
**Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling
Legislative Workgroup Work Session
Approved Minutes
Friday, January 29, 2021
9:00 a.m. to Adjournment**

This meeting was held in compliance with Declaration of Emergency Directive 006.

Via TEAMS Platform

1. Call to order/roll call – *Stephanie Goodman, Chair*

Members: Alan Feldman, Stephanie Goodman (Chair), William Theodore Hartwell, Constance Jones, Carol O'Hare, Denise Quirk, and Dr. Rory Reid

Guest: Sarah Polito - KPS3, Jeff Marotta - Problem Gambling Solutions, Andi Dassopoulos - University Nevada Las Vegas, Kim Garcia - BHWP, Tammy Saling - BHWP, Trey Delap - Group 6 Partners, Sydney Banks - Psychiatric Association, Tammi Barlow - ACPG Member, Lena Hatzidopavlakis -Bristlecone Family Resource, Donna Meyer - Reno Problem Gambling, Nann Meador - Nevada Council on Problem Gambling,

2. Public comment – *Stephanie Goodman, Chair*

(Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting)

Trey Delap- provided public comment. He read a statement he prepared and stated he will send a copy to the Director and the group after he has finished.

<http://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbh.nv.gov/content/Programs/ProblemGambling/ACPG/GSP%20Public%20Comment%20to%20ACPG%20January%2029%202021%20FINAL%20.pdf>

Ms. Quirk agreed with all Mr. Delap stated and wanted it on the record.

No other Public Comment.

3. For possible action: Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2020

Stephanie Goodman, Chair

Minutes for December 10th, 2020 meeting had not been completed at the time of this meeting.

Mr. Feldman Motioned to table the Agenda item for the next meeting.

Ms. Quirk seconded the motion.

Members voted and motion passes unanimously.

4. For possible action: Discussion and Possible Recommendations for Legislative Strategies -Stephanie Goodman, Chair

Chair Goodman requested the members input and open discussions to make sure the committee is on the right track.

I am currently working with KPS3. We are working on creating a video as planned previously but there is no budget for it. The spots reviewed for a budget was very specific to Problem Gambling Committee (PCG) Las Vegas and I wanted to have something more universal. Ms. Polito and I are working together to put together copy and how it will be communicated. Some talking points have been put together. We will prioritize them and put it into a PDF format that can be embed in an email to Mr. Feldman at ACPG and then be sent to all of the Legislators. The document will also be shared for use with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to make sure they have every piece of information that they need. It is essentially a snapshot of what problem gambling is and why it is important to the State and important in general. Additional documents can be attached to provide more in-depth details that provide more area specifics.

It will also be put in front of the Nevada Resort Association (NRA). This is a big part of what is needed. They are a big part of representing Nevada and Problem Gambling needs to be a part of the corporate culture. If we can use that to our advantage it could be a huge bonus for us.

Would anyone like to provide input?

Ms. O'Hare commented that it is a lot of information to understand and trying to compare the different versions and how they will be used. One page appears to be titled for Problem Gambling Services another page seems about DHHS services and the third page appears to be about the talking points as an internal document. Chair Goodman clarified that she does want to attach the talking points that is to address the State. It may reflect in part that a stigma that is extremely important due to people who are addicted that still don't want to say it is an addiction. Especially as Nevada is known as the "Gaming Capitol of the World" and we should be doing better. Ms. O'Hare suggested creating clearer titles on the pages. Chair Goodman agreed that will be modified. It would make it easier when someone opens the email and see a header and a pie chart and make it easier to understand the data. Then if someone wants to go deeper, they can open the attachments and dig deeper into the information.

Ms. O'Hare also stated that some of the wordsmithing needs to be corrected. The term "pathological gambler" is not a term to used and we need to model that. That needs to be addressed. We need to help train people the terminology that should be used.

Additionally, page 2- last bullet point provides acronyms “CPGC”. Most medical providers don’t know that means “Certified Problem Gambler Counselor”. That should be spelled out. Chair Goodman agreed and will make necessary changes.

Chair Goodman mentioned that it may be good to have a talk with the Gaming Control Board. This documents purpose is to be used as an educational piece moving forward. It may also bring to light that we need to do better, and this is one way we can let them know.

Ms. O’Hare stated that in her experience, the biggest problem is terminology and getting people to understand the distinctions. People see the casinos as gambling and the don’t see things like the Lottery as gambling. They see gambling as an industry of casinos. Distinction matters and we need to get those conversation started to make the public more aware. The group may want to consider having a 1 pager about “what is gambling?”. That can identify activities that may pre-dispose someone that may be heading toward or has a gambling addiction. It doesn’t matter if the prize is not money. What matters is identifying the behavior that goes with the activity. The public and legislators each have their own definition of gambling. If we don’t clarify the true definition of gambling, then they will apply their own definition of gambling. We need to teach them about the human behavior and what gambling really is. Chair Goodman agreed and will make sure that is what is being done with this project. The biggest challenge is the stigma. Ms. O’Hare suggested that the piece be pictorial.

Dr. Reid commented on #2 in the Talking Points regarding COVID induced factors associated with problem gambling. His question is if we are prepared for any follow-up questions? Will there be a prepared data response to questions that may arise that we should be prepared for? There may be a tsunami affect with COVID that the numbers currently may not reflect. However, we should be prepared with a response using data that we understand ourselves and can respond. Not saying we have to publish the data. Just be ready to answer questions with what data shows. Have the data that informs our understanding and be able to intelligently respond to any inquiries that may come.

Mr. Hartwell addressed a previous question of Ms. O’Hare related the having a 1 pager created and correcting the titles on the documents as it was an old artifact that needs to be removed. And to Dr. Reid’s point-gathering data to have at hand and also doing some pre-liminary study done would be highly beneficial. It is important to recognize a percentage of people during this pandemic that may stand back and see their gambling behavior or that may start using gambling as a way to make up for loss of income and some have not reached out for help yet.

Ms. Polita commented that she likes hearing everyone’s feedback and helps to create a stand-out piece of information that when people open the email it will

stand out. She is prepared to create and present to legislature and lobbyist a great piece of information that will bring life to the campaign elements as a stand out piece when people open their email it will look very different as a “here we are and here is the hope”. Chair Goodman and I will create an amazing piece that will capture attention of elected officials, their staff and your lobbyist.

Ms. Jones commented about the talking points and that Nevada is the gold standard in America and referred to as “regulatory model”, but not when protecting our citizens, we are sub-standard. She liked Mr. Delaps point that we are “sub-standard”. Policy makers get a little def. It is important to integrate into this document that while Nevada is the “gold standard” for gambling that we are “sub-standard to our citizens of Nevada”. She agreed with Mr. Delaps and he is right on point. We need to integrate that point into what we are doing here.

Mr. Feldman commented that we are falling behind in a number of ways. One is the conceptional language we are talking about. Everything we are talking about is problem gambling. We are leaving a lot on the table that is not focused on. The people who are in treatment and defining our budget based on how we are doing with people in treatment which is a small piece of the pie we should be addressing. I would like us to consider expanding our horizons in terms of how we view what it is we are trying to address. There are other issues that relate to a larger part of the budget. There are two separate budget issues that we are trying to convey. One is, “what’s the history of the budget and where have we been in each topic?”. The other that is significant this year is, “what is the budget being proposed and what is the budget (under this year’s circumstances) that we would really like to see?”. These are two significant things. One is very factual of where we have been, the other is where the proposal is currently and where we would like it to be, and where we ought to be. I see it as two different graphics. Third is where we stand in relation to other States. The graph we are looking at was last updated 2016. We should try to get that updated. Lastly, question to the group. We note on the Problem Gambling Services Legislative Session Talking Points, that there are no Medicaid provider types that recognize CPGC. That members of the workforce are in-eligible to bill Medicaid. Question is, “exactly where in Medicaid does it say that Problem Gambling Counselors are dis-allowed from billing?”. Email him where that is? Is it in a policy, a law, a rule or is that something was omitted? What is it that makes gambling not billable in Medicaid?

Ms. Quirk commented that it is about who, what, where and why? We are the who. The what is the talking point. In her education and experience the term is “people affected by a gambling disorder”. These words do not stigmatize like the term “problem gambling” does. It also includes family, friends and co-workers. In creating our content, we should try to use the term that does not stigmatize. A couple things I hope we get to in future meetings is who is going to be sitting on

the other side of the table when the subject of Charitable Lottery and Juvenile issue comes up in Legislature? I am happy to drop what I am doing and go to Carson City if someone is needed to be there. What is the chain of command and who will contact her? In reference to Mr. Delap referencing “ignorance at any level”, how do we help edit those kinds of things? Lastly, in relation to Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors that I answer to, I don’t know how best to approach what kind of Bill Drafts they might be involved with. I hear there are some coming out that effects all of us. I don’t know what is going on with that and who is going to inform on the gambling piece, supervision piece and telehealth piece? Which is critical as COVID begins to wang and telehealth continues.

Ms. Quirk following up on a couple things like mentioned when talking about data we get stuck on the number of people that go through treatment. We need to do a better job when talking to our legislators that problem gambling is affecting our communities. When one person is finishing treatment, another is entering their addiction. That there is levels of care and treatment is critical. That it is costly and there is a need we need to make them understand. Counseling deals with lived experiences and not on data. What I hear out of the lived experience is “relapse”. The COVID relation is does not just launch new problem gamblers, COVID is significantly impacting people’s ability to sustain in recovery. Legislators only speak in budget language. If we keep answering their questions in budge language. We need to provide broader content on the community impacts and that this is a Co-Occurring disorder. There are people with substance abuse issues that are also affected by a gambling disorder. It can’t be quantified in numbers. We don’t know until we encounter them. If we don’t have sufficient ways to reach them, we can’t help them. We need sufficient funds and resources to make those encounters happen.

Chair Goodman stated that when talking to our legislators we need to show them the gap that needs filled by what we are doing and what needs to still be done. It is not always about monetary matters. May be about more education or the stigma. Maybe we should be talking to our legislators about Gap Funding. Ms. Quirk agrees and added that maybe require a 30-minute video to show social competency. Chair Goodman shared a comment Problem Gambling needs to be a part of the gaming culture. Ms. Quirk commented that talks with legislature allowed them to say it is an “industry problem” and not a State problem. The National Resort Association has always been at the table to discuss matters and try to bring awareness to the State that it is a cultural issue. It’s the policy makers that never changed the culture. We live in the same room as Substance Abuse, Prevention, Treatment Agency and I don’t know how to make the State see this as such. There has to be a way to create a Bill, an open meeting discussion or a grant application to get more conversation going. The voice of substance abuse is missing in Problem Gambling and why hasn’t this changed? Chair Goodman stated that this point will be made a piece of the new copy material.

Chair Goodman summarized moving forward that the new content of material created that will be embedded in an email that will come from Mr. Feldman (and includes all of us as the Legislative subcommittee) will also include the backup information will be distributed as discussed. We also need to schedule some time to talk to the Gaming Control Board and Legislators to go over Ms. O'Hare's point. Mr. Hartwell reminded the group that they will need to have those actions approved by the Advisory Committee prior to taking it to the full committee and releasing into the World. Chair Goodman asked if information is not allowed to be distributed until the meeting in February? Mr. Hartwell believes that is correct and asked for someone to clarify. Ms. Quirk thinks that is correct, however, it may also be voted on by electronic vote or by a Special Meeting and asked for further clarification from Ms. Garcia. In response, Ms. Garcia stated that is correct. Chair Goodman asked to do it electronically in effort to not be held up on the project.

Ms. Quirk motioned to the summary Chair Goodman provided regarding the email distribution and educational pieces to be prepared for a final draft to be electronically approve and go to Legislators, Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada Resort Association and Gaming Control Board.

Ms. O'Hare seconded the motion. Vote was taken and passed unanimously.

5. For possible action: Approval of the Next Meeting, Future Meeting Agenda Items
Stephanie Goodman,

Chair Goodman asked to get approval to for the final document for the main ACPG meeting on February 18th, 2021.

Mr. Feldman raised the question about this committee voting on what is to be presented at the main ACPG meeting asking if a vote is required. Mrs. Garcia stated that she he is correct, and it must be presented for the Agenda no less than 3 days prior to get approval and post it as required.

The meeting was set for February 9th, 2021 at 12:00 PM to review the copy material to be distributed as stated during this meeting.

Ms. O'hare requested for a future agenda item: Public access to the legislative building the during this current session.

Chair Goodman stated that she will provide an update on once she has any updates.

6. Public comment - Stephanie Goodman, Chair
(Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting)

There was no additional public comment.

7. Adjournment – *Stephanie Goodman, Chair*

Ms. Quirk motioned to adjourn.

Mr. Hartwell second the motion.

Members voted. Motion passed unanimously. Time: 10:19 AM