

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

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2017

Meeting Locations (videoconferenced)

Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Health Care Quality and Compliance
727 Fairview Drive, Suite E, Carson City NV 89701
4220 S Maryland Parkway, Building D, Suite 810, Las Vegas NV 89119

Members Present

Ryan Gerchman
Ted Hartwell
Connie Jones (phone)
Carolene Layugan (phone)
Carol O'Hare
Denise Quirk

Members Absent

Tony Cabot

Others Present

Cindy Smith, Chief, Office of Community Partnerships and Grants (OCPG), DHHS
Pat Petrie and Gloria Sulhoff, DHHS-OCPG
Lori Flores, The Problem Gambling Center
Tia Johnson and Jordan Moore, ROI Counseling
Jeff Marotta (phone), Problem Gambling Solutions
Stephanie Pyle (phone), UNR CASAT Problem Gambling Program
Rory Reid, Mental Health Counseling and Consulting, LLC (MHCC)
Carina Rivera (phone), UNR Prevention Program
Lana Robards (phone), New Frontier
Merlyn Sexton, Bridge Counseling
Sydney Smith, RISE Center for Recovery
Dianne Springborn, Bristlecone

I. Call to Order, Introductions and Announcements

Committee Chair Denise Quirk welcomed the members and called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approve Minutes of December 12, 2016 ACPG Meeting

Comments or corrections to the minutes included the following:

- Item V, 3rd bullet point – FY 17-17 should be 16-17
- Item I Cindy Smith noted for the record that she now reports to Dena Schmidt, Deputy Director of Programs in the Director's Office, DHHS.
- Item V, "GPSI" should be "GPPC" (Gambling Patient Placement Criteria).

- Page 4, second to last line, add “C” to CPG (CPGC) and CPG (CPGC) Supervisor.
 - Page 4, David Robeck’s public comment states he is on the Board of Examiners for Elko; attendees stated there is no board of directors for the board of examiners. Strike from the record, along with the reference to SAPTA, as it is unverifiable in Mr. Robeck’s absence.
- Carol O’Hare moved to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2016 minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Ted Hartwell and there being no further discussion, the motion carried.

IV. Approve Mid-Year Reallocation Plan for Treatment Grantees

Pat Petrie, OCPG, explained that the treatment grant awards are reviewed each year at the end of the second quarter to analyze expenditures and determine if the remaining funds will carry the grantees through the end of the fiscal year. He reviewed the reallocation plan document that was provided in the handouts, which included the following information for each treatment center grantee: The amount of the grant award; actual expenditures through December 31; balance of award remaining; and the amount required to complete the year, based on the first six months’ expenditures.

Assuming all treatment centers maintain services at the same rate for the remainder of the fiscal year, the calculations indicate:

- Bristlecone: \$51,936 shortfall
- The Problem Gambling Center: \$87,373 in unspent funds
- Reno Problem Gambling Center: \$26,361 in unspent funds
- New Frontier: \$31,060 shortfall
- Pathways: \$34,688 in unspent funds

The reallocation plan would move excess funds from The Problem Gambling Center, Reno Problem Gambling Center, and Pathways to supplement the expected shortfalls at Bristlecone and New Frontier, and would result in a remaining unspent Fund balance of \$65,426 at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Petrie requested ACPG approval to amend the grant awards as presented.

Mr. Hartwell asked the treatment providers present if they had any comments regarding the reallocation. Lana Robards, New Frontier, stated that due to the increase in the per diem reimbursement rate for residential treatment, they can only get paid for 21 days and have been seeing those clients for free and are losing money on that. The reallocation will help them make it to the end of the grant year, for which she is thankful.

Ryan Gerchman asked if the reallocation applies only to treatment grantees. Mr. Petrie explained that yes, the grant awards for treatment centers are calculated using a formula based on average case cost and anticipated number of clients. It’s hard to predict actual client activity, so six months into the year he performs an analysis and recommends reallocation of funds if necessary to ensure the treatment centers continue to receive funds through the end of the year. Prevention and Workforce Development grant awards are based on a specific line item budget submitted by the grantee. These budgets can be modified by moving funds between budget categories, but the amount of the grant award is not adjusted.

There were no further questions or comments. Ms. Quirk requested a motion to approve the reallocation plan.

- Ted Hartwell motioned to approve the SFY 2017 mid-year reallocation plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Ryan Gerchman, and there being no further discussion, the motioned carried unopposed with no abstentions.

Item V. Update on Proposed Legislation for Problem Gambling

Mr. Petrie reported on behalf of Tony Cabot, Chair of the ACPG Legislative Workgroup, who was not in attendance. Two bills relevant to problem gambling have been introduced in the Legislature: AB86, which seeks to lower the minimum age to gamble to 18; and SB120, which was developed by the ACPG Legislative Workgroup and approved by the ACPG. The most recent action on SB120 was on February 14 when it went from the printer to the committee. He turned the floor over to Ms. O'Hare for further comments.

Ms. O'Hare stated that the bill to lower the legal age for gambling was introduced in 2008 and failed. The gaming industry was concerned about having 18 year olds on the gaming floor where the legal drinking age is 21. It doesn't seem like it has any traction, but we will continue to keep an eye on it. Virginia Valentine, of the Nevada Resort Association, stated on behalf of the gaming industry that if the bill gained traction they would be opposed to it, and open to input from anyone to support that. Mr. Hartwell asked if we would take a position. Ms. O'Hare's response was that the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling does not take a position for or against gambling, and would not go on record as being opposed to the bill; their role is to provide information on all sides. There is research regarding early onset problem gambling, and in the casino environment where the legal age to drink is 21, it would be a nightmare to split those hairs. This is the main reason the industry would not support. If asked, we would weigh in on the high risk of 18 year olds for both those reasons.

Continuing, Ms. O'Hare stated that the ACPG is taking a position on SB120. The original draft of the bill as printed is confusing in its description of the seats of the ACPG. When the Legislative Workgroup discussed changes to the makeup of the committee, there was a specific discussion around two seats for mental health professionals, one with experience in treating problem gambling. This was erroneously recorded as two Certified Problem Gambling Counselors, and was pointed out by a member of the public representing the board of psychologists who hoped the membership would include a non-problem gambling mental health professional. That was the workgroup's original intent, and because the language in the first draft of the bill is not clear, Ms. O'Hare has proposed amending the language from:

"Two regular members who are certified as problem gambling counselors pursuant to chapter 641C of NRS and are currently practicing, at least one of whom is certified in the treatment of problem gamblers by a national or state organization." to:

"Two regular members who are qualified mental health professionals as defined in NRS 458A, at least one of whom is currently practicing as a certified problem gambling counselor."

Ms. O'Hare clarified that NRS 458A is cited specifically because that bill defined "qualified mental health professionals" for purposes of the diversion law. The definition includes all licensed nurses, psychologists, everyone in professional mental health. The bill will need to be amended before the amendment can be submitted.

VI. Update on SFY18-19 Request for Applications (RFA)

Mr. Petrie announced that the RFAs for problem gambling were due for publication the following day, February 17. He thanked Dr. Marotta and Gloria Sulhoff for their assistance in developing the RFAs. A separate RFA has been produced for each program area – treatment, prevention, and workforce development. He reviewed the RFA timeline, which included a mandatory orientation for applicants on February 23; the deadline for submission of questions regarding the RFA; and the application submission deadline of March 31. The applications will be reviewed and Department recommendations will be provided to the ACPG prior to the May 18 ACPG meeting, which will include discussion and approval of grant award recommendations for SFY 2018 and 2019. The ACPG recommendations will be forwarded to the Department Director, who makes the final decisions. In June, staff will conduct negotiations with the successful applicants and issue the Notices of Grant Award (NOGA) for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The timeline, along with contact information to RSVP for the mandatory orientation, is included in the RFA and posted on the OCPG website. It will also be sent out via the OCPG.

VII. Approve Plan for Statewide Media Campaign

Mr. Petrie explained that the Department would like to spearhead a public awareness media campaign for problem gambling treatment centers in March during Problem Gambling Awareness Month. In the past, there has never been funding available to do this; however, the mid-year reallocation plan which the ACPG just approved includes a balance of \$65,426 in residual funds that could be used for this purpose. He contacted Ms. O'Hare to get a cost estimate for tv spots in the north and south, and digital media. Mr. Petrie requested a recommendation from the ACPG to reallocate up to \$65,000 from treatment to fund the media campaign.

Ms. Quirk expressed her excitement about this opportunity, adding that this is something the committee has been wanting to do for the past ten years. The most desirable problem we like to have is an inundation of people looking for help. The reallocation plan includes an additional 20% to allow for growth, and she hoped the media campaign will make that 20% increase possible.

Carolene Layugan asked about the content of the message. Ms. O'Hare described it as a simple, 30-second video piece stating the facts: there is problem gambling in Nevada, it affects x number of people, it's a treatable disorder, treatment is available, and it's free. The message will direct people to access services through the national help line or the Council's website. The Control Board requires the media to use the national 1-800-number.

Mr. Hartwell stated that if the legislature accepts the funding changes, he would recommend a year round campaign, adding that Dr. Marotta's information on Oregon's media campaign indicated a significant increase in the number of people seeking help.

Mr. Gerchman asked about the timing of the campaign, expected to launch in March, which was only seven business days away. Ms. O'Hare explained that the tv spots most likely would not be available until the closer to the end of the month, but we could be doing other things earlier, such as social media posts. Mr. Petrie added that although the campaign would launch in March, the tv spots would probably run through April and possibly May. Ms. Quirk asked those present to utilize their social media to promote Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Ms. O'Hare stated that the Council could provide a list of tweets for re-tweeting.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Petrie requested a recommendation to allocate \$65,000 from treatment to a media campaign to take to the director for approval. The quickest and best way to get the money out is to give an existing grantee a grant to do fund a media campaign.

- Ryan Gerchman moved to allocate up to \$65,000 for a grantee to develop a statewide media program. Ted Hartwell seconded; there was no additional discussion or comments and the motion carried unopposed with no abstentions.

VIII. Election of ACPG Officers

Mr. Petrie reviewed the current roster of members. All members' terms are current through at least June of 2017; three are current through June 2018. There are two vacancies on the committee: one for a mental health professional, and one member who holds a nonrestricted gaming license. Ms. Quirk recommended a psychiatrist from the VA Hospital in Reno, adding that she would forward his contact information to Mr. Petrie for follow up. Mr. Petrie stated for the record that Denise Quirk is currently serving as the Chair, and Ted Hartwell is the current Vice Chair. He suggested that it is helpful, though not required, to have one officer in the north and one in the south.

- Ms. Quirk opened the floor for nominations to the Office of Chair. Ted Hartwell nominated Denise Quirk to a second term as Chair. The nomination was seconded by Ryan Gerchman and accepted by Ms. Quirk. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed, and a vote was taken. Ms. Quirk was elected unanimously.
- Ms. Quirk opened nominations for the Office of Vice Chair by nominating Carol O'Hare. Ms. O'Hare accepted, and there were no other nominations. Nominations were closed, a vote was taken, and Ms. O'Hare was elected unanimously.

IX. Public Comment

Stephanie Pyle, UNR CASAT, requested clarification on the statewide media campaign; it was her understanding that a statewide campaign for awareness of problem gambling and treatment is already available. Mr. Petrie clarified that there were none that promoted the State's treatment program. Ms. Pyle explained that people are not aware of the problem in the two communities her program works in. The majority of people don't know resources are available or where to find help. She hopes the media items will be available for them to use to post on website. Mr. Petrie confirmed that it will be a public awareness message not specific to any treatment center and will be available for anyone in our system to post on their website or for other uses.

Merle Saxton, Bridge Counseling, talked about the difficulty potential Certified Problem Gambling Counselor Interns (CPGC-I) have gaining the required CEUs to enter the workforce. When he started, it was easy to go through the ten modules and get educated to become certified; now it's much more difficult with the lack of CEUs available. He recommended the use of workforce development funds to support a "one-stop shop" for obtaining CEUs.

Rory Reid, Mental Health Counseling and Consulting LLC, noted that at one time the Problem Gambling Fund supported research activities. Due to the decrease in available funds, the dollars available for research were reallocated and prioritized for treatment. Moving forward he urged the committee to consider funding research, stating that even a modest amount of funding could go a long way to help improve treatment services.

X. Additional Announcements and Adjournment

Mr. Petrie noted that the next ACPG meeting is scheduled for May 18. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2017 include August 17 and November 16. The schedule is posted on the ACPG Meeting webpage at http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/Advisory_Committees/ACPG/ACPG_Mtgs2017/ .

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.