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**Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling  
Legislative Workgroup Work Session  
Approved Minutes  
Thursday, May 13, 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

**Staff/Guest:** Andrea Dassopoulos, UNLV IGI; Dr. Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions, Leah Tauchen and Tray Abney, Abney Tauchen Group Recovery Advocacy Project; Lena Hatzidopavlakis, Bristlecone Family Resources, Tammy Saling and Kim Garcia, Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention, Trey Abney

**2. Public comment – Stephanie Goodman, Chair**

Ms. Goodman asked if anyone would like to make a public comment. Hearing none she moved to #3.

**3. For possible action: Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2021**

*Stephanie Goodman, Chair*

Ms. Goodman thanked Ms. Garcia for hearing the request to shorten the length of Minutes to non-verbatim. She asked for a motion to approve.

Mr. Hartwell so moved to approve the Minutes of April 18, 2021. Ms. Quirk seconded. Motion passed without abstention or opposition.

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

*Stephanie Goodman, Chair*

Ms. Goodman stated that under this agenda item they will be covering the document the Dr. Marrotta has sent out to them as a Brief to send to Legislature for possible access to emergency funding. She had one suggestion to make and that we want to do a "Public Awareness Campaign" in a Public Service Announcement. Maybe something similar to a "Click-it or Ticket". The ask is clearly a significant amount of money, but the message should be to that magnitude. Ms. Quirk said that she felt it would be hard to keep it to a one-pager, however providing a link to the Strategic Plan where it is spelled out and states what will be done with the additional funding. Ms. O'Hare asked to have the document shared that they are referring to. Ms. Goodman's goal as Chair is to get the to the Board by the next meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> for possible approval at that time.

Ms. Goodman summarized what it essentially states about the cause and basically what effects COVID may have had to problem gamblers. That there has been an up-tic in activity. And what can be done to combat harms caused by problem gambling. Dr. Marrotta wrote out a great piece, however Ms. Goodman would prefer that there be more

specifics added being as the ask is a significant amount of money. Mr. Feldman commented that he felt the piece could not possibly go more than one page due to it going to Legislators, however it is important to have the specifics available in case questions arise. Additionally, he commented that there needs to be a specific delta between the number of people who are being seen now and the number of people who are actually affected, who live in Nevada. In a sentence or two, we have to express the need for these funds is to get to those people who are not in treatment. That the stigma is so great, that the lack of awareness for available resources, is so great, that we simple have not reached the people that need to be reached. Otherwise, Legislators will think that all the money is going towards only 500 people. Thousands of people simple just don't realize that gambling problem exist and that there are resources available for help. Ms. Goodman agreed with Mr. Feldman and suggested looking again at the Prevalent Study and ask if that is really something the Board wants to still do. This is one of those situations that we need to be realistic about throwing a large sum of money out to bring awareness and if so, would we be able to provide the services on the back end. The Prevalence Study may cost of to \$2 million. This committee needs to decide what is the priority. Mr. Hartwell mentioned that there are some other types of studies that may be less expensive than the traditional Prevalence study. Possibly even more accurate. Dr. Marrotta some summarized options and how the traditional Prevalence study has almost become an obsolete method. Mr. Feldman stated that it is important to spend money on data that is current and not obtained from methodology that may be received by outdated methods. We need a robust research. Ms. O'Hare asked for further details on the information being obtained. Her main concern is that if an issue is that people are not aware and we spend money on Prevalence study getting the same information, or otherwise, is a question of which comes first when people don't know they have problem because they are not aware they have a problem. Dr. Marrotta provided more details on how various surveys work. Ms. Goodman stated that there needs to be a decision on the direction the committee want to go with funding request and if funding is obtained.

Additional robust conversation discussed what may be linked to COVID and what is not linked and the type of study needed for Problem Gambling moving forward. Dr. Reid mentioned that they already have samples of Problem Gamblers who may be asked a few questions to help gather additional information. We have data on what is working to get people into the office. The last Prevalence Study gave a number of "6% of Nevadans" when we need to reach the other percentage that has yet become aware of what problem gambling really is and what help is available. Ms. Quirk stated that she would like to see price tags clearly defined of what the committee would like to do, however, if we get a short-term funding chunk of money, having more positions created agencies that want to hire somebody. Ms. Dassopoulos asked how the BRFSS is doing? Weren't they planning on using BRFSS? Dr. Marrotta replied that form tends to have very low numbers and why it should not be used as a Prevalence study. Dr. Reid added that he had looked at it for California Department of Public Health and drew that same conclusion and cost prohibitive. Mr. Hartwell shared another type of study done with the Tribal communities in Nevada several years ago. It was about 57 questions, some open ended, however, Dr. Bo Bernhard also helped in that study and this could be another option not to have overlap

or re-create the wheel. He will share it with Ms. Garcia and Mr. Hartwell for them to disseminate it.

Motion stated to revise document to include very specific scope, impact awareness, public awareness campaign and put it together and have everybody review it. Ms. Garcia stated that it is posted with the handouts going to the main committee that is fine. She must receive it by the 21<sup>st</sup> to have it posted in time. Dr. Marrotta asked for clarification on the element they want included in the draft. Originally there were 6 elements and now we are talking of public awareness and prevalence study and he would like to through in Treatment because if the previous works we may not have enough money for treatment. Ms. Goodman has that public awareness, research study and the infostructure support with the hope that the research study and the public awareness works. And COVID's impact is the passage to the money.

Mr. Feldman moved to revise the document to frame as 'in response to COVID that we need to move forward with research to measure the scope, impact and awareness levels of problem gambling in Nevada to develop a public awareness campaign based on the results of that research and to develop a treatment infostructure plan that reflects the results of that research, and the anticipated need. Ms. Quirk seconded the motion. Motion passed without abstention or opposition.

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

*Stephanie Goodman, Chair*

Ms. Goodman said there is no discussion at this time, as the Budget has been approved.

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

*Stephanie Goodman, Chair*

Ms. Goodman recommended meeting in one month in case anything pops up during Legislature. She and Ms. Garcia will get together and see what dates work best and will send out Calendar Invites.

**7. Public comment - Stephanie Goodman, Chair**

Ms. Goodman asked for any public comment.

Mr. Hartwell wanted to share a story about a smartphone app that somebody in the Neighborhoods app asked if anyone knew if anyone knew how to get help for a gambling problem. He was not able to comment on the app but was happy to see such an overwhelming amount of support for the person asking. A number of people shared the Center for Problem Gambling and the 800# helpline as well. Information is being shared and is working.

**8. Adjournment – Stephanie Goodman, Chair**

Mr. Feldman moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hartwell seconded. Motion passed without abstention or opposition.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.