

**Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling
Draft Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2014**

Meeting Locations (Teleconferenced):

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way Room 301, Carson City NV
Nevada Division of Aging and Disability Services, Desert Regional Center, 1391 S Jones Blvd, Las Vegas NV

Members Present

Carol O'Hare
Connie Jones
Denise quirk
Jennifer Shatley
Lynnette Stilley
Ted Hartwell

Members Absent

Eric (Rick) Heaney
Tony Cabot

Others Present

Andrea Dassopoulos, Oscar Sida, and Sarah St. John, UNLV
Chris Murphey, New Frontier Treatment Center
Dianne Springborn and Erin Schweber, Bristlecone Family Resources
Doreen Alvarado, Nevada Council on Problem Gambling
Lori Flores, The Problem Gambling Center
Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions
Kellie Zuniga, UNCE of Mineral County
Laurie Olson, DHHS, Grants Management Unit (GMU)
Pat Petrie and Gloria Sulhoff, DHHS GMU
Rick Smith, Pathways

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Upon determining a quorum of members present, Committee Chair Carol O'Hare welcomed the members and called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM. Roll call was taken and meeting dates for 2015 were reviewed, along with a current member roster which showed one vacant seat, for a representative of an organization for veterans.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of May 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Lynn Stilley pointed out the misspelling of Tony Cabot's name shown under "Members Present". There were no further corrections or additions to the minutes.

- Denise Quirk moved to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2014 meeting with the correction noted. The motion was seconded by Connie Jones and carried unanimously.

IV. Department Leadership Update

Laurie Olson, Chief of the Grants Management Unit, Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office, announced that long-time Director Mike Willden had left the Department, having been appointed as the Governor's Chief of Staff. Romaine Gilliland was appointed as the new Director. Following Mr. Gilliland's appointment, there were several changes in the Department's Deputy Director of Programs. Amber Joiner resigned to complete her PhD. Steve Fisher was appointed to fill the position, but was later reappointed as the new Administrator of the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services. Dena Schmidt is now serving as Deputy Director of Programs.

Ms. O'Hare stated for the record that Mr. Willden will be missed by the ACPG.

V. Grants Management Unit Budget Update

Ms. Olson reviewed two budget documents in the handouts. The SFY16-17 Nevada Agency Request Budget itemized the DHHS Director's Office requested budget, which includes the Revolving Account for the Prevention and Treatment of Problem Gambling, the Fund for a Healthy Nevada, Children's Trust Fund and CBCAP (Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention funds), and Social Services Block Grant Title XX in the competitive funding category. The amounts requested for the Problem Gambling Fund in FY16 and FY17 were \$1,174,936 for each fiscal year. This figure was projected based on the number of slot machines and is the same as in the current biennium. The budget request is dependent upon approval by the Governor and the Legislature. The second document, Proposed Spending Plan for FHN SFY16 and 17, showed that among 25 various program/service areas, funding for all but seven remained flat from the previous funding cycle. Six of the increases were due to restored funding; only one, food insecurity, was from new money.

VI. Quarterly Report Fiscal Overview

Pat Petrie, Social Services Program Specialist in the GMU, reviewed a first-quarter report which showed each treatment grantees' fiscal expenditures and program progress for the period July 1-September 30, 2014. Data was compiled by Sarah St. John from UNLV with year-to-date expenditures added by the Department. Overall, the grantees have drawn 31% of the funds granted for FY15; if treatment continues at this rate, funds will run out in the beginning of the fourth quarter.

Mr. Petrie next reviewed a Data Summary report for FY15 prepared by UNLV, which showed very impressive numbers for the average number of days between clients' first contact with grantee, first available date for intake, and actual intake date; the percent of clients successfully discharged; the percent of clients reporting positive client satisfaction; and the percent of clients showing improvement 90 days post-enrollment.

VII. FY16/17 Request for Applications Process

Jeff Marotta led a discussion regarding possible solutions to the anticipated budget shortfall in FY15, outlining several cost containment measures. He also touched on the issue of FY15 fund depletion if services continue at their current rate.

Mr. Petrie stated that the expected shortfall stems from increased demand, and while it was too late to submit any BDR requests to the legislature, that option will be kept on the agenda. Additional strategies to supplement the Fund will include diversifying funding and investigating Medicaid coverage for problem gambling treatment.

Mr. Petrie reviewed the Problem Gambling Revenue Projection Comparison document, included in the meeting materials, which included FY14 and FY15 grant award recommendations and actual awards, along with three options for allocating available funds in FY16 and 17 between the treatment, prevention, workforce development, program enhancement within treatment, contracts for data collection/evaluation and consultant services, and a reserve for contingencies.

The committee discussed the issue at length. They considered combining various cost containing measures and the funding options presented. Denise Quirk suggested reducing the treatment reimbursement rate by 10% for the rest of the fiscal year. Members suggested an option four with the following distribution: Treatment \$825,000 (70.22%); Prevention \$120,000 (10.21%); Workforce Development \$28,000 (2.38%); Program Enhancement within Treatment \$35,000 (2.98%); Data Collection (currently UNLV) \$100,000 (8.51%); Subject Expert Consultant (currently Problem Gambling Solutions) \$41,000 (3.49%); and Contingency Funds \$25,936 (2.21%).

Ms. O'Hare opened the floor for input from members of the public, including representatives from current grantee organizations. The grantees present were asked to share their program's dependency on support from the Problem Gambling Fund. Denise Quirk stated that a majority of the Reno Problem Gambling Center's funds come from the State grant and that they have a couple months' reserve. Rick Smith stated that Pathways' problem gambling program is 100% funded by the State.

In the interest of time, Ms. O'Hare recommended scheduling another meeting to cover this item. Ms. Olson offered to send out a Doodle poll to schedule a follow up meeting to be held via teleconference in two or three weeks. She asked the problem gambling treatment providers and members of the public to send information to her at least four days in advance of the meeting. The agenda for the forthcoming teleconference will also include discussion on how to address this year's shortage and consider what providers will do when funding runs out.

VIII. Public Comment

Doreen Alvarado, Nevada Council on Problem Gambling, congratulated the Advisory Committee for having produced the "Cadillac of services".

Dianne Springborn, Bristlecone Family Services, discussed a disparity between the statute, which was enacted in 2005, and the ACPG's five year strategic plan. Parts of the strategic plan, in particular the Fund and "certified problem gambling counselors", are not congruent with the spirit of the legislation. SAPTA did not include problem gambling in their discussions, and the Board of Examiners treat certification for Addictive Disorders and Problem Gambling the same. They were not aware of our Strategic Plan, and as a result, someone who does not meet our standards was issued a certified license by the Board of Examiners. Dr. Marotta noted that some housekeeping is needed.

IX. Adjournment

- Connie Jones moved to adjourn. Lynn Stilley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.