City of Golden
Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force (A64 Task Force)
Public Meeting Agenda

April 3rd, 2014  6:30pm
Meeting Location: Golden Visitors Center, 1010 Washington Ave., Golden CO

Task Force Members: Bill Fisher (Chair), Gretchen Carter, Josephine Colacci, Christopher Gallup, Judith Goeke, David Jones, Stephen Katz, Dawn Smith, Shawn Steigner, Bill Hayashi (City Attorney)

Task Force City Staff: Chief Bill Kilpatrick
Members of Public: John McDonough, Rocky Mountain Organic Medicine

6:30pm  -  Welcome & Approval of Minutes
Minutes Approved

6:35pm  -  Speaker, Mr. Christopher Reyburn, M.D.
Chief of Staff, Clinical Director of Adult Intensive Treatment Services and Mental Health Intensive Outpatient Programs
Centennial Peaks Hospital

Mr. Reyburn joined the Task Force at the beginning of this evening’s meeting. He is the head of four inpatient units, also with a background in electric convulsive therapy and substance-induced psychosis.

Mr. Reyburn noted that the first case of cannabis-associated psychosis showed up in his practice about 5 years ago. It was a manic episode with psychosis that did not resolve. He was shocked, had never seen anything like this.

He compared this to methamphetamine psychosis, which he says generally resolves in approximately three days with treatment.

Since then, he has seen an explosion of cases with this diagnosis, where cannabis is the primary and only drug involved and where the patient does not have a diagnosed history of mental illness.

Typical of what he sees now are CU students, cannabis users, who come to treatment (essentially all referred from agencies) with lasting symptoms, for whom it takes months to stabilize. Mr. Reyburn stated these cases are sad because they are so hard to treat, take so long to stabilize, and are likely to have “lasting effects.” Ms. Smith asked what this meant, to which Mr. Reyburn replied “permanent effects.”
Mr. Reyburn noted an increased sensitivity of younger people to development of psychosis with cannabis use only. He stated the highest risk age group was 14-18, with increased risk of lasting psychosis, with the concerning focus on increased risk of permanent psychosis and schizophrenia. Apparently, there is a 1% general incidence with various spikes (i.e. 1918 flu-based) in this condition. He said that marijuana is one of the few identifiable factors to indicate this psychosis, and is different precisely because it is lasting. Cannabis is about the only known risk factor for schizophrenia, although some genetic predispositions also exist (e.g. based on studies of identical twins). But even in twins, incidence is not as high as would be expected given genetics, and cannabis is seen as the trigger.

Mr. Reyburn noted he did not think marijuana users necessarily had lower IQ (responding to discussion on recent studies suggesting this), but that their working memory and executive function is worse, which meant they were unable to perform well on IQ tests. He reiterated this to be a lasting effect, meaning permanent.

Ms. Colacci responded by asking Mr. Reyburn if he meant that cognitive skills could not be changed in regards to his comment about the permanent or lasting effect for those cognitive skills. He said yes. Ms. Colacci responded by saying she has used marijuana since high school and significantly changed her cognitive skills through a brain-training program, LearningRX (e.g. from 14 percent to 78 percent for one cognitive skill). She stated in her case that it did not impair her functioning and improvement. When questioned, Mr. Reyburn responded that perhaps if she had not used marijuana her score might have been 100, so it’s hard to say in any one case.

In response to questioning, Mr. Reyburn states that marijuana is unequivocally worse than methamphetamine for brain dysfunction. Meth psychosis reverses and goes away, and more generally notes some studies seeing a persistence of psychosis as follows:
- Alcohol 2%
- Meth 5%
- Cannabis 48%.

In response to a question of how patients present, Mr. Reyburn noted that often they are college-age persons and young adults with personality change, paranoia, odd behaviors, delusions, are non-communicative, no self care and poor implementation of activities of daily living, not sleeping or eating appropriately, who come in after doing something often unsafe or dangerous (again, primarily to themselves).

He reiterated they are essentially “nonfunctional.”
In response to aggressive questioning by Mr. Jones, who compared his experience in criminal defense dealing with violent criminal offences, Mr. Reyburn noted there is rarely violence or aggression towards others involved and no real comparison.

After continued vigorous questioning, Mr. Reyburn finally had to ask Mr. Jones to be respectful in his questioning.

Mr. Reyburn re-stated that the difference he sees in treating cases of cannabis-associated psychosis vs. other conditions is that the patients are not getting better now.

Mr. Reyburn stated that when he started, he didn’t see this. He used to give a speech and say marijuana wasn’t that bad for mental health. He is now amazed to see cannabis-associated psychosis become one of the primary illnesses he is treating. Again, based on aggressive questioning by Mr. Jones and Mr. Steigner, Mr. Reyburn reiterated that these patients were only smoking marijuana (no other drugs), with no previous mental health history.

**The bottom line: 5 years ago he didn’t see this at all, now his hospital is treating it every day.**

Mr. Reyburn stated he will work to provide a bibliography of sources regarding the literature cited during his discussion. He was thanked for his participation.

**6:35pm - General Discussion of Values & Health, Safety & Welfare considerations**

Task Force members to discuss issues in relation to April 1st Public Input Listening Session

The Task Force (TF) discussed the public input session. There was general agreement that essentially all information presented by the public is already being considered by the TF, which was good news. It was noted that 6 of the 16 speakers were associated with the marijuana industry.

Ms. Smith presented a printout of the electronic mail received by the A64@cityofgolden.net email address. It currently reaches to 45 pages or so and was noted that responses have been far more informative in providing guidance to the TF.

The Task Force devolved into a long discussion re-hashing a wide-range of issues about the basic nature of legalizing marijuana in Colorado, which have been covered several times, including comparisons of marijuana to alcohol. This was non-productive, and did absorb much of the Task Force’s time. All
members of the TF agreed that youth access and prevention of use of marijuana was important with the exception of Mr. Jones, who again noted comparisons to alcohol.

The TF moved on to discuss one of the four use types potentially authorized by A64. Testing facilities were generally noted to be in line with the City's economic development principles with little of the concerns that have been shared for the other three uses.

Potential concerns cited included not fully understanding what labs may entail in the future as they evolve, as well as potential waste disposal concerns and water quality concerns. Security concerns were generally thought to be appropriately handled by state regulations, and Ms. Colacci has agreed to continue investigation. The TF agreed to pursue some form of water quality permits from the City to ensure appropriate care of water resources. The TF did note concerns related to over-regulation of industry, which may impact Golden's business attractiveness, and thus felt that by limiting to primary environmental concerns this would not be overly burdensome.

8:00pm - Provisions: Public Use
Josephine & Dawn will lead this discussion

Concepts regarding public use were discussed. Concerns were raised for use, especially downtown and along the Clear Creek Corridor and parks. The primary gist of the discussion quickly centered around appropriate use.

This was generally seen to be within private homes and residences, as well as within the open private grounds of said residences. It was noted that persons renting may not have recourse if the landlord chooses to ban marijuana use.

There was much discussion on how to appropriately provide opportunities for police to evaluate and manage potential neighbor conflicts and concerns regarding nuisance issues. Bill Hayashi and Chief Kilpatrick stated difficulties with this. They were asked to consider ways that may be legislatively written to allow appropriate management measures which respect private individuals' rights for use while also protecting neighbors.

8:35pm - Wrap-up
Discuss progress on assigned projects

Mr. Steigner and others asked whether putting this on the ballot for a vote was an idea to pursue. The TF had a discussion and generally agreed that this was an extremely complex issue best handled by significant discussion and research through the TF. It was also noted even were there to be a vote, it would not truly
answer the myriad questions being posed to the TF surrounding the many facets permitted by Amendment 64

Mr. Steigner thanked those TF members able to join the tour of operations of his facility. Members noted that the tour and facility were “impressive.” He made arrangements for an additional tour next Tuesday, with invites also to include city staff and council.

Each member was asked to forward elements of their efforts on the various assigned projects before the next meeting, if possible, to give members time to review and consider them.

8:45pm - Adjournment