

**Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling  
DRAFT Minutes December 21, 2012**

**Committee Members Present**

Tony Cabot  
Ted Hartwell  
Carol O'Hare  
Denise Quirk  
Lynn Stilley

**Committee Members Absent**

Connie Jones  
Jennifer Shatley

**Others Present**

Bo Bernhard, UNLV International Gaming Institute  
Rob Hunter, Pathways  
Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions  
Laurie Olson, Pat Petrie and Gloria Sulhoff, DHHS Grants Management Unit  
Beverly ?, Nevada ?

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

A special meeting of the Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG) was held on December 21, 2012 via teleconference. Committee Chair Carol O'Hare called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and requested self-introductions from those participating on the call. She officially welcomed Tony Cabot to the committee, and confirmed that all had received a copy of the meeting's agenda.

**II. Public Comment**

None

**III. Committee Plans for the 2013 Legislative Session**

Ms. O'Hare noted that the purpose of the meeting was to review a draft letter to Governor Sandoval and a "talking points" document prepared for the committee's use during the 2013 legislative session. Laurie Olson had facilitated the construction of the letter based on comments and feedback that individual ACPG members provided to her following the previous meeting. Ms. Olson stated that she received quite a few comments from ACPG members, and that some of the comments conflicted with each other, but she took what she thought were the best of the best and revised the letter to accurately reflect the major points. She deleted from the letter and the talking points document any references to Nevada having a higher rate of problem gambling than other states, because that is a highly arguable assertion and there were many other compelling points that could be made. Ms. Olson stated that she had the document open on her computer and would make edits as the committee reviewed the document.

Ms. O'Hare suggested reviewing the letter paragraph by paragraph, but first opened the discussion to all committee members for general comments.

Tony Cabot thought it was important to keep in mind that when this fee was enacted, it was enacted with the consent and support of the industry as a methodology for the industry to help address what they saw as an issue, and it was specifically earmarked for a particular purpose to address a particular need. In a moment of financial crisis it may have made sense to divert some of these funds on a temporary basis, but we're past that now, and it should return to full funding. Mr. Cabot

felt this to be a persuasive argument as a talking point position.

Ms. O'Hare agreed that it was important to point out that it was adopted in 2005 and reaffirmed in 2007 by the Legislature. Ms. Olson recapped Mr. Cabot's suggestion that the committee strengthen its reminder to the Governor that the gaming industry was instrumental in getting this legislation enacted and has supported the idea that the funding mechanism is specifically coming out of gaming tax and was intended by the industry to be specifically earmarked for the gambling program.

There being no further general comments, Ms. O'Hare proceeded to review the letter by paragraph.

- Beginning with the introductory paragraph: No edits or comments.
  - Second paragraph: No edits or comments.
  - Third paragraph: Change last sentence to read: "While these results are encouraging, restoration to full funding would allow us to do even more to mitigate the harmful effects of problem gambling in Nevada."
  - Fourth paragraph: Discussion considering switching placement of the fourth and fifth paragraphs, with the decision to leave as is, after making a change to the last sentence of paragraph three. Capitalization of "Internet." Changed "GTC" to "Nevada Gaming Commission," changed "responsible gambling policies" to "responsible gaming policies."
  - Paragraph 5: Discussion and edit last sentence to read: "As we enter into a crucial new era for the State, it is important to note that restoring full funding would allow expansion of treatment to cover Internet clients. In addition, revising prevention activities that the State was investing in prior to the severe budget cuts implemented in SFY12 would reduce the potential for individuals to develop problems in the future."
  - Paragraph 6: Include Laurie Olson as a contact person.
  - Correction to ACPG member list: Reno Problem Gambling Center.
- Lynn Stilley moved to approve the letter to the Governor as revised. The motion was seconded by Denise Quirk, and there being no further discussion, the motion carried unopposed with no abstentions.

Moving on to the talking points document, Ms. O'Hare extended an invitation to Bo Bernhard and Jeff Marotta to participate freely in this portion of the discussion to help ensure the accuracy of the sources of information and the inclusion of all important points.

- First talking point: The impact of problem gambling on Nevadans. The Australian citation will be replaced with one from the Volberg study.
- Second talking point: The Internet gambling legalization process. Discussion regarding the citation of the GPC in the first bullet point, since that was changed in the letter from GPC to the Nevada Gaming Control Board; adding a new bullet point to include the legislative history and the concern and collaboration of the industry and policy makers; and emphasizing how critical the State's funding is to the programs throughout the State. Jeff Marotta volunteered to draft the new bullet point.
- Third talking point: Problem gambling impacts families. Reference to a specific number was deleted and a more general statement was used to avoid debate.

- Fourth talking point: Treatment saves taxpayer dollars. Citations were requested. Dr. Marotta suggested creating a supplemental page to back up the talking points with specific references, in order to keep the talking points document to one page in length.
- Fifth talking point: Treatment is effective and inexpensive. Treatment providers on the committee, Ms. Quirk and Ms. Stilley, both felt the research that was available supported the validity of the statements and nothing more was needed.
- Sixth talking point: Funding is needed. Ms. O'Hare commented that the reduction in funds resulted in a reduction in the workforce. She stressed that workforce development is not only for the benefit of education; it allows the workforce that has been developed to stay in the field. The first bullet point under this talking point was changed to read "Funding for prevention, workforce development and research is needed." Dr. Marotta volunteered to review the legislation amended in 2007 to confirm that research was an activity that was authorized to fund.
- Last talking point: Nevada should play a leadership role in problem gambling prevention and treatment. No changes necessary once the new bullet point discussed earlier is added. Discussion regarding federal programs and federal funding for problem gambling resulted in amending a statement to say that any amount of funds that the federal government spends to address problem gambling are negligible.

Having covered all of the bullet points, and there being no further comments from committee members, Ms. O'Hare asked that the revised draft be circulated to the committee once revisions had been made by Dr. Marotta and Dr. Bernhard. Another meeting to discuss the revised draft would be arranged after the new year.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

None

#### **V. Adjourn**

Ms. O'Hare thanked the committee members and other participants for their time and called for a motion to adjourn.

- Mr. Cabot moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Ms. Stilley and carried unopposed.

The teleconference concluded at 10:24 am.