

**Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG)
DRAFT Meeting Minutes December 14, 2012**

Members Present

Ted Hartwell
Connie Jones
Carol O'Hare
Denise Quirk
Lynn Stilley

Members Absent

Tony Cabot
Jennifer Shatley

Others Present

Bo Bernhard, UNLV International Gaming Institute
Krista Creelman, The Problem Gambling Center of Las Vegas
Lana Henderson, New Frontier Treatment Center
Jody Kaplan and Sarah St. John, UNLV International Gaming Institute
Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions
Laurie Olson, Pat Petrie and Gloria Sulhoff, DHHS Grants Management Unit (GMU)

I. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements **Carol O'Hare, ACPG Chair**

A special meeting of the Advisory Committee on Problem Gaming (ACPG) was held on December 14, 2012 via teleconference. Carol O'Hare called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and requested self-introductions from all persons participating on the call. She welcomed Ted Hartwell and Lynn Stilley to their first official meeting as members of the committee. Laurie Olson reminded all participants to identify themselves by name when they speak, and that non-committee members would have an opportunity to speak during the public comment portions of the agenda per the open meeting laws.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Development of Position Statement and Committee Plan for 2013 Legislative Session **Group**

Ms. Olson led off the discussion by providing a recap of the steps that had been taken by the Department to date in preparing and submitting the FY14-15 budget. The Department submitted the budget request for Problem Gambling at full funding because the legislation that allowed the revenue to drop from \$2 to \$1 is due to sunset June 30, 2013. Following the Department's budget hearing, the Budget Office directed the Department to rewrite the budget request for Problem Gambling at \$1 because of serious deficits. It has been rewritten at \$1, and the projected revenue to grant and/or contract out in FY14 is about \$859,000, which is a little more than was granted out in FY13.

The Governor will give consideration to all of the state agency budgets and release his recommended budget around January 16, when he gives his State of the State address. The Legislature convenes February 4, and budget hearings will begin shortly thereafter. Ms. Olson will be watching the legislative website to see when the Director's Office budget will come up and make sure everyone is aware of opportunities to attend the session and deliver public comment. Denise Quirk volunteered to adjust her schedule as necessary in order to attend the Legislature to provide testimony and be heard.

Ms. Olson stated that during the last legislative session, the ACPG provided the Legislature with a letter stating their support for full funding and retention of the Problem Gambling program. The committee also developed a “talking points” document to ensure consistent messaging when speaking with the media, legislators, or others of influence.

The committee discussed formulating a letter addressed to the Governor, rather than the Legislature. Ms. Olson confirmed that as a committee comprised of members appointed by the Governor, it would be appropriate to communicate directly to him its opinion of what Problem Gambling should be funded at and why. She cautioned that any communication would need to come from the committee as a group; individual members could not send a letter on behalf of everyone.

After confirming committee consensus to draft a letter to the Governor, the committee engaged in an open discussion to determine its content. Discussion topics included the following.

- The budget, including a reminder that based on the actions of the Legislature last session, the Problem Gambling fund is due to be returned to its \$2 per machine level on July 1, 2013.
- The level of funding for Problem Gambling services in Nevada compared to that in other states.
- The expansion of gambling in other states, and recent surveys indicating a tremendous level of public support for Problem Gambling programs in other states.
- The legalization of internet gaming in Nevada and how that might contribute to the need for increased services.
- Clarification on the Governor’s Gaming Policy Committee.

Ms. Olson offered to draft a letter based on the notes she had been taking, and send it to the committee for review, comments and editing. So that the process would not require multiple open meeting law teleconferences, she suggested that each member provide their feedback to her individually, one-on-one. She will take all the comments into consideration, make revisions, and send it out again. Once everybody’s happy with the way it sounds, another open meeting teleconference can be scheduled to share it with anybody who is not on the committee, and formally adopt it.

Ms. O’Hare asked that the letter be drafted as quickly as possible so that it could be approved and sent to the Governor before his State of the State speech. She asked Dr. Marotta to update the talking points document taking into consideration the day’s discussion. Ms. Olson added that the talking points document would have the same parameters as the letter as far as being sent out for review, commenting back to Dr. Marotta and only taking up a collective discussion during a public meeting. Open meeting law also dictates that meeting notices are to be posted three days in advance, so the earliest a follow up meeting could be held would be Thursday or Friday of the following week.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Adjournment

Ms. O’Hare thanked the members of the public for joining the teleconference to hear the work of the committee. She reminded committee members not to communicate collectively as a group, but to email Ms. Olson individually so as to not violate the open meeting law.

- Ted Hartwell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Connie Jones and carried unanimously. The teleconference concluded at 10:24 am.