

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

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2018**

Meeting Location

Held via teleconference with physical location at ADSD, 1820 E Sahara Avenue, Suite 208, Las Vegas NV

Members Present

Tony Cabot, Chair
Alan Feldman
Connie Jones
Judge Cheryl Moss
Carol O'Hare
Denise Quirk
Debra Robinson

Members Absent

Ted Hartwell

Others Present

Dr. Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions
Merle Sexton, Bridge Counseling Associates
Pat Petrie and Gloria Sulhoff, DHHS Office of Community Partnerships and Grants (OCPG)

I. Call to Order, Introductions and Announcements

Tony Cabot, Chair of the ACPG Legislative Workgroup, welcomed the participants and called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Telephone participants introduced themselves and a quorum of workgroup members was confirmed. There were no announcements.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approve [Minutes of February 23, 2018 Meeting](#)

There were no comments or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting.

- Connie Jones moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2018 ACPG Legislative Workgroup meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Carol O'Hare and carried unopposed.

IV. Discussion on Program Funding

The group reviewed the [revised talking points document](#) submitted by Jeff Marotta and Ted Hartwell.

- Ms. Jones suggested a one-page document be created for the legislators that lists the key elements without the detail in the bullet points. The detail is excellent information when meeting one on one with legislators, but is too wordy to be useful as a stand-alone document. At Mr. Cabot's request, she agreed to create a simplified document and provide it for review at the next meeting.
- Several members requested that the key elements, or paragraphs, be numbered.
- Ms. Jones recommended that "Nevada should play a leadership role" should be the lead statement.

- Ms. O’Hare suggested that the last point “Nevada is a leader in global gaming” should be at the top.
- The group would like to include a bullet point that captures the fact that by nearly every measure, Nevada ranks last among the states in addressing problem gambling.
- Dr. Marotta noted that some things the group mentioned are already incorporated in the document, but they probably need to be reworded or stated differently. Regarding the comparison of dollars devoted to problem gambling by other states, he mentioned there are states with authorized commercial casinos that do not dedicate public funding to problem gambling. In some states, the casino industry voluntarily provides direct funding to the council, but that does not get captured in the survey data.
- “Nevada needs to focus on population health...” (top topic on page two). The second bullet point contains excellent information but is too wordy to follow. It was suggested that the second sentence, referencing the Centers for Disease Control, be eliminated. “No federal funding is directed at problem gambling” should be in bold font. The amount coming from “state coffers” should specify “Nevada’s” state coffers. Dr. Marotta noted that the number cited, \$0.07 per person, included only those funds going towards prevention.
- The group discussed the impact of comparing the amount of funding provided through gaming tax revenues to the amount of funding the State devotes to other health concerns, and whether the impact of that comparison would be greater than highlighting the \$10 billion in gaming revenue generated by the industry. It was decided to modify the bullet point about how much is collected from gambling to the amount just from gaming revenue. 60% of the budget comes directly or indirectly from the gaming and tourism industry.
- “Treatment is effective...” (fourth topic on page two). This needs to talk about the demand and the current service gap we face to meet the needs of the state as they exist today.
- A decision was needed on which of the two graphs on page three to use. Opinions varied and it was decided to include both.

Dr. Marotta suggested that the lobbyist or someone with more skill in presenting language to legislators, may be able to offer advice on how best to word the statements. Mr. Cabot will forward the latest draft to Mike Alonso for his comments and insight prior to the group’s next meeting.

V. Develop and Adopt Action Plan for Legislative Workgroup

Mr. Cabot reviewed the seven steps in the [proposed action plan](#). The following suggestions were offered.

- Meet with the Department Director, first, before meeting with the Governor’s Office.
- Add meetings with Beckie Harris, Chair of the Gaming Control Board; Tony Alamo, Chair of the Nevada Gaming Commission; and Virginia Valentine, President of the Nevada Resort Association.
- Identify bipartisan co-sponsorship by seeking referrals from the Governor, Chairwoman Harris, former State Senator Mark Lipparelli, and Michael Alonso.
- Item 2 – Prepare responses to questions regarding surpluses.
Mr. Cabot stated that the reason for surplus funds can be explained; the problematic piece is the amount in excess of what is required to remain in reserves. The ACPG will need to determine if that excess can be justified to the legislature, or if there is a one-time or other use

that would decrease the surplus to roughly the required amount. Mr. Petrie suggested the best approach might be for the ACPG to review the strategic plan for possible one-time use of the surplus. If the ACPG makes a recommendation, a work program would need to be submitted to receive authorization to allocate the funds. This will take time to process through the Department and the Interim Finance Committee. Mr. Cabot asked Mr. Petrie and Dr. Marotta to review the strategic plan for potential projects that could make use of the excess monies, and that those be included on the agenda for the next ACPG meeting for review and approval. He will add this item to the Legislative Workgroup's Action Plan.

Mr. Feldman asked if the Department could provide a financial statement that breaks down the "surplus" funding to identify that portion which is required to be kept in reserve, the portion necessary to ensure sufficient cash flow, and the portion resulting from unspent allocations from current and previous fiscal years. During the last legislative session, the legislature believed the entire amount in surplus was available money being left unspent.

- Item 3 – Complete proposed statutory changes (review of [Legislative Change](#) document)
Mr. Cabot stated that a bill draft will need to be submitted. Based on comments from the last workgroup meeting, he came up with some proposed language to replace that which had been struck out in the last legislative session. The dollar amount shown is what was used last time and may need to be modified, and the dates also need to be changed.

He explained that the dollar amount specified was consistent with the Strategic Plan, plus an annual increase based on the Consumer Price Index, and asked if the group wanted to take the same approach. Last time, the legislators asked why we needed that amount and we fell down on explaining why we had excess already. He asked the group to review the bill draft and bring comments to the next meeting so the document can be finalized.

Mr. Cabot stated that the ACPG will need to address the issue of reserves and determine how they want to handle it. Because the ACPG was not slated to meet until May 17, it was decided to hold another workgroup meeting to finalize everything, and then ask the Chair of the ACPG to call a special meeting prior to May 17. It is important to get approval from the ACPG as soon as possible so as to begin meeting with the Governor and others because budget meetings will begin in April.

Action on Item V was withheld until the next meeting.

VI. Schedule Next Meeting.

Mr. Cabot suggested the group meet in two weeks on Friday, March 30, at 2:00 PM.

- Ms. O'Hare motioned to approve the suggested date. The motion was seconded by Mr. Feldman and carried unopposed.

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Additional Announcements and Adjournment

There were no additional announcements.

- Ms. O'Hare motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jones and carried unopposed. The meeting adjourned at 3:18 PM.