

**Department of Health and Human Services  
Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG)**

**June 11, 2015**

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Videoconference Locations**

Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way Room 153, Carson City NV  
Dept. of Employment, Training and Rehab, 2800 E St. Louis, Conference Rooms A&B, Las Vegas NV

**Members Present**

Tony Cabot  
Rick Heaney (via telephone)  
Carol O'Hare (via telephone)  
Denise Quirk  
Jennifer Shatley  
Lynn Stilley

**Members Absent**

Ted Hartwell  
Connie Jones

**Others Present**

Laurie Olson, Cindy Smith, Laura Adair, Pat Petrie and Gloria Sulhoff, DHHS Grants Management Unit  
Stephanie Asteriadis and Carina Rivera, University of Nevada, Reno - CASAT  
Bo Bernhard, University of Nevada, Las Vegas – International Gaming Institute  
Lori Flores, The Problem Gambling Center  
Dr. Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions (via telephone)  
Lana Robards and Chris Murphey, New Frontier Treatment Center  
Oscar Sida, University of Nevada, Las Vegas - PRACTICE  
Dianne Springborn and Donna Meyers, Bristlecone

**I. Call to Order**

ACPG Chair Denise Quirk welcomed the members and called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Attendees in Carson City and Las Vegas and individuals participating on the phone introduced themselves, and a quorum of members was confirmed. Ms. Quirk reminded everyone to silence their cell phones.

**II. Public Comment**

None

**III. Approval of February 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Quirk asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting, and called for any comments or amendments. There being none, she entertained a motion for approval.

- Jennifer Shatley moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2015 ACPG meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Rick Heaney and carried unopposed with no abstentions.

#### IV. SY16-17 Problem Gambling Grant Awards

- A. Introduction. Laurie Olson, Chief of the Grants Management Unit (GMU) in the Department of Health and Human Services' Director's Office, gave a brief recap of the Request for Applications (RFA) process to date.
- The expected FY16-17 budget for grant awards from the Problem Gambling Fund, \$1,314,936, was approved during the legislative session and the budget closed with no questions concerning the Problem Gambling Program.
  - The RFA was published on February 23 with applications in three categories: treatment, prevention, and workforce development. An orientation for applicants was held, and all applications were received by the deadline date of March 6.
  - The applications were reviewed by a panel comprised of Ms. Olson and Pat Petrie from DHHS, and Dr. Jeff Marotta of Problem Gambling Solutions. The workforce development applications were also reviewed by an outside expert from Oregon. The reviewers scored each application and developed comments identifying strengths and weaknesses of the proposals. This information was passed on to the ACPG in preparation of the May 21 meeting which was cancelled due to a lack of quorum of members with no conflicts of interest with the applicants.
  - ACPG recommendations will go to Richard Whitley, Interim Director, who was appointed during the legislative session. Mr. Whitley was administrator of mental health before it merged with public health and is quite familiar with SAPTA. When Mr. Whitley was presented with funding recommendations from the Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC), he listened, asked questions, and approved the GMAC recommendations with no changes.
- B. Conflict of Interest Disclosures. Pat Petrie, Social Services Program Manager III and lead staff for the Department's Problem Gambling program, reviewed a previous disclosure list of ACPG member conflicts of interest and asked for updates. There were none. The members' affiliations with applicants affected their ability to vote on funding recommendations as follows:
- Treatment: Tony Cabot, Ted Hartwell, Rick Heaney, and Jennifer Shatley have no affiliations with any of the treatment provider applicants and are eligible to vote on treatment applications. Carol O'Hare stated that she holds a non-voting position on the advisory board of the Reno Problem Gambling Center. The ACPG members determined that this did not constitute a conflict of interest and that Ms. O'Hare is eligible to vote on treatment applications. Denise Quirk and Lynn Stilley are both applicants and cannot vote on these recommendations.
  - Prevention: All ACPG members except Rick Heaney and Lynn Stilley were applicants or board members of applicants, and therefore ineligible to vote on prevention applications. Ted Hartwell is a potential contractor with one of the applicants which would disqualify him from voting, but as he was not present, this was a non-issue.
  - Workforce Development: As in prevention, all ACPG members except Rick Heaney and Lynn Stilley are ineligible to vote. Ms. O'Hare noted that Ted Hartwell was named as a potential contractor in NCPG's application for Prevention, but not in the application for WFD. She felt that he does not have a conflict of interest in the workforce development application. The committee did not request consensus since Mr. Hartwell was not present to vote.
- C. Treatment Presentation.  
Mr. Petrie and staff in Carson City distributed a Funding Recommendations spreadsheet to attendees. The document was emailed to the individuals participating by phone, and while

waiting for the email to be delivered, Dr. Marotta reviewed the seven performance standards for treatment providers.

- Mr. Petrie explained the FY16/17 Funding Recommendations spreadsheet, beginning with the treatment grants. The spreadsheet listed each FY15 grantee's draws through March 2015. He noted that all applications came from current grantees; there were no new applicants. The next column showed each grantee's total projected draws for the fiscal year. This figure, adjusted by the performance rating percentage, resulted in the projected need for FY16. The original FY15 grant awards were also shown for comparison. The Council previously approved \$910,613 for treatment grant awards; the projected need totaled \$1,017,291, resulting in a shortage of \$106,678.
- The Funding Recommendations spreadsheet included two potential funding options to consider. Using the average score of each proposal, the first method adjusted the "projected need" amount as follows: those scoring 90 and up would receive 95% of the projected need amount; those scoring in the 80s would receive 90%; and those scoring in the 70s, 85%. This option leaves \$10,324 in unallocated funds which could be distributed during mid-year reallocations.
- The second option employs a standard deduction rate, wherein all award amounts would be reduced equally without taking scores into account. This option does not employ a formula, it just provides a way to get to the amount of funds available.

Ms. Quirk asked whether it made sense to vote on the funding option for treatment at this point, rather than reviewing prevention and workforce development before taking action. Ms. Olson advised her that the Chairperson has the discretion to take agenda items out of order. The adoption of full ACPG award recommendations was listed last under Item IV, but the order could be changed at the discretion of the Chair. Ms. Quirk stated she would like to vote on treatment first, and then move to prevention. She stated that Carol O'Hare, Rick Heaney, Jennifer Shatley and Tony Cabot were eligible to take part in discussion and vote on the treatment proposals.

The Council members discussed the funding options presented by Mr. Petrie. Ms. Shatley felt that scoring employs some subjectivity, but pointed out that the award amounts in the standard reduction method are lower than those based on score. Mr. Cabot preferred the option based on score, and felt that adhering to the scores would hopefully lead to better proposals in the future. It results in a relatively small difference in funding but could have a large impact in the future. Mr. Heaney concurred with this viewpoint and funding option.

Ms. Quirk then opened the discussion to those Council members who were applicants. Lynn Stilley stated that her organization focuses on serving as many clients as possible in the best possible way rather than on grant writing abilities. Ms. Quirk agreed that the ability to serve clients is more important than the ability to write grants and asked the committee to consider the impact of funding on small organizations. Mr. Heaney requested additional input from the others. His concern was that, as one of only two voting members, he was not an expert on problem gambling treatment. He assumed that all the applicants have valid programs. Ms. Quirk assured him that she read all the proposals, found a great number of strengths and no weaknesses that scared her or which she thought were dangerous. Funding option one, by score, was her least desirable choice, but she appreciated Mr. Cabot's comment to work to get better scores next time. She added that if the baseline is the ability to do what they say they will, then, they have been for years, and all are stellar. Ms. O'Hare also felt that scores are

subjective and wondered if any of the applicants had grant writers. Dianne Springborn and Lori Flores both indicated that they do not use a grant writer. Dr. Marotta reminded the group that although the choice of funding option is important, this dollar amount is a starting point and will be adjusted mid-year, based on actual draws. Mr. Petrie added that in the past, there were funds set aside to reallocate midyear, and all the grantees' grant awards were increased. If the Council chooses the standard reduction option, there will be no money left to increase grant awards midyear.

Ms. Olson commented on the strengths and weaknesses of the proposals, and asked the applicants to take them very seriously, as there are some things that need to be addressed. She advised them not to wait until the next grant cycle, but to incorporate changes into their programs now. Ms. Quirk asked that this topic be added to the agenda as a work item at their next meeting; specifically, ways to implement knowledge and guidance from the Council to improve the problem gambling programs. Ms. Olson suggested two topics: ROSC (Recovery-Oriented System of Care) and reimbursement. There is a great deal of movement within the State to secure reimbursements from health insurance and Medicaid. DHHS Director Richard Whitley wants us to look at other sources of income, not because of any reductions in the Problem Gambling Fund, but in order to provide even more for the public.

Ms. Quirk stated she would like to reestablish the legislative subcommittee. There being no further comments or discussion, she reminded the Council of the members eligible to vote: Carol O'Hare, Rick Heaney, Jennifer Shatley and Tony Cabot. In excusing herself from the voting process, Ms. Quirk ceded the Chair to Jennifer Shatley.

- Carol O'Hare moved to recommend Option 1, which utilized reductions of awards based on score, for all five treatment grant applicants. The motion was seconded by Tony Cabot and passed unopposed, with two abstentions (Lynn Stilley and Denise Quirk).

Ms. Quirk regained the Chair and gave the floor back to Mr. Petrie.

#### D. Prevention Presentation.

Mr. Petrie reviewed the prevention applicants listed on the Funding Recommendations spreadsheet. Two applications were received, both from current grantees. In the first funding option, both grant requests are reduced using a standard rate of 81%, which leaves \$23 unallocated. The second option uses a factor based on score. The percentages of 84 and 79 were chosen because those numbers worked in reaching the \$200,233 in available funds. It was confirmed that there are no mid-year adjustments for these grants, and that Rick Heaney and Lynn Stilley are the only members eligible to vote for Prevention. Mr. Heaney felt comfortable with the applications and had no questions. Ms. Shatley commented that because the average scores were so close, she was leaning toward the standard reduction option. Ms. Quirk was in agreement but wondered if the applicants would be able to provide the project with reduced funding. Stephanie Asteriadis from UNR CASAT stated that she realizes the funding is limited, but they are feeling pressure to provide something that can be utilized statewide for all public institutions. She was concerned about preserving the past two years' post- tests and how to adapt it for the demographics of other institutions. Ms. Olson stated that in all of the GMU's grant processes, when budget reductions are made, the governing body is advised that the original proposal will change, at least in projections of service. However the Council decides to

fund prevention and workforce development, the original proposal may change. Negotiations are held with the applicant to ensure they have achievable goals. Ms. Quirk stated she was comfortable with the standard reduction option.

- Lynn Stilley moved to recommend funding both prevention grant applicants utilizing Option 1, the standard reduction rate, as shown on the Funding Recommendations document. The motion was seconded by Rick Heaney and carried.

#### E. Workforce Development

Mr. Petrie stated that two applications were received in this area, but due to the amount of funding available, only one can be funded. Ms. Quirk questioned Ms. O'Hare on the statewide conference. Ms. O'Hare stated that her organization has put on the conference for nine years, supported with grants from the Problem Gambling Fund for the past three years. Ms. Shatley questioned Oscar Sida from UNLV about his proposal. He stated that this grant would help to decrease the shortage of counselors by providing funding to supplement tuition, attend conferences, and redevelop coursework. Ms. Stilley asked how many people would be reached. Mr. Sida explained there are ten clients per caseload for four psychologists, a social worker, and himself, each providing ten problem gambling sessions a week at no cost to the client. He estimated 300-400 hours of service is provided. The proposal also includes training for problem gambling instructors. This course is consistently full, with 30-40 students per semester from different disciplines. He estimated 60 students per year become treatment providers in some capacity. He added that he did not expect to be funded; two applicants were competing for a small amount. Ms. Quirk stated that although his proposal scored below the cut-off point, the committee could choose to fund it anyway. Mr. Cabot commented that although he couldn't vote, he found a great deal of merit in Mr. Sida's proposal. Issuing an RFA with only one award is something he hoped would not happen again; he would like to ensure that the committee has the flexibility to consider multiple proposals. Ms. Quirk responded that the committee will have a conversation on finding additional source of income for the Fund. Ms. Stilley asked Ms. O'Hare how many people attended the conference. Ms. O'Hare stated that 187 were registered.

Mr. Petrie offered a point of correction to an earlier statement. The minimum passing score for these proposals was 60, not 70, and UNLV did surpass the minimum score. Ms. Quirk called for a motion; Ms. Stilley deferred to Mr. Heaney.

- Rick Heaney proposed funding the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling at the requested amount of \$49,032. Lynn Stilley seconded, and the motion carried.

Ms. Olson, citing ACPG bylaws and statute, stated for the record that the number of Council members eligible to vote is limited due to conflicts of interest. Only two can vote in the prevention and workforce development areas.

#### **V. Public Comment**

Oscar Sida, UNLV, stated that the ACPG has been transparent and he was confident the process has been fair and equitable, but to maintain fairness, he suggested soliciting members of the public to serve on this board who don't serve dual roles. As an outsider and the only applicant not on the board he felt it to be an odd situation. He recommended a change when granting future awards.

Ms. Olson responded to Mr. Sida's comments by explaining that representation on the ACPG is determined by statute and members are appointed by the Governor. She strongly encouraged him to seek out individuals with an interest in serving and refer them to the Governor's Office. The Council currently has one vacancy, for a representative of veterans, but all seats are up every two years. She further explained that statute requires the ACPG to be involved in the funding process. Ms. Shatley noted that there were other applicants who are not committee members, in the area of treatment.

#### **VI Additional Announcements and Adjourn**

Ms. Quirk confirmed that the date of the next ACPG meeting would be August 20, 2015. She thanked the grant applicants for participating in the process and the Council members for their service.

- Lynn Stilley moved to adjourn. Jennifer Shatley seconded and the meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM.