

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

February 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Approved as Presented May 19, 2016

Videoconference Locations

Division of Child and Family Services, WIC Conference Room, 4126 Technology Way, Carson City NV
Rawson Neal Hospital, Administration Building Rm B-193, 1650 Community College Drive, Las Vegas NV

Members Present

Ryan Gerchman (phone)
Ted Hartwell
Rick Heaney (phone)
Connie Jones (phone)
Carol O'Hare
Denise Quirk (phone)
Lynn Stilley

Members Absent

Tony Cabot
Carolene Layugan

Others Present

Stephanie Asteriadis Pyle
Sharon King-Savage, NAACP
Jeff Marotta (phone)
Sarah St. John, UNLV
Lana Robards, New Frontier Treatment Center
Debra Ridenour, New Frontier Treatment Center
Lea Cartwright, JK Belz and Associates
Laurie Olson, Pat Petrie, Gloria Sulhoff, DHHS Grants Management Unit

I. Call to Order

Due to inclement weather in northern Nevada, several committee members were obliged to participate via phone, including Committee Chair Denise Quirk. Roll call was taken, a quorum was confirmed, and because Ms. Quirk was calling from her vehicle without access to the agenda, she asked Vice Chair Ted Hartwell to lead the meeting. Mr. Hartwell called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of December 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hartwell entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Lynn Stilley pointed out that she was not listed as an attendee or an absentee. A correction was made to indicate that she had not been in attendance.

- Carol O'Hare moved to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2015 ACPG meeting, with the correction regarding Ms. Stilley's attendance as noted. The motion was seconded by Connie Jones and carried unopposed.

IV. ACPG Committee Composition

Pat Petrie announced that two new members have been appointed to the ACPG. Ryan Grechman has filled the seat that represents veterans. Carolene Layugan is with Caesars Entertainment and has filled the seat vacated by Jennifer Shatley for a representative holding a nonrestricted gaming license. They were informed of their appointments only last week, and due to the short notice, Ms. Layugan was not available to attend this meeting. All seats on the committee are now filled, for the first time in quite a while. Mr. Gerchman introduced himself as a veteran of the Marine Corps and current full time student at UNR. He has held several leadership roles with veterans and other organizations, and is a member of NRAP, Nevada Recovery and Prevention Program at UNR. Problem gambling is of special interest to him and he is excited to be a part of the ACPG.

V. Election of Officers

Mr. Hartwell returned the Chair to Ms. Quirk, who called for nominations for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair of the ACPG. Mr. Hartwell nominated Denise Quirk for Chair of the ACPG. The motion was seconded by Carol O'Hare, and Ms. Quirk accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for the office of Chair. Ms. O'Hare nominated Ted Hartwell for the office of Vice Chair of the ACPG. The motion was seconded by Lynn Stillely, and Mr. Hartwell accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for the office of Vice-Chair.

- Ms. O'Hare motioned to approve the two nominations, those being Ms. Quirk for the office of Chair of the ACPG, and Mr. Hartwell for the office of Vice Chair of the ACPG, for a one-year term ending February 28, 2017. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stillely and carried unopposed.

VI. Mid-year Treatment Reallocation

Mr. Petrie reviewed the mid-year reallocation process for problem gambling treatment grantees. Half-way through the fiscal year, the Department reviews the grantees' spending and performance measures, and reallocates funding if necessary. Sarah St. John with UNLV ran the data and, as December 31, the percentages of grant awards spent for each treatment provider were: Bristlecone 52%, New Frontier 48%, Pathways 48%, The Problem Gambling Center 42%, and Reno Problem Gambling Center 42%, for a system-wide total of 44.5% of the total funding awarded. Percentages of client treatment goals mid-year were: Bristlecone 40%, New Frontier 39%, Pathways 53%, The Problem Gambling Center 51%, and Reno Problem Gambling Center 31%. Because they all are just a little over or a little under 50%, Mr. Petrie did not see the need to make any adjustments at this time. The Department will monitor spending on a monthly basis and, if necessary, adjustments can be made later in the year.

Rick Heaney asked for clarification of the dollar amounts spent. A total of \$900,288 was allocated and as of December 31, \$400,909 has been spent. It was confirmed that any unspent funds remain in the Problem Gambling Fund for use the following year.

Mr. Gerchman asked for clarification regarding the 20% variation in client goals between Reno Problem Gambling Center and the highest achieving center, noting that the percentage of funds spent remained comparable. Mr. Petrie explained that comparisons between dollars spent and clients enrolled are misleading. Client goals refer to the number of new clients the providers expect to see in the grant-year, but money spent may be attributed to treatment for clients carried over from the previous year. Likewise, it is difficult to compare results by treatment centers; some have strong first quarters while others may see numbers rise in the second half of the year. In addition, Mr. Petrie explained that this year, for the first time, the treatment goals were assigned by the State, not submitted by the centers.

The Department determined grant awards and performance goals by using a formula based on past experience. That formula may need tweaking, but at this point he saw no cause for concern in the area of program performance.

VII. Statewide Community Needs Assessment

Laurie Olson, Chief of the Grants Management Unit, reported on the 2016 Community Needs Assessment (CNA). One of the Department's funding streams, the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN), governed by NRS 439.630, was changed in 2011 to require a CNA every other year to determine how money should be spent in next biennium. The Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) makes recommendations to the DHHS Director on FHN funding priorities, based on the needs assessment. The process is currently underway; this year it will be a little more scientific than in the past. Previously, the GMU went out in the community and asked people what their needs are. This time the GMU is collecting data from existing needs assessments and strategic plans from state, county and public sector sources, as well as service data from organizations that serve clients covering the entire life span. Once all that data has been collected, the GMU will issue a public survey to validate the findings, and hold a few public forums. Recommendations need to be forwarded to the Director by mid-May in order to build state budgets for the legislature next year. The GMU will contact the ACPG when the survey is available, and provide a link to the online survey as well as hard copies for problem gambling treatment clients. She hoped to have it available within the next week or two.

VIII. Legislative Workgroup Update

Ms. O'Hare reported on behalf of Tony Cabot, workgroup chair, who was not in attendance. The first meeting of the workgroup was held by phone on February 1. The agenda covered four broad areas of discussion.

- Consistent State funding. Current allocations are based on the quarterly slot tax, and the fund has decreased significantly over time. They discussed looking into ways to broaden the scope of funding; there are many types of fees associated with gaming in the state. Mr. Cabot volunteered to research the state licensing fees and report back at the next meeting.
- Understanding the amount of funding required for a comprehensive plan. If we had a fully comprehensive plan to address problem gambling, what would it look like and what would it cost? The workgroup is recommending that the ACPG establish another workgroup to work with the Department and outside contractors to do the research, find out what's happening in other states, and bring a report back to the legislative workgroup.
- Review the original language in statute identifying the makeup of the committee. Based on what we know now and anticipating how the focus of the committee might evolve, the group suggests revising member requirements to allow for the best resources to accomplish its goals. Mr. Cabot volunteered to draft revisions to the language in statute delegating the seats of the committee.
- Review the duties of the ACPG as set forth in statute. Committee focus has evolved over time and is well beyond crunching numbers to allocate grant awards. The group considered the value of the committee members and how to be effective at advancing policy. Carol O'Hare will draft revisions to the language in statute regarding the duties of the committee, to be discussed at their next meeting.

IX. Appointment of Workgroup to Research Comprehensive Statewide Problem Gambling Program

Ms. Quirk thanked Ms. O'Hare for the report, and officially appointed a second workgroup as requested by the Legislative Workgroup, appointing Jennifer Shatley as the new workgroup chair. While an official

name has not yet been decided, a good working name for this group would be the Nevada State Gambling Program Workgroup. It was noted that although Ms. Shatley was no longer a member of the ACPG, workgroups could be comprised and chaired by nonmembers with knowledge of or expertise in the field. The following individuals volunteered as members of the new workgroup: Ms. Quirk, Ryan Gerchman and Mr. Hartwell from the ACPG; Stephanie Asteriadis Pyle from UNR, CASAT; and Lana Robards from New Frontier Treatment Center.

No formal action was required for the establishment of the workgroup and appointment of members, but it was noted for the record that the purpose of the workgroup is to work with the Department and outside contractors to determine what a comprehensive statewide problem gambling program would include, and the amount of funding that would be required to support it. This is needed to determine the optimal rate of fees that should be requested from the legislature to fund problem gambling.

X. Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Jeff Marotta began his update with some background information for the benefit of new members. The problem gambling treatment strategic plan and prevention strategic plan were both developed about five years ago and are overdue for revision. Dr. Marotta and Mr. Petrie have begun a strategic planning process and their goal is to have the new plan in effect by the start of the next fiscal year, July 1, 2016. They finished the assessment phase, which began a few years ago meeting with the broader treatment and prevention community on how problem gambling treatment could be infused into behavioral health services. That assessment continued during this fiscal year's program site reviews by including semi-structured interviews with grantees, ACPG members, and some of the consumers. They were asked questions such as where they saw needs within the current system, opportunities to expand the current system, and other improvements. The next step is to draft a systemwide plan for problem gambling services, including how to utilize ACPG members more effectively and expanding service elements. Dr. Marotta would like to include several different objectives based on additional funding which could then be used by the ACPG Legislative Workgroup to show the legislature what could happen if we had more funding. He has been working with Mr. Petrie and Ms. O'Hare to schedule a "workgroup" meeting to review the draft plan on May 4 in Las Vegas, the day before the Nevada Conference on Problem Gambling begins. An invite list has been developed and Ms. O'Hare will be sending the announcements to grantees, ACPG members and a few others who have expressed interest in or have been a part of the system. Dr. Marotta plans to forward the draft to the group in advance of the meeting, and then spend the day reviewing it section by section. His goal is to present the final revised draft to the ACPG by the May 19 meeting.

XI. Public Comment

Lea Cartwright with AK Belz and Associates in Carson City asked how the strategic plan fits in with the needs assessment. Ms. Olson responded that the Department is reviewing strategic plans that are already in place, including the current problem gambling strategic plans. The updated plan will not be ready in time to include in this round of the needs assessment.

Sharon Savage, a member of the public in Las Vegas representing NAACP, asked about media exposure and public information campaigns for the problem gambling programs in southern Nevada. Ms. O'Hare replied on behalf of the committee by stating that because funds are limited, their marketing efforts are more of a grassroots nature. She stated that in addition to serving as a member of the ACPG, she is the executive director of the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG). While the ACPG has no funds available for marketing, all of NCPG's work is in prevention and public awareness. Their broadest efforts

are through the gaming regulation that requires information to be posted in gaming locations. They also work through avenues such as health care, and next month will be providing basic training to social workers at Clark County Social Services. Mr. Hartwell stated that as a contractor with NCPG, as Community Engagement Liaison, he is looking for collaborative opportunities and would be happy to get her input. Ms. O'Hare said they also work with the Mayor's Faith Initiative in Las Vegas, teaching religious officials how to talk to their congregations about problem gambling.

Ryan Gerchman asked for more information on prevention efforts. Ms. O'Hare replied that the NCPG is one of only two prevention grantees; the other is Stephanie Pyle's program at UNR, CASAT. The industry employee workshops presented by NCPG are not covered under this funding source. She added that, in the time since this committee formed, the face of veterans has changed, and she sees a very discouraging picture of problem gambling among veterans, a high risk group and also one at high risk for suicide, which goes hand in hand. They have begun collaborating with the State's Office of Suicide Prevention, but have not yet pursued outreach to veterans to any great extent.

XII. Adjournment

- Ms. Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stilley and carried unopposed. The meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM.