

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROBLEM GAMBLING
Approved Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 22, 2021
9:00 a.m. to Adjournment

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

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

Members Absent: Carol O'Hare

Staff/Guest: Andrea Dassopoulos, University of Nevada Las Vegas, International Gaming Institute; Ashlan Wickstrom, KPS3;; Chris Murphey, New Frontier; Danica Navar, Eighth Judicial District Court, Gambling Diversion Treatment Court; Jeanyne Ward, University of Nevada Reno/CASAT; Jeff Marotta, Problem Gambling Solutions;; Leah Tauchen and Tray Abney, Abney Tauchen Group; Peter Ott and Tina Marie Biseaux, Bristlecone Family Resources ; Dr. Rory Reid, Mental Health Counseling and Consulting; Sarah Baker, DPBH; Stephanie Goodman, Dr. Robert Hunter International Problem Gambling Center Las Vegas; Teri Baltisburger, Reno Problem Gambling Center; Dr Rory Reid, Mental Health Counseling and Consulting; Valerie Balen, Nevada Psychiatric Association; Linda Anderson, Nevada Public Health Foundation; Kendall Holcomb, Department of Health and Human Service/Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Nevada Resilience Project; Ben Trevino, Sarah Baker and Kim Garcia Bureau of Behavior Health Wellness and Prevention

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)

Ms. Ward discusses the intern prep course related to problem gambling on CASAT learning, says that many people registered for but never completed that course. At the last meeting, the committee recommended CASAT reach out to those people to find out why this was happening, so CASAT has put together a short survey that they will send out on 12/1/2021. Ms. Ward says she will report their findings at the next meeting.

Ms. Quirk invites meeting attendees to a Christmas party at the Reno Problem Gambling Center on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. She notes that the Eldorado/Caesars Entertainment has donated mushroom ravioli for the occasion.

Mr. Ott notes that Bristlecone has been given approval by their board to start the Bristlecone Problem Gambling Center, which will be included under the Bristlecone Family Resources umbrella. Mr. Ott notes that this addition will go a long way to promote their gambling treatment program and simplifying things for the organization. The Chair congratulates Mr. Ott for this achievement.

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. For Possible Action

Approval of Minutes September 16, 2021, meeting

Mr. Hartwell makes a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting on September 16, 2021. Ms. Quirk seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

5. Informational

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

a. Discussion on Fiscal Report

Ms. Garcia discusses the department's financial review, explaining funds spent, their projected spending, and what funds remain as of the first quarter. She discusses expenditures for various categories, including treatment, the Gambling Treatment Court, Information, Mini Grants, and Workforce Development among others. She also notes that they received a refund from UNLV for FY 18 and discusses the status of unspent and unobligated dollars, with the overall budget about 6 percent underspent at this time.

b. Discussion on Program Updates

Ms. Garcia does not have any program updates to share with the Committee. She asks Dr. Marotta if he has any further updates, and he says that he does not.

6. For Possible Action

Discussion and Possible Approval of Alternative Options to Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Problem Gambling Module for 2022 Survey

Ms. Dassopoulos notes that 10 questions were added to the BRFSS in 2020 and reminds members that they chose the BRFSS because it is a random, representative sample and they can compare the treatment population to Nevada's overall population, giving them a large quantity of data to compare in a variety of ways.

Ms. Dassopoulos also notes that the sample size for this data was extremely low because the questions relating to gambling were not asked of the entire sample population. There were some other data issues, like Las Vegas being underrepresented in the state sample, so this data cannot be used to reliably measure problem gambling in Nevada. She also summarizes a meeting they conducted with The University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) to explain and troubleshoot these issues and walks the Committee through the proposed recommendations for future steps.

Dr. Marotta notes that they haven't authorized UNR to move forward with the 2022 BRFSS, though money has already been allocated, and discusses possible options for implementing next year's BRFSS.

Ms. Quirk asks if they have found out why the full sample size did not receive the gambling questions. Ms. Dassopoulos responds that the contract was signed late and assures the Committee that there will not be further delay. Ms. Quirk recommends that they continue with the BRFSS for 2021 and 2022.

Mr. Hartwell asks if there will be an extension of the contract given that the 2020 data is unusable or if they will have to pay for an additional year. Ms. Dassopoulos responds that it might not be possible because it is not specified in the contract. Dr. Marotta adds that the 2020 data was compromised due to the unanticipated impact of COVID-19, which was largely out of the surveyors' control.

Ms. Garcia adds that the Committee had no control over the provisions of the contract because it was between the state and the universities, but going forward, all participants will be asked the questions specific to problem gambling. She also said a refund might not be possible despite not receiving the data they anticipated in 2020.

Dr. Krause asked if the Committee was the primary payer or a subsection of the payment. Ms. Garcia responded that they were one of multiple funding sources. Dr. Krause asks if this study is cross-sectional or longitudinal and notes that there was likely a lot of movement in the state due to COVID-19. He adds that if 2022 does not have strong results, the Committee should consider a different panel. Dr. Marotta confirms that the study is not longitudinal, and the screener has been removed.

The Chair agrees that the data for 2020 should be disregarded and endorses Ms. Dassopoulos' s recommendations and calls for a motion to formalize approval of continuing to collect BRFSS data through 2022.

Ms. Quirk makes a motion to follow Ms. Dassopoulos' s recommendations. Dr. Krause seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously

7. Informational

Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Work Group Updates

a. Discussion on Treatment Provider Group Updates

Ms. Quirk asks Ms. Dassopoulos to quickly describe the new intake forms and the development of the family intake forms. Ms. Dassopoulos describes the process of updating the intake form to include questions about financial and criminal issues. They also developed an intake form for concerned others like family and friends which addresses their specific issues.

Ms. Quirk notes that the Northern Nevada treatment sites have been visited and they passed, and they have many plans for the future of these facilities.

Ms. Goodman discusses the state of treatment sites in Southern Nevada, stating that they are doing well, with their relapse prevention program proving especially successful for those struggling with problem gambling.

Dr. Reid notes that their numbers are rising once more, and He says that they also have a Spanish-speaking intern and points out that they do not have a Spanish-speaking therapist for problem gambling in Las Vegas. Dr. Reid also discusses the status of a study they conducted on suicidality in problem gamblers, which they are working on revising and resubmitting to an academic journal.

b. Discussion on Legislative Work Group Updates

Ms. Goodman discusses the status of ARP funds, noting that they will have to wait and see if the Interim Finance Committee will allocate the funds they have requested or if that task will fall to the full Legislature. She says she anticipates that this will take place after the new year.

8. Informational

Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Governance

a. Committee Membership

The Chair says that there are some membership applications in the Governor's Office, but there is no concrete timeline for when new members will be appointed. Updates will follow accordingly.

b. Discussion on Position Statement or Show of Support letter

The Chair reminds members that under guidance from the Attorney General's office, the only member who may speak on behalf of the Committee is Ms. Quirk; other members may speak on their own in the capacity of private citizens, but not as members of the ACPG.

9. Informational

Discussion on Future Agenda Items

The Chair asks members if they have any agenda items they would like to offer up for discussion in future meetings. Ms. Garcia discusses the agenda items currently slated for the next meeting. No one has suggestions for future agenda items.

10. Public comment

(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 shares some exciting news from the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG): the NFL has given them a \$6.2 million grant, which will go toward grants that can support further efforts to combat problem gambling, especially among young people. He hopes to have more information on the process of obtaining these grants in the future. The Chair congratulates Mr. Hartwell on this news.

The Chair also encourages members to pay attention to the messaging put out by Project Worth, especially their holiday messaging, which has been quite creative. He welcomes any feedback members might have.

Ms. Goodman asks Mr. Hartwell if the NCPG is responsible for facilitating the NFL grant money. Mr. Hartwell says yes, they will be in charge of that process.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Hartwell makes a motion for adjournment. Ms. Jones seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 10:01 a.m.