

**Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling
Legislative Workgroup Work Session
Approved Minutes
Thursday, June 24, 2021
10:00 a.m. to Adjournment**

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
Present- Alan Feldman, Stephanie Goodman, Constance Jones, Denise Quirk, Dr. Rory Reid, Carol O'Hare,

Absent: Constance Jones, Theodore Hartwell

Staff/Giest: Wendy Whisett (Health Plan of Nevada's behavioral health department), Trey Delap (Group Six Partners), Tray Abney (Abney Tauchen Group Recovery Advocacy Project), Brook Adie, Kim Garcia & Morgan Briscoe (Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention), Tina Marie Bisiaux & Lena Hatzidopavakis (Bristlecone Family Resources), Dr. Jeff Marotta (Problem Gambling Solutions), Andrea Dassopoulos (UNLV IGI),

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)

Chair thankful to Ms. O'Hare for conference.

3. For possible action: Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2021

Stephanie Goodman, Chair

Mr. Feldman moved to approve. Ms. O'Hare Second. Unanimous approval.

4. For possible action: Discussion and Possible Recommendations for Future Strategies Related to Problem Gambling Services

Stephanie Goodman, Chair

Mr. Feldman encouraged engagement to finance members. Mr. Feldman encourages Richard Perkins engagement to assist in spreading word of problem gambling services. Mr. Perkins has offered support. Multiple companies have reached out to help assist with funding problem gambling services. Mr. Feldman believes reaching out would help to clarify any questions members of IFC may have. Chair and members agreed to prepare a document of list of dissemination. Document should include official ACPG materials that point out underfunding. Members agreed to have spokesperson, Ms. Quirk, to reach out to members of finance. Mr. Feldman asks members to reach out to advocate for problem gambling to finance members. Different points of view is important in relaying message to IFC members. Chair will prepare a sheet with contact information on IFC members and talking points for communication to IFC members.

Wednesday, August 18 is the date of the IFC meeting.

5. Informational: Discussion on Updates Related to Problem Gambling Services

Stephanie Goodman, Chair

Ms. Quirk would love to hear from anyone regarding numbers for spending. Chair suggests looking at public announcement campaigns in prior campaigns. Chair will look into the research. Graphic was suggested by Ms. Quick for showing where funding would go. Strategic plan is separate to covid dollars. 5.68 million dollars is suggested as a need. Chair will get in contact with Jeff to confirm the numbers. There is discussion on awareness and workforce development. Ms. O'Hare points out that prevention dollars become reduced. She has asked that the committee keep prevention funded. Chair says that prevention is part of the infrastructure. Ms. Quick wants all of listed above to be part of a list to incentivize workforce development.

6. For possible action: Approval of the Next Meeting, Future Meeting Agenda Items

Stephanie Goodman, Chair

Chair request for next meeting be the first week of August on the 12th at 10:00 am.

7. 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)

Ms. O'Hare for the record, Nevada Council on Problem Gambling. While we are talking about incentives to get people in the field. I do want to bring it to everyone's attention. I'm sure you've read the newspaper articles that the Governor and his vaccination group are offering a 5 million dollar lottery to incentivize people to get vaccinated. There's been some media reporting. Myself and Ted Hartwell have both weighed in through some editorial comments that we've made on the articles. There's a lot going on in other states doing the same thing. The distinction of our state that is of concern to us is that the governor is automatically putting every single vaccinated persons, not their name. They're going to de-identify the name, turn us into a number, and turn that over to IGT for the actual drawings. The council is going to send a letter to the governor asking him to create an opt-out option. It would have been better if he would have created a system that had an opt-in, so that we had our choice to make but at this point they have already started the process and I am not sure what response we can get. We are very concerned that we have some terrible optics happening. Not just the optics. It is not even about the politics of it. It is about the very reality that someone like me who hasn't made a bet in 30 years is being told that their name is going into a lottery drawing that the governor says is okay because they deemed it a legal activity and you don't have to pay money to enter. In recovery and I trust the clinicians on this call would agree in clinical terms something being a bet or a gamble has nothing to do with whether or not you spend money to be in the drawing. This is a personal choice. I should be allowed to make my decision whether or not I gamble. I am terrified for people who are in early recovery or even in your treatment programs who could get a phone call from the state saying, "You have 48 hours to claim your thousand-dollar lottery prize". I am going to be

reaching out as the council separately to a lot of people asking them to help us convey this message. I am pleased to say that among all the states that have been considering it, and there is a lot of media out there, the state of Ohio's governor reversed course and said "That this is not right. We are going to make this an opt in plan". That would be my ultimate goal but I don't know that we can get that to happen. Once again we have something where there is a contradiction in what we are calling responsible gaming in this state. The lack of attention to the unintended consequence that happens to the recovering community is just exhausting. I think it is just sending an awful message. While you all are asking the state for 2.7 million or whatever, billion, to increase public awareness. The biggest public awareness campaign right now is Vax Nevada Days. They have the Nevada Broadcasting Association as a media partner. They put up a website in 24 hours that is more sophisticated than any website any of us have or project warp Nevada. That is the backdrop that all of this is going to be discussed in. I am not asking anything formally of the ACPG committee but I did want everyone to know that Nevada Council, this is our mission advocacy for appropriate treatment and recovery for people with problem gambling. We need to as appropriately and politically correct and passionately as we can, let them know that this is not okay. They cannot make a legal discussion about whether or not they will be breaking my 30 years of abstinence or god forbid someone's 5 days of abstinence.

Chair: Thank you Carol. I couldn't agree more. Anyone else?

Ms. Quirk: Thank you Carol for standing up. Thank you for members of the committee today for having an open discussion. I know that we will all be working together to get the word, the feeling, the sentiment out, that we are here to assist and uphold those who are still suffering. We would like to be a creative force in the rooms, as Carol mentioned that are quickly decided. We can be on somebody's speed dial and we really hope to be the face, all the people on this call, all the people that care. We want to be asked to participate in the creative process today and in the future. I look forward to crafting those letters and making those phone calls. Thanks everybody.

Chair: Anyone else for public comment?

Mr. Fieldman: I want to thank Carol and Denise and Ted who have raised this issue. For discussion at another time whether its part of the committee or not. It strikes me that, Carol really hit the nail on the head, Nevada is different. If any other state wants to do this that is up to them but Nevada is a different state. Nevada has the gold standard to uphold in terms of how it views gambling in all of its forms, sweepstakes, lottery, slot machines, table games, dice, all of it. It makes me wonder if a discussion can be had at some point in future with our colleagues in the department to try to understand how decisions are made at the state level going forward. We are far too late in the game on this I'm afraid, maybe not. We will find out. For the purposes of this discussion, going forward to determine if there is anyway to find out who has a seat at the table and how a decision like this is made. Who even gets asked about it. Clearly there was a discussion about the legality of it. I understand the legal discussion that was had, limited though it might have been. Someone got convinced that it was legal and that's fine. Obviously, there wasn't a broader discussion on whether or not it is right. Carol, you raised that in one of your notes quite well. Maybe that is another discussion whether it is within the

ACPG or it's a discussion we are able to facilitate with the department down the road in order to do our best to assist the state in not fumbling over its own feet and doing this again.

Ms. O'Hare: Alan thank you for saying noting that. I think what it is, is a disconnect. What disturbs me is the disconnect is between the governor and gaming and dhhs and treatment. I know what they did. They modeled their legal decision on the charitable lottery statute. Its clear that is what they are using to determine that they can legally have lottery in a state where the lottery is unconstitutional. That was creative. My concern is the disconnect. If the governor is relying on gaming lawyers and gaming entities to answer questions about whether something should be done that is gaming, and he is eliminating the part of responsible gaming that is actually about people with problems. This is where we get concerned that people will see responsible gaming as some other thing. There is no connection there. I'm with you (Mr. Feldman). I would love for us to figure out. It is not within the departments purview to monitor everything that the gaming industry does, or everything the governor does to see when they should step in to talk about what happens to people. It would seem to me like the governor appointing us to his committee to advise him. At some point we need somebody to get the governors office to understand this is a piece of that conversation because he is funding the services that are treating these folks. That's a separate thing and it should be collectively part of these conversations. I am trying to get into the governor's office and his staff to let us in, members are you in, to do a problem gambling presentation. There is no situational awareness. They see these things as if they are either side of fire wall as if they don't intersect. I am not angry I am frustrated because I don't want to watch our state do this. I know that the governor is trying to do something good. In the process it creates this awful conflict of "yes it is legal, I will let the attorneys make that decision" it is not responsible. Under any definition of responsible gaming, this is not a responsible thing for them to do. I do not know where the disconnect is. Is it solely the governor's office is it the department, also not seeing the connection here? We have to get this conversation figured out before the press conference.

Chair: It is almost like you want to do a flow chart here. If yes then- if no then-

Ms. O'Hare: After 25 years it is a little frustrating

Chair: I understand. You almost want to make it that simple. If someone is going to win money then yes.

Ms. O'Hare: If it uses the word "win" then it might be gambling.

Chair: Thank you Carol. You are always fighting the good fight. Moving to item 8 on the agenda.

8. Adjournment – *Stephanie Goodman, Chair*

Mr. Feldman made motion, Dr. Reid second. Unanimous

AGENDA EMAILED OR FAXED FOR POSTING AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- **Grant Sawyer Building:** 555 E. Washington Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89101
- **Southern Nevada Health District:** 280 S. Decatur Blvd. Las Vegas Nevada 89107

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- **Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Agency:** 4126 Technology Way, 2nd Floor, Carson City, NV 89706
 - **Washoe County Health District:** 1001 East Ninth St., Reno, NV 89512
 - **Department of Health and Human Services:** 4126 Technology Way, 1st Floor, Carson City, NV 89706
 - **Division of Public and Behavioral Health:** 4150 Technology Way, 1st Floor, Carson City, NV 89706

ON THE INTERNET – AGENDA AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS

- **Department of Health and Human Services Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) Website**
http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/ProblemGambling/ACPG/ACPG_LegislativeWorkgroup/
- **Nevada Public Notices:** www.notice.nv.gov

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If you need supporting documents for this meeting, please notify Kim Garcia, Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention, at 775-684-4057 or by email at k.garcia@health.nv.gov.