

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

**Draft Meeting Minutes February 21, 2019
At**

Meeting Locations

Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way, Suite 303, Carson City 89706
Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4220 S. Maryland Pkwy., Building D Suite 810, Las Vegas 89146
Teleconference- Video Conference

Members Present

Alan Feldman
Carol O'Hare
Constance Jones
Denise Quirk
Ted Hartwell

Members Absent

Carolene Layugan
Donald Yorgason

Others Present

Connie Lucido, Chief, Cathy Council, Kim Garcia, Lori Follett, Thomas Milazzo, Office of Community Partnerships and Grants (OCPG), DHHS Director's Office.
Merle Sexton, Bridge Counseling
Sarah St John, UNLV

I. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

Lori Follett addressed Denise Quirk stating Constance Lucido, Chief, was joining the meeting as the new Chief of Community Partnerships and Grants. Ms. Lucido thanked everyone for the introductions, adding she will just be observing and anyone who would like to reach out please do so.

II. Public Comment #1

Ms. Quirk asked if there were any public comments, there were none.

III. Approval of November 15th, 2018 ACPG Meeting Minutes

Ms. Quirk called for approval of the [November 15, 2018 Minutes](#). There were no comments or corrections.

- Alan Feldman moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ted Hartwell, the motion carried unopposed.

IV. Approval of December 4th, 2018 ACPG Meeting Minutes

Ms. Quirk called for approval of the [December 4, 2018 Minutes](#). There were no comments or corrections.

- Mr. Feldman moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hartwell, the motion carried unopposed.

V. Discussion and Approval of Recommendations of ACPG Workgroups

Ms. Quirk asked Mr. Feldman to summarize his impression on the legislative view in their last meeting.

- Mr. Feldman stated this year as they approach this subject they will be doing so from a different point of view, since being placed in the Governor's budget. Mr. Feldman commented the problem will fix itself because as the budget gets approved, whatever mechanism needs to be changed in terms of the language of how the budget now works will be included in the budget documents that the legislature will sign. In one alternative situation, it may require a separate bill, which they will stay in touch with Senator Cancela to be aware if that needs to be done. Mr. Feldman commented the Ms. Quirk did extremely well at answering questions regarding this matter at the joint meeting. Ms. Quirk made her comments as public comments and there are some follow up questions that he has not had a chance to review yet.

Ms. Quirk thanked Mr. Feldman for his comments and asked Carol O'Hare if she could comment on the subject.

- Ms. O'Hare stated she agrees with Mr. Feldman on his comments and wanted to add a thank you to Thomas Milazzo and Ms. Quirk for their hard work on this matter. Ms. O'Hare commented there are still some questions that need to be answered for the legislature and that she did watch the hearing and she thinks it went very well.

Ms. Quirk thanked Ms. O'Hare for her comments and asked if there was anyone else that would like to comment about the legislative work group, no response.

Ms. Quirk stated she would read what she wrote to the legislatures on February 8th because she would like it in this meetings minutes. Ms. Quirk went over the [letter](#) regarding slot machines and funding. She stated there are no funds for research to understand how many Nevadans are affected by problem gambling and whether there are any social or demographic differences contribute to the issue. However, the ACPG is sure the demand for treatment has increased at the same time their funding has decreased. Ms. Quirk added There is little funding for workforce development so they are unable to attract or train new counselors in the field. Ms. Quirk referenced the DHHS outcome data multiple pages with data on the subject. Ms. Quirk added that 85% of people that entered treatment for problem gambling are reporting a reduction in symptoms and a better quality of life at 12-month post treatment follow up interviews.

Ms. Quirk stated that ACPG (Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling) continues to be a voice of prevention, research, treatment and education about the gambling problems our citizens face and how best to address them. Ms. Quirk added the new funding formula will more accurately reflect the needs of our state and allow us to reach out to serve more people for a longer amount of time.

Ms. Quirk finished the letter stating that her purpose for sharing that public comment with everyone is to distribute it to everyone who may hopefully share it with as many people possible close to the legislature, to make it a group effort to get this passed. Ms. Quirk stated another question that came up was about workforce development and she feels strongly that to have the incentives to bring their workforce to the grant-funded agencies and allow people to be paid as interns, the funds must be increased. Ms. Quirk thanked everyone for listening and asked if anyone has any questions about the legislative work group. No response.

VI. Discussion and Approve Recommendation for a Position Statement or Show of Support Letter for upcoming bills identified by Legislative Workgroup Legislation Update.

Ms. Quirk thanked Kim Garcia and others for putting together the title, and asked if there was any way we could appropriately put out a letter from this committee to state their support on this or any other issues. Ms. Quirk asked if there was anyone who would like to discuss.

- Mr. Feldman asked Ms. Garcia how would this letter differ from the letter that Ms. Quirk just read from herself.
- Ms. Garcia responded that the letter she read would show support and she doesn't know if there should be another one submitted but maybe by the whole committee. Ms. Garcia asked Mr. Milazzo if he had any additional ideas.
- Mr. Milazzo responded he does not and maybe someone who has more legislature experience would have an idea.
- Mr. Feldman stated the letter read was worded correctly in support but he wouldn't mind redoing it so it was coming from the ACPG.
- Ms. O'Hare commented that she agrees that Ms. Quirk's letter was very well written but could add more direct intent of support.

Ms. Quirk asked if a motion could be made to update the letter by making it an open letter from the committee and word smith it and with the committee's vote now to send it to the Governor and the legislature.

- Ms. O'Hare motioned to make the open letter to the legislature.
 - Mr. Hartwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved unopposed.
- Mr. Hartwell asked what will the process be for contributions to the documents moving forward.

Ms. Quirk stated Cathy Council would serve as the funnel for information and putting the letter together.

VII. Discussion Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Fiscal Reports

a) Discussion of Fiscal Reports- Thomas Milazzo

Ms. Quirk introduced Mr. Milazzo to discuss the DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) fiscal reports.

- Mr. Milazzo stated we have received all the amendments sent out since the previous time they spoke, but money that looked available in the budget ended up being spoken for. Now there is a balance of 28k being obligated, in terms of revenue on YTD (year to date) basis we are on pace to be about \$600 under budget for the quarterly slot tax. But the slot tax will still come in at 1.3 million, if the last 400,000 is not obligated in there that would make a balance at the end of the year of approximately \$440,000. Mr. Milazzo added at the bottom key they added the description of category 60, explaining the funding to cover the state positions and administrative support.

Ms. Quirk commented if anyone doesn't have access to this document to let us know, and asked if there were any comments. No response, Ms. Quirk thanked Mr. Milazzo.

b) Discussion of Program Updates – Kim Garcia

- Ms. Garcia stated she has updated information for the programs regarding awards and expenditures on the website and in the packet.

Ms. Quirk stated the treatment programs she is familiar with are close to 10% under their spending through December 31st, not all reports for January RFF (Requests for Funds) have been turned in.

- Ms. Garcia referenced the document stating under treatment there is some that are under performing and a couple that are over which will be addressed later. Ms. Garcia added she thinks they are currently on target for spending based off Mr. Milazzo's figures, there is still that 28k still unobligated now but it will be re-obligated with the major allocations. Ms. Garcia asked for questions, there was no response.

Ms. Quirk thanked the members that take care of providing the figures, and asked if there were any further questions on the DHHS reports, there were no responses.

VIII. Discussion and Make Recommendations for Mid-Year Reallocation Plan for Treatment Grantees

- Ms. Garcia referenced columns a, b, c, and d of the packet showing where the funds will possibly be at the end of the cycle. Ms. Garcia stated there are some that are over the amounts and some that are not meeting their allocations.
- Ms. Garcia outlined Column D is the recommendation that they will be recommending based on what their projection is, they will move the money to those needing additional funds: Bridgeway will not be increasing or decreasing, Bristlecone would be given an additional \$49,027, international problem gambling center of Las Vegas will be given an additional \$95,738, and these figures are based off what they have spent through December 2018. The mental health counselling and consulting center will be receiving an additional \$9,920, New Frontier would be reducing by \$31,135, Problem Gambling center of Reno would be getting an additional \$46,483, Rise Center for Recovery would get an additional \$75,739. The balance of that \$10,226 taken out of the 28k unobligated amount, which leaves \$18,339 unobligated. These recommendations are not final and are subject to review. There will be a 3rd quarter review reallocating everything, and the money that has been taken will be able to be reevaluated. Ms. Garcia stated this is open for suggestions by the committee and the public, and asked if there are any questions regarding these figures.
- Ms. O'Hare asked if all the providers are aware of these figures at this time.
- Ms. Garcia responded stated this is just a draft at this time and has went out to in an email to the providers.

Ms. Quirk thanked Ms. Garcia for providing this info and asked when the 3rd quarter evaluation she mentioned would be available.

- Ms. Garcia responded that they will attempt to have them available at the next ACPG meeting in April.

Ms. Quirk responded at the end of the march we will review the numbers again to finalize in April.

- Ms. O'Hare asked if there would need to be a motion to make the changes go forward.
 - Ms. Garcia responded yes to clarify if there is an agreement on the recommendations.
- Ms. O'Hare motioned to accept the recommendations presented.
 - Mr. Feldman seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unopposed.
- Connie Lucido commented that we should be cautious of the timeline, since it was suggested that the 3rd quarter numbers be reviewed in March and the meeting is in April.

Ms. Quirk asked Mr. Feldman and Sarah St. John for comment.

- Ms. St John responded if they want to be considering the March RFF that usually goes through around April 30th, the providers would need to get their data in as close to the 1st as possible. Ms. St John added everyone will need to be very responsive as well as herself when she sends the drafts and it would be a team effort to get it done on that timeline.

Ms. Quirk added if anyone needs the meeting date to change to keep in contact and they will do so.

- Ms. Garcia stated she thinks it would be important to have this info through march instead of just February because it will make the figures more accurate.
- Ms. Follett stated the next ACPG meeting is scheduled for April 18th and that may not be providing enough time for them to gather the 3rd quarter information by the next meeting.

Ms. Quirk agreed and asked if they would agree to change the meeting date to the ending week of the month. It was agreed and there were no additional comments.

IX. Discussion on SFY 2020-2021 Request for Applications (RFA)

Ms. Quirk asked if Ms. Garcia would lead the discussion.

- Ms. Garcia stated the RFA (Request for Applications) process is over for the application open. Ms. Garcia added we received 6 treatment applications and one prevention application. Ms.

Garcia concluded that is all the update she has for now and asked if anyone has any questions on that.

Ms. Quirk asked if Ms. Garcia could tell the committee who those applications were from or if that would be even allowed.

- Ms. Lucido responded that it would not be allowed since they are still pending and that information cannot be shared.

Ms. Quirk thanked Ms. Lucido and asked if there were any further questions.

- Ms. O'Hare commented that although there was a lot of anxiety around this RFA, due to so many changes and things happening at once, she was pleased that the process is went well.

X. Discussion of Upcoming Conference Scholarships

a) UNLV International Conference – Bo Bernhard, UNLV IGI

Bo Bernhard was not present, Ms. Quirk turned the discussion to Ms. O'Hare.

- Ms. O'Hare referred to the information that Mr. Bernhard sent out by email, stating the ACPG approved \$25,000 in funds to support the conference and to generate scholarships for Nevadans to attend. Mr. Hartwell met with Dr. Bernhard, and as of now 25 scholarships would be provided to state funded providers or people related to DHHS for full conference registration valued at \$845. Additionally, they will be able to fund 16 students at the lesser student rates of \$225. Ms. O'Hare added this they hope this will be an incentive to bring in new prospects that would be interested in the gambling field. Applications for this scholarship will need to be submitted by April 1st which will then be reviewed by the IGI conference committee to be sure the people applying meet the requirements. The people awarded the scholarship will be notified by April 10th.

Ms. Quirk asked for additional questions.

- Mr. Hartwell asked if for example there are more than the number of scholarships available will they only go by qualifications or will there be further vetting beyond that.
- Ms. O'Hare responded she would ask Mr. Bernhard that questions when she meets with him next week to review the program and identify sessions appropriate for CEU credit. The Nevada Council will partner with IGI to facilitate the issuance of CEU certificates for attendees

Ms. Quirk thanked them and asked for further questions. There was no response.

b) Nevada State Conference on Problem Gambling – Carol O'Hare

- Ms. O'Hare stated this conference will take place June 20th & 21st and will also receive grant funding to support attendance. The call for presentations has already been sent out and the registration will be opened in the next couple weeks. Scholarships will be provided for travel, which is a simple process since the only qualification is living far away.

Ms. Quirk thanked her for her comments and asked for further questions, there was no response.

XI. ACPG Report on Membership and Election of Officers

Ms. Quirk reviewed the membership terms of the committee and noted that herself, Connie Jones, Alan Feldman, Carolene Layugan, and Carol O'Hare's terms expire on June 30, 2019. Donald Yorgason and Ted Hartwell's term expires in 2020. Additionally, there are two open seats on the ACPG. In response to inquiry by Ms. Quirk, Connie Jones, Alan Feldman, and Carol O'Hare confirmed their intent to reapply for another term on the committee.

Ms. Quirk asked if anyone has any comments or questions.

- Ms. Garcia added she has received some interest of the open seats and she referred them to apply through the Governor's Office.
- Mr. Feldman asked if there was a link for the documents needed.

Ms. Quirk responded that he may email Ms. Council for those. Ms. Council will also verify the status of Ted Hartwell's term with the Governor's office because the website still shows his last appointment as "pending".

Ms. Quirk asked if there were further questions, there was no response. Ms. Quirk stated they would now have the election of officers, which is Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Quirk asked for nominations.

- Ms. O'Hare responded thanking Ms. Quirk for her hard work as Chair and nominated Mr. Feldman as Chair going forward. Ms. O'Hare added she would like to nominate Ms. Quirk for Vice Chair, noting that the bylaws require these two positions be divided between Northern and Southern Nevada

➤ Ms. Quirk accepted.

➤ Mr. Feldman accepted his nomination for Chair. Ms.

Quirk asked if there were any further nominations.

➤ Ms. O'Hare moved to close nominations.

- Ms. Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried through unopposed.

There being no further discussion, Ms. Quirk called for the vote on the nominations, All were in favor with no abstentions. Ms. Quirk thanked Mr. Feldman for taking the lead of the committee and thanked Ms. O'Hare for her years of faithful service in leadership on the ACPG

Ms. Quirk asked for further comment, there was no response.

XII. Public Comment # 2

Ms. Quirk asked if there would be any public comment.

- Merle Sexton stated he would like to make a public comment on behalf of David CEO of Bridge Counselling., continued that Bridge Counselling would not participate in the 2020/2021 RFA. Mr. Sexton stated that Bridge counselling was never listed on the National Problem Gamblers hotline, after many attempts to contact. There were no clients referred to their agency. Second, DHHS strategic plan for 2020/2021 was published recently which they believe directly disparages their agency. The conclusion documented in the strategic plan that they could not compete with a specialty clinic was inappropriate because the plan did not address all categories of clients. Bridge Counselling will continue to help the problem gambling area but believe the system is broken and has been a barrier to this therapy that problem gambling clients require.

Ms. Quirk asked Mr. Sexton if he could email his statement so they can be included in the meeting minutes.

- Mr. Sexton stated he would do so.

Ms. Quirk asked if there were further public comments.

- Ms. O'Hare provided public comment on behalf of the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling, Ms. O'Hare shared for the record that the policy of the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling in operating the 24-hour HelpLine in the state is that all state funded Problem Gambling service providers are listed on the online resource locator which is the source of all referral information for the helpline in the state. In addition to the funded providers in Nevada they also list any certified gambling counselors in Nevada that are currently practicing, and that meet the criteria for inclusion in the locator which requires an application signed by their agency authorizing the Council to list them. The helpline is operated through professional contracted call center, that meets the highest standards for training and service. The Nevada Council does not instruct the

call center in any way as to how they make referrals for the individual calls. They make the referrals based on the conversation with the caller and offer suggestions for resources that are available in their geographic that would meet their needs. Ms. O'Hare stated they have data on all calls and that referrals are made across the spectrum of providers on the list.

Ms. Quirk thanked Ms. O'Hare and asked for further comment, there was no response.

XIII. Additional Announcements and Adjournment.

Ms. Quirk asked for additional announcements, there was no response.

- Ms. O'Hare motioned to adjourn.
- Mr. Feldman seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.