, Janet Salcido, Ben, Laura Garcia, Dan Huson, Elle Byers, Raymond Gallegos, Debbie Traynor, Jeff Steinborn, Dezbaa, Joel Apodaca, Randy Traynor.

Minute Taker: [Ismail Zoutat]

Chair: [Dezbaa]

**This meeting was recorded. For specific details pertaining to the meeting, please refer to the recording located on the Medical Psilocybin Advisory Board Website: [Psilocybin Advisory Board](#)*

Agenda items

1. Welcome and opening remarks:

- Dominick Zurlo opened the meeting, emphasizing that this meeting would act as a listening session focused on gathering input regarding equity, access, and cultural considerations in the development of the medical psilocybin program.

2. The Chair's Introduction:

- The Chair, DezBaa reiterated the purpose of the committee to ensure equity, access and cultural inclusion, especially for Native American communities. She further reiterated the importance of indigenous ancestral wisdom, and the need for inclusive governance and regulation. They also outlined the role of the committee in listening to the community's concerns and ideas.

3. Public Comments and Discussion

- Shane McDaniel:
 - Raised concerns about the definition of equity, noting its evolving meaning over the last decade. The Chair empathized with the broad nature of the term, noting that it may require work to refine its definition, which will take shape through these committees.
 - Raised a point on affordable access, especially for communities affected by opioid addiction, and warned against a system that may develop financial barriers for those most in need.
- Dan Huson:
 - Owner of Rose City Laboratories, a psilocybin, environmental, and cannabis laboratory.
 - Shared insights from his experience with Oregon's psilocybin program, noting high costs and limited accessibility.
 - Advocated for keeping training and service providers in state, local to New Mexico.
 - Warned against over licensing, due to the potential for market oversaturation, and the influx of unsustainable business practices.
 - Suggested the allowance of home-based treatments to reduce overhead and improve access.
 - The Chair, Dezbbaa thanked him and announced that other committees would benefit from his and other members' inputs. She urged attendees to sign up for updates.
 - Dan further sent a link on Oregon's psilocybin program to the group chat which can be accessed [here](#).
- Lisa Ginsburg
 - Advocated for an open market approach to increase access and reduce costs.
 - Pointed out the impact of limiting access on the availability of knowledge from research centers such as Johns Hopkins and NYU.
 - Advocated for licensed practitioners to administer treatments ensuring best safety and professionalism through such an approach.

- James Hosobe
 - Highlighted the value of Native tribal leaders and peyote practitioners in informing culturally sensitive practices.
 - Encouraged the committee to ensure engagement with tribal perspectives for effective implementation.
- Dominick Zurlo
 - Raised a point on how DOH is working with the tribal liaison to build a meeting to gain a wider perspective from the tribes, but as it's the legislative season the timeframe has been extended to account for this.
 - DezBaa raises the point that tribal governments also change once a year, and with the number of tribes, coordination with all of them will be a challenge to overcome.
- Elle Byers
 - A social worker based in New York City, but originally from New Mexico.
 - Stressed the importance of education and decolonization to address resistance to ancestral medicines.
 - Advocated for leveraging existing medical systems to reach marginalized communities.
- Meredith McBranch
 - Raised a point on whether there had been conversations about those incarcerated, or on probation. Noting a potential benefit from psilocybin therapy.
 - Dominick points to current laws that prohibit access to those on probation/parole. While there have been considerations for these population groups, federal regulations pose significant challenges.
 - Dan Huson pointed out a recent memo for an increase in psilocybin production, suggesting a potential shift in federal policy moving forward.
- Senator Jeff Steinborn

- Stated the new psilocybin law specifically doesn't prohibit people from getting treatment.
- Shane McDaniel responded by saying issue with incarcerated and probation individuals may be drug testing
- Jeff Steinborn provided the following statute: SECTION 10. PERSONS UNDER STATE SUPERVISION-PROTECTIONS.--A person who is serving a period of probation or parole or who is in the custody or under the supervision of the state or a local government pending trial as part of a community supervision program shall not be penalized for participation in the program.
- Shane McDaniel asked if this act would include Federal parolee's since it will still be scheduled 1.
- Denali Wilson
 - Director of the Healing Advocacy Fund
 - She was grateful to hear about engaging people in custody, both in prison or on probation and parole. Acknowledged a chat input by Senator Steinborn on statutory protection for those populations.
 - Outlined the importance of peer support workers, community health workers and traditional healers in the list of approved clinicians.
 - Highlighted the importance of finding a way for insurance coverage and state support in psilocybin therapy to ensure equity and access.
 - Voiced her concerns over the lack of funding in the equity fund which may hinder access for underserved population and called for advocacy during the legislative season to secure this funding.
- Jeff Steinborn
 - Wrote in the chat that the treatment equity fund is created as a non-reverting fund in the state treasury consisting of appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. It's aimed to fund treatments of qualified patients who meet income requirements determined by the department.

- Wrote that we'll be working hard to get funding for the equity fund, and encourage committee members to contact their legislators to ask for their support

4. Closing Remarks

- a. DezBaa emphasized the importance of community involvement and continuing dialogue. She further encouraged attendance at upcoming meetings.
- b. Noted that the next full advisory board meeting was scheduled was January 16th, 2026.
- c. Urged attendees to contact legislators to support funding for the equity fund.