

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

Draft Meeting Minutes
March 12th, 2019

Meeting Location

Held via teleconference

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Judge Cheryl Moss
Debra Robinson

Others Present

Cathy Council, Kayla Jacobs, Kim Garcia, and Thomas Milazzo, DHHS Office of Community Partnerships and Grants (OCPG)
Mike Alonzo, Lobbyist for Nevada Council on Problem Gambling and Board Member of Reno Problem Gambling Center

I. Call to Order

Chair, Tony Cabot called the member to order at 11:00 AM and took roll call. No additional announcements.

II. Public Comment # 1

Mr. Cabot asked for any public comments, there was no response.

III. Approve November 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Cabot asked for questions or concerns on the meeting minutes from the November 5th, 2018 meeting. Carol O'Hare motioned to approve these minutes. Alan Feldman seconded the motion. The motion was carried through unopposed.

IV. Approve February 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Cabot asked for questions or concerns on the meeting minutes from the February 19th, 2019 meeting. Mr. Cabot called for a correction on page 2, paragraph 2, stating "NRA (National Rifle Association)"; which the correct acronym meaning is Nevada Resort Association. Ms. O'Hare called for a correction on page 1, paragraph 1, stating "ACPG (Advisory Committee of Program Gambling)"; which the correct acronym meaning is Advisory Committee of Problem Gambling. Ms. O'Hare also stated in her comments under item IV about the Recovery Advocacy Day at the end of the month, she misstated the dates for the event; which the correct dates are March 28 & 29.

- Mr. Feldman moved to approve the minutes with changes noted. The motion was seconded by Denise Quirk, and carried unopposed.

V. Discuss Status of Funding

Mr. Cabot stated the office of finance and the office of the governor have sent the bill to draft. Mr. Cabot added BDR (Bill Draft Request) 1200 is labeled revises and provisions governing the financial support for programs for the prevention and treatment of problem gambling, and once there is a final bill draft it will be sent out to everyone. Mr. Cabot asked for any additional comments regarding this.

- Constance Jones inquired when they will see the final bill draft.

Mr. Cabot responded he is unsure, and turned the question to Mike Alonzo.

- Thomas Milazzo asked if the committee would like a copy of the BDR.

Mr. Cabot responded they would.

- Mr. Alonzo stated there are different deadlines for different bills so he is not sure but will find out.

Mr. Cabot inquired if the bill will be looked at in a whole with the Governor's budget or if the budget items will be segregated out.

- Mr. Alonzo responded each item will be segregated out and stand alone in a hearing.

Mr. Cabot asked how they stay informed on exactly when that would be.

- Mr. Alonzo stated he would find out if it has been scheduled yet from the Chairs of the Money Committee. Mr. Alonzo added that the Governor's Office is behind on bills and there are approximately 500-600 bills that need to be introduced in the next week and a half.
- Mr. Feldman stated that the Governor's Chief of Staff had been the one most focused on this issue during the transition but now that the transition is complete he isn't sure.
- Mr. Alonzo responded that he will reach out to Michelle and see what he can find out.

Mr. Cabot asked him to please keep them updated.

- Ms. O'Hare stated to Mr. Alonzo the budget number is 3200 if that helps him track down the information.

VI. Discuss and Possible Recommendations for Legislative Strategies

Mr. Cabot stated they merged items 4 & 5, and does Mr. Alonzo have anything to add.

- Mr. Alonzo responded that Senator Cancela has the BDR as well and she said she was unaware that the Governor's Office submitted BDG 1200 as a Policy Bill, so she is going to pull it back because she believes its unnecessary.

Mr. Cabot agreed. Mr. Cabot asked for any other comments on this item.

- Ms. O'Hare stated she would be in Carson City March 29th if they could schedule a meet.
- Mr. Alonzo asked Ms. O'Hare to send him an email with everyone's information so he can reply and get the information to everyone immediately.

Mr. Cabot added that they should talk about who is best to represent the committee in front of the Legislators and what topics should be brought to their attention.

- Mr. Alonzo responded that he believes that the scope of the problem and where Nevada sits among gaming states is very important to discuss. Mr. Alonzo continued that any stakeholders, members of the NRA, anyone from the industry, providers, or anyone who can provide insight on this topic would be helpful.

Mr. Cabot suggested Ms. Quirk and Mr. Feldman.

- Ms. Quirk stated she agreed.
- Mr. Feldman stated he agreed.

Mr. Cabot asked Mr. Feldman regarding the industry, if MGM would be interested in doing that.

- Mr. Feldman responded he believes Virginia Valentine's presence would be good, and SANDS are very willing to do so.

Mr. Cabot asked who would be willing to reach out to Ms. Valentine.

- Mr. Feldman responded he would be happy to do so.
 - Ms. O'Hare asked Ms. Jones if she had any additional thoughts or maybe could put a paragraph together from her perspective.

- Ms. Jones responded she doesn't at the moment, but if they could give her some more specifics on content she would be happy to do so.
- Mr. Alonzo stated it would be good to summarize where they stand compared to other states, being under-funded, and the local status as far as what is going on in Clark and Washoe counting.
- Ms. Jones stated that has already been summarized in the talking points if he has a copy of that.
- Ms. O'Hare stated she would send them to him.

Mr. Cabot summarized that the statement should include what is happening in the industry and how much revenue the industry invests on this topic.

- Ms. Jones inquired if Michelle White, the Governor's Chief of Staff is familiar with this.

Mr. Cabot confirmed she is.

- Ms. Jones commented she noticed Ms. White is a Nevada State Director at For Our Future and would that tie into this effort of trying to get the funding in place.
- Mr. Alonzo stated he doesn't think they need to be convincing the Chief of Staff but just making sure who oversees getting the Bill drafted.

Mr. Hartwell asked if it would be helpful if he wrote a paragraph or two on how this funding has benefited him and his life, being one of the earliest beneficiaries of this fund.

- Mr. Alonzo responded he believes that would be helpful.

Ms. O'Hare asked about the Sands support, and would there be an option to get Sands or Winn to send a letter of support.

- Mr. Feldman responded yes.

Mr. Cabot asked if there were any more comments on this item, there was no response.

VII. Discuss Department Legislative Updates

Mr. Cabot asked Thomas Milazzo for an update.

- Mr. Milazzo stated other than the BDR number which was already stated, there has not been any updates and he will keep everyone updated.

Mr. Cabot asked if there were any other comments on this item, there was no response.

VIII. Approval of Next Meeting, Future Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Cabot suggested scheduling the next meeting be scheduled for three weeks out.

- Mr. Feldman responded yes but depending on if Mr. Alonzo calls with a hearing date that is sooner they may want to change it.

Mr. Cabot agreed that they will set the meeting for three weeks and they can move it if necessary.

- Kim Garcia added that staff would just need three business days' notice of the meeting so that it can be posted.

Mr. Cabot asked if April 2nd, at 11:00am sounds sufficient.

- Committee members agreed.

Mr. Cabot asked if there were any other comments on this item, there was no response.

IX. Public Comment #2

Mr. Cabot asked for any public comments, there was no response.

X. Additional Announcements and Adjournment.

Mr. Cabot asked if there were any additional announcements.

- Ms. O'Hare stated that March is officially Problem Gambling Awareness Month, and she will send the Governor's Proclamation out to all staff.

Mr. Cabot asked if there were any other announcements, there was no response.

Mr. Cabot asked for a motion for adjournment.

- Ms. O'Hare motioned to adjourn the meeting.

- Mr. Feldman seconded the motion, it was carried through unopposed.

Mr. Cabot adjourned the meeting at 11:32 am.