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**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROBLEM GAMBLING  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday September 16, 2021  
10:00 a.m. to Adjournment**

Note: Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and or removed from the agenda at the chairperson's discretion

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

**Members:** Alan Feldman, Chair; William Theodore Hartwell; Constance Jones; Shane Krause; Carolene Layugan; Carol O'Hare; Denise Quirk, Vice Chair.

**Non-Members:** Andrea Dassopoulos (UNLV International Gaming Institute); Sarah Polito and Ashlan Wickstrom (KPS3 Marketing); David Prather, Florence Omollo and John Borrowman (Division of Public and Behavioral Health); Donna Meyers (Reno Problem Gambling Center); Kim Garcia, Morgan Briscoe, and Brook Adie (Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness & Prevention); Kendall Holcomb (The Nevada Resilience Project); Lana Robards (New Frontier Treatment Center); Jeanyne Ward & Mark Disselkoe (CASAT); Stephanie Goodman (International Problem Gambling Center Las Vegas); TinaMarie Bisiaux (Bristlecone Family Resources); Dr. Jeff Marotta, (Problem Gambling Solutions).

**2. Public comment—*Alan Feldman, Chair***

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

**3. Announcements—*Alan Feldman, Chair***

The Chair celebrates Mr. Hartwell's recent milestone: last Tuesday marks 14 years since he made his last bet. The Chair points out that the day before he placed his last bet was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first GA (Gamblers Anonymous) meeting in the U.S.; the organization is now 64 years old.

Ms. Quirk announces that a CASAT member has put in their name for a possible membership with the Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling.

**4. For Possible Action**

Approval of Minutes from May 27, 2021 meeting—*Alan Feldman, Chair*

Mr. Hartwell makes a motion to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2021 meeting.

Ms. Layugan seconds the motion.

The motion passes unanimously.

The Chair moves on to item 7 on the agenda.

**5. Informational**

Presentation and Discussion of Annual Gambling Treatment Evaluation Report for SFY 21—*Andrea Dassopoulos, PhD Candidate, Project Manager, UNLV IGI*

Ms. Dassopoulos goes over **2021 NVPGS Annual Report Highlights**. This year enrollments are down 20 percent. Residential enrollments are down by 33 percent. 54 percent of treatment takes place in Las Vegas. Ms. Dassopoulos goes over the various ways clients hear about treatment: word of mouth, medical or behavioral health professionals, websites, etc. About 88 percent of funds go straight to treatment, with 50 percent being funneled toward outpatient groups and individual counseling, 20 percent for residential treatment and 20 percent toward intakes, assessment, and transitional housing.

She continues to go through each slide. Mr. Hartwell notes that at the national level, the phone number is at a record high for phone calls coming in, a fact that emphasizes the impact the COVID pandemic has had upon individuals.

Chair comments how concerning it is that there is drop off in enrollments and wonders how much the external impacts of COVID (transportation issues, stay at home orders, lack of access to telehealth, etc.) have affected enrollment numbers. Ms. Garcia notes that there was a budget cut that could affect the number of people who could receive treatment.

Ms. O'Hare comments on the details of other support people are accessing on the reports. She notes that online gambling became more prevalent among affected people, in part because support programs were closed, and they were unable to reach out for help. She points out that while most people don't identify online gambling as their primary form of gambling, people may have begun during the pandemic when the casinos were no longer open.

Chair asks about survey questions. Ms. Dassopoulos suggests adding questions about how people make use of different technologies and notes that residential clients are often low income and unstable and so might not be able to make use of online resources in the same way as clients from other backgrounds.

Ms. O'Hare notes that telehealth can be used as a form of counseling and suggests gathering data from people who are treated via telehealth about how often they use digital means to participate in GA or other support groups. Ms. Dassopoulos notes that they can access and compare the amount of telehealth vs. in person appointments occurred. The Chair agrees that this would be an interesting number to have because it can measure and track the growth of telehealth in Nevada.

Ms. Adie notes that Medicaid information should be accessed along with telehealth as data collected. Chair agrees that this data would be useful. Ms. Quirk would like to know if gambling is ever used as a key word when collecting data during emergency room (ER) or other medical visits. She also notes that this can be a great opportunity for the analytics team to share relevant data points with this committee. She also notes that they are in the process of creating a behavioral health dashboard that will include and centralize reports from providers about various programs. The Chair comments that communications are sent to the Gaming Control Board to keep an eye out for potential problem gambling. Ms. O'Hare asks how residential program clients can reach out for support and attend meetings in person or online.

Ms. Bisiaux notes that during COVID, the Bristlecone facility was closed to outsiders, which disrupted in-person meetings, but they are now holding GA meetings on site once again.

Ms. Robards notes that there is only one GA meeting being held in Churchill County. Due to several positive COVID tests, the facility is not accepting additional patients until COVID rates are down. The Chair thanks Ms. Dassopoulos once again for presenting this thought-provoking data and for the robust conversations the information has sparked among committee members.

**6. Informational**

Project Updates:

**a. Gambling Treatment Diversion Court—*Stefanie Hui, Eighth Judicial District Court***

The Chair asks when graduation is taking place. Ms. Garcia informs him that it is October 26, 2021, and two participants will be graduating. The program currently has 11 participants total.

**b. Announcement about an Upcoming Opportunity—*Kendall Holcomb, Public Information Officer, Nevada Resilience Project***

Ms. Holcomb notes that the Nevada Resilience Project has a major promotional opportunity forthcoming to address problem gambling, including multiple ad placements in print, digital, and social media formats, which can be used both statewide and by people outside of their jurisdiction.

The Chair notes that the DHHS specifically chose the problem gambling program to benefit from this opportunity and thanks the Nevada Resilience Project for paying for it.

c. Project Worth—*Sarah Polito, KPS|3, Inc.*

Ms. Polito and Ms. Wickstrom share data from **Project Worth** regarding recent public relations and social media efforts designed to increase site traffic. Ms. Polito notes that their social media efforts have been successful in driving more traffic to the site. Ms. Wickstrom outlines upcoming plans for their public relations and social media strategies. Ms. Polito encourages committee members to engage with their social media content to expand audience reach.

Ms. Quirk asks about accessing Projectworthnv.com to promote their social media posts through likes, shares, and comments. The promotional information Ms. Holcomb mentioned previously is for Project Worth.

d. Research Grant Project Updates—UNLV International Gaming Institute—*Andrea Dassopoulos, PhD Candidate, Project Manager, UNLV IGI*

Ms. Dassopoulos shares **UNLV IGI Program Updates**. She says they have made major changes to their data management system and are updating various forms to try to capture more information.

Mr. Hartwell asks if there are any family specific questions in the BRFSS. Andi confirms that there are questions addressing the experiences of family members and other concerned parties connected to problem gamblers. Mr. Hartwell reiterates the importance of trying to capture the broader health impact beyond the people who are struggling.

e. Workforce Development—Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies CASAT—*Jeanyne Ward, CASAT*

Ms. Ward goes over CASAT learning. They are providing ongoing technical and customer service support for the online problem gambling intern readiness course. 129 participants have signed up for the course and two have completed it. They are providing this training for free. They are also working on an upcoming ethics for telehealth training course. They are continuing to work with the Board of Examiners on directly targeting people who could become supervisors for problem gambling and will likely need assistance with additional language once they begin to market it.

Ms. Quirk would like to see incentives like reimbursements for potential supervisors. Ms. Goodman shares that at her site, everyone who can be a supervisor is required to do so. Ms. Garcia notes that workforce development is a billable item, so supervisor incentives can be given by

facility, but it varies by agency. Ms. Ward wonders if there are workforce development incentives for people qualified to become supervisors who are not employed by a state funded agency. Ms. Quirk says that for people who fall into this category, there should be a bridge to allow them to become supervisors, but she is not sure what that would look like. The Chair notes that this issue would be better dealt with in the workgroup and presented to the board once the details have been hammered out. Ms. O'Hare asks about feedback on people who have not completed the course.

f. Prevention—*Carol O'Hare, Nevada Council on Problem Gambling*

Ms. O'Hare goes over **Nevada Council on Problem Center Update September 2021**. 541 people walked at the annual Walk in Memory Walk for Hope hosted by the Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention on September 11, 2021. They also participated in internal employee wellness fairs at two casinos in Las Vegas.

Ms. O'Hare shares upcoming deadlines for the state-funded mini grants for research that, once completed, will be presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Nevada State Conference on Problem Gambling sometime in 2022.

g. Integration Project for Problem Gambling Services - Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies CASAT—*Mark Disselkoen, CASAT*

Mr. Disselkoen goes over **CASAT Gambling SUD Integration Plan Summary**. CASAT and SAPTA will ensure pilot program is supported in various areas. Ms. O'Hare and the Chair are excited that Dr. Lori Ruggle will be involved in the problem gambling capability toolkit, which the SAPTA advisory board approved earlier this year. He discusses next steps for test driving the toolkit.

Ms. Garcia notes that it has been interesting to see how other states have rolled out similar tools and how by sharing progress with other states, everyone can learn from their mistakes.

7. **Informational**

Department of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) and Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Preventions Updates (BHWP)

a. Discussion on Fiscal Report—*Michelle Countryman/ Behavioral Health/ Administrative Services Officer I*

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Mr. Borrowman covers **Expenditure schedule for 3200 Prev/Treat of Problem Gambling Fiscal Year 2021**. They had a reversion of \$1,617.53, which was an adjustment by one of the providers. Mr. Borrowman congratulates the committee on this number and their effective use of resources.

He then reviews **Expenditure schedule for 3200 Prev/Treat of Problem Gambling Fiscal Year 2022** \$46,554.33 is the remaining balance for FY22. Mr. Borrowman commends committee on the numbers and use of resources. Chair thanks Mr. Borrowman for his work and comments.

**b. Discussion on Program Updates**

*Kim Garcia/ Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention/Social Services Program Specialist III*

Ms. Garcia goes over **Problem Gambling Services SFY21 Award-Expenditures June 2021**. Ms. Garcia congratulates the committee on their efficient spending and then moves to next item.

She shares **Problem Gambling Services SFY22 Award-Expenditures 8\_31\_2021**. Ms. Garcia notes that everyone is on target for spending. She points out the contingency fund that Mr. Borrowman mentioned in his presentation earlier. Ms. Garcia reminds the committee that their goal is to not leave any funds on the table.

The Chair moves on to Item 5 on the agenda.

**8. Informational**

Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Work Group Updates

**a. Discussion on Treatment Provider Group Updates– *Denise Quirk, Work Group Chair***

Ms. Quirk goes over **Treatment Work Group Meetings Report September 2021**. The Chair asks what is the trend line that is happening. There is discussion on providing treatment and outreach to different cultural backgrounds. The Chair points out the significant disparity between enrollments and population for people of color and asks to what extent treatment providers are trying to remedy that and what challenges they are facing.

Ms. Quirk says it is difficult to find professionals who can provide treatment for Spanish-speaking populations. Ms. Goodman notes that there were very few Spanish-speaking clients seeking treatment at her facility.

**b. Discussion on Legislative Work Group Updates—*Stephanie Goodman, Work Group Chair***

Ms. Goodman tells the committee that the Legislative workgroup has put together a proposal for allocating \$2 million of the American Recovery Plan (ARP) funding toward researching and collecting data on how COVID has potentially affected problem gambling in the state of Nevada and creating a public awareness campaign to address this need.

The Chair reiterates that the department has been very helpful in making this happen. Ms. Goodman points out how compelling the numbers the Chair has shared in previous meetings are in demonstrating the uptick in problem gamblers the state will soon face.

**9. Informational**

**Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Governance**

**a. Committee Membership—*Alan Feldman, Chair***

Tammy Barlow has resigned. There are two openings. The Governor's Office is currently reviewing multiple applications for these vacancies. The two positions open are for persons who are residents of the state and have personal or professional knowledge and experience concerning problem gambling issues.

**b. *Discussion on Position Statement or Show of Support letter – Alan Feldman, Chair***

There is an official one-page document that describes the request the committee has made and the reason for it. The Chair notes that everyone can access it and encourages everyone to share the document with anyone they know. He warns that the only person who can share this letter on behalf of the committee by Denise Quirk. Anyone else who shares the letter is doing so as a resident of Nevada, not a committee member.

**10. Informational**

**Discussion on Future Agenda Items – *Alan Feldman, Chair***

The Chair suggests that incentivizing training would be good future agenda item after the future workgroup discusses it. Ms. Quirk asks about whether it would be helpful to have a workgroup with KPS3 to discuss public awareness campaigns and advertising. Ms. Garcia notes that their input is very much welcome, but with such a quick turnaround, a meeting would not be able to happen as quick. The Chair notes that there may be a future need if this becomes a broader campaign. Ms. Goodman asks for accomplishments to be sent to Ms. Garcia for individual treatment facilities.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, November 17 at 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Mr. Hartwell congratulates Ms. Layugan on her appointment to the Advisory Committee for the National Council on Problem Gambling. Committee members congratulate Ms. Layugan.

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

Ms. O'Hare makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Jones seconds the motion.

The motion passes unanimously.