

Proficiency Testing Workgroup Progress Report #2

Meeting 3 attendance list (10/08)

Jay Burns, Treeline Analytics

Steve Loague, Integrity Labs

Steve LaCroix, DOH (via phone)

Nick Poolman, WSLCB

Sara Sekerak, Ecology

Taber Salewsky, Praxis Laboratory (via phone)

Progress Summary

The workgroup has now held three meetings and has met for a total of 10 hours. Only one meeting has been held since the last Steering Committee Meeting on 9/27. The next PT Workgroup meeting is scheduled for 10/24.

The group focused on two main areas to provide more information to support the PT workgroup major finding presented on 9/27.

- **Run an in-state PT program** – requires to entity become a PT provider – that produces cannabis matrix PTs for high priority analyte/matrix combinations (or fields of testing)
- Over-see a third-party independent PT provider activities - allowing for an **independent provider to come into state and makes PT samples** using state supplied cannabis

Agency Attributes Grid Exercise

The PT workgroup performed an exercise to breakdown attributes, by agency, to display where an in-house PT program may be best suited (see Agency Grid attachment). . Attributes included items such as lab facilities, general testing experience, cannabis-specific experience, experience manufacturing PT samples (PT provider), and accreditations.

Identified universal themes and challenges needing resolve regardless of agency include:

- Where to source marijuana – grow, buy/use market available end-product, repurpose confiscated material
- Transport of marijuana, both clean source to the PT provider and distribution of PT samples to labs
- Small n – small number of in-state PT participants do not support a robust PT program design
- Possible cost burden to labs
- Program Funding – facility space, staff, equipment and supplies, PT certification/training, on-going program costs
- Rulemaking
- Unclear authority

A full analysis and feasibility study would require policy staff, budget analysts, management, and more for each agency, this was not performed, nor was it the intent of the exercise. Agency members provided information about their respective agency attributes to the best of their knowledge

No WSDA PT workgroup participant currently exists. The request for a WSDA member to sit on the PT workgroup has been communicated to the Steering Committee.

A personal request was sent to Mike Firman to request WSDA's participation in providing WSDA infrastructure, experience information, etc. Mike was unable to attend was not able to locate a resource to assist in our 10/8 meeting. Nick Poolman, who previously worked for the WSDA, gave his best effort in to trying to fill in data gaps on behalf of the WSDA. Due to the tight timeline for this deliverable to the Steering Committee the grid was not sent the WSDA for review. The workgroup appreciates any amendments the WSDA taskforce members have to provide.

Third Party Provider

Sara provided a summary of a conversation had one of the current WSLCB-approved PT providers, Phenova, to the workgroup. Highlights of the conversation and summary include:

- Phenova is the only provider that offers a program to come into the state to perform in-matrix PT samples.
- Phenova provides cannabis PT programs like this for Colorado, Oregon, and soon Nevada, Oklahoma, and Florida.
- Phenova won the national contract with Canada as the cannabis PT provider
- Certified as a PT provider and performs to the [ISO 17043](#) and [ISO 17034](#) standards
- Approved Ecology Envir. Lab Accreditation Program provider for environmental PT samples (meets [TNI Std V. 3](#))

Ty Garber from Phenova is willing to provide the Task Force with an in-person presentation and Q/A session in November.

Other

A spreadsheet was started to compile the current available PT samples provided by approved third-party providers. This is a work-in-progress to detail what is currently available to WA, by matrix and parameter.

Action Item

The PT workgroup would like to request 1.5 hours of the agenda November 15, 2019 meeting to bring in a representative from Phenova to discuss his program and answer and questions. The representative is willing to come free of charge, as it is a normal course of his business to provide presentations of Phenova services.