

**Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG) Legislative Workgroup**

**Draft Meeting Minutes
February 19th, 2019**

Meeting Location

Held via teleconference with physical location at DHHS, 4126 Technology Way, Conference Room 201, Carson City NV 89706.

Members Present

**Tony Cabot, Chair
Alan Feldman
Carol O'Hare
Denise Quirk
Ted Hartwell**

Members Absent

**Debra Robinson
Judge Cheryl Moss
Constance Jones**

Others Present

Connie Lucido, Chief, Cathy Council, Kim Garcia, Lori Follett, and Thomas Milazzo, DHHS Office of Community Partnerships and Grants (OCPG)
Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions, Inc.

I. Call to Order, Introductions and Announcements

Tony Cabot, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm. Telephone participants introduced themselves and a quorum was confirmed. There were no announcements.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Status of Funding

Mr. Cabot stated this agenda item was for discussion purposes only. Mr. Cabot stated that the Advisory Committee of Program Gambling (ACPG) was successful in getting both Governors' (outgoing and incoming) to include items in the current budget for Problem Gambling; this would increase the current funding from \$1.3 million to \$4.6 million per year. Mr. Cabot asked if anyone would like to state anything else about funding. No comment

IV. Legislative Strategies

Mr. Cabot turned the discussion to Denise Quirk. Ms. Quirk asked if someone else has joined the teleconference. Kim Garcia introduced herself and Jeff Marotta to the committee. Ms. Quirk then thanked Mr. Cabot for the introduction.

Ms. Quirk opened the discussion regarding The Senate Finance Committee on February 8th, 2019 and her attendance. Ms. Quirk stated the strategic plan did not make it to the Finance members. Ms. Quirk made a public comment during the meeting to advise the members on the strategic plan, pages, graphs and charts to find the information needed regarding Problem Gambling. Ms. Quirk thanked Mr. Marotta, Sara St John and Andy Dassopoulos and anyone else that worked on the strategic plan. Ms. Quirk mentioned that the numbers and data she referenced to the committee were not recognized by

anyone, but she listened to the discussion and took notes. There were several concerns after the Governor went over the budget regarding where the money was going to come from and comments made that the industry should be doing something different.

Ms. Quirk stated she reached out to Michael Alonzo and multiple other people, whom said they will be helping in any way they can with keeping the committee updated on what is going on and how he can help. Ms. Quirk concluded that she would be happy to answer any questions on this discussion.

- Thomas Milazzo wanted to confirm with Ms. Quirk stated reading the support of the industry on this matter. Ms. Quirk confirmed she thinks she does and would like to turn to discussion to Mr. Feldman to elaborate further.
- Mr. Feldman stated the National Rifle Association (NRA) is supportive as well as many individual members of the NRA. Mr. Feldman stated that doesn't mean it is definite. Thomas commented that we have their support, but there are some questions as well. Mr. Feldman confirmed there is questions but they are the same as the ones heard from the Legislators already, in large part because of the broad ignorance over the program and who it helps and what it helps and why the big increase. Mr. Feldman stated they just need to walk through it with them.
- Mr. Milazzo asked if there was a shortened version that hits the same points as the strategic plan.
 - Carol O'Hare stated she wanted to answer that question and she had put together a one page of the talking points and a one page cover letter from Ms. Quirk which is on the way to every member of the committee and it would be followed up to make sure they received it. She wanted to point out that they can make sure they get it but can't make them read it. Mr. Milazzo concurred and commented that the one page may be too short and the complete strategic plan may be too long, is there something in between?
 - Mr. Cabot and Ms. O'Hare stated they were not sure, but the few page highlights would be delivered the next morning. Mr. Cabot stated that it is important that everyone is always coordinating and not cross messaging two different people, but agreed with needing to get people to Carson City to speak with the key legislators.
 - Ms. O'Hare commented there is a group that is advocating for many things having to do with recovery, and in March they are putting on a Recovery Day at the legislature which she will be participating in. She has been told there will be opportunity to contact the Governor and the Attorney General which she will bring up Problem Gambling. Mr. Cabot asked the date of the event, Ms. O'Hare answered the 29th and 30th.
 - Ms. Quirk asked Mr. Cabot regarding his conversation with the Senator, which he answered it was before the Budget Committee that he spoke to her and he stated to her that he was still unclear on a few things and the Senator offered to help in any way and we would just need to give her a call. Ms. Quirk asked Mr. Cabot if they were waiting on the bill draft. Mr. Cabot stated that is the next topic on the agenda.

Ms. Quirk thanked Ms. O'Hare for being willing to come to Carson City and she would like to join her and she felt greatly supported and more connected by the people from the Director's Office and DHHS. Ms. O'Hare thanked Mr. Milazzo for the time he spent on the phone to try to understand the numbers. Mr. Milazzo stated the deadlines are tight and they don't get as much time to answer the questions as much as they would like. Ms. O'Hare thanked him again for his work.

- Ms. Quirk commented she wanted to coordinate with someone, so there aren't any missed points. Ms. Garcia responded if she is in the loop and is aware of what is happening she will coordinate with everyone. Mr. Milazzo stated to get the gaming fees instead of slot tax there will need to be a bill draft request if the budget piece is approved. Ms. O'Hare wanted to

confirm that they will need to get through the budget piece before there is a bill considered. Mr. Milazzo commented they go together because it's a budget bill, to collect the fees from gaming instead of the slot tax there must be a change in the law. If the budget doesn't get passed, then the bill doesn't get done.

- Mr. Cabot stated they don't need to do anything about that right now, because its already in process. Mr. Milazzo confirmed that is correct and the Bill Draft Request (BDR) has already been submitted and been approved by the Governor, but hasn't made it to Legislation yet, so there isn't a BDR number to share, but will share it as soon as he gets it.
- Ms. O'Hare asked what they should be doing differently if this is a budget discussion. Mr. Cabot answered they should be speaking with the lobbyists so they are better informed on what approach to take based on what they just heard.
- Ms. Quirk mentioned to Mr. Cabot its possible this can happen through the budget bill. Mr. Cabot confirmed. Mr. Feldman commented we may not have a formal bill to be presenting because the case still must be presented. Also, they will still have to engage with members but make a distinction whether they are there to ask if they support the bill, or to provide information so they can support the budget. Ms. Quirk stated she didn't know how the bills get handled and was wondering how many more opportunities they will have in the budgeting process to make more of an impact. Mr. Cabot reiterated they need to go to the lobbyists and find out what the expectations are for that hearing.
- Mr. Cabot asked if anyone else would like to add anything about legislative strategies, there was no comment.

V. Approval of the Structuring of the Final Legislative Bill

Mr. Cabot stated with what Mr. Milazzo just discussed there isn't much more they need to do since the bill is in process, Mr. Cabot asked if anyone has anything to add to this conversation. Ms. Quirk stated she wanted to clarify that any words the Senator Cancela was putting together has been put aside, because of it being moved into the budget. Mr. Cabot stated that will need to be verified. He thinks there is no need for a separate policy bill, it's being done in the budget process, Mr. Cabot asked Mr. Milazzo to confirm. Mr. Milazzo confirmed, yes, that the law change is being taken care of with the BDR, nothing separate is needed. Ms. Quirk confirmed that answers her question.

VI. Next Meeting, Future Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Cabot stated we can set a date for the next meeting tentatively in a few weeks and if its needed they can continue with it but if it is not needed at that time it can be rescheduled.

- Ms. Quirk asked Ms. Garcia and Cathy Council what the time frame is for the public meeting announcement, it was answered 3 days.
- Mr. Feldman wanted to add to the agenda the department give the committee an update on what they are hearing or answer any questions they have. Ms. O'Hare and Ms. Quirk confirmed.
- Mr. Cabot asked if they should schedule a meeting for 3 weeks from now, the committee confirmed.
- Mr. Cabot answered he will call for the meeting to be moved up if needed. Mr. Feldman stated he was not available on March 12th in the afternoon. Mr. Cabot asked if 11:00 AM would suffice, Mr. Feldman confirmed. Ms. Council stated she would send out the meeting invitation.

VII. Public Comment #2

None.

VIII. Additional Announcements and Adjournment.

Mr. Cabot asked if there were any other comments or announcements.

Ms. Quirk asked who was on the conference from the Directors Office

- Connie Lucido responded. Ms. Quirk commented to Ms. Lucido to please extend her great thanks to the Director for his knowledge about their situation even though he had many more budget items he was evaluating. Ms. Quirk stated they would like to support the Director in any way they can and will answer any questions needed. Ms. Lucido thanked Ms. Quirk for the feedback and added she would pass that along.
- Mr. Cabot motioned for adjournment at 2:38PM.