

Joe Lombardo  
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Richard Whitley,  
MS  
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MPH  
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,  
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Chief Medical  
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**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROBLEM GAMBLING  
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, September 21, 2023**

**The meeting will be held using remote technology in compliance with *Nevada Revised Statutes 241.023*.**

**1. Call to order/roll call – Alan Feldman, Chair**

Alan Feldman, Chair  
Shane Galster  
Stephanie Goodman  
William Theodore Hartwell  
Constance Jones  
Dr. Shane Kraus  
Lesley Pittman  
Denise Quirk, Vice Chair  
Richard Taylor

**2. Informational**

Welcome New Board Members – Alan Feldman, Chair

- a. Shane Galster – Caesar's Entertainment  
Chair Feldman provided a warm welcome and a brief bio of Mr. Galster.
- b. Stephanie Goodman – Dr. Robert Hunter International Problem Gambling Center  
Chair Feldman provided a warm welcome and a brief bio of Ms. Goodman.

**3. Public comment– Alan Feldman, Chair**

No public comment.

**4. For Possible Action**

Approval of Minutes May 17, 2023, meeting - Alan Feldman, Chair

Mr. Hartwell motioned to approve the minutes and Dr. Kraus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## 5. Informational

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

- a. Discussion on Fiscal Report - John Borrowman, DPBH, Behavioral Health Fiscal Manager

Andrea Allen with Department of Public and Behavioral Health Fiscal Department provided updates on how we ended our fiscal year 2023. Total receipts and funding with a budget of \$2,110,800 in total funds, \$17,054.00 was reverted to the General Fund, from that reverted \$11,022.00 to category 19.

Mr. Borrowman provided a clarification on the original appropriation to Cat 19. There was \$2,019,359.00 and then if you recall, we had the authority to balance forward money from state fiscal Year 22 to 23 in the amount of \$5, 299.00. This brought your total authority in Cat 19 to \$2,024,00.00

Ms. Allen moved on the updates for the fiscal year 2024. Our total receipts and funding for fiscal year 24 for categories 19 and 20 is \$2,478,173.00. The expenditure authority in category 19 is \$1,978,143.00 and category 20 is \$500,000.00.

Ms. Garcia gave a breakdown for the fiscal year 2023. She stated that there was less than 1 percent reverted. Thank you to everyone for their efforts in spending. We will work on getting closer next time. Ms. Garcia moved on to fiscal year 2024 with the breakdown and the obligations and remaining balance to be obligated during midyear reallocation.

- b. Discussion on Program Updates - Kim Garcia, BHWP, Social Services Program Specialist III

- i. 988 update – Rachel Usherwood BHWP, Quality Assurance Specialist III

Ms. Usherwood spoke regarding information and the implementation of the Crisis Response System. Ms. Usherwood gave an in-depth presentation on the 988 Program. She provided updates regarding the telecom fee collections, Mobile Crisis Teams, Crisis Stabilization Centers, and Medicaid's current role. Ms. Usherwood advised their request for information (RFI) that was released earlier in FY23. An overview of information received from RFI, and information will be added to the request for proposal (RFP) as well as a timeline of implementation.

ii. Project Worth - Ashlan Sherron, KPS3, Inc.

Ms. Sherron briefly shared information regarding FY 22/23 recap and FY 23/24 plans. Ms. Sherron also presented Project Worth's Campaign for SY23 and gave details on the most watched videos and audio clips. Jenna Hubert spoke about upcoming campaigns for next year. The current campaign videos were presented to the committee.

iii. Telehealth/Culturally Diverse Language Provider Update – Kim Garcia, BHWP

Dr. Marotta spoke about the expansion of the Hope Medical Problem Gambling Center project into a telehealth program. Dr. Marotta spoke about many aspects of the current work they are investing time in to enhance on-boarding and services in general. Dr. Marotta turned the presentation over to Dr. Miranda Alfonzo. Dr. Miranda Alfonzo spoke mostly on new services offered to include outpatient counseling services. Dr. Miranda Alfonzo spoke about the new certified problem gambling counselor interns, five are on staff to date. Three that are stepping in to offer Spanish speaking services to a population that has not been targeted.

Dr. Miranda Alfonzo shared with the committee the importance of telehealth, tele- counseling and how to utilize, access and promote services for individuals that may benefit from these services.

iv. Treatment Provider Updates

1. Bristlecone Family Resources – Donna Meyers

Ms. Meyers opened with a brief introduction to Bristlecone Counseling staff and the many services that Bristlecone offers. Ms. Meyers shared with members the way the program works and the services they provide.

2. Dr. Robert Hunter International Problem Gambling Center – Stephanie Goodman

Ms. Goodman introduced the program at Dr. Hunter IPGC as a mix of cognitive behavioral therapy, teaching the science of the brain as well as group therapy. Ms. Goodman spoke of a new section recently added, Weekend Solutions. Weekend Solutions is an important piece at the center which is led by a Peer Support Specialist. The programs that the Center offers range from Intensive Outpatient Programs to aftercare. (Within are a variety of services for industry workers to community workers as well.

### 3. Mental Health Counseling and Consulting – Dr. Rory Reid

Dr. Reid spoke about the recent opening of a satellite office in Reno, Nevada. Dr. Reid spoke about the clients and the possibility of many having co-occurring disorders such as depression, anxiety, bi-polar disorder, and ADHD. Dr. Reid shared his clinical experience on managing the symptoms of mental health disorders often will reduce problem gambling behavior. MHCC offers psychological evaluations and neuropsychological evaluations in situations where it is warranted. Dr. Reid spoke of the importance of wrap-around services. Dr. Reid touched on Cognitive Behavior Therapy, stating that changing the way people think will change the way that they feel. Dr. Reid spoke about negative and positive stressors.

### 4. New Frontier Treatment Center – Lana Robards

Tina Marie Bisiaux gave a presentation to ACPG regarding the program they facilitate at New Frontier Treatment Center for problem gambling. Upon intake the clients are given an assessment of 20 questions to see if the client meets the criteria for services through PG. Once admitted into treatment whether inpatient or outpatient the staff will then assess each individual needs and construct a plan for PG treatment. At NFTC there are gamblers anonymous (GA) meetings that take place once a week to benefit all participants in the program. The families that NFTC assist varies from underserved individuals; homeless, uninsured, elderly, and veteran services. NFTC works with people who have long-term chronic addiction, family addictions, and those with complex health profiles.

### 5. The Downing Counseling Clinic – Adrienne S. Renwick

Dr. Renwick spoke about CASAT Academic Unit. This is a collaboration that fosters the development of competency in the treatment of problem gambling and other addictions. Dr. Renwick also spoke about the goal to teach students how to treat mental health disorders, with the goal of partnering with CASAT Academic Unit to further education of PG. Dr. Renwick advised about FY23 CEP course infusion and many other courses that they teach at the Downing Counseling Clinic.

## 6. Gambling Diversion Treatment Court – Jaclyn Winter

Ms. Joanne Celeste gave the presentation for the Gambling Treatment Diversion Court, also known as GTDC. GTDC is the only program available currently in the US. This GTDC allows defendants to defer their convictions while participating in the program. The program runs from 13 to 36 months with 5 phases to complete. Clients enrolled in this program are mandated to be 100% compliant with court issues throughout their time in GTDC.

## v. Treatment Provider Data Report for SFY23 - Andrea Dassopoulos, UNLV IGI

Ms. Dassopoulos spoke about the three parts of the program that they provide for treatment services. The first being information management, where they assist in helping the clinics to enter data into a customized data management system. This allows the University of Nevada, Las Vegas International Gaming Institute (UNLV IGI) to expand research and grow research population in Nevada. The second part is the Program Evaluation, where follow-up interviews are done at 30 days, 90 days and 1 year post intake, which allows UNLV IGI to provide individualized recommendations to each clinic and gives an overview of the treatment system and allows them to process reports. The final piece is the research section. This includes panel studies, rural needs assessments and proposals, extended follow-ups, student surveys, student mini grants and UNLV Behavioral Addictions Lab.

## 6. Informational

### Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Work Group Updates

#### a. Discussion on Legislative Subcommittee Updates – Stephanie Goodman, Legislative Subcommittee Chair

Ms. Goodman gave an update from the Legislative Subcommittee. Ms. Pittman and I had a discussion, and we both were aware of the fact there was going to be a lot of money up there in the legislature. As you know, they turned down our \$1.8 million ask for awareness for the state American Recovery Plan Act. Ms. Pittman did an amazing job; she is very well known and has an incredible reputation up at the legislature. We met with both of the Finance Committee chairs, thought SB 341 the ACPG was awarded \$500,000 and called it a public awareness seminar.

- b. Discussion on Treatment Workgroup Updates – Lana Robards, Treatment Work Group Chair

Ms. Garcia stated that Ms. Robards is not on the call today, but she would give a quick update. This group meets regularly on a monthly basis with the treatment group.

## 7. **For Possible Action**

Discussion and Possible Approval for Creation of Workgroup for SB341 funds received during the 2023 Legislation. – Alan Feldman, Chair

Chair Feldman discussed the need for the creation of the workgroup for SB 341 funds. He for anyone willing to be on this workgroup to please make it known. Chair Feldman requested Ms. Garcia to arrange a meeting within the next 30 days.

Motion entertained in the creation of the SB341 Workgroup moved by Ms. Goodman, Ms. Quirk seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## 8. **Informational**

Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Governance

- a. Committee Membership – Alan Feldman, Chair  
No Comment
- b. Discussion on Position Statement or Show of Support letter – Alan Feldman, Chair  
Chair Feldman, 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. **Informational**

Discussion on Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – Alan Feldman, Chair

After discussion with members the next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. via TEAMS.

## 10. Announcements – Alan Feldman, Chair

International Center on Responsible Gambling Conference – October 8-9 - Las Vegas

Chair Feldman stated the International Center for responsible Gambling is doing its annual conference at what I believe is now called the Venetian Conference Center. Dr. Kraus, Mr. Hartwell and I will all be participating as speakers or moderators. It’s a fabulous conference. Granted it it’s a little bit on the academic side, however, there is a track for industry folk people like me who don’t understand academics. But there’s a really wonderful track of lectures and presentations. You can get all the information at ICR g.org and registration is still open.

Ms. Quirk wanted to extend a warm welcome to Stephanie and Shane and I'm so grateful that you have joined us at the ACPG. To Ms. Garcia and Chair Feldman and the amount of love and service that goes into this committee, we have 35 people joining us today, this is just fantastic. It's really exciting to be involved with you all and to hear all the good things.

Mr. Hartwell would like to echo Denise's comments and also once again acknowledge the fact that I believe that that Carol O'Hare is lurking for the first time as a member of the public. I suspect since the creation of this of this board and wanted to thank her for all of her years of service and personally for her mentorship to me in about a week and 1/2 pending final board approval, I will be moving into some very, very big shoes, in the role at the Nevada Council and I did want to mention a couple things that had happened at the Nevada Council since our last meeting. One is that we've implemented an accessibility tool so that now you can translate all of the content on the website into about 107 different languages instantly, have that read out loud to you and change the font sizes. There's a privacy tool if you want to look at just small parts of it, and also that we are in the process of implementing our student athlete gambling awareness program and at least four high schools starting this fall. I have not yet held a physical copy, this is a trifold, so you're actually looking at the cover on the far right. It is a brochure that is designed to educate student athletes very briefly about the problem of gambling. Some of their particular risk factors, some things that they'll encounter in college if they hope to play their sports and also some our resources for immediate help as well as a QR code to get them to an already developed new area of the Council's website on this issue, which also includes selected current news articles on this topic.

Carol O'Hare shared, "I want to officially object to the suggestion that I would ever lurk anywhere." Although that may be the only thing I really good at these days, I just wanted to say/ Retirement is hard because it's one of the biggest changes I've ever had to go through, and I am so grateful to everyone that is in this meeting and the progress that's being made is that a pace that just amazes me and tires me out, which is why I'm no longer on the committee. So just kudos to everything that's been covered today and it's OK if people say I've been around forever, I won't always be in these meetings, but I'm still officially the executive director, so I wanted to listen in. The Council is going to be left in good hands under Ted Hartwell, and I may lurk again, but I listen. I am grateful to see so many people who will be able to say that same thing after you know, 20-30 years. Thank you.

**11. Public comment – Alan Feldman, Chair**

No Public comment

**12. Adjournment - Alan Feldman, Chair**

Chair Feldman called the meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.