

**Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Advisory Committee for Problem Gambling (ACPG)
DRAFT Meeting Minutes November 15, 2012**

Videoconference Locations:

Health Division, 4150 Technology Way, Suite 303, Carson City NV
Desert Regional Center, 1391 S Jones Boulevard, Las Vegas NV
Call-In Option: 1-888-363-4735

ACPG Members in Attendance:

Carol O'Hare (Las Vegas)
Denise Quirk (via telephone)
Jennifer Shatley (Las Vegas)

ACPG Members Absent: Connie Jones

Staff and Consultants in Attendance:

Laurie Olson, DHHS, Grants Management Unit (GMU) (Carson City)
Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions (via telephone)
Raeven Chandler, UNLV International Gaming Institute (via telephone)
Gloria Sulhoff, DHHS, GMU (Las Vegas)

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Krista Creelman, The Problem Gambling Center (Las Vegas)
Lana Henderson, Bristlecone Family Resources (via telephone)
Rob Hunter, The Problem Gambling Center (via telephone)
Lynn Stilley, Pathways (Las Vegas)

I. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Carol O'Hare, ACPG Chair

Committee Chair Carol O'Hare called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and requested self-introductions from participants on the telephone and in the Carson City and Las Vegas videoconference locations. Ms. O'Hare announced that there were several people who needed to leave by 11 a.m., so her target was to have the meeting concluded by that time. There were no other announcements.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2012

Carol O'Hare

- Ms. O'Hare called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. There being no comments or corrections, Jennifer Shatley moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2012 ACPG meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Denise Quirk and carried unanimously.

IV. Membership Report

Laurie Olson, Chief, GMU

Ms. Olson had been informed by the Governor's Office that ACPG membership reappointments for Denise Quirk, Jennifer Shatley, Carol O'Hare, and Connie Jones were still in progress, along with an application from Ted Hartwell. DHHS Director Mike Willden endorsed everyone's membership and no issues were anticipated, pending the results of the background checks.

Anthony Cabot, who was very active with this committee during the 2009 legislative session, is very interested in serving but has not yet submitted his application. Ms. Olson confirmed that the remaining open seats include one additional industry representative with a non-restricted license, one member who works in the area of mental health, and a representative from a veteran's organization. Ms. Olson had not received any recommendations from former ACPG member Jessica Rohac regarding the veteran's seat. Ms. O'Hare stated that Allan Feldman of MGM Resorts has an interest and intention to serve, and that she would follow up with an email to Mr. Feldman.

V. Problem Gambling Treatment Strategic Plan

Laurie Olson

Ms. O'Hare introduced the next agenda item by stating that an amendment to the Treatment Strategic Plan regarding client cap extensions was being recommended as a result of a discussion held during the previous ACPG meeting.

Ms. Olson thanked the committee members and treatment providers who participated in the conference calls to formulate the recommendation. Earlier this year, the ACPG discussed the need for limiting the number of extensions treatment providers can receive. The benefit extension is intended to allow clinicians to access additional funds for a client who is in need of, but cannot afford, additional treatment.

Currently, the only criteria for granting client benefit extensions are that treatment providers:

- Request authorization in advance;
- Provide a statement indicating the client cannot afford the treatment and there are no other funding resources, and
- Confirm they will still be able to meet projected client goals while utilizing this portion of their overall grant funds for this purpose.

In the conference call, all of the providers, as well as all of the ACPG members who participated in the call, came to the conclusion to allow treatment providers to request up to 10% of their grant award in the current grant cycle to be used for extensions of the client benefit cap. Only the actual amount expended, not the amount requested, will be applied to the overall 10% extension limit.

- There being no comments or questions from the committee members, Ms. O'Hare moved to approve the proposed amendment to the Problem Gambling Treatment Strategic Plan as presented, to be effective retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year.

Revise Section IV, Provision C (1) to include the ***bold and italicized*** statements as follows.

C. Prior Authorization. DHHS may grant the following exceptions with prior authorization.

1. The maximum allowed reimbursement per treatment episode may be exceeded.

“Treatment providers may request up to 10% of the grant award, for the current grant cycle, to be used for extensions of the client benefit cap. Only the actual amount expended on behalf of each client (rather than the requested amount) will apply toward the overall 10% extension limit.”

The motion was seconded by Jennifer Shatley and carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Ms. O'Hare requested that a full copy of the Treatment Strategic Plan, with the latest revisions and revision date, be forwarded to the treatment providers and ACPG members.

VI. FY14/15 Budget Update

Laurie Olson

At the previous ACPG meeting, Ms. Olson reported that the proposed FY14/15 budget had been written based on revenue of \$2 per slot machine per quarter because the legislation that reduced it temporarily to \$1 per slot machine is due to sunset on June 30, 2013. However, sometime after the DHHS budget hearing at the end of September, the Budget Office directed DHHS to reduce it back to \$1. The State budget was at a \$150 million deficit, so they were already looking at ways to cut spending. Ms. Olson believed that in addition to retaining the cut in State employee pay and the mandatory furlough days, they probably will continue any reductions in programs that resulted from the last session.

The original Problem Gambling funding request for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 was \$1,484,278 per year; currently, problem gambling funding is at \$859,247 for Year One and \$780,618 for Year Two. The disparity between those two numbers is due to lower projected revenue in Year Two. In FYs 12 and 13 there was \$731,272 to grant, so if this budget passes the way it is currently written there will be \$115-120,000 more to spend in FY14, but \$22,000 less to spend in FY15. After the Governor reviews all the agency budgets and decides whether he supports them as submitted or wants changes, they will go to the Legislature, at which time ACPG members will have the opportunity to go to hearings and testify.

In response to a question from Ms. Shatley as to whether prevention programs would be included as well as treatment programs, Ms. Olson replied that there had not as yet been any discussion about that. However, she stressed that the legislation that established the Revolving Account for the Prevention and Treatment of Problem Gambling was never changed. The Legislature never removed any of the things that could be supported by the fund, but during the legislative session it was clear that the intent was to fund treatment over anything else. If the ACPG decides that prevention is a critical component, it will be up to the committee to communicate that to the Legislature. Ms. Olson suggested convening a special meeting to discuss this, adding that the committee does not have to wait for the legislative session to convene before making its voice heard; it could send letters to the governor's office or work with the media ahead of time. She suggested scheduling the meeting for the first part of December.

VII. FY14/15 Request for Applications (RFA) Process

Laurie Olson

Ms. Olson described the RFA process, stating that once the ACPG decides what types of programs it wants to include, she will know what kind of RFA to write; whether strictly for treatment, or if it will include things like research and staff development. If the RFA needs to be adjusted due to developments in the Legislature, an amendment will be issued. Changes in the amount of available funding are easily addressed; if the changes relate to the kinds of programs that will be funded, the Department will try to be ready to either remove or add elements to the RFA. Another option would be to issue a separate RFA with a separate timeline, possibly shortening the first year of the grant.

This RFA will cover a two-year grant cycle, unlike last year's which was a one-year grant to allow the funding cycle to sync up with the legislature. That became critical when the economic recession began and started eating away at the problem gambling fund, and we didn't know if we would get 100% or

50% or nothing. Being in sync with the legislature allows us to be more sure of second year funding, but it does cause other issues such as those just mentioned.

The planned RFA timeline is as follows.

- January 11 – Publish grant announcement and release Request for Applications.
- Week of January 14-18 – Schedule two orientation sessions, with attendance mandatory for applicants.
- January 25 – Deadline for submission of substantive questions about the RFA. After that date only technical questions, such as how to use the electronic website, will be answered.
- February 1 – GMU posts all Q&A for RFA on website.
- February 25 – Deadline for submission of applications.
- March 11 – Applications processed in GMU office. Each one that meets the minimum standards will be forwarded to outside experts for review.
- April 8 – Outside experts return the results of their reviews and recommendations to GMU.
- April 15 – Results of outside reviews sent to ACPG members.
- May 16 – Regularly scheduled ACPG meeting, with applicant presentations and questions, committee discussion, and award recommendations.
- May 23 – Mike Willden, DHHS Director, makes final funding decisions.
- May 24 - June 30 – DHHS staff conducts final negotiations with funded agencies and issues grant awards.
- July 1 – Effective date for funds awarded to agencies.

Ms. O'Hare asked about the process for writing the RFA. She mentioned there were some concerns in the last application regarding the interpretation of terms such as "recovery oriented system of care."

Ms. Olson explained that she would be writing the RFA with input from Pat Petrie of the GMU and Dr. Marotta. It would be inappropriate for the ACPG to be involved with this part of the process because its membership includes a treatment grantee and, in the event prevention is funded, a prevention grantee, whose involvement would provide an unfair advantage. She acknowledged that the last RFA included some terminology that some of the treatment providers either didn't understand or had misinterpreted, and will take that into consideration to try to make the RFA more understandable. She stated, however, that the onus will fall on the treatment providers to understand the terms that are in the Treatment Strategic Plan and which are a part of problem gambling treatment in general. She expected the RFA to look similar to last year's version up to the point where the questions begin. All of the background information, the amount of funding available, and the technical requirements will be in the RFA; the actual questions will be part of the online application process.

VIII. Public Comment

- Rob Hunter, of The Problem Gambling Center, commended the committee members for their hard work.
- Lynn Stillely, of Pathways, thanked the committee members, acknowledging that as the committee had gotten smaller, more work had been put on their shoulders.
- Laurie Olson commented for the record that the Legislature would be convening on February 4th, not February 6th as had been previously stated.

- Ms. O'Hare confirmed that the committee meeting dates for 2013 will continue to be scheduled on the third Thursday of the second month of each quarter: February 21, May 16, August 15, and November 21.
- Two committee members requested that the special teleconference meeting discussed earlier be scheduled prior to December 18.

IX. Adjournment

Carol O'Hare

- Ms. Shatley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Quirk and carried unanimously. Ms. O'Hare thanked everyone for participating and concluded the meeting at 9:59 am.

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