

## Medical Marijuana Program Development



Prior to 2013 the State of Nevada had provided immunity from state and local prosecution for possessing, delivering and producing marijuana in certain limited amounts. Patients with qualifying medical conditions and their designated primary caregivers apply and receive a registry identification card from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health. However, no mechanism was defined for how patients acquired marijuana, making home growing the only legal alternative. Since some patients could not or did not desire to grow their own marijuana, increasing demand stimulated illegal growing and distribution operations.

The 2013 Nevada Legislative Session addressed this deficiency. Senate Bill 374 sets forth the manner in which a person may apply to obtain a registration certificate to operate a medical marijuana establishment (dispensary, cultivator, manufacturer, or laboratory). The bill sets forth a number of limitations, requirements and procedures regarding the secure and lawful licensing and operation of medical marijuana establishments within the State.

QuantumMark was selected to assist the State to develop the regulations, policies, procedures and organizational structure to implement this program. The focus was on efficiently and effectively meeting the goals of the legislation while creating a secure environment that would protect the public interest. Specifically, QuantumMark:

- Provided project management support
- Developed regulations to support the new legislation by:
  - Benchmarking regulations in other states where medical marijuana is legal
  - Facilitating meetings to agree on draft regulations
  - Following up on action items from the meetings to ensure timely resolution
  - Managing the schedule of activities required to solicit and process public comments and achieve approval of all necessary boards and agencies
- Established an objective framework within which to evaluate proposals from dispensaries, cultivators, manufacturers and testing laboratories and select quality providers
- Designed the organizational structure necessary to approve and regulate medical marijuana establishments. Wrote job descriptions for each position and recommended job classifications. Developed a startup budget for the operation and the Work Program necessary for Interim Finance Committee approval
- Onboarded the permanent and temporary staff
- Facilitated system decisions for the licensing function as well as the seed-to-sale system and prepared the investment packet for submission to the legislature

The State successfully navigated the selection process with no legal challenges. A number of establishments are operational and others are coming online monthly.