

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

February 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Approved May 17, 2018

Meeting Locations

Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way Room 153, Carson City NV 89706
Desert Regional Center, 1391 S Jones Boulevard, Administration Building, Las Vegas NV 89146

Members Present

Ryan Gerchman
Connie Jones
Carol O'Hare
Denise Quirk
Don Yorgason (via phone)

Members Absent

Alan Feldman
Tony Cabot
Ted Hartwell
Carolene Layugan

Others Present

Vincent (Budd) Milazzo, Administrative Services Officer (ASO), Fiscal Management, DHHS Director's Office
Cindy Smith, Chief, Office of Community Partnerships and Grants (OCPG)
Cathy Council, Karri Craig, Pat Petrie, Gloria Sulhoff, OCPG
Merle Sexton, Bridge Counseling Associates
Dianne Springborn, Bristlecone Family Resources
Lana Robards, New Frontier Treatment Center
Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions (via phone)

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

Denise Quirk, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG), welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed. Others present introduced themselves for the record.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of December 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes

- Carol O'Hare motioned to approve the [December 13, 2017 ACPG meeting minutes](#) as presented. The motion was seconded by Connie Jones and carried unopposed with no abstentions.

IV. Fiscal Report

Cindy Smith, Chief of the Office of Community Partnerships and Grants (OCPG), explained that the ACPG Legislative Workgroup had requested that the ACPG be provided with financial statements for the Problem Gambling Fund on a regular basis. A year-to-date [budget summary document](#) was provided and reviewed by Budd Milazzo from Fiscal Management in the Director's Office. The figures were current as of February 9, 2018, and as of that date, 50% of projected revenue had been brought in. The interest will be more than what was projected because slot tax revenue is higher than projected. We were budgeted to receive \$1,323,154, but are projecting \$1,325,832. After expenditures, the fund showed a balance of

\$548,838 anticipated to be left at the end of the year. Ms. Quirk asked him to share at a future meeting any insight on revenue trends over the past few years.

Mr. Petrie asked him to explain how the reserve works, the portion that the Department has authority to spend. Mr. Milazzo stated that the Department has authority to spend \$1.313 on grants, and no authority to spend any reserves without doing a work program. He explained the fund should include a ninety-day reserve to ensure cash flow, but if you want to grant part of that out, we do a work program to transfer funds from the reserve category to the grants payable category. It is a two-month process from the time you decide to do a work order until it goes to the legislature for approval.

The next Interim Finance Committee (IFC) meeting to do a work program is at the end of June. So if you want to do that you have to do it by February 1 of the year, this FY18, to move money from reserve. To go to IFC for the April meeting you will need it ready by February 1 to get on the April agenda. If you want to change for next year, the earlier you do it, the better. The next IFC meeting is mid- to end of June and you can't do that because you couldn't obligate the money before its approved. Next year you have authority to spend the same amount, so if you want to move reserves next year, the sooner you start, the better; by mid-October for the December IFC meeting. Ms. Quirk requested this topic be added to a future meeting agenda.

V. Mid-Year Treatment Spending Report

Mr. Petrie reviewed the [SFY2018 Mid-Year Reallocation Plan](#) which detailed spending by each of the problem gambling treatment grantees as of December 31, 2017. It also showed the overage or shortfall of funds for each if spending continues at the same rate through the second half of the year. The resulting balance showed \$123,649 left unspent at the end of the fiscal year. Two treatment grantees, Bridge and Mental Health Counseling, are new, and it had been anticipated they would have a slow start. Delaying the mid-year reallocations until the third quarter will give the new centers more time to ramp up their programs. The grants for prevention and workforce development programs and data collection, as well as the consultant's contract, are all on track to spend out. These have line item budgets based on program costs, whereas treatment centers are fee-for-service based and dependent on the number of clients coming through door. Mr. Petrie recently completed annual reviews of the treatment centers and talked to all of them about their grant fund balances.

VI. Approval of Media Campaign for Fiscal Year 2018

Mr. Petrie stated that towards the end of last year, the ACPG approved a grant to Nevada Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) for a media campaign to increase awareness. Television spots were run in northern and southern Nevada, and resulted in an influx of new clients. He proposed running another media campaign using some of the unspent funds allocated to treatment. Ms. O'Hare agreed to organize another campaign to run in May and June. She submitted a proposal but without a specific dollar amount, because the grant award is dependent on ACPG approval to transfer funds from the treatment program. Last year, the ACPG approved about \$65,000 to be reallocated from treatment for the media campaign. That amount would purchase more air time this year because the video has already been created. Mr. Petrie recommended moving \$32,500 from Mental Health Counseling and Consulting and from Bridge Counseling, for a total of \$65,000 to put towards a media campaign. Both agencies would still be left with a cushion of about \$30,000 in the event clients services increase the second half of the year, and both grants will be restored to the original award amount in year two of grant.

The committee discussed the success of last year's campaign. Ms. Quirk stated that her wish list for the Problem Gambling Program includes funding for a marketing study as well as a prevalence study.

- Mr. Gerchman motioned to approve a recommendation to move \$32,500 from Mental Health Counseling and Consulting's grant award, and \$32,500 from Bridge Counseling Associates' grant award for the purpose of running a media campaign in May and June, with the understanding that both grant awards would revert back to the full amount at the beginning of SFY19, year two. The motion was seconded by Ms. Quirk and carried unopposed with one abstention (Carol O'Hare).

VII. Legislative Workgroup Update

Ms. O'Hare reported on behalf of ACPG Legislative Workgroup Chair, Tony Cabot, who was not able to be in attendance. The workgroup has met twice, with another meeting scheduled later this month. In January, they reviewed the history of the last legislative session and SB120 and its various components. The bill was successful in restructuring ACPG membership and duties, but the proposed change to the funding mechanism was not passed. The workgroup felt that the critical error made was not meeting with the Governor's Office to make him aware of the need and include an increase in the budget. The Legislature did not understand where the money would come from and why the amount differed from that in the Governor's budget, and why more funds were needed when the financial statements showed reserves of half a million dollars. They also did not grasp that we were not asking for an increase that would take money allocated to other programs, but that we were asking for a change to the funding formula.

At the February meeting our pro-bono lobbyist, Mike Alonso, gave us more insight on the legislative process. We agreed that we should meet with the Governor; work with the sponsors of the bill to make them aware of the moving parts and become comfortable advocating for the bill; and involve DHHS in the process up front. The goal is not only to put together a strategy of why the money is needed, but to develop a team approach so everyone involved can speak to all the issues. The next meeting will focus on ways to spend down the funds in reserves to only the required amount. Mr. Milazzo commented that the legislators think you should have a 90-day reserve, and have in the past taken away from the Problem Gambling Fund.

Ms. O'Hare asked if Dr. Marotta could research the impact of a true media campaign and how it might increase treatment expanding services to the clients, for the purpose of including it in their presentation to the Legislature. Dr. Marotta indicated there is some limited information on the effectiveness of media campaigns that he could pull together. Ms. Quirk asked Mr. Petrie for an offline conversation to form an agenda item for the next ACPG or Legislative Workgroup meeting.

VIII. Annual Election of Officers

Mr. Petrie explained that each year at this time the ACPG elects a Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, and the bylaws stipulate they be from different geographic areas. The term of office is one year, effective as of today.

Ms. Quirk expressed her willingness to serve an additional term as ACPG Chair. There were no other nominations or volunteers for the office.

- Ms. O'Hare nominated Denise Quirk for the office of Chair. Ms. Quirk accepted the nomination, and the motion carried unopposed with one abstention (Denise Quirk).

Ms. Quirk nominated Carol O'Hare for the office of Vice Chair. There were no other nominations or volunteers for the office.

- Ms. Quirk motioned to elect Carol O'Hare to the office of Vice Chair. Ms. O'Hare accepted the nomination, and the motion carried unopposed with one abstention (Carol O'Hare).

Item IX. Public Comment

Lana Robards, New Frontier, stated she was all in favor of a media campaign, having seen amazing response to a television ad they ran a few years ago. She is also starting to see more people come in through social media and referrals from FaceBook. But she wondered why funds were being allocated to the media campaign six months into the year while the treatment grant reallocations won't occur until nine months into the year. She remembers the treatment centers spending out in the last half; the numbers were certainly different at New Frontier, and she felt Bridge would be hitting their stride at nine months. She also explained that New Frontier has partnered with Bridge on a project. The State is looking at one stop shops with wrap around services, and she believes the concept for fee-for-service for individuals will go by the wayside as it plays out. There is a big push for wrap around services in the treatment community; everyone is discussing the individual client. As the ACPG looks at spending down reserves or engages in budget discussions on ways to enhance programs, she suggested keeping an open mind away from fee-for-service and more towards wrap around services.

Carol O'Hare, as executive director of the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), announced that Governor Sandoval has proclaimed March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. This year, NCPG will be reaching out to smaller establishments in particular with a "private awareness" campaign and poster to put on the back of bathroom doors. She also announced the dates for this year's state conference as May 3 and 4. The registration website will launch this week and she encouraged early registration as the conference sold out last year.

Ryan Gerchman suggested that, as the committee looks for ways to spend money, suicide and problem gambling is a topic the Legislature would pay attention to. If there was any way to link in other groups to help show the prevalence of suicide and problem gambling, it would help a lot.

Ms. Quirk announced the date of the next quarterly meeting as May 17 and called for a motion to adjourn.

- Ms. O'Hare moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerchman, and the meeting adjourned at 10:14 AM.