

Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida
July 20, 2019

“What Masons Need to Know About Medical Marijuana”

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Greetings

- To The Honorable Walter Gulley Jr., Most Worshipful Grand Master;
- To All Past Grand Masters of this Jurisdiction;
- To All Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers;
- To all Local lodge officers; and
- To all Brothers of the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida

Project Goals and Objectives

Goals of Initiative:

Increase awareness in minority communities about:

- The use of medical marijuana
- The consequences of illicit use of marijuana

Objectives: Education:

- Develop and disseminate educational materials to support outreach and engagement efforts
- Engage with minority communities to conduct education and training activities

Research:

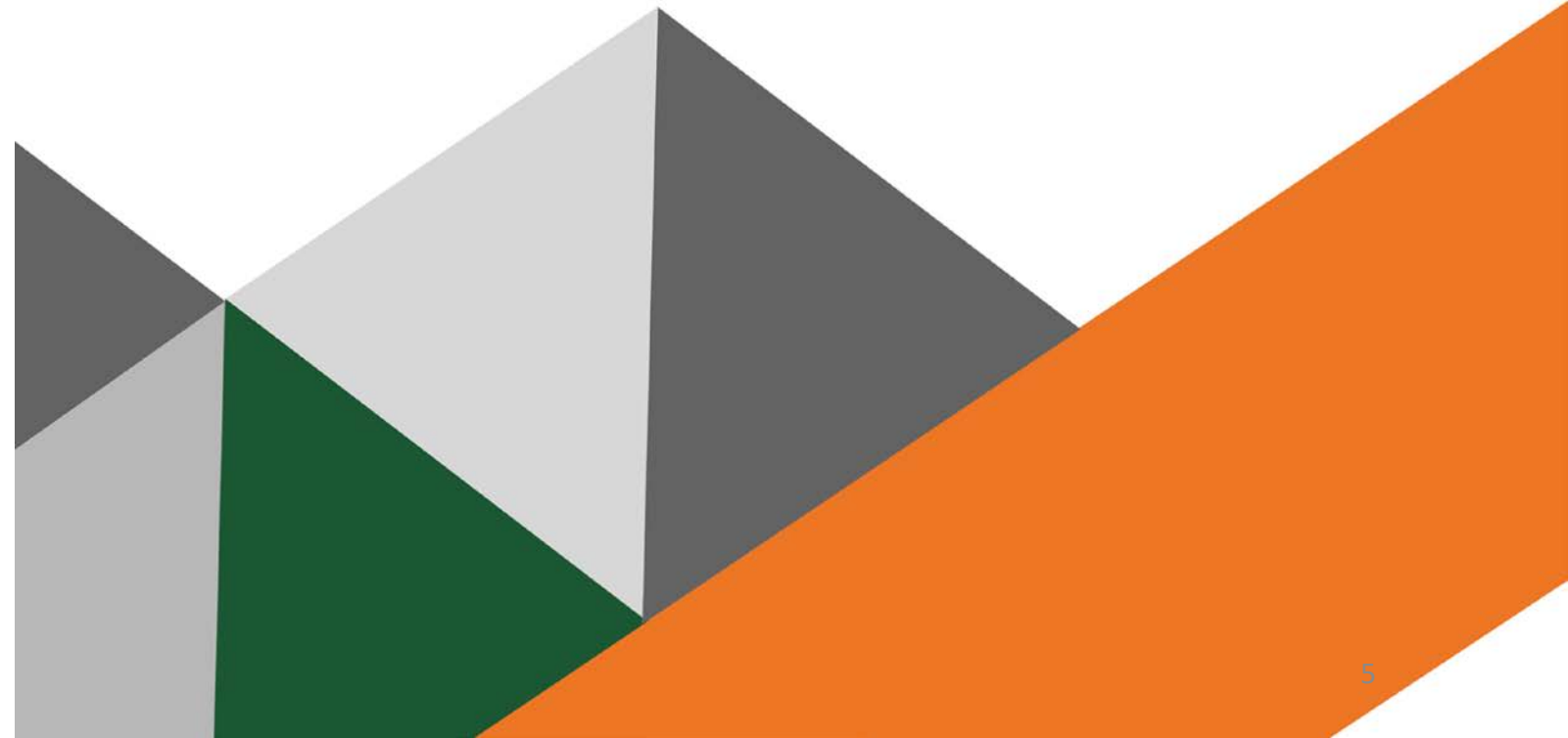
- Identify best practices to **engage and educate** minorities
- Enhance the current level of understanding of the **underlying factors** that influence behaviors and attitudes towards the illicit usage of marijuana
- Identify best practices for educating minorities about the **impact of the illicit use** of marijuana and for **changing perceptions and behavior**
- Understand current **perceptions and knowledge** of how minorities view medical marijuana
- Identify best practices to educate minority communities about **marijuana for medical use**

Legislative Authorization

- Section 381.986, F.S. allows for the use of medical marijuana and low THC cannabis by qualified patients as certified by a qualified physician.
- Chapter 2017-232, Laws of Florida, charged Florida A&M University to “educate minorities about marijuana for medical use and the impact of the unlawful use of marijuana on minority communities.”
- FAMU responded by establishing the Medical Marijuana Education and Research Initiative.

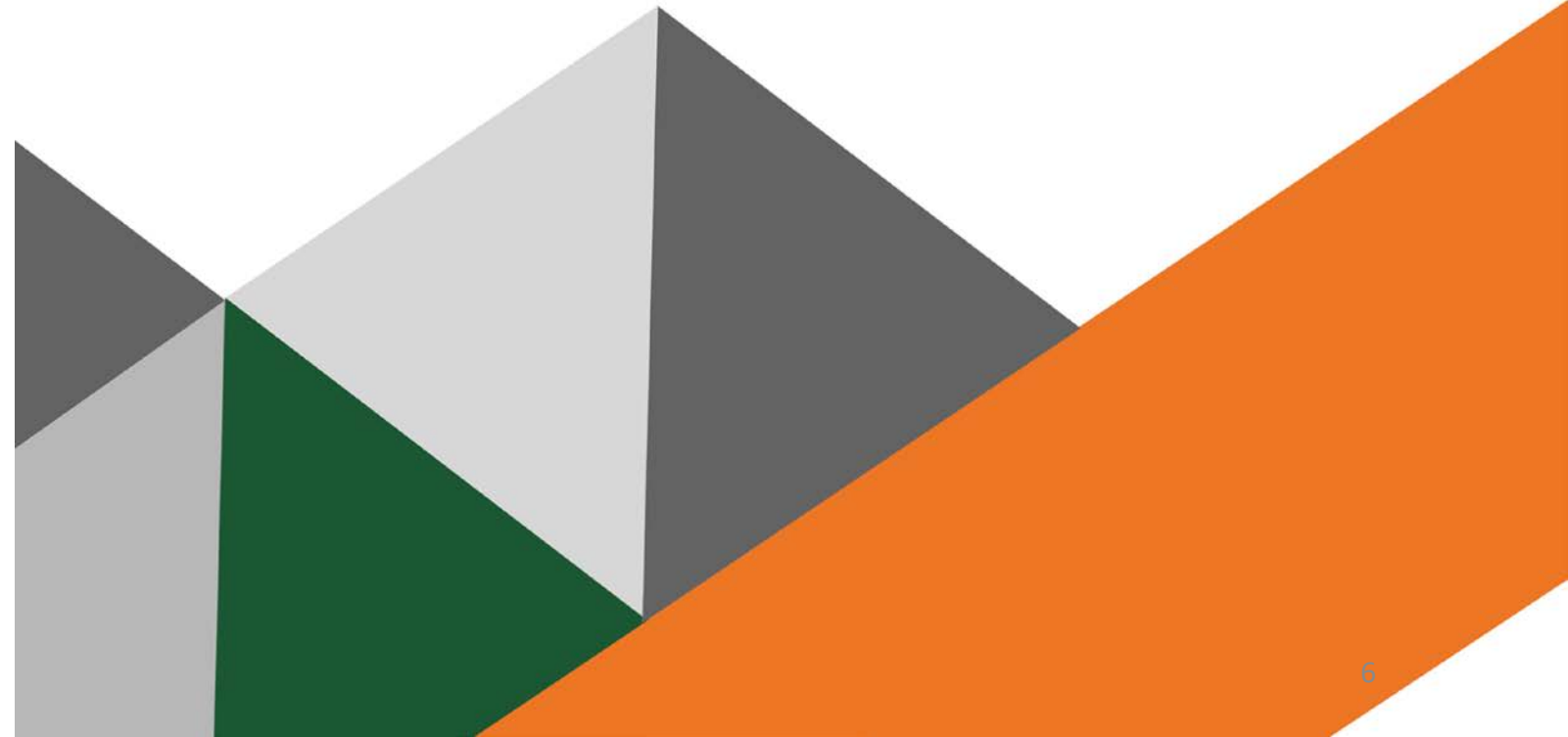
What We Have Done to Date

- Completed 3 community forums: Tallahassee, Orlando, and Pensacola
- Participated in 30 community events including the *What Women Want* event with 2500 attendees
- We are in the design stage for a major interactive website to facilitate our ability to communicate readily with our diverse minority communities.
- Awarded 14 research grants to FAMU faculty to begin our efforts to provide needed research-based information to our communities
- Begun compiling information and research to share once the interactive website is ready



Communication With Our Diverse Communities

- Press Releases
- Presentations
- Interviews
- Plans underway for various media venues to help us promote the work of the initiative
- Translation services to ensure we can communicate well with Florida's diverse minority communities



What Have We Learned?

- Our communities have lots of questions, misinformation, and fears.
- The history of disparate outcomes casts a dark shadow hindering trust.
- Costs are prohibitive
- Questions abound about how to access medical marijuana, what are the qualifications, who are the physicians, etc.

Florida Department of Health Office of Medical Marijuana Use

Let's look at the OMMU Fact Sheet

- How It Works
- Patient and Physician Responsibilities
- Qualifying Conditions
- For More Information:
- KnowTheFactsMMJ.com or
- 800-808-9580

Questions and Some Answers

- What is medical marijuana?
 - "Low-THC cannabis" means a plant of the genus Cannabis, the dried flowers of which contain 0.8 percent or less of tetrahydrocannabinol and more than 10 percent of cannabidiol weight for weight; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; or any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant or its seeds or resin that is dispensed from a medical marijuana treatment center.
 - "Marijuana" means all parts of any plant of the genus Cannabis, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin, including low-THC cannabis, which are dispensed from a medical marijuana treatment center for medical use by a qualified patient.

What is CBD?

- CBD is a naturally occurring compound found in the resinous flower of cannabis.
- CBD and THC are similar. CBD does not cause the “high” sensation associated with marijuana. THC does. They act in different ways on different points in the brain and in the body.
- CBDs are available in a variety of situations, they come in many forms, they do not cause a high sensation, and one does not need a recommendation from a physician to purchase it.
- CBDs are legal at all levels.

Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers

- Licensed medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs) are vertically integrated and are the only businesses in Florida authorized to dispense medical marijuana and low-THC cannabis to qualified patients and caregivers.
- Each MMTC must receive authorization at three stages, (1) cultivation authorization, (2) processing authorization and (3) dispensing authorization, prior to dispensing low-THC cannabis or medical marijuana.

Let's Look at the MMERI Fact Sheet

- Health benefits known to date.
- How do I get medical marijuana?
- What is CBD?
- Who are the Doctors certified to recommend medical marijuana?
- Are there health risks involved?
- What is illegal marijuana?
- What are the consequences of illegal use?

Let's Dig Deeper

- How does medical marijuana work?
- Legal vs Illegal
- Federal vs State
- Workplace Issues
 - Law Enforcement, CDL drivers, First Responders, Workplace productivity, etc.
- Misconceptions
 - Which came first?
 - Medical marijuana and mental health issues
 - Impact on youth

Policy Recommendations

Business and Industry

- Medical Marijuana Dispensaries
- Emerging Minority Landowners
- Can I grow my own?
- Policy Recommendations

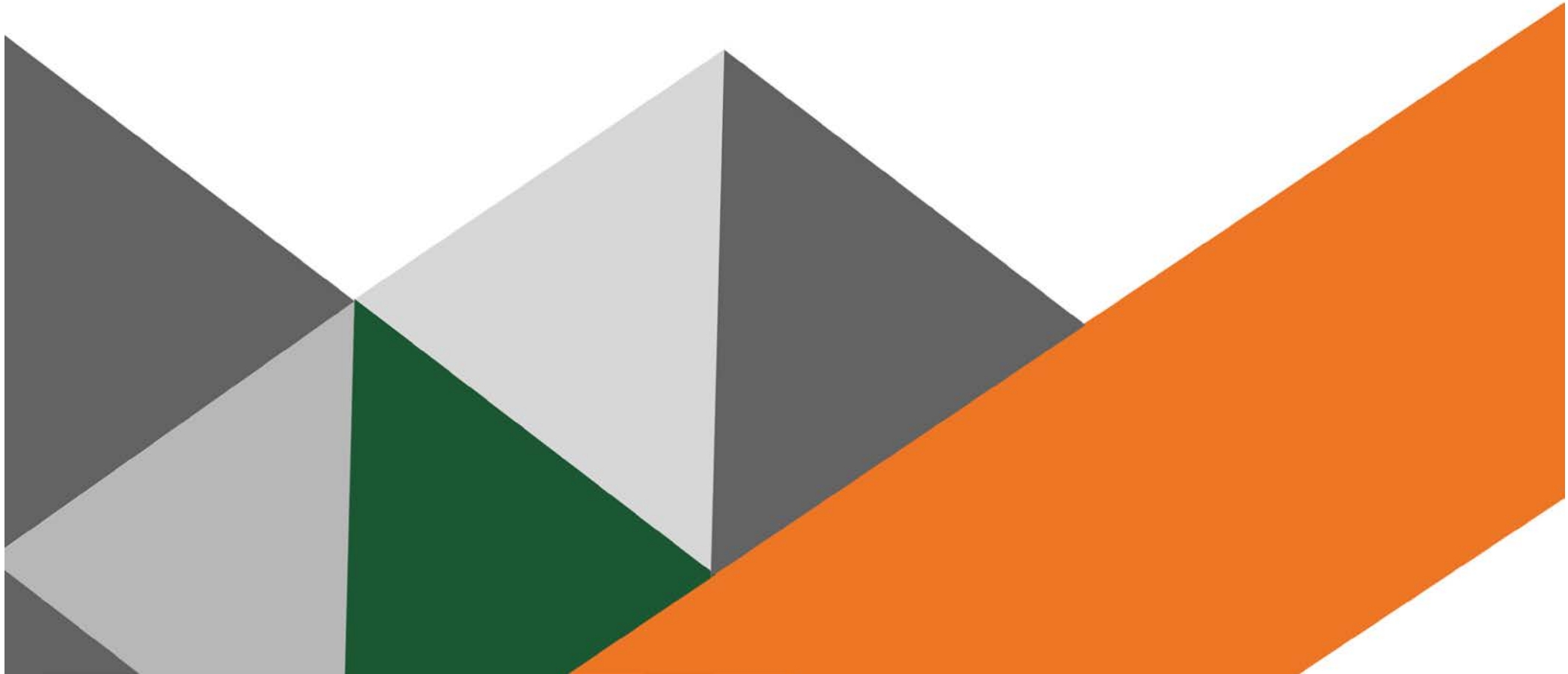
What's Next?

- We will be in southern parts of the state in early fall hosting more community forums and events
- We will begin providing 1-3 hour workshops for groups interested in specific learning objectives about medical marijuana and the consequences of illegal use of marijuana
- The 14 researchers will begin their year-long projects very soon.
- We anticipate a fall date to launch the interactive website

Thank You to all
who completed
questionnaires!!!

- The information helped us to know what you felt you knew about MMJ and what you wanted to know more about MMJ.
- You provided us with a predominantly male and mid-life- to-seniors perspective on this important subject.
- Your handwritten comments and questions will go a long way to helping us focus on what our communities need, and on the policy recommendations needed to increase access for all who want to see if this medicine will meet their needs.

Your Turn! Q&A



Thank you for your time and
attention!!!

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