

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

**August 20, 2015
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Locations (Videoconferenced)

DPBG Administrative Office, 4150 Technology Way, Room 301, Carson City NV
ADSD Desert Regional Center, 1391 S Jones Boulevard, Training Room, Las Vegas NV

Members Present

Tony Cabot
Ted Hartwell
Connie Jones (via telephone)
Carol O'Hare
Denise Quirk
Jennifer Shatley
Lynn Stilley

Members Absent

Rick Heaney

Others Present

Dianne Springborn, Bristlecone Family Resources
Laura Adair, Elena Espinoza, Pat Petrie, and Gloria Sulhoff, DHHS
Lori Florez, The Problem Gambling Center
Jeff Marotta (via telephone), Problem Gambling Solutions
Stephanie Asteriadis Pyle, UNR CASAT

I. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

Committee Chair Denise Quirk called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. Attendees identified themselves and a quorum was confirmed. There were no announcements.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Quirk confirmed that all members had received and reviewed the minutes of the June 11 meeting. Carol O'Hare requested changes throughout the document where the ACPG "Committee" was referred to as a "Council". There were no other changes.

- Ted Hartwell moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2015 with revisions as noted. The motion was seconded by Carol O'Hare and carried unopposed.

IV. ACPG Vacancy

Pat Petrie announced that all committee members' terms were current. There remains one vacancy for a representative of a veteran's organization. He asked the members to forward nominations to him for follow up. Jeff Marotta suggested someone he met in the Ethics Workshop at the NCPG conference a few years ago. He didn't remember her name but she was very active and expressed interest in the

Committee. Ms. O'Hare offered to look in her records to see if she could identify her. Ms. O'Hare added that there has been a lot of activity around homeless vets, and she has some contacts working in that area she can check with. Ms. Quirk said she will inquire with the social worker and psychiatrist at the Veteran's Administration. Mr. Petrie referred to the member roster in the handouts and asked everyone to check their contact information and affiliations for accuracy. Connie Jones requested a change of affiliation to AGEM Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers. Jennifer Shatley asked that her affiliation change to Logan Avenue Consulting.

V. Legislative Subcommittee

Ms. Quirk introduced this agenda item by stating it has long been her desire to reinstate the legislative subcommittee to keep a finger on the pulse of what's happening in the legislature regarding problem gambling. She noted, for the benefit of newer ACPG members, that the former legal subcommittee presented legislation which created the diversion laws. Ms. O'Hare brought up a number of issues that the subcommittee could focus on. There has not been a review of the funding stream or the committee make up since the committee and statute were created in 2005. The Fund is based on income from the slot tax, and gaming has since moved past slots; there are probably other areas to look at. She also suggested policy issues; there have been a lot of changes because gaming is changing so quickly. Lastly, diversion and problem gambling in the legal and prison system continues to progress. Judges are now paying attention. We could compile case records of what's been adjudicated through that law. The ACPG bylaws allow others to be recruited to subcommittees and workgroups; having experts in the field is key. She suggested they first determine the focus of the group and then recruit new people.

Mr. Cabot noted that his first involvement with the ACPG was as a member of the legal workgroup. It was very effective; the key to its success was focus. They recruited lawyers and judges to serve, and presented a bill to the legislature that was passed. Also, Mr. Cabot reported that the legislature just funded a new Center for Excellence in Gaming Regulation at UNLV's Gaming College. The Center will be issuing four or five grants each semester for someone to look at specific issues related to gaming legislation. One major focus must be problem gambling and legislation. We now have an amazing resource if we can convince scholars to look at these issues. They will be choosing an executive director within the next six to seven weeks. The Academic Council will review proposals through an open process. Awards will be around \$25,000 depending on the grantee and scope of work.

Mr. Petrie, referring to a handout that including sections of Statute and the ACPG bylaws related to workgroups, stated that workgroups can include anyone, not just ACPG members, but they are subject to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, which can get a little tricky. Everything else is open to whatever the Committee wants. Ms. O'Hare asked if Mr. Cabot would be amenable to heading up the workgroup. Mr. Cabot stated he would be willing to put together the proper subcommittee, and Ms. Quirk appointed him as chair of a legislative workgroup. Ted Hartwell, Connie Jones, Jennifer Shatley, Carol O'Hare, and Denise Quirk volunteered to serve on the workgroup. Ms. O'Hare noted that even though the workgroup may have enough ACPG members to constitute a quorum of ACPG members, the workgroup recommendations are not ACPG business. Workgroup recommendations go through the ACPG for approval. Ms. Quirk would like to start meeting soon to take advantage of the energy and keep the momentum going. She will check schedules with Tony Cabot, and then get back to the others to coordinate a meeting date. Mr. Hartwell offered the meeting rooms at DRI as possible meeting locations. Staff reminded them of Open Meeting Law requirements such as posting a meeting notice and agenda three business days prior to the meeting.

VI. ACPG Orientation

Mr. Petrie polled the group regarding an ACPG member orientation to review the roles, bylaws, and processes of the Committee, adding that Ms. Quirk had suggested a training session might be helpful. He discussed the idea with Jeff Marotta and they are proposing putting together a binder with materials that could be referred to when needed. His concern was subjecting long-time members to a several hour orientation meeting. Going forward, he would meet with new members one-on-one for a new member orientation. The group was agreeable to this approach, and Mr. Hartwell suggested the binder include a one-page write up on the history and background of the committee. Ms. Quirk requested quarterly reports, UNR survey results, and a sample RFA be included. In response to a question from Ms. Quirk, Mr. Petrie confirmed that the new member orientations would include the ACPG Chair as well as State staff.

VII. Progress Reports: Treatment, Prevention and Program Development

Mr. Petrie, in presenting the year-end reports, noted that there could be some changes due to year end reconciliations. He reviewed the following highlights.

Treatment

- Sarah St. John at UNLV pulled data from the system to compile the treatment report, which shows outputs by treatment center and system-wide. Mr. Petrie explained that the process for determining treatment goals changed. Previously, applicants requested a specific amount of funding and indicated the number of clients they would treat. This time funding was determined using a formula developed with input from Dr. Marotta and Ms. St. John. Using average case costs, they came up with the goal numbers for fiscal year 2016, which are in line with those of the previous year.
- System-wide, goals were exceeded. The number of new clients seen by the majority of treatment providers remained steady through the quarters, but some of them saw many more clients in the first half of the year than in the second half. Because there is not much money in reserves, the mid-year reallocation process may be delayed until the third quarter.
- Item #5 - The number of new clients that are concerned others. It is difficult to apply this goal fairly among the treatment providers. It is very hard for the residential treatment centers, New Frontier and Bristlecone, to involve family members because of the demographics; they come from far away. So this year we used a percentage of the overall goal. They are not high.
- Item #6 - Continuing Care. Regarding the low activity at most of the treatment centers, Mr. Petrie stated he believed this was attributable to some earlier issues with coding continuing care in the system. That has been corrected and the numbers should go up.
- Item #9 - Grant funds awarded and Item #10 - Grant funds expended. Some spent all of their funds and some didn't. This is another reason to rethink the mid-year allocation. Last year things looked dismal. We thought we would run out of money but we actually ended up with a surplus. We expended 95.8% of available funds, which is not bad, but we'd like to spend it all. The remaining 4.2% unspent goes back into the Fund's reserves.
- Item #12 -Patient caps per treatment episode. Centers can request extensions on client caps for those who need additional treatment; extensions are limited to 10% of the total grant award. We may want to consider changing the percentage because no one is close to their limit. Mr. Hartwell asked for clarification of clients within this category; would this apply to a client who completed treatment but may have a crisis situation and need to come back? Pat explained that there is a funding cap per client per treatment episode. Also, there is continuing care for 12 months following completion of treatment, at a reduced reimbursement rate. If a client

experiences an episode and needs to return to treatment, it's considered a new treatment episode and the funding starts over. It's all spelled out in the treatment strategic plan. Lori Flores commented that continuing care does not apply to crisis cases. Also, if someone is discharged and they come back, there is no way to enter them in the system. She has talked to Ms. St. John about this.

Ms. O'Hare would like to be able to see the total community need, versus those receiving treatment through the Fund, and asked for data that isn't entered in the system to get a true picture of the number of people receiving help. Mr. Petrie said the treatment centers are instructed to enter everyone they see into the system, not just the clients being billed to the State. Ms. O'Hare referenced other, non-state-funded providers that provide free services; she would like to get data from them, engage with other providers and find out if what they are doing is consistent with the information we are getting from our grantees.

Denise requested an agenda item for the next meeting. She would like Ms. St. John to attend to answer questions about entering and tracking clients. She also would like to hold a semi-annual teleconference for committee members, treatment providers and UNLV to incorporate a question and answer session along with open discussion. She'd like to run this idea past the committee next time. Carol asked that the agenda for the next meeting also include approving the reactivation of the treatment workgroup subcommittee.

Prevention

- Both grantees exceeded their goals by quite a bit. Both worked very well and had no issues or problems. UNR's prevention survey results, included in the meeting materials, provide a lot of good material. Stephanie Asteriadis Pyle was in attendance to answer any questions. Ms. O'Hara praised the document, adding that her staff will study it to see how to implement the findings.
- Ms. Pyle had a comment regarding the results. A newspaper reporter from the Las Vegas Sun was at the medical school at UNR and saw the poster that says 90% of students do not use financial aid for gambling. The reporter said that means 10% do, and wanted to write an article about that. Ms. Pyle told her that if she reported that, she would be responsible for it, because the good news is 90% don't, and actually only 5% of students do. Ms. Pyle urged caution with the report, because there are people who would want to use information for sensationalism. Even though this is public information, she is very selective or cautious with whom she shares information. Ms. Quirk asked her to write a cover letter summarizing her comment for the committee binder.

Workforce Development

- The sole grantee, NCPG, was very successful. Every goal measurement and outcome was greatly exceeded.

VIII. Recommendations on Sustaining Program Funding

Mr. Petrie explained that this item was on the agenda to stimulate discussion on sustainability. There was an earlier comment from the committee on how to sustain our funding. The gaming industry has changed. Mr. Hartwell noted that how the money is currently calculated, on the number of slots on the floor in a given quarter, fluctuates sometimes significantly. He would like to see a simpler formula, not depend on one segment of gaming. Ms. Shatley agreed, adding that the Fund receives no revenue from online gaming, and that there is significant sports betting on an international scale. We need to be able

to see what revenues have come in and what other funding streams would equate to that. Funding needs to tie to more than the gaming industry, but remember it was the industry who suggested the slot tax fund, so we need to keep them involved. The gaming license is the only guaranteed thing in Nevada that everyone in Nevada needs, it's a common denominator. Ms. O'Hare thought that since the State is providing the services, not the industry, we should be able to integrate other State resources. Mr. Cabot stated that the program does not take a lot of money out of the system; this should not be that hard. He would like to be able to develop a model system: What would we need to do, as a state, to have the best model in the world to combat problem gambling, and then go after the money. The legislative workgroup could create the best model, run the numbers, and then figure out how to get the money. Mr. Hartwell did not want to forget the groups providing services but who are not certified problem gambling counselors; their data should be included in our data for the legislature. Ms. Quirk stated that in the past, the subcommittee was able to get information from the Board of Examiners which included all counselors providing services, not just certified problem gambling counselors.

IX. Public Comment

Dianne Springborn commented on a treatment issue that was brought up during her audit with Pat Petrie and Jeff Marotta regarding concerned others. The older veterans they treat don't have family. Bristlecone does see families, but they don't want to fill out an eleven page form. She suggested a couples session or family session as an alternate.

X. Adjournment

Ms. Quirk confirmed November 19 as the date of the next meeting, and hoped the workgroup could meet prior to that. She thanked the group and called for adjournment.

- Ms. O'Hare motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stillely, and the meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM.