

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley,
MS
Director



Cody Phinney,
MPH
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
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Chief Medical Officer

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROBLEM GAMBLING
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
1:00 p.m. to Adjournment

1. Call to order/roll Call - Alan Feldman, Chair

Members Present: Alan Feldman, Chair; Denise Quirk, Vice Chair; William Theodore Hartwell; Constance Jones; Dr. Shane Kraus; Carol O'Hare

Members Absent: Carolene Layugan, Richard Taylor, Lesley Pittman

Guests: John Borrowman, Nevada Division of Public & Behavioral Health (DBPH); Kim Garcia, Yesenia Marquez, Stacy McCool, Kelly Nieto, Bureau of Behavioral Health, Wellness & Prevention, (BBHWP); Andrea Dassopoulos, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV); Todd Edwards and Amanda Henderson, WestCare; Ashlan Sherron, KPS3; Joanne Celeste, 8th Judicial District Court, Chris Murphy and Lana Robards, New Frontier Treatment Center; Peter Ott, Bristlecone Family Resources; Dr. Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions; Nann Meador, Nevada Council on Problem Gambling; Stephanie Goodman, Dr. Robert Hunter International Problem Gambling Center; Jeanyne Ward, Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT)

2. Public Comment: - Alan Feldman, Chair
There was no public comment.

3. For Possible Action:
Approval of meeting minutes for December 1, 2022

Mr. Hartwell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written.
Dr. Kraus seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

4. Informational:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) and Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Updates (BHWP)

- a. Discussion on Fiscal Report – Mr. Borrowman / DPBH Behavioral Health Fiscal Manager
Mr. Borrowman discussed the status of BA3200 Category 19 fiscal report. He reminded the members that funds would not move forward into SFY24 and expressed the importance of spending all funds by June 30, 2023.
- b. Discussion on Program Updates – Kim Garcia/ BHWP/Social Services Program Specialist III
Ms. Garcia discussed the current allocations and expenses for BA3200 Category 19. Ms. Garcia advised the members that recommendation will be discussed on a later agenda to ensure funds are spent by the end of the fiscal year.

5. Informational:

Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Work Group Updates

Discussion on Legislature Work Group Updates – Stephanie Goodman, Legislature Work Group Chair.

Ms. Goodman provided a legislative update stating that she is working with Ms. Pittman are currently having informal conversations with various legislatures to request a line-item allocation for the awareness campaign, using the American Recovery Plan Act (APRA) request that was denied by the Governor's office. She also shares that they are preparing for the upcoming Problem Gambling Awareness Day that the legislature on May 2nd. They are currently working with KPS3 to create the signage and one page document.

6. For Possible Action:

Discussion and Possible Approval of Department Reallocations Recommendations for SFY23
Kim Garcia / BHWP/ Social Services Program Specialist III/ Problem Gambling

Ms. Garcia discussed the department reallocation recommendations for FY23 has funding in the amount of \$171,561.23 that needs to be reallocated to spend the funds in the current state fiscal year.

Ms. Garcia recommended reducing Bristlecone Family Resources by \$99,000.00. This is due to the problem gambling treatment system claims were below projected amount. This reduction is not due to the overall numbers of those seeking help have dropped because they have not. However, there are multiple factors that could cause this reduction such as agencies billing a third-party payer, this causes a reduced cost for treatment. The other recommendation is to possibly increase the add-on codes for Treatment from 5% to 10% approved budget. Note: This would not change the amount of unencumbered funds, this would provide additional support to the treatment providers.

Ms. Dassopoulos requested a few options for University of Nevada Las Vegas International Gaming Institute (UNLV IGI) to receive additional allocation of funds for the following requests.

Student Gambling Study which would begin at the Higher Education campuses and would start in spring of 2023 at UNLV and would roll over into FY24 and would include University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and other college locations. The project was approved in the amount of \$50,000 that would include a \$10 Amazon gift card for completing the study.

Rural Need Assessment to be developed by UNLV IGI. This project will be carried forward into SFY 24, due to the complexity of the project.

Ms. O'Hare requested for Nevada Council on Problem Gambling to receive additional allocation of funds as a one-time request for \$35,000 for additional prevention efforts. Our current literature is extremely outdated and needs to be revised. She would like to be able replenishment of supplies as the current demand is increasing.

Ms. Garcia recommended that UNR CASAT receive an additional allocation of \$16,000 for workforce development for additional training support for the substance use disorder (SUD) Integration Project and Workforce incentives.

Ms. Garcia recommended the remaining funds in the amount of \$65,000 to be allocated to KPS3, Inc for increased marketing and direct purchase of media buys for the Project Worth campaign.

After lengthy discussion among members the Chair Feldman requested a motion for the following reallocation amounts:

\$50,000.00 for UNLV IGI for Student Survey
\$ 5,000.00 for UNLV IGI for Rural Needs Assessment Development
\$35,000.00 for Nevada Council on Problem Gambling for Prevention Efforts
\$16,000.00 for CASAT for workforce development efforts
\$65,651.00 for KPS3 for Public Awareness enhancements

Vice-Chair Quirk moved on Chairs request to approve as described.

Ms. Jones seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. For Possible Action

Discussion and possible Approval of Department Allocations Recommendations for SFY24 Kim Garcia, Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention/ Social Services Program Specialist III/ Problem Gambling

Ms. Garcia discussed the recommended for allocations for the SFY24 allocations.

The allocations for treatment providers were determined based off of SFY23 spending. The Gambling Treatment Division Court was reduced by \$10,000.00 The remaining award in under would be flat funded. Ms. Garcia discussed an enhancement to treatment by add a Spanish

speaking gambling treatment telehealth provider. This would help with an opportunity to offer cultural and logistically appropriate gambling treatment services for Hispanic community. She added that it would need to have telehealth capability and that the staffing a mental health professional with experience in addiction treatment plus problem gambling treatment education. She indicated that a RFA would need to be completed soon to ensure selection with the state procurement process in order to start July 1, 2023.

Ms. Garcia recommendation from committee members to expand the problem gambling and aggregation project. This would carry \$16,000 forward into SFY24 for CASAT budget. In doing so it would add staff to the five pilot agencies allowing them to conduct the gambling endorsement reviews. Ms. Garcia indicated that the remaining allocation would be flat funded as they were in SFY23. She also recommended that the unobligated funds remain the contingency fund for the mid-year reallocation as the treatment numbers are uncertain. Ms. Garcia spoke of potential changes and challenges that may affect numbers across SFY24 budgets/expenses with residential treatment change from bundled to unbundled cost for inpatient treatment charges. Behavioral health treatment service study may also lead to increased compensation rates. This could change and impact on the PGS budget/expenses.

After a lengthy conversation with members the allocations of recommendations will be approved as discussed in the SFY24 allocation plan document

Chair Feldman asked for a motion.

Ms. O'Hare, she motioned to move forward with the project to fund the Spanish language project and to place all additional funds in the contingency fund for reallocation during mid-year reallocation.

Vice Chair Quirk second the motion

Motion passed unanimously.

8. For Possible Action

Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Governance

a. Committee Membership - Alan Feldman

No comment

b. Discussion on Position Statement or Show of Support Letter- Alan Feldman

Chair, as direction given by the State Attorney General's Office, reminded committee that no member of the committee can represent the committee before the Legislature except for the designated spokesperson which is Leslie Pittman.

Any member can Testify however it is important to remember that you include that it is on your own behalf and not as a member of the advisory committee.

9. For Possible Action

Discussion and Possible Approval Updated bylaws – Alan Feldman, Chair

The chair explained to the committee that under current bylaws the committee is required to have a chair from either the north or the south. Ms. Garcia provided the members prior to the

meeting with an updated copy of the current bylaws with the section pertaining to above conversation “with the requirement that officers be from opposite geographic areas”. The Chair request that be strike from the requirement.

After further discussion the committee agreed to strike.

Ms. O’Hare motioned at the chair’s request to remove the requirement of the officers be for opposite geographic areas.

Ms. Jones seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. For Possible Action

Nominations and elections for chair and vice chair advisory committee members Alan Feldman, Chair

Ms. Jones motioned to nominate the current state of officers.

Ms. O’Hare second. All were in favor.

11. Informational

Discussion on future meeting dates and agenda items- Alan Feldman, Chair

After discussion with members the next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. via TEAMS.

12. Announcements

Alan Feldman, Chair

- a. Problem Gambling Strategic Planning Meeting March 22 at 1pm – 5pm at the Suncoast Las Vegas - Ms. Garcia reminded all members of the upcoming Strategic Planning Meeting hosted by Nevada Council which includes lunch.
- b. Nevada Problem Gambling Conference March 23-24 at the Suncoast Las Vegas - Ms. O’Hare gave an update regarding The State Conference on March 23rd and 24th.
- c. International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking May 23-25 at Park MGM Las Vegas - International Conference UNLV March 23- 25, 2023. Ms. Dassopoulos announced that scholarships are available for this event. Students and non-students.
- d. Department of Health and Human Services Problem Gambling Services Stakeholder Survey 2023 – Ms. Garcia announced that the surveys are open till tomorrow; you can access it through the agenda.

Ms. Sherron announced KPS3 received a gold award at the American Advertising Awards for the work done on “Piece it Back Together” campaign.

Ms. Ward announced SB-91 is moving through Legislation “and to keep our fingers crossed”. She also announced that CASAT has 7 scholarships available to anyone interested in becoming a certified problem gambling intern. Also available for release is the CASAT webinar presented by Ted Hartwell.

Mr. Ott announced the Problem Gambling website is up and running.

13. Public Comment - Alan Feldman - Chair

Ms. O'Hare stated I'm speaking publicly as a person in long term recovery, as a family member of people in recovery, as a professional in this field. In honor of problem gambling awareness month and the month of March, I just wanted to share. I'm speaking about the contribution of people that we never see in these meetings, that we don't hardly even know exist. Which is our families, I married into being Irish with the O'Hare name. I've been in recovery for 32 years and I've been in this field for 20 plus years. None of the things that I have been able to participate in or that I've been able to accomplish, have I done alone. I've done it with people like you, but most importantly, I've done it with the support of my family and when family supports advocates, people with a passion and a cause, they're not just saying go get them, they're doing the dishes, doing the laundry, driving to the airports, missing time with their partner because I'm spending time with other people. You know, my husband is an Irishman, so in two days it's Saint Patrick's Day, so I have to give a nod too I acquired my Irish heritage and I'm very proud of it. He was a proud and wonderful man, very humble. The other thing that I'm acknowledging in the month of March is that on March 20th of last year, he passed away from his battle with cancer, he never wavered in his support of my efforts of the things I had to do to do my work and my recovery to acknowledge him, because for some time he was very quiet about it. But I think he would be OK with me saying he also was a person in long term recovery from his gambling addiction. He didn't have the freedom to speak out the way I did and when I started speaking out, he absolutely said 100% use your voice and it worked. So, I just want to acknowledge everybody's family members because I know all of you have family members who support the work you do, support your recovery, support our community, and we need to remember them always when we're talking about what we do and how we go forward and what we're going to do in this state.

Chair Feldman stated Carol, thank you, and I for one intend to lift the first Guinness in two nights in Jim's memory and in appreciation of you both. Ms. O'Hare stated that she might show up with hockey Jersey, my husband loved his family first, Mets second and together were finally able to fully share a sport we both loved the Golden Knights. Thank you to all of your families for helping up do the work that we do.

14. Adjournment - Alan Feldman- Chair

Chair Feldman called the meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.