

**Department of Health and Human Services
Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG)
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2012**

Via Teleconference

Members Present

Bill Bingham
Connie Jones
Carol O'Hare
Jessica Rohac
Jennifer Shatley

Members Absent

Bill Eadington
Denise Quirk

Staff Present

Laurie Olson, Chief, Grants Management Unit (GMU)
Patrick Petrie, Social Services Program Specialist, GMU
Gloria Sulhoff, Administrative Assistant, GMU

Members of the Public Present

Dianne Springborn, Bristlecone Family Resources
Ted Hartwell, Member of the Public, Las Vegas
Stephanie Holguin, Outreach and Education Coordinator, Nevada Council on Problem Gambling
Rob Hunter, The Problem Gambling Center
Krista Creelman, The Problem Gambling Center

I. Call to Order

Carol O'Hare, Committee Chair

A regular meeting of the Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG) was held via AT&T teleconference on Thursday, August 16, 2012. Committee Chair Carol O'Hare requested introductions from each participant, and after having confirmed a quorum of members present on the call, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

During introductions, Laurie Olson, GMU Chief, explained that Pat Petrie, the Unit's new grant manager in Las Vegas, was transitioning to be the lead staff on problem gambling; however, Ms. Olson will continue to be involved with administration and policy.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of May 17 Meeting Minutes

Carol O'Hare

Ms. O'Hare requested comments, questions or corrections from committee members regarding the minutes of the previous meeting. She mentioned that her copy contained some unusual line spacing; Ms. Olson stated she would review the document for formatting issues prior to finalizing.

- Jennifer Shatley moved to approve
- the minutes of the May 17, 2012 ACPG meeting. The motion was seconded by Connie Jones and carried unanimously.

IV. FY12 Grant Closing Report

Laurie Olson, GMU Chief

Ms. Olson reviewed the Fiscal Year 2012 closing report, which was included in the materials provided to the members. Of the total funding awarded, 98% was spent, leaving less than \$12,000 on the table. The report showed that Bristlecone had spent 100% of their funds; however, they actually had \$104 left that the software system could not capture because the reporting format does not include decimals. New Frontier and Pathways

each spent 100% of their funds and could have drawn more if funds had been available. The Problem Gambling Center spent 99% and Reno Problem Gambling Center, 96%. Problem Gambling Solutions, Dr. Jeff Marotta's contract, was spent in its entirety, and UNLV's data intake contract spent 96%. This resulted in \$11, 983.60 left unspent. Ms. Olson stated that, unfortunately, there was no time to do a last minute redistribution of funds so they could be utilized before the end of the fiscal year, but she was very pleased with the 98% utilization rate. The unspent funds could be available in Fiscal Year 2013 by submitting a request to the Interim Finance Committee of the Legislature to increase spending authority.

Ms. Olson also commented on the budget for the 2014-15 biennium. The statute that lowered the revenue for problem gambling treatment from \$2 per slot machine to \$1 per slot machine sunsets next June, and because the Legislature will have to actively decide whether to cut the program back again, the Department is building the budget based on \$2 per slot machine. In explaining the budget process, Ms. Olson stated that first the Department builds the budget, then it goes to the Budget Office for review and changes, and finally it goes to the Governor's Office for his review and changes. Once the budget is submitted, the Department is under a gag order regarding what's in it until the Governor gives his State of the State address in January.

Ms. O'Hare reflected back on the time and attention the committee gave to budget issues during the last legislative session, when they provided a statement to the Legislature regarding the status of the budget. She commented that they may want to keep this in mind as new committee members are recruited, considering time commitments and getting people up to speed with history and information.

V. Membership Report

Laurie Olson

Ms. Olson began her membership report by extending thanks to three departing ACPG members. Dr. Bill Eadington, who has been on this committee for quite some time and who has served as a Chair, submitted his resignation due to health issues. His position had been held open in the hope that he would return, but he has now indicated he will not be back. Participating in their last committee meeting were Bill Bingham, who was retiring, and Jessica Rohac, who was promoted and is relocating to California. Ms. Olson thanked both for their work and wished them well. Ms. O'Hare echoed Ms. Olson's sentiments and added that she hopes any new gubernatorial appointees will have the same strength of commitment and knowledge.

Ms. Olson thanked Jennifer Shatley, Connie Jones, Carol O'Hare, and Denise Quirk for agreeing to serve an additional term. The reappointment process is underway and all four re-appointees confirmed that they had been contacted by the Governor's Office. Ms. Olson recapped the five vacancies.

- Two members who hold non-restricted gaming licenses
- One member representing the Nevada System of Higher Education who has experience in the prevention or treatment of problem gambling
- One member who works in the area of mental health
- One member who represents an organization for veterans

Ms. Olson noted that Dr. Bo Bernard, executive director of the UNLV International Gaming Institute, had filled in for Dr. Eadington at a number of international speaking engagements. He could be a potential candidate or a resource for a university nomination. She also reminded those on the call that at the February 16, 2012 ACPG meeting, the idea of appointing additional grantees to the committee was discussed. Grantees are eligible to apply but it would be better to broaden the net due to the inherent difficulties involved in making funding recommendations when applicants serve on the committee.

Ms. Olson explained the gubernatorial appointment process. The paperwork consists of a four-page application. The first two pages ask for the usual things – name, birthday, birthplace, citizenship, political affiliation, registered voter, registered lobbyist, place of residence for the past five years, employer, licenses, education, and references. The second two pages are more about character – driver’s license suspensions or revocations, convictions, bankruptcies, student loan default, appointments to other boards or commissions. Ms. Olson said they are looking for anything that could get the Governor’s office into trouble by appointing someone who isn’t fully vetted. In fact, one question asks, “Are you aware of anything in your past which, if disclosed, would be embarrassing for the Governor?” The last page requests information for a press release in case the applicant is appointed. There is also an authorization for release of information for attorneys because the Governor’s Office will contact the State Bar.

Ms. Olson explained that while interested individuals can contact the Governor’s Office directly, and many do, she would prefer to be contacted first and provided a resume to forward to the Governor’s Office, by way of an introduction.

Ms. O’Hare asked for questions or comments from the committee.

Mr. Bingham stated that he has asked Allan Feldman, the Senior VP of Public Relations at Bellagio, to consider serving on the committee as his replacement as a representative for the unrestricted licensee. Mr. Feldman was on the Board of the National Center for Responsible Gaming and has been involved in this for a long time, and has agreed to step in. Ms. Olson asked that Mr. Feldman, and anyone else interested in serving, contact her at 775-684-4020 or LOlson@dhhs.nv.gov.

Ms. Rohac offered to put some feelers out in the realm of veterans’ services and keep the committee apprised.

Ms. O’Hare, commenting on the open seat described as representing a private organization that provides assistance to problem gamblers, referred to a member of the public who was participating on the call – Ted Hartwell of Desert Research Institute. He has personal, community and professional experience in problem gambling. Mr. Hartwell has made contact with Ms. Olson and the Governor’s Office.

Ms. O’Hare revisited the discussion concerning grantee appointments to the committee. Ms. Olson pointed out that the Grants Management Unit’s other advisory committee (the Grants Management Advisory Committee) does not allow applicants for funding to sit on the committee. She said the only reason that is not a restriction with the ACPG is because the field is small, and emerging, so there’s not a huge pool of people from which to draw. Ms. O’Hare said the committee has always operated under the belief that one of our measures of success will be to see the field grow, in part through this grant process, and be able someday to achieve that standard. Grantees would not be seated on the committee because we would have enough professionals and members of the community that are able to contribute to the work of the ACPG without it requiring that duplicate role of a grantee serving.

Ms. O’Hare stated that she, Ms. Shatley, Ms. Jones and Mrs. Quirk would all continue to serve while their reappointments are in process. Ms. Olson added that she hopes to have some staggering of terms instead of all appointments expiring at the same time.

VI. Public Comment

As Ms. O'Hare opened the floor to public comment, she reminded the members of the public on the phone to identify themselves by name and affiliation, and that while the committee welcomes comments, it is not in a position to take action on anything that is not already on the agenda. Anything that would require the committee's consideration would need to be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

- Dr. Rob Hunter, in Las Vegas, asked for clarification on the process regarding the sunset of the \$1 slot fee.

Ms. O'Hare explained that the statute that establishes funding calls for \$2 per quarter for each slot machine in the state. The reduction to \$1 per machine was done legislatively by passing a bill that will expire June 30, 2013. In the absence of any action by the Legislature, funding will revert back to \$2.

- Ms. Rohac said it had been an honor to work with everyone on the committee, the grantees, and the state. She will continue to get the word out about treatment and awareness of problem gambling.

There were no further comments from the public.

VII. Adjournment

Carol O'Hare

Ms. O'Hare asked the members to mark their calendars for the next meeting, scheduled for November 15, and requested a motion to adjourn.

- Ms. Rohac motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bingham, and there being no objections, the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. O'Hare noted for the record that both retiring members, Ms. Rohac and Mr. Bingham, worked right to the end of their terms. She thanked the committee members, staff, and members of the public who joined the meeting, and ended the call at 9:50 am.