

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

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2017

Meeting Locations

Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way Room 301, Carson City NV
Aging and Disability Services Division, Desert Regional Center, 1391 S Jones Boulevard, Las Vegas NV
Telephone call-in option was also available to ACPG and members of the public

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Tony Cabot

Others Present

Lori Flores Chirino, The Problem Gambling Center
Andrea Dassopoulos, UNLV
Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions (on phone)
Stephanie A Pyle and Carina Rivera, UNR CASAT
Rory Reid (on phone)
Lana Robards, New Frontier (on phone)
Rick Smith, Second Chance
Sydney Smith, RISE Center for Recovery (on phone)
Dianne Springborn, Bristlecone
Jason Kolenut, Administrative Services Officer (ASO) III, DHHS Director's Office
Cindy Smith, Chief, Office of Community Partnerships and Grants (OCPG), DHHS Director's Office
Pat Petrie and Gloria Sulhoff, OCPG, DHHS Director's Office

I. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call, and Announcements

Denise Quirk, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG), welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Pat Petrie, State Lead for Nevada Problem Gambling Services, took roll call and confirmed a quorum of members present.

New ACPG member Don Yorgason introduced himself as a clinical psychologist working at the Reno Veteran's Hospital, PTSD Clinical Team, as a substance abuse disorder specialist. He received his graduate training at the University of Memphis, Institute for Gambling Education and Research.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of February 16, 2017 ACPG Meeting Minutes

Denise Quirk provided a correction to the spelling of Mr. Sexton's name in Item IX, Public Comment.

- Carol O'Hare motioned to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2017 ACPG meeting with the correction as noted by Ms. Quirk. Connie Jones seconded the motion, and it carried unopposed with no abstentions.

IV. Medicaid Billing for Treatment Services

Cindy Smith, Chief of the Office of Community Partnerships and Grants (OCPG), DHHS Director's Office, reported that the Department has been researching Medicaid billing for problem gambling treatment services. She spoke with Lana Robards at New Frontier, who talked her through the billing process. They have identified some pitfalls and are working with Alexis Tucey in the Medicaid Office to understand how billing for problem gambling treatment would work. Many problem gambling patients have co-occurring disorders, and Medicaid bills under the co-occurring. The Department is talking with others who already bill Medicaid, and is considering a pilot Medicaid billing project. Information will be shared with the committee as it becomes available.

V. Legislative Update

Ms. Quirk reported that Senate Bill 120 is currently in the Senate Finance Committee and Mike Alonzo, lobbyist for Nevada Council on Problem Gambling and board member of Reno Problem Gambling Center, is communicating progress. She encouraged members of the ACPG to write to the members of the Senate Finance Committee and encourage passage out of the committee and into the Senate. She thanked Mr. Cabot in absentia for his efforts to introduce the bill. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn June 6.

Ms. O'Hare commented that in the hearings to date, there have been no opposition to the bill, but the finance committee has been trying to understand the technical changes and where the funding comes from. Several individuals from the gaming industry have given public testimony. Ted Hartwell said he gave a presentation to his Leadership Las Vegas class of 50 community leaders and asked them to talk to their legislators regarding SB120.

VI. Third Quarter Performance Report – Problem Gambling Treatment System

Mr. Petrie reviewed the quarterly treatment system fiscal report, which was compiled by Sarah St. John from data in the UNLV system.

- The Treatment goal for SFY17 is 536 problem gamblers; the third quarter total system-wide is 344, or 64% of goal, which is a little low. Mr. Petrie expects to see an increase in the fourth quarter as a result of the media campaign.
- The goal for Concerned Others clients is 31; the system has reached 40, or 129% of goal.
- UNLV has received follow-up consent from 81% of clients.
- Of the \$702,043 in treatment grant awards, the grantees have spent \$502,749 or about 72%, which is right on track.

Mr. Petrie also described a document that was not included in the handouts, the Problem Gambling Treatment System Performance Report for the period July 1, 2016-March 31, 2017. The treatment centers are assessed on performance in several areas: access, retention, successful completion, client satisfaction, long-term outcome, consent for follow-up, outpatient case cost/residential case cost,

documentation accuracy, service cost share, and global performance rating. Mr. Petrie indicated he would email the report to the attendees and apologized for not providing it in the handouts.

VII. State Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 Grant Award Recommendations

Mr. Petrie reviewed the SFY18-19 RFA process. Applications were reviewed and scored independently by a panel of three evaluators. After they finished their evaluations, the reviewers met and discussed the applications. Their individual scores were averaged, and those are included on the Award Recommendations handout with the applicants listed in ranked order.

Treatment

Eight applications were received for treatment services, four from new applicants. One existing grantee, Pathways, did not reapply, but Pathways' Certified Problem Gambling Counselor, Rick Smith, is now working with one of the new applicants, Mental Health Counseling and Consulting. The recommended funding for each of the existing grantees was determined by a funding formula based on client costs from the previous year with a performance rating adjustment factored in. New applicants used their average case costs and did the math to come up with a funding amount. The ACPG allocated \$789,999 for treatment services in SFYs 2018 and 2019. The recommendations total \$879,737 in awards, which includes funding applicants at 100% from the top-ranked down, with the remaining \$82,099 going to the next highest scoring applicant, RISE. This increases the number of treatment providers in the program from five to seven.

Prevention

The ACPG recommended allocating \$210,000 for prevention programs. Four applications were received and the same process was employed, funding applicants based on scores at 100% of the requested amount until the funding ran out. Nevada Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) is the only applicant recommended for a grant award.

Workforce Development

This program area consisted of two sub-categories: conference sponsorship, limited to \$25,000; and workforce development activities. NCPG was the only applicant, submitting one application in each sub-category. The ACPG allocated \$53,000 to workforce development and both NCPG applications are recommended for funding.

Other

This category includes the UNLV data collection grant. This is a noncompetitive grant and the Department is recommending the same as awarded last year, \$139,372. Also in this category is the continuing contract with Problem Gambling Solutions for \$41,000. Awards in the Other category total \$180,372.

Mr. Petrie stated that the Problem Gambling budget for FY18 is \$1,067,000, equal to expenditures in FY17, which was a base budget year. He spoke with Jason Kolenut, ASO III in the Director's Office, who said there are funds in reserves that can be pulled into FY18 to cover the total award recommendations of \$1,314,000.

Mr. Hartwell asked if SB120 should pass, when those new funds would become available, and whether they could be used to fund additional grants. Ms. Smith responded that should SB120 be approved, it would go into effect July 1, but a series of internal processes would be needed before funds could be drawn. Mr. Petrie addressed the second part of Mr. Hartwell's question by stating that the ACPG

members would need to reconvene to discuss how they want to utilize the additional funds, which could include a discussion on re-inviting the applicants that were not funded originally.

Ms. Quirk added that if the ad campaign and outreach efforts result in an increase in treatment services, hopefully the system can adjust to meet the need. She also clarified that applicants who did not score 70 or more would not be considered for funding at a later date. She opened the floor to comments.

Dr. Marotta, who served as one of the reviewers, stated there was merit in all the applications and it is regretful that the system doesn't have the resources available to fund all of them.

VIII. Approval of Award Recommendations

Mr. Petrie stated the need to identify any conflicts of interest among ACPG members prior to approving recommendations. Individual motions will be necessary for each of the three program areas.

- In Prevention and Workforce Development, the only members who can participate are Carolene Layugan, Don Yorgason, and Ryan Gerchman. All other members have a conflict of interest; one as the applicant, and the others serving on the board of or as a paid consultant to an applicant.
- In Treatment, Denise Quirk cannot participate in approval for the Reno Problem Gambling Center. Connie Jones is on the board of The Problem Gambling Center, and cannot participate in approval of that application.

Treatment

- Ted Hartwell motioned to approve the grant award recommendations for Treatment as presented. The motion was seconded by Ryan Gerchman. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously with two abstentions (Denise Quirk and Connie Jones).

Prevention

Prior to the motion, Mr. Gerchman asked whether there was an option to fund the awardees at 90% of the funding request in order to spread the money. Mr. Petrie stated that ACPG members can make any recommendations they like, but the reason the recommendations presented are for 100% of the request, in addition to being consistent in the award process, the integrity of program is compromised. It won't be the same program as proposed in the application if it is not fully funded.

- Don Yorgason moved to approve the grant award recommendation for Prevention as presented: Nevada Council on Problem Gambling for \$209,991. Carolene Layugan seconded the motion, and there being no further discussion, the motion carried unopposed with three votes and four abstentions (Denise Quirk, Carol O'Hare, Connie Jones and Ted Hartwell.)

Workforce Development

- Don Yorgason moved to approve the grant award recommendations for Workforce Development as presented: two grants to Nevada Council on Problem Gambling, one for conference sponsorship for \$25,000 and a second one for workforce development activities for \$28,000. Carolene Layugan seconded the motion and there being no further discussion the motion carried unopposed with three votes and four abstentions (Denise Quirk, Carol O'Hare, Ted Hartwell and Connie Jones).

Ms. Quirk confirmed with Mr. Petrie that no formal action was required to approve the funding recommendations for UNLV and Problem Gambling Solutions.

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IX. Public Comment

Stephanie Pyle, UNR CASAT, stated that it has been a pleasure and privilege working with the ACPG and Carol O'Hare. She applauded the committee for asking the legislature for more money, and encouraged continued efforts no matter the outcome. She thanked Dr. Yorgason's organization and Ryan Gerchman for their help with the prevention programs at Great Basin, UNR and UNLV, adding that she would do everything she could to support the work of the ACPG.

X. Additional Announcements and Adjournment

Ryan Gerchman stated that he is often in Carson City and will be going to the Senate Finance Committee meeting and lobbying. He will also see if he can get the support of UVLC (United Veterans Legislative Council), a conglomerate of veterans within Nevada, using the argument that more funding is needed to support the many great programs that are available.

Carol O'Hare had several announcements.

- The media campaign launched March 31 with television spots airing in Las Vegas and Reno. They will run through May and perhaps for a period of time in June. During April, the help line received five calls specifically due to the ads; one from Sparks and several from Southern Nevada.
- She is also seeing interesting demographics from the ad on Facebook, and is getting a lot of engagement from women aged 50 and older who indicate slot machines as their primary gambling activity. This is consistent with information provided by the help line.
- The State Conference on Problem Gambling is sold out, with 250 registered attendees. She will shop for a larger venue for next year.

Ms. Quirk acknowledged the blood, sweat and tears that go into the grant application process. She is grateful for those who continue to come to the table and bring skills to the program. She reminded the group to send an email or to telephone members of the Senate Finance Committee regarding SB120. She noted the next ACPG meeting is scheduled for August 17, and asked Department staff to remind her of current projects that may need to be added to the agenda.

Having concluded all business, Ms. Quirk and adjourned the meeting at 9:50 AM.