

Senior Personnel Shake-Up: DOH and Cannabis Commission Undergo Changes

A series of significant leadership transitions is underway between the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) and the Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC), heralding changes in key roles within these vital governmental bodies.

Brown Assumes New Role at DOH

Jeff Brown, the current executive director of the CRC, is set to transition to the DOH, where he will step into the role of deputy commissioner for health systems. This move follows the departure of Robin Ford, the outgoing DOH Deputy Commissioner, who is embarking on a new venture at the New Jersey Innovation Institute. Brown's transition mirrors that of Kelly Anderson-Thomas, the former CRC Deputy Executive Director, who recently assumed the role of deputy commissioner for public health services at DOH.

Riggs Takes the Helm at CRC

Christopher Riggs, presently serving as the deputy executive director and former chief counsel at CRC, will assume the position of acting executive director at the CRC following Brown's departure later this month. Riggs brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role, having played integral roles in legal and regulatory matters within the cannabis sphere.

Governor Murphy Acknowledges Transitions

Governor Phil Murphy expressed appreciation for the departing and incoming officials, recognizing their contributions to their respective departments. He commended Robin Ford for her dedicated service during challenging times, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and extended well wishes for her future endeavors. Governor Murphy also lauded Jeff Brown and Christopher Riggs for their exemplary leadership at CRC, underscoring their pivotal roles in shaping New Jersey's cannabis landscape.

Continuity and Vision

Governor Murphy emphasized the importance of continuity and vision in navigating these transitions, highlighting the significant achievements made under Jeff Brown's leadership at CRC. Brown's tenure witnessed milestones such as the implementation of comprehensive regulations for the adult-use cannabis market, innovative legislative frameworks, and the processing of numerous business applications and permits.

Brown's Accomplishments

During his tenure at CRC, Jeff Brown spearheaded organizational strategy and policy formulation, managing a substantial budget and overseeing critical regulatory functions. His efforts were instrumental in establishing the foundation for New Jersey's cannabis industry, fostering equity and inclusivity, and facilitating the issuance of permits and licenses for business operations.

Riggs's Role and Expertise

Christopher Riggs, in his capacity as chief counsel at CRC, played a pivotal role in shaping regulatory frameworks and overseeing legal matters crucial to the commission's operations. His extensive experience in civil litigation, administrative law, and governmental affairs positions him well to lead CRC during this transitional phase.

A Legacy of Progress

As New Jersey continues to navigate the complexities of cannabis regulation and public health, these leadership transitions underscore the commitment to advancing equitable and effective governance. With a legacy of progress and a vision for the future, the state remains poised to uphold the integrity and success of its cannabis initiatives.

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