

**Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling  
May 15, 2014  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Locations (Videoconferenced):**

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way Room 301, Carson City  
Nevada Division of Aging & Disability Services, Desert Regional Center, 1391 S Jones, Las Vegas

**Members in Attendance**

Anthony Cabot  
Carol O'Hare  
Carole Turner  
Connie Jones  
Denise Quirk  
Lynnette Stilley  
Ted Hartwell  
Toby Cabot

**Members Absent**

Eric (Rick) Heaney  
Jennifer Shatley

**Others Present**

Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions  
Lori Flores, The Problem Gambling Center  
Sarah St. John and Andrea Dassopoulos, UNLV  
Laurie Olson, Pat Petrie, and Gloria Sulhoff, DHHS Director's Office, Grants Management Unit

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Carol O'Hare welcomed the members and called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. Roll call was taken and a quorum confirmed.

**II. Public Comment**

None

**III. Approval of February 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

- Ted Hartwell moved to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2014 ACPG meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Lynn Stilley and carried unopposed.

**IV. Update on Strategic Planning Process**

Jeff Marotta reported that a Treatment Strategic Plan Workgroup was formed and met several times to review the current strategic plan. He and Pat Petrie also met with each of the current treatment and workforce development grantees to gain an understanding of their specific challenges and gather suggestions for improvements to the strategic plan. Dr. Marotta reviewed in detail the Recommended Revisions document (included in these minutes as Attachment A).

Dr. Marotta also described the satisfaction survey to be conducted by UNLV that is part of the new follow-up study. Those who enter treatment will be asked to rate the ease with which they were able to enter treatment, and identify any difficulties they encountered. Also, the Department will be implementing a quality assurance plan by making anonymous phone calls to treatment providers.

Laurie Olson responded to a question on how the recommended changes would impact next year's funding plan by suggesting the Committee move to agenda Item VII.

#### **VII. FY15 Grant Recommendations**

Pat Petrie reviewed the FY14-15 Funding Comparison and Recommendations handout. The document included each grantee's original FY14 grant award, final FY14 award following mid-year reallocation, approved funding award for year two of the FY14-15 RFA process, and staff-recommended adjustments for FY15 based on changes in the treatment strategic plan. The proposed changes to the Treatment Strategic Plan carry an estimated \$80,000 in increased costs. In response to a question from Mr. Cabot regarding a reserve for contingencies, it was noted that unspent funds revert back to reserves, which carry forward to the next fiscal year. It is difficult to determine an optimal amount for reserves; spending varies considerably from month to month, depending on the number of clients that are served. Peak months also differ among the providers, adding to the difficulty of determining averages.

#### **IV. Update on Strategic Planning Process, Continued**

There being no further questions, Ms. O'Hare entertained a motion to accept the recommended changes in the Treatment Strategic Plan as presented by Dr. Marotta.

- Tony Cabot moved to approve the recommended changes in the Treatment Strategic Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Connie Jones and carried unopposed with no abstentions.

#### **V. Technical Assistance Contract Recommendations**

Pat Petrie stated that both technical assistance contracts were up for renewal. The UNLV contract for data collection and evaluation was re-awarded as a grant with no change in funding from the previous year. A Request for Proposals for technical assistance was issued and sent to four potential applicants. Dr. Marotta was the only respondent; his proposal was in line with his current scope of work and services provided, with a minimal increase of \$1,000 in travel expenses. Staff recommends that the Committee approve the contract to be sent to the Department for final approval.

- Lynn Stillely moved to accept the proposal as submitted by Problem Gambling Services to provide technical assistance in fiscal year 2015. The motion was seconded by Carole Turner and carried unopposed.

#### **VII. FY15 Grant Recommendations, Continued**

- Tony Cabot moved to approve the FY15 grant award recommendations presented by the Department in Agenda Item VII. The motion was seconded by Ted Hartwell and carried unanimously.

#### **IV. Update on Strategic Planning Process, Continued**

Dr. Marotta next discussed plans to update the current, five-year Prevention Strategic Plan adopted in 2009. The Prevention Strategic Plan incorporates visions and values, and serves as a guiding document for making decisions on policies and funding recommendations. The intent is to have the updated plan in place prior to the next grant cycle, fiscal years 16-17. To start the process, a think tank session was held the day before the state conference. Participants included stakeholders from the current problem gambling system and from outside the system, including education, community services, and consumers. They brainstormed ways to address issues and identify priorities in five areas: geographic considerations, cultural diversity, collaboration, problem gambling awareness, and treatment services.

The next step would be to form a workgroup. Dr. Marotta suggested drafting a document for the workgroup to address and formulate recommendations to present to the Committee for further discussion and development.

#### **VI. Program Site Reviews Overview**

Dr. Marotta explained that the annual site review process, in which he and Pat Petrie visit each of the problem gambling grantees' programs, was not as extensive this year as it has been in the past. This year, they wanted to incorporate discussions specific to the Treatment Strategic Plan, and due to time constraints, they were not able to conduct the full four-hour program review. Instead of reviewing everything to ensure the program is in compliance with all standards, they just looked at those that were not met last time and assessed whether they had been addressed. They found that every program addressed the majority of, if not all of, last year's issues. In every case there was progress towards meeting all the standards. Generally, findings are not related to client safety or appropriate treatment, but rather to details regarding documentation. The reports are sent to the providers for review and the opportunity to dispute or correct misrepresentations or inaccuracies. Once approved, they are returned to Pat and then become available to the Advisory Committee.

#### **VIII. Nevada State Conference Overview**

Ms. O'Hare reported on the Nevada State Problem Gambling Conference held at Harrah's Reno in early May. The conference is part of NCPG's workforce development grant's scope of work and provides a major opportunity for continuing education. There were 72 registered participants, 48 of whom collectively earned 608 CEUs. Six scholarships were awarded, funded by corporate sponsors Konami Gaming, IGT, Caesars Entertainment, and the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG). A post-conference evaluation survey rated the sessions overall, the quality of information, and the specific presenters, with average ratings of 4.4 out of 5. Ninety-eight percent of the presenters who completed the survey rated themselves as satisfied or very satisfied with the conference.

#### **IX. Public Comment**

None

#### **X. Closing Announcements and Adjournment**

Carole Turner asked about Council member terms. Staff will check on the renewal process and report back to those whose terms are due to expire June 30.

Mr. Hartwell mentioned that there was some interest at the state conference in learning more about the incidence of problem gambling within tribal communities. He announced that a behavioral health therapist, Sydney Smith, has been hired by the Paiute Tribe through an endowment from Desert Research Institute (DRI) to support on-site educational and informational presentations on resources available in the State, with an opportunity to participate in a survey. He hopes to have initial hard data from the Walker River and Las Vegas Paiute tribal communities by this time next year.

Ms. O'Hare announced that Mr. Hartwell received NCPG's Shannon Bybee Award at the state conference. This award recognizes individuals who actively engage in advocacy and encourage others to do more. She commended Mr. Hartwell on his networking and leadership at DRI.

- Connie Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Lynn Stilley and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:01 AM.