



# **Gambling Treatment Diversion Court**

Update Report – November 2, 2020

## **Program Update**

Since the Governor's directive and Administrative Orders by the Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court to postpone all physical gatherings due to COVID-19, Gambling Treatment Diversion Court (GTDC) has been meeting virtually, using BlueJeans for court appearances and other telephonic means for meetings and check-ins. There is currently no tentative date for GTDC to meet in-person again at this time.

The GTDC coordinator conducts weekly check-ins with all participants by email and phone. During these check-ins, participants are asked to discuss their current updates and any situations that may affect their ability to be compliant with the GTDC program. This includes how their jobs have been affected by COVID-19 and what precautions they are currently taking to stay safe. Additionally, the GTDC coordinator requests financial documents to continue to track restitution payments, spending, incoming, expenses, etc. as usual, with the expectation that there may be some changes due to the current state of things. The GTDC coordinator reassures that participants continue to receive support and appropriate treatment for their Gambling Disorder. The coordinator speaks with the treatment providers for the participants frequently and encourage participants to connect with each other for peer support. Participants farther along in the program act as mentors to those who have been in the program for less time.

There are currently 9 active GTDC participants. 2 of the 9 participants are coming up on their two-year anniversary this month. 2 of the 9 participants have reached their 18-month milestone, which is the minimum time in the program. 1 new participant was just accepted this month. This is the most recent addition to the census. There are two tentative participants, who have already met most requirements but are just awaiting their eligibility hearing in January. GTDC will also be celebrating our two-year anniversary on November 30, 2020.

Judge Cheryl Moss will be retiring at the end of this year (December 31, 2020). Because of this as well as tentative plans for GTDC to move to the Regional Justice Center, the current GTDC team is working on finalizing the GTDC handbook/P&P manual and the GTDC Bench Book. There are currently only two GTDC scheduled for the remainder of 2020 – November 20 and December 13.

## **COVID-19 Program Precautions**

Precautionary guidelines and actions have been implemented for the safety of GTDC participants. In addition to postponing physical court appearances and holding hearings by video conference, all treatment and ancillary service requirements have moved to telehealth sessions and virtual meetings. Drug testing has resumed since the last GTDC update. Most GTDC participants are drug testing between 2-4 times a month. There have been no issues or complaints from participants regarding drug testing at the lab and the frequency of drug tests requested.

Additionally, participants are asked to provide proof that restitution amount is able to be paid but the court has not required participants to have to go down to the DA's Bad Check Unit to physically make the payment. Nonetheless, payment amount is closely tracked by the coordinator. This precaution remains the same.

Treatment groups and support group meetings (GA, Gam Anon) are provided both in-person and virtually. Participants are encouraged to attend in-person treatment and groups when possible but remain optional. Most participants still attend virtual support groups but have begun to attend in-person groups where available. The Nevada Council on Problem Gambling group on Wednesday evenings appear to be the popular in-person group.

The safety and health of GTDC participants and team are of utmost importance and actions will be taken to maintain this as a priority. All participants are encouraged to inform the GTDC Coordinator and the courts if there are any concerns about COVID-19. At this time, no participant has reported any



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positive tests or risks. However, if this occurs, all participants are required to quarantine for at least 10 days and provide a negative COVID-19 tests before resuming any in-person activity.

The next GTDC court hearing is on November 20th by the court's video conferencing software, BlueJeans.