
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROBLEM GAMBLING
DRAFT Minutes
Tuesday, July 20, 2021
10:00 a.m. to Adjournment

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

Present Members: Alan Feldman, Chair; Constance Jones; Shane Kraus; Carol O'Hare; Denise Quirk, Vice Chair; Tammi Barlow

Absent Members: William Theodore Hartwell & Carolene Layugan

Staff/Guest: Wendy Whitsett, Health Plan of Nevada's behavioral health department; Tray Abney & Lea Tauchen, Abney Tauchen Group; Teri Baltisberger and Donna Meyers, Reno Problem Gambling Center; Susanne Sliwa, Deputy Attorney General; Stephanie Goodman, Dr. Robert Hunter International Problem Gambling Center Las Vegas; Nann Meador, Nevada Council on Problem Gambling; Lena Hatzidopavlakis, Bristlecone Family Resources; Lana Robards, New Frontier Treatment Center, Kim Garcia and Morgan Briscoe, Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness & Prevention; Jeanyne Ward, UNR/CASAT; Dr. Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions; Ashlan Wickstrom, KPS3 Marketing; Andi Dassopoulos, UNLV International Gaming Institute; Stephanie Hui, 8th Judicial District Court, Gambling Treatment Court; Florence Omollo and Michelle Countryman Division of Public and Behavioral Health; Trey Delap, Group Six Partners

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)

No public comment

3. Announcements – *Alan Feldman, Chair*

Welcome new member – Shane Kraus

Chair welcomes the new member, Shane Kraus.

4. **For Possible Action**

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

Ms. Quirk makes a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting on May 27, 2021.

Ms. Jones seconds the motion.

Motion passes unanimously by committee.

5. **Informational**

Open Meeting Law – Question/Answer Session with Deputy Attorney General; follow up to Committee Members Online Open Meeting Training Video

Susanne Sliwa, Deputy Attorney General

Ms. Sliwa conveys to members open communication with the Deputy Attorney Generals office for any future questions regarding Open Meeting Law. Ms. Quirk asks about best way to communicate with members. Ms. Sliwa suggests that if at all possible to always go through staff. This avoids serial communication. Chair clarifies that all communications are made public with Ms. Sliwa. Ms. Sliwa adds that any communication made between members on issues regarding the public body is subject to scrutiny under the public meeting law.

6. 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
[Problem Gambling Fiscal Report July 2021 for SFY 21](#) is reviewed by Ms. Countryman. She notifies the committee the remaining balance which is \$1,617.53. In category 60 there will be remaining balance but that is due to lack of travel. Ms. Quirk thanks Ms. Garcia for making this happen. Ms. Countryman congratulates committee on having spent their funds given. She is working on FY22. Ms. Garcia asks for insight on FY22. Ms. Countryman notifies allocations that are being reinstated. There is not a lot of information she can give the committee due to only recently looking over FY22. Ms. Countryman notifies committee that Ms. Garcia is designated to only ACPG. She cannot be pulled to another committee. Ms. Garcia is solely for ACPG budget account. Ms. Countryman says that there is a plan to assist Ms. Garcia with additional staff.

b. Discussion on Program Updates

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

Ms. Garcia shares the [Problem Gambling Services SFY21 Award-Expenditures June 2021](#). This is the breakdown of what Ms. Countryman went over. UNLV left dollars on the table due to furloughs. In prevention / public awareness funds were completely spent. CASAT had \$2 left over. Overall if there was travel there would have been a zero leftover. That is the fiscal update. Contracts unit is looking at 2022. [Nevada Problem Gambling Treatment System Quarterly Fiscal Report SFY 21 4th Quarter](#) is shared. Ms. Dassopoulos reviews fiscal report. After care is something that improves outcomes, and she suggests that there are expansions made. Everyone came close to 100% to fiscal rate. There were not many extensions, everyone stayed within their caps. Chair asks about total number of people in the mist of treatment. Ms. Dassopoulos notifies chair that the average client is discharged after 6-8 weeks. 500 people at any one time can be receiving treatment. Ms. Meyers asks about numbers. Ms. Dassopoulos clarifies any questions. Dr. Marotta notes to the committee about the dramatic trend. Each quarter there was an increase in people admitted to the system. This corresponds nicely with claim amounts. There is a steady uptick quarter after quarter. The

question is how long would it continue? This can create fiscal issues if the increase continues. Chair notes that the uptick is interesting. Dr. Kraus asks about premature discharges. Ms. Dassopoulos notifies Dr. Kraus that this is on another report that can be provided.

7. For Possible Action

Discussion and Possible Approval of State Fiscal Year 2022 Allocations

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

Ms. Garcia shared the [SFY 2022 Allocation Increase Discussion PowerPoint](#). Dr. Marotta notes that this is not the complete allocation. This is the increase. \$176,000 came from the excess that the governor recommended. Ms. Garcia notified the committee that this amount was originally going to be cut from the budget. This amount has now been reinstated. Dr. Marotta presents enhancements areas and comments. He reviews the comments for each enhancement area. He also goes over staff recommended priorities. They are in order of priority. Dr. Marotta opens it up to the committee for discussion. Chair agrees with all recommendations but one, the contingency for treatment. Ms. Quirk agrees with the chair. Ms. O'Hare agrees with the Chair's political argument. Ms. Goodman comments that she believes some amount should go towards treatment to show that it is not ignored. Ms. Jones notes that the need for treatment is critical. She wants it to be allocated. Chair suggests shifting some money when they can back to treatment. Chair does not want to have to shift money out of treatment at any time. Ms. Goodman suggests that everyone steps up and that it is important. Ms. Quirk says historically Ms. Garcia is great on reallocating funds to treatment. Dr. Marotta agrees that historically when the budget is taken away the providers keep their doors open but enrollment plummets. Fourth quarter can hit, and numbers can be moved out of treatment. Chair does not want to have to take money out of treatment at any point. Ms. O'Hare notifies committee how they are given and spend money. Dr. Kraus suggests targeting underfunded groups to assist in treatment. Ms. Quirk agrees and would love additional staff to assist in that as well. Chair asks if there is consensus on FTE costs and administrative support. Ms. Quirk agrees with all but the contingency. Allocation goes to each of the fiscal years. Committee members discuss recommended allocations. Ms. Garcia shares her screen to show where the chair makes suggestions. The final enumeration is:

- Fill unbudgeted FTE - \$15,000.00
- Treatment contingency budget - \$ 31,00.00
- Research mini grants - \$32,500.00
- Nevada Conference - \$ 10,000.00
- Prevention - \$37,500.00
- Statewide public awareness - \$ 0.00
- Workforce development - \$0.00
- Integration project - \$25,000.00

- Support staff - \$25,000.00
- Total - \$176,000.00

Ms. Quirk moves to adopt allocation as enumerated above.

Ms. O'Hare seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Chair moves the meeting to the agenda item for public comment.

8. **Informational**

Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Work Group Updates

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

Ms. Quirk notifies committee when the legislative workgroup meets. Ms. Goodman informs the committee about updates on increase in participation. Ms. Robards notifies committee on opening of facility. They also have a new intern. Ms. Quirk asks Ms. Baltisberger to give input. Ms. Baltisberger is looking forward to meeting everyone and to assist in building up her center. Ms. Hatzidopavlakis notes that her group still has telehealth. Referrals and flow have increased. Medicaid has been billed when necessary.

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

Chair asks Ms. Dassopoulos about data that is available currently. Ms. Dassopoulos says that retrieving this information is possible. The numbers can be tracked as often as requested. Chair asks Ms. Goodman to assist in presenting this information for legislators. Ms. Goodman is currently working on a proposal for the interim finance committee. She is working with Ms. Dassopoulos on the funds needed to present to legislators. Ms. O'Hare joins the meeting at 10:32 am.

9. **Informational**

Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Governance

a. *Committee Membership– Alan Feldman, Chair*

Ms. Quirk has been reaching out to potentials from the North to join the committee. Chair asks members to think of connections in the North for new members. This includes anyone with experience with problem gambling in any way from the North or Rural Nevada.

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

Ms. Quirk says that a letter is being sent to the Governor's office regarding the vaccination lottery. Ms. Jones said that opt-out was not ignored but was too difficult to be put in place. Ms. O'Hare asks for a list to be sent to the governor's office for the opt-out. Chair notes that such list does not exist. Ms. Jones notifies that once someone receives the lottery; they have the option to decline. Ms. O'Hare does not believe that this is enough but can become a trigger for problem

gamblers. Ms. O'Hare wants to know who was consulted when this decision was made. Dr. Kraus notifies the committee about a study done on Ohio's lottery. The lottery in Ohio did not increase the amount of people who got vaccinated.

c. Update on bylaws changes – Alan Feldman, Chair

Chair discussed that meetings cannot happen every other month. Legislation must be changed for this to happen. Once in session this can be presented. Ms. Garcia notifies committee that there are two more meetings possible for this year.

10. For Possible Action

Nominations and Elections of Advisory Committee Members – *Alan Feldman, Chair*

Chair is willing to stay chair of committee. Ms. Quirk is willing to stay vice chair.

Chair opens the meeting up for discussion.

Ms. Jones moves that the current slate of officers stay as is.

Ms. O'Hare seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

11. For Possible Action

Discussion and Possible Approval of Use Remote Technology Systems for Future Meetings – *Alan Feldman, Chair*

Chair asks for input. Ms. O'Hare says that this is working. Ms. Jones agrees. Ms. Garcia prefers remote technology to accommodate members. No further discussion.

Ms. O'Hare makes motion to approve the continued use of remote technology for future meetings.

Second by Ms. Jones.

Motion moves unanimously.

Chair moves to agenda item #6 and #7.

12. Informational

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

No requests for future agenda items. Motion to adjourn

13. 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)

No public comment. Chair moves to agenda item #12.

14. Adjournment - Alan Feldman, Chair

Ms. Jones motioned to adjourn

Ms. O'Hare seconds

Motion moves unanimously Meeting Adjourned at 12:37 pm