

**Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG)
Treatment Reimbursement Rates (TRR) Workgroup**

Draft Meeting Minutes August 3, 2018

Meeting Location

Held via teleconference with physical location of 4126 Technology Way, Suite 102, Carson City, NV

Members Present

Denise Quirk
Lana Robards
Lori Chirino
Merle Sexton
Sarah St. John

Members Absent

Don Yorgason

Also Present

Cindy Smith and Cathy Council, OCPG
Sydney Smith, Rise Health

I. Call to Order, Welcome Introductions and Announcements

Denise Quirk, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG), Treatment Reimbursement Rates (TRR) Workgroup, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Attendees on the phone introduced themselves and a quorum was confirmed.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approve Meeting July 12, 2018 Workgroup Minutes

Ms. Quirk called for corrections or comments on the previous meeting. Lana Robards, New Frontier Treatment Center, requested an edit to page 1, Item III, paragraph 3 stating the dollars were “pass through” not past due dollars.

Lori Chirino, Problem Gambling Center, stated her name is Lori Chirino not Lori Flores; it had the wrong last name through-out the minutes; Aaron Lyons and herself are with Problem Gambling Center not Mental Health Counseling; which was also stated incorrectly in the minutes.

- Ms. Robards moved to approve the minutes with changes noted. The motioned was seconded by Merle Sexton, Bridge Counseling, and carried unopposed.

IV. Discussion on Treatment Reimbursement Rates (TRR)

Denise Quirk started the discussion with the main items from the last meeting:

- I. Rate are too low; rates need to include the cost of running a business as well as covering the cost of counseling,
- II. Increase in residential and individual rate,
- III. Need a family or couples rate and a way to pay for the mental health counselors that cover a few sessions to be paid at an appropriate rate at a master’s level.

Ms. Quirk suggested an action plan to the Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG) to increase the current rates from the [Strategic Plan](#) and the [Problem Gambling Rates](#). A group discussion regarding the rates ensued.

- Sarah St. John, UNLV, stated that she can create a worksheet with current rates and what's requested for the new rates.
- Ms. Quirk recommended taking the national medium rate from the Problem Gambling Services Reimbursement rates and increase them starting with: Residential from \$190.50 to \$200.00, individual rate of \$84.00 increase to \$90.00, and the group rate of \$32.44 to \$40.00.
- Ms. Robards stated that \$175 for regular residential would cover her costs along with increasing stays and extended the days the clients are in the program. The \$175 does not include Medicaid; Medicaid does not cover residential. The only reimbursement for residential services that is covered regardless of the funding comes from Gambling Grants or Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) pass through dollars.
- Ms. St. John asked what an intern reimbursement rate would be suggested at
 - Ms. Quirk would like to see 80% reimbursed of the new rate.

The committee went over the potential new rates and would they hope to see that included:

- Intake Evaluation/Assessment Rate; which currently the maximum allowed units is 12. That converts at \$250.00 dollars for three hours' worth of work. Would like to increase the rate to have it in line with the individual hourly rate.
- Supervision Rate; which is currently \$270 an hour and reimbursed at the same rate as an individual session rate.
- Transitional Housing Rate is currently being reimbursed to Ms. Robards by SAPTA at \$43.64 per day. Ms. Quirk suggest to raise the rate to \$50.00 per day.
- Continuing Care Group Services Rate is at \$10.00 for reimbursement would like to either raise the cap or rate. Need to have more of a discussion on this in the next meeting.
- Crisis Services currently are not able to be billed unless there is an active intake. Would like to see it billed like the aftercare rate.
- Ms. Quirk would like to see the Mental Health Professional rate at \$125.00 an hour.
- Psychoeducational Groups to be reimbursed close to the same rate as is.
- Ms. Quirk would like to increase the Aftercare Rate to \$15.00 from \$10.00.

Ms. Robards asked where we are in the process; the excess that is in reserve is being pulled back into the funding pool for everyone. The numbers that we are currently looking at should include our actual cost of doing business. The increase for the potential new rates should be factoring in the dollars so there are additional monies? The cap that exists now cannot carry the weight of any kind of increase.

- Ms. Smith commented that the work program will go in front of October's Interim Finance Committee (IFC) \$250,000. If you are trying to justify an increase of rates, you need to include the cost of doing business in those rate increases.

V. Approve Recommendations to ACPG

This item was not discussed and was tabled for the next TRR meeting.

VI. Approve ACPG Treatment Reimbursement Rates Workgroup Action Plan

This item was not discussed and was tabled for the next TRR meeting.

VII. Next Meeting, Future Agenda and Action Items

Ms. Quirk announced the date of the next ACPG TRR meeting on Friday, September 7, 2018 at 1:00 pm, and in that meeting Ms. Quirk would like a discussion and possible action items regarding the strategic

plan, people in aftercare, group rates, people who are at risk for relapse, an individual session, and re-enrollees who are high-risk for relapse, but haven't gambled yet.

Ms. Quirk would also like a strategic plan discussion on the difference between psychoeducational groups and regular counseling groups, who provides them, and why are the rates different.

VIII. Public Comment

Ms. St. John commented that if the new rates were used for the last fiscal year; the overall cost for treatment would have been \$1,325,152.50. That is the current budget amount and had these new proposed rates been used it would have used the whole budget with no excess dollars remaining for prevention education, research, or workforce development.

IX. Additional Announcements and Adjournment

Ms. Quirk moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM.