



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROBLEM GAMBLING
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 15, 2022
11:30 a.m. to Adjournment**

The meeting was held using remote technology in compliance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 241.023.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call - *Denise Quirk, Vice Chair*
Members Present: Denise Quirk, Vice Chair, William Theodor Hartwell, Constance Jones, Dr. Shane Kraus, Carolene Layugan, Carol O'Hare, Lesley Pittman, Kimberly Garcia
Members Absent: Chair, Alan Feldman, Richard Taylor
Guests: Andrea Dassopoulos (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) (UNLV); Stephanie Goodman (Doctor Robert Hunter International Problem Gambling Center); Peter Ott, Donna Meyers, Lena Hatzidopavlakis (Bristlecone Family Resources); Dr. Jeff Marotta (Problem Gambling Solutions); Ashlan Wickstrom, Jenna Hubert (KPS3); Kimyatta Divinity, Danika Navara (Nevada Eighth Judicial District Court); Chris Murphy (New Frontier Treatment Center); Walter Saunders (Carson City Community Counseling Center); John Borrowman, Florence Omollo, Ashley Penny (Division of Public & Behavioral Health) (DPBH); Ivy Wright-Bryan Misty Vaughan Allen, Zach Young, Yessenia Fuentes, Kim Garcia, (Bureau of Behavioral Health, Wellness and Prevention) (BBHWP); Nann Meador (Nevada Council on Problem Gambling); Adrienne Renwick (Downing Counseling Clinic); Mark Disselkoen, Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technology (CASAT)
2. Public Comment: *Denise Quirk, Vice Chair* -
There was no public comment.
3. Announcements: *Denise Quirk, Vice Chair* -
Vice Chair Quirk thanked all the members of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling for all the efforts they do behind the scenes
4. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Meeting Minutes - May 19, 2022 - *Denise Quirk, Vice Chair*
Vice Chair Quirk asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 19, 2022.
Dr. Kraus motioned to approve the minutes.
Mr. Hartwell seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Informational:** Division of Public and Behavioral health (DPBH) and Bureau of Behavioral Health, Wellness and Preventions Updates (BBHWP)
- a. Discussion on Fiscal Report - *John Borrowman/DPBH/Chief Financial Officer Behavioral Health*
Mr. Borrowman began with a brief summary of Fiscal Year 2022 which ended June 30, 2022. Per the Appropriations Act, a work program was submitted and approved by the Interim Finance Committee in August. Mr. Borrowman continued by stating any unspent dollars appropriated for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022, have been balanced forward to 2023 and are available for the current SFY to be incurred. There was less than \$6,000.00 balanced forward from 2022 to 2023. This showed the committee took action to ensure their encumbrances were spent by their partners. Mr. Borrowman went on to speak about fiscal year 2023. He stated both fiscal DPBH and the reports provided by Ms. Garcia reconcile as to what has been spent to date and what has been encumbered through contracts and anticipated expenditures.
- b. Discussion on Program Updates *Kimberly Garcia/BHWP/Social Services Program Specialist III*
Ms. Garcia spoke on the awards expenditures and stated as of July, they are about 5% spent, however August payments were still coming in. Ms. Garcia announced all of their awards have been executed but there are a few still being processed for example, the UNLV Conference. She also stated when the New Frontier contract was returned, it was returned at a lower amount in error. She has set aside those dollars to do an amendment on their contract.
- i. UNLV International Gaming Institute (IGI)- *Andrea Dassopoulos, PhD Candidate, Project Manager, UNLV IGI*
Ms. Dassopoulos stated they are making major changes in the Data Management System (DMS) to include the new Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Integration Project. They have created the new programming and it is in the testing phase. In regard to research, the long-term follow-up research project, Dr. Marta Soligo conducted 40 interviews with clients and long-term recovery. She has a manuscript which is going to be reviewed soon. This project will be presented at either the state conference or international conference. IGI is still waiting on data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) for 2022. As soon as it becomes available, we will start analyzing it. After they receive the data from 2023, both years will be combined and therefore will have a bigger sample to provide. We are collaborating with the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago. We are currently awaiting signatures to complete the transfer, once that is completed, the survey will be in the field. Currently we are supporting the Behavioral Addictions Laboratory with Dr. Shane Kraus. Dr. Kraus is conducting a big panel study on barriers to seeking help. Ms. Dassopoulos announced mini grants requests are out in the field and there has been a lot of interest from student and public health.
- c. Gambling Treatment Diversion Court - *Danika Navar, Eighth Judicial District Court*
Ms. Navar stated the court had nine participants at the beginning of the last fiscal year with five graduating and one termination. During the last fiscal year, they purchased incentives to recognize participant phase progression. They are looking at implementing financial coaching Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) for the new participants.

Ms. Layugan inquired about Moral Reconciliation Therapy and what it is. Ms. Navar stated MRT is a group modality of counseling. It addresses more towards criminal thinking versus therapeutic development. MRT is designed to focus more on addressing criminal thinking habits and patterns and breaking them.

iii. Project Worth - Sarah Polito and Ashlan Wickstrom, KSP3

Ms. Wickstrom stated Project Worth is launching a campaign which runs from September 2022, through June 2023. The goal is to connect people to resources in the state and increase public awareness about problem gambling in Nevada. They have created ads which will stand out and are story driven, enabling people to hear and see things they can relate to. These ads will run on Facebook, Instagram and Spotify. We have one that highlights the story of an older female, a second one, a younger male, and the third is our family spot. She showed all three to the committee back-to-back in the order described above.

First - Older Woman:

"I thought I would be able to stop gambling until it was too late. I was racking up debt and losing my paycheck as soon as I got it. I was so sure I could win but I was losing everything. I needed to break the cycle. The moment I reached out for help, change began. With support, I started to pull all my broken pieces back together. I know now I'm not alone. I feel like my life has value again."

Second - Younger Man:

"I was losing more than I could keep up with. Gambling was taking over my time. I would have a few good weeks and then get pulled back in. I was losing money, but I was also losing friends and family. I realized I needed help and looked for a place to turn. As soon as I started talking to a professional who understood, I felt hopeful that I could piece my life back together. I found my real worth."

Third - Family:

"My husband's gambling problem had taken over. It became bigger than just the money. He was keeping secrets from me, and he was pushing away our son. I looked for support and got my son and me into counseling. My husband started to get treatment. We got the hope and help we needed piece by piece. We started to come back together as a family. Finding support was worth it."

Dr. Kraus inquired if the ad language and the size of the ads were tested. Ms. Wickstrom stated they will begin with brand awareness. This will reach anyone in Nevada and make them aware of problem gambling. This will be broader based. About a month into the campaign, a reengagement campaign will be launched. This will target anyone who interacted with the original ads and will be more action based. Ms. Hubert from KPS3, stated they do have a variety of different sizes and are trying to cover as much as possible with different aspect ratios. Dr. Kraus followed up by inquiring about the language they will be using and if Project Worth will be included in the ads. Ms. Wickstrom stated the main word being used is gambling. They will also use the words Project Worth. The paid search ads will be more aligned with terminology the public might be using when they type into Google.

In the chat, Mr. Delap asked if the choice in using two women and one black man as the person with the gambling problem was deliberate. Ms. Wickstrom stated research was done on diversity. The research was attained on data from treatment facilities.

Ms. Layugan commented, a helpline number should be included in the ads. Ms. Wickstrom stated they can place it as a banner at the top of their website. Ms. Wickstrom continued her update by stating, similar to last year, they are on Twitter and Facebook and added Instagram at the end of last year. As continual, all 12 months will be drafting and posting socials. They will try to include a little more dynamic context. They will be looking for ways to put some reels on the platforms especially Instagram. They will continue to maintain and make enhancements to their website projectworthnv.org

iv. Workforce Development - *Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT)*
- *Jeanyne Ward, CASAT*

Ms. Garcia stated Ms. Ward was unable to give her update but CASAT's update was included in the package the Board received, handouts and is posted online. Ms. Garcia did highlight they worked on incentives for workforce development for the interns. Seven interns were brought into the problem gambling workforce as of June 30, 2022. This was a huge success. Ms. Garcia also stated we are working with CASAT and the Downing Clinic at UNR to become a master level training location.

v. Prevention - *Carol O'Hare, Nevada Council on Problem Gambling Services (NCPGS)*

Ms. O'Hare stated, in fiscal year 22, they exceeded their goals. Their material distribution goal was for 5,000 pieces, the actual distribution was 8,500 pieces. The goal for the health promotion activities was to be involved in 30 community agencies; the actual amount was 90. Under the Gambling Awareness Prevention Program, which is part of their prevention grant, they will be trying to use more digital media. They are also reviewing all of their material to see where they might have to update the language. They have had a YouTube channel for a year and now have 300 subscribers. They provided administrative support for the SUD Integration Project and; research mini grants and they will continue this in 2023. Ms. O'Hare announced the conference was a big success. There were 198 registered participants. 122 participants filled out their evaluations enabling them to get their CEU's. They had almost a 100% response on the post participant survey. The highest ranked presenter was Mr. Hartwell and his presentation on the Impact of the Game we Play. They are carrying this program forward into schools and agencies for fiscal year 2023. The Nevada Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) has decided, since March is Problem Gambling Awareness month and the legislature will be in session in 2023, they will be holding their state conference March 23 & 24. Ms. O'Hara stated the NCPG is building a Recovery Advocacy team which is designed to bring people with lived experience to engage with them and the community. They are on track with their presentation goals which again is 30. By August they had already made eighteen presentations.

Mr. Hartwell updated the committee on the upcoming change to the National Problem Gambling helpline. Mr. Hartwell stated, due to the increase of online sports betting, the National Football League has granted \$6.2 million to the National Problem Gambling hotline, the largest they have

ever received. A significant portion was allocated towards the effort of helpline harmonization, developing supports, improving communication between National and its affiliates, developing best practices and guidance, seeing more uniformity in the development standards and how the calls are answered, and consistent service and streamlined marketing. As of June 29, the official phone number for the National Problem Gambling helpline is transitioning to 1-800 GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537). The Board of Directors voted to approve an agreement reached with the Council of Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, who developed this number and has rights to it. Mr. Hartwell continued by stating, the most obvious advantage to this change is the number is very recognizable and easy to remember which allows the caller more privacy and discretion. Both the former number (800)-522-4700 and the new number, (800)-GAMBLER are already active in every state. I have tested both these numbers myself here in Nevada. I have also texted both of these numbers here in Nevada and they got me to somebody who could connect me to Nevada resources. The new phone number is not yet on the National Problem Gambling website.

vi. Substance Use Disorders (SUD) Integration Project - *Jeff Marotta, PhD, Problem Gambling Services*

Dr. Marotta stated the SUD Integration Project is an initiative launched last year to expand the capability of the Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Agency (SAPTA) certified Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program, to include Problem Gambling. They have primarily focused on infrastructure development. Mr. Disselkoe of CASAT has assisted on much of the work. This included establishing a Problem Gambling endorsement, once the agencies have benchmark performances based on tools CASAT has established. Dr. Marotta continued by stating, at the end of last year, Ms. Garcia worked to establish their pilot providers. They now have five and have started putting other tools in place, such as the development of evaluation materials which Ms. Dassopoulos discussed earlier. Ms. Garcia and Dr. Marotta will be meeting with the pilot programs and talk about the evaluation materials, and orientations to the program. Right now, they provide resources to start building staff development. Mr. Disselkoe stated he discovered some of the pilots are using other locations and using the gambling screening tool. They have the infrastructure for the certification for the endorsement. The criteria have been already approved. The Substance Abuse Board have a template for the certification instrument for individuals to use when they are ready to do so.

c. Presentation on Office of Suicide Prevention - *Misty Vaughan Allen, BHWP/Suicide Prevention Coordinator*

Ms. Vaughan Allen stated she and Ms. Garcia have worked together over the past few months discussing shared risk and protective factors between problem gambling and suicide prevention. Both believe 988 can be a great partnership. Ms. Vaughan Allen provided training to the Crisis Services of Nevada and their call responders the weekend of 9/17. Ms. Vaughan Allen stated, a report in 2018, ranked Nevada as one of the highest suicide rates nationwide. In 2018, steps were taken to focus on grassroot partners, coalitions, and communities to address this crisis. In 2020, Nevada had moved out of the top ten and is currently ranked at number 12. Nevada is leading the way and putting into place some very powerful upstream and crisis intervention steps. Continuing, Ms. Vaughan Allen stated Nevada's veteran suicide rate is triple compared to non-Nevadan, non-veteran Nevadans' and one of the highest in the nation. Suicide Prevention has been working with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), Mayor Challenge teams located in Las Vegas,

Truckee Meadows, Winnemucca, Elko, and the Governor's Challenge team, to help service members, veterans and their families. Ms. Vaughan Allen suggests one way to improve the partnership between Problem Gambling and Suicide Prevention is to apply the recommendation made by the Vital Signs Report, which are strengthening economic supports and to create protective environments. Ms. Garcia and Ms. Vaughan Allen see a real advantage in cross training their teams, committees and coalitions which they can focus on quickly.

d. Presentation on 988 - *Ivy Wright-Bryan, Health Programs Manager, BHWP*

Ms. Wright-Bryan stated, the mission of the State of Nevada seeks to develop and implement a strong foundation for people experiencing behavioral health issues. The state has implemented the 988 call-system for people who are in a mental health crisis. This crisis call-system immediately attends to the caller's needs instead of using 911 and being routed through their emergency services. In developing this program, the guiding principles are the best practices in behavioral health. Ms. Wright-Bryan stated it is essential to get the word out about 988 especially in the rural and tribal communities. Ms. Wright-Bryan stated, Nevada has incorporated the federal standards set forth by SAMSHA and the state is completely on track and headed to surpass the federal government with implementation and stabilization of the Nevada program. Statistics show there was a 45% increase in calls since going live in July, however the calls have leveled off to a 30% in volume. The state is looking to market 988 and have it become as widely accepted as 911. This includes educating Nevadan children who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. Vice Chair Quirk inquired about the curriculum development and the State's plan for the training of 988 personnel. Ms. Wright-Bryan stated, once they figure out the larger landscape, those materials and training will be up to the sub-grantees. Once the applications are submitted and the subgrantees chosen, then it would be their responsibility to provide the training.

6. **Informational:** Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Work Group Updates

a. Discussion on Legislative Work Group Updates - *Stephanie Goodman, Work Group Chair*

Chair Goodman gave an update on the Legislative Committee for Problem Gambling. Chair Goodman stated the committee discussed how they would be moving forward on funding. The goal is to get a non-executive budget and figure the best way to do this. They are looking at an existing gaming tax as a possible solution. They had a very informative call with the State and will be speaking with the Gaming Control Board and Gaming Commission to find out exactly how to move forward. The reason for this goal is to prevent having to battle possible cuts to the budget. The Legislative Work Group also had an action item at their meeting. The work group voted Lesley Pittman to be spokesperson in Carson City during the legislative session. Ms. Pittman has years of experience doing this and has a great knowledge of gaming. Chair Goodman also stated Senator Roberta Lang has a Bill Draft Request (BDR) for workforce development. Ms. Pittman intimated to the work group they could try to add something to this but in doing so they may jeopardize the bill. The work group will wait to see what to do with this. Chair Goodman will keep the ACPG updated on the status of their work. Ms. Pittman suggested the committee may want to join with mental health advocacy groups, suicide prevention or another advocacy group in participating in Awareness Day at the legislature. Chair Goodman stated she believes there would be a strong representation and inquired if they can get on

the calendar to do this. Ms. Pittman will reserve a date in April with the clerk and suggested the work group can work out the detail in their next meeting.

- b. Discussion on Treatment Provider Group Updates - *Lana Robards, Work Group Chair*
Vice Chair Quirk tabled item for the next meeting.

7. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and Make Recommendations for Updates to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Problem Gambling Services Strategic Plan - *Jeff Marotta, PhD, Problem Gambling Solutions*

Dr. Marotta stated to the committee, in the last several strategic planning meetings, the committee has always chosen a two-year plan because of budget uncertainty which does not provide for any long range goals. Dr. Marotta believes since the Legislature will be in session in 2023, and the Legislative Work Group is going to seek stable funding, now is a good time to consider a four-year plan. Ms. O'Hare agreed a four-year plan would be better as the concern is working within their means and within the structure they have now. The committee needs to make sure they address where they are now, how to keep them sustained and the potential to dramatically grow with the success with the things which are being funded now. She believes the committee needs long range goals to be a stronger contributing partner with the State in the topics discussed in this meeting.

Dr. Kraus agreed, a four-year plan is best, as there are needs which can be addressed if they are given time, such as research which can assist clinical practices.

Dr. Marotta will be presenting a revised Strategic Plan in May and encourages the committee members to submit all thoughts and suggestions for furthering the plan.

8. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and Possible Approval of Department Allocations Recommendations *Kim Garcia, Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention/Social Services Program Specialist III*

a. University of Nevada Reno (UNR) - Downing Clinic

Dr. Jeff Marotta stated, they have been in discussions with the Downing Clinic to determine feasibility of developing both additional treatment capacity and improvements to workforce development. The work plan developed includes a training clinic for clinicians at the Downing Clinic. They were able to offer a position and hope to offer more. People will get trained on Problem Gambling allowing them to be available to the workforce upon graduation. This grant will infuse problem gambling to the curriculum of their counseling training program.

Ms. Renwick stated the Downing Counseling Clinic is a training facility housed in the Counselor Education Program within Human Development and Family Science and Counseling at UNR. Within the Downing Clinic training curriculum, students have to earn 67 credits for their master's degree. Nine classes have been identified to be appropriate to infuse problem gambling focused material.

Dr. Marotta added, the program serves both the community and students within the university.

Vice Chair Quirk requested a motion to accept the Downing Clinic as a new provider and place it into the Treatment category.

Ms. O'Hare made the motion to approve.
Ms. Layugan second the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

b. Workforce Development Incentives

Ms. Garcia stated the incentive is to bring on seven new interns for the upcoming year. This will be flat funded at \$9,272.00. The Downing Clinic would be part of this funding.

Vice Chair Quirk requested the motion to approve the funding.
Ms. Jones made the motion to approve the funding for workforce incentives.
Mr. Hartwell second the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

c. Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Integration Project

Ms. Garcia stated, in order to do the evaluation process, it has been determined outlets need to be purchased, and would like to increase the Nevada Councils current contract or sub-award by \$5,000.00. The money to allocate the funds can be moved over from the prior year to purchase the tablets. The tablets will provide documentation and data of the number of people being screened and how the program is working within these agencies.

Vice Chair Quirk requested the motion to approve the allocation of funds for the purchase of tablets.
Mr. Hartwell made a motion to approve the allocation of funds for the tablets.
Ms. Pittman seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Garcia added, there is still \$21,000 un-obligated for the mid-year reallocation.

9. **For Possible Action:** Recommendation and Approval of Authority to Represent the ACPG to the Legislature - *Denise Quirk, Vice Chair*

Vice Chair Quirk stated, the recommendation of and approval of authority to represent the ACPG at the legislature in person in Carson City, as we need her, and I move that is Lesley Pittman.

Vice Chair Quirk moved for Lesley Pittman to be the ACPG Representative.
Ms. O'Hare second the motion.
The committee passed the motion unanimously.

10. **Informational:** Discussion on Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items - *Denise Quirk, Vice Chair*

Vice Chair Quirk suggested, for the agenda in November the committee discuss the Bylaws policies and procedures. Also suggested for the agenda are the nominations for officers of the Advisory Committee in November. The date of November 3 at 11:30 a.m. was decided by the committee for their next meeting.

11. **Public Comment:**

Vice Chair Quirk: The International Center for Responsible Gambling Conference is coming up October 9th and 10th, which is Sunday and Monday for the treatment and education piece. Is it still called the G2E where you get to see all the industry stuff?

Ms. Jones: Yes, G2E. It's Global Gaming X5. It is G2E bigger and better than ever.

Ms. Quirk: Thank you. And that starts on Tuesday?

Ms. Jones: Right. I think it starts Monday for exhibitors, but for the general public, Tuesday.

Ms. Quirk: So, for all of us clinicians and interested people, I will be there and there is additional support for scholarships that just became available this past week from Christine Riley. So, I'm going to pull up her e-mail address and put it in the chat, and I will also give it to Ms. Garcia. People who are interested in applying for scholarships and going, please do so. That's my only public comment. Anyone else have public comment?

Ms. O'Hare: I would just like to offer my public comment of recognition of Ted Hartwell, 15 years in recovery that we celebrated at the Council Office GA meeting yesterday. Time flies when you are having fun, and I'm so grateful that Ted took up the mantle of advocacy very early on in his recovery. We have been blessed by having him engaged in what we do at all levels.

12. **Adjournment:** *Denise Quirk, Vice Chair*

Vice Chair Quirk requested a motion for adjournment.

Ms. O'Hare made the motion for adjournment.

Ms. Jones seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.