



CCAP Marijuana Task Force Report and Recommendations

October 4, 2019

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Timeline

2017-2018

- CCAP Medical Marijuana Task Force

2019

- **January:** Lt. Gov announces listening tour
- **March:** Board reconvenes Task Force
- **August:** Resolutions adoption
- **October:** Release of recommendations



Why Counties?

- Seeing impacts of medical marijuana
 - Human services, corrections, land use, etc.
- Identified need for policy discussion in these areas if recreational moves forward
 - Learn from other states' experiences
 - Develop input to help mitigate impacts at local level

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Process

- Task Force members
- June 16 meeting
 - Reviewed current law, impacts
 - Stakeholder input
 - Lt. Governor's office
 - Colorado, New York county associations
- No position on legalization

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Resolutions

The Association believes any efforts by the commonwealth to change laws to further legalize use of marijuana are premature at least until the federal government removes marijuana from the list of Schedule 1 drugs.

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Resolutions

The Association believes that if state legislation moves forward to further legalize marijuana, counties must be brought to the table as part of those discussions to address the local impacts, costs and benefits, including but not limited to issues related to commercialization, environmental and land use impacts, behavioral health and other human services impacts, workplace and employee policies, ability of local governments to regulate the growing, dispensing and use of marijuana, social justice impacts, and impacts to the court and correctional systems, as well as reimbursement of costs to counties.

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Recommendations

- Provide detail around broad policy in resolutions
- Any effort to decriminalize must be statewide, uniform
- Active county involvement in policy discussions
- More medical/scientific research needed

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Commercialization

- Resolve access to financial institutions, taxation, employee pay
- Require all local approvals before state license/approval of marijuana businesses

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Environmental/ Land Use Impacts

- Guidelines for growing/farming process
- No interference with growing hemp
- Guidelines for vehicles/machinery related to cultivation
- Local government authority for zoning, setbacks, other impacts

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Behavioral Health

- Funding to address increased need for substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Funding for mental health services

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Human Services

- Resources for research-based youth education
- Use of PAYS data to understand youth perceptions
- If edibles permitted, must be carefully regulated

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Children and Youth

- If marijuana remains illegal under federal law:
 - Clarify how caseworkers handle discovery of marijuana when investigating child abuse
 - Counties should retain discretion on approval of foster, kinship families

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Workplace and Employee Policies

- Implications for those in public safety, working with vulnerable populations
- Ability to control use of marijuana within county workforce, maintain drug free workplace
- Defined impairment standard
- Education on distinguishing between medical, recreational marijuana

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Local Government Regulation

- Discussion on local option to regulate (local control vs. consistent enforcement)
- Opt-in vs. opt-out
- Permit more stringent regulation than state
- Expand Clean Indoor Air Act, or allow local regulation
- Local regulation for community concerns

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Social Justice Impacts

- Allow localities to assure historically disadvantaged communities are treated fairly
- Allow expungement of prior convictions for small possession/use

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Courts and Corrections

- Support for statewide options for diversion
- Retain age for purchase/possession at 21
- Defined impairment standard

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Reimbursement of County Costs

- Revenues derived should be dedicated to counties for innovative or evidence-based services
- County discretion in use for broad array of purposes
- Local revenue options for counties
- Funding for health, social impact research

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Gov. Wolf/Lt. Gov. Report

- Findings of statewide tour released Sept. 25
- Three actions requested:
 - Decriminalization of non-violent, small offenses
 - Expungement of past convictions of non-violent, small offenses
 - Serious legislative debate on legalizing recreational marijuana

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Legislative Response

- House, Senate Republican leadership opposition
 - Current drug abuse/opioid crisis
 - Impact to medical marijuana program
 - Lack of credible research
- Limited number of bills

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Report/Resources

- Marijuana Task Force report available at www.pacounties.org
 - Government Relations tab
 - Resources and Reports
 - Task Force Reports – Marijuana Task Force
- Also links to CCAP Medical Marijuana Task Force report and other resources

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