

# Psilocybin Committee Equity, Access, and Cultural Considerations

## Meeting Minutes:

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Date:** 01-20-2026

**Time:** 17:15

**Attendance:** Jorge Gonzales, Dominick Zurlo, Cathy Augeri, Ismail Zoutat, Robert Truckner, DezBaa, Shelley Schweizer, Ben Edwards, Marcus Ryals, Shane McDaniel, Estevan Hernandez, Vincent Espinoza, Mathew Armstrong, Jenn Romero, Malena Robbins, Deborah Thorne, Gregory Evans, Brett Phelps, Elle Byers.

**Minute Taker:** Ismail Zoutat

*\*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

### Opening

- Dominick Zurlo (DOH) opened the meeting, welcomed attendee
- Turned the floor over to Chair DezBaa.

### Chairs Opening Remarks

- DezBaa Welcomed the group
  - Acknowledged start of NM legislative session.
  - Emphasized goal of creating an inclusive space for input.
  - Key priorities outlined:
    - Equity, access, and cultural considerations for patients, facilitators, and cultivators.
    - Tribal engagement: outreach to Pueblo governors, Apache tribes, Navajo Nation via DOH Tribal Liaison.

- Addressing rural and urban access; insurance coverage; funding mechanisms.
- Exploring telehealth for rural communities.
- Considering cost for patients and facilitator training.
- Intersection with other committees (patient care, propagation, end-of-life).
- Proposed staggered meeting times and possible in-person/hybrid sessions.
- Highlighted cultural sensitivity: one size does not fit all; respecting tribal sovereignty.
- Mentioned urgency: Outlining that recommendations are needed within months.
- Encouraged outside input (Oregon, Colorado, NY) while centering NM needs.
- Stressed importance of bylaws and voting process for recommendations.
- Called for public input.

#### Public Comments & Discussion

- Estevan Hernandez
  - President of the NM Mycology Guild.
  - Highlighted his concerns around the potential of corporate takeovers by multi-state operators.
  - Proposed residency preference/sunset clause (e.g., NM residents  $\geq 2$  years for first 4 years of program) to prioritize local businesses.
- Gregory Evans
  - Suggested a committee map of interdependencies across workgroups and to track deliverables.
  - Asked if there is a clear list of goals and success criteria or if still being defined.

- Vincent Espinoza
  - Therapist, licensed in CO/OR/NM; training with Fluence.
  - Advocated for affordable access, especially for low-income and Medicaid populations.
  - Warned against commoditization by corporations.
  - Expressed interest in contributing to program development.
- Chair Response
  - Confirmed committee will define goals and responsibilities like other groups.
  - Emphasized respect for tribal governance and indigenous wisdom.
  - Supported Estevan's idea for local prioritization; will explore sunset clause feasibility.
  - Highlighted need for inclusive input and outreach to diverse communities.
  - Reiterated interconnectedness with other committees.
- Dominick Zurlo
  - Supported idea of hybrid/in-person meetings post-legislative session (after February).
  - Offered DOH help with scheduling; noted winter weather considerations.
  - Mentioned Las Cruces volunteer host (Deb Thorne) for southern NM.
  - Announced two open board positions; encouraged outreach for underrepresented communities.
  - Shared Advisory Board application link in chat.
  - Explained Equity Fund: created but unfunded; originally proposed at \$1M/year; DOH cannot advocate but stakeholders can.

- Alyiah Doughty
  - Raised issue of qualifying conditions and flexibility for “other conditions.”
  - Advocated for microdosing access
    - Benefits for broad conditions.
    - Could reduce cost and improve functionality.
    - Questioned need for caregiver presence for microdosing.
    - Suggested allowing out-of-center access for microdosing.
- Elle Byers
  - Highlighted diagnosis barriers:
    - Provider shortages and long waitlists.
    - DSM bias; women of color face greater hurdles.
  - Raised her concerns that diagnostic requirement could block access. Suggested exploring ways to reduce gatekeeping and improve cultural competency.
- Marlena Robbins
  - Stressed indigenous knowledge systems and cross-border cultural ties.
  - Proposed partnerships with Mazatec communities and ethical engagement.
  - Suggested culturally informed therapy models blending:
    - Diné teachings.
    - Mazatec ceremonial knowledge.
    - Western therapeutic practices.
  - Shared resources: Fungi Foundation ethical guidelines, Botanical Dimensions, María Sabina museum project.
- Brett Phelps

- Urged advocacy for Patient Equity Fund during legislative session.
- Noted funds are not in current budget; stakeholders should push for appropriation.
- Dominick Zurlo
  - Explained original intent of Equity Fund: support rural/frontier access, transportation, historically underserved populations.
  - Encouraged reading full statute; future session will clarify statutory boundaries.

#### Closing Remarks

- Encouraged continued input and outreach.
- Stressed importance of diverse voices and cultural considerations.
- Highlighted need for education and communication to overcome biases.
- Called for collaboration to ensure equitable implementation.

Meeting adjourned