

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL | POLICY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING - **DRAFT**  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 Meeting 10:00 A.M.  
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS

1) Call to Order

Kyle Abercrombie called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. on behalf of Edwin Shirley who was not present at this meeting.

2) Attendance

Kyle Abercrombie  
Avery Gaddis  
Michael Jefferson  
Ojala Naeem  
Shirley Skyers-Thomas

Staff: Brandon McGee, Executive Director, Karen Colebut, Paralegal Specialist

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Kyle Abercrombie led the discussion, noting that while there was no quorum to vote on items 3 and 4, they could still engage in dialogue about the agenda. They proceeded with agenda Item 5(b).

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3) Review of the Comments for Submission to the Legislature

b. Expand Workforce Development opportunities beyond the Cannabis Industry

Kristina Diamond provided an overview, explaining that Public Act 24-151 passed in the last legislative session grants the council the authority to expand workforce development beyond the cannabis industry. She also mentioned that the legislative language is sufficient, and no further action is needed at this point. Abercrombie agreed, confirming that no additional steps were required.

c. Mandate a Reporting Requirement for the Social Equity and Workforce Development Plans

Kristina Diamond introduced the concept of requiring cannabis businesses to submit an annual impact report tied to their social equity and workforce development plans, potentially linked to the license renewal process. This idea had been under discussion by the Council for some time.

Kyle Abercrombie inquired whether such a reporting requirement could be implemented without statutory changes, to which Kristina Diamond clarified that while it was a current policy, it was not a formal requirement. She shared that the Council had received 55 social equity plans, with limited follow-up reports from businesses, underscoring the need for enforcement.

Andrea Comer highlighted the enforcement challenges and suggested consulting the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) for guidance, as DCP oversees similar compliance matters. She emphasized the need for clarity on the Social Equity Council's (SEC) enforcement responsibilities.

Julianne Avallone provided legal context, cautioning about the complexities of enforcement. She explained that while DCP could support compliance enforcement, they would need clear, prescriptive legal standards for the Social Equity and workforce development plans. Avallone noted that enforcement could be resource-intensive, stressing the importance of establishing clear procedures and potential staffing implications.

Michael Jefferson expressed concern over subjectivity in enforcement and emphasized the need for precise legislative language to ensure that businesses adhere to their plans. He advocated for creating specific standards in the legislation to avoid relying on an "honor system."

Brandon McGee supported Jefferson's point and called for more internal review of the criteria and rubrics used for evaluating these plans to ensure consistency with statutory requirements.

Andrea Comer and Shirley Skyers-Thomas both echoed the need for adequate staffing to handle enforcement if it were mandated, emphasizing the importance of having the capacity to follow through on such regulations.

The discussion concluded with a consensus on the need for careful consideration of staffing, legislative clarity, and further consultations on how to structure enforcement mechanisms effectively.

#### 4) Approval of the June 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Kyle Abercrombie requested a motion for the approval of the June 24, 2024, meeting minutes.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson  
Second – by Shirley Skyers-Thomas  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – Kyle Abercrombie

Motion passed unanimously.

5) Approval of the June 21, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion – by Michael Jefferson  
Second – by Shirley Skyers-Thomas  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – Kyle Abercrombie

Motion passed unanimously.

6) For the Good of the Order

Andrea Comer brought up a concern raised by one of the licensees during the Together We Grow conference. The issue involved requirements for transporters regarding how long they can maintain a product on their vehicle, with concerns about unpredictable factors like weather. Andrea noted that this matter would likely be brought to the legislature and suggested passing relevant information to Kristina for awareness and sharing with the council.

Kyle thanked Andrea for flagging the issue and asked Kristina to monitor legislative developments. Executive Director Brandon McGee added that he would PDF the related materials for council members and work on a strategic legislative outreach plan in coordination with the council to ensure informed decision-making.

In closing, Kyle thanked the committee for allowing him to chair in Mr. Shirley's absence and requested a motion for adjournment.

7) Adjourn

Kyle Abercrombie called a motion to adjourn.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson  
Second – by Shirley Skyers-Thomas  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – None  
Motion passed unanimously.



**A Plus Reporting, LLC**  
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**Date: September 19, 2024**

**RE: Minutes: September SEC Policy/Governance Committee Minutes (Draft)**

**Please be advised that the above-referenced typewritten minutes are a true and accurate description of the proceedings obtained from the recorded conversations to the extent that the audio could be clearly heard/understood. Portions that could not be heard/understood have been notated with a (an “inaudible” or “?...”).**

**Sincerely,**

*Brenda LaFleur*

**Brenda LaFleur**  
**Owner, A Plus Reporting Service, LLC**

**I certify that this document is a true and accurate description of the proceedings obtained from the recorded conversations contained in the listed audio file.**

*Boden Truitt*

**Boden Truitt,**  
**Transcriber**