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*Governor*



Richard Whitley,  
MS  
*Director*

**DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**



**NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**



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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

10:00 a.m. to Adjournment

Note: Items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/or removed from the agenda at the Chairperson's discretion. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based on viewpoint.

1. Call to order/roll call – Alan Feldman, Chair This meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., by Dr. Shane Kraus on behalf of Alan Feldman Chair, requested Ms. Garcia take attendance of members.

Members Present:

Alan Feldman, Chair  
Denise Quirk, Vice Chair  
William Theodore Hartwell  
Constance Jones  
Dr. Shane Kraus  
Lesley Pittman  
Shane Galster  
Richard Taylor

Members Absent

Stephanie Goodman

Ms. Garcia confirmed that we met quorum.

2. Public comment– Alan Feldman, Chair  
(No action may be taken upon a matter raised under the public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide public comment telephonically, dial 775-321-6111. When prompted to provide the Meeting ID, enter 519 695 772#. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. The person making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.) Chair Feldman,

Dr. Shane Kraus asked if there was any public comment. No public comment was made.

3. For Possible Action Approval of Minutes September 16, 2024, Meeting – Alan Feldman, Chair

Lesley Pittman made a comment regarding the minutes stating that there is an error regarding 5A regarding the location stating Las Vegas when it should note Carson City.

With no further corrections a motion was made by William Theodore Hartwell to approve the minutes with the correction to change to Carson City and Constance Jones Seconded the Motion which passed unanimously.

4. Informational- Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Subcommittee and Work Group Updates

- a. Discussion on Legislative Subcommittee Updates – Stephanie Goodman, Legislative Subcommittee Chair

Due to Stephanie Goodman's absence this discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

- b. Discussion on SB341 Appropriation Workgroup Updates – Sarah Polito, KPS3, Inc

Ashlan Sherron shared a presentation regarding the Elko RoundTable that held its first Nevada Leads Roundtable on October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Elko which held high level discussions regarding Barriers to Accessing Gambling Treatment in Rural Communities, Stigma and Misconceptions about Gambling Addiction, Need for Greater Awareness of Problem Gambling and a few others. After the Elko event they went straight to Reno on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, attendees discussed the following: Expanding Resources and Treatment Access, Addressing Workforce Shortages in Problem Gambling Counseling, Raising Effective Treatment Options, and other topics. Both events had great conversations. Next Round Table will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>, in Las Vegas.

In addition to the events Ms. Sherron stated they have sent out a Statewide text poll and due to the high level response, they ran the poll longer than expected. They received 356 participants, 257 completed the poll. Of the results received, 85 percent believe that some people can become addicted to gambling, 70 percent feel gambling problems and addictions are moderate to critical issues in Nevada, 40 percent were not aware that Nevada offered treatment services for Problem Gambling, 55 percent believed that a percentage of the State's gambling tax revenue should go toward funding programs that prevent and treat gambling problems, and 5 percent self-identified as having a gambling problem.

Ms. Sherron went over their future deliverables explaining their creative, public relations, outreach and their landing page for the near future, finishing off with open floor for questions.

Dr. Kraus asked if they are taking reservations for their upcoming December event in Las Vegas yet. It was confirmed that they are, and an email will be going out with more information as well as a digital ad and social posts if anyone would like to post on their own social media.

Mr. Hartwell asked if Ms. Sherron knew of the responses from the survey that was sent out if she knew how many were Spanish Ms. Sherron did answer stating at this time she was not aware; however, she could filter the responses and find that answer and get back with it.

Ms. Jones asked if the Las Vegas Round Table event was available for those who could not attend in person but virtually. Ms. Sherron informed her she would need to find out from someone who would have that answer as she doesn't facilitate those matters.

Dr. Kraus mentioned he thought it was interesting that the percentages showed one in five Nevada residents are affected and would really be useful in marketing.

Ms. Jones asked how Ms. Sherron found the respondents. Ms. Sherron shared they used a company called Flash Vote, stating they use text polls and was unsure how they do their process.

Ms. Pittman asked if we are putting together a report at the conclusion of these activities that can be brought to the 2025 legislature. Ms. Sherron did confirm that was the idea, and that it will summarize the Round Tables and the votes from texts received.

5. Informational Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) and Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention (BHWP) Updates

a. Discussion on Fiscal Reports – Paul Ripple, DPBH, Contracted Administrative Service Officer I

Paul Ripple informed the committee that they are on track and that they are projected to be fully spent by the end of the year.

b. Discussion on Program Updates- Kim Garcia, BHWP, Social Services Program Specialist III

Kim Garcia showed the committee where they are spending and stated they are on target for their spending. She explained they are 25 percent spent. Ms. Garcia stated at this time there is no concern at this time for their spending. She also explained that they are in the process of changing out their fiscal software and that payments are due as early as possible to avoid any hardships.

6. Informational – Presentation and Discussion of the Annual Report on Gambling Treatment Evaluation and Research Projects Updates for SFY24 – Andrea Dassopoulos UNLV IGI

Andrea Dassopoulos gave an update on research stating that out of 1,078 Nevada residents, 85% gamble regularly, 23% have experienced serious gambling harm, 30 % have been negatively impacted by someone else's gambling, 14% would be embarrassed if a family member needed treatment, and 61% of Nevada residents agree that Nevada has the largest gaming industry of any state, and that it is important for the state to be a leader in efforts to reduce harm caused by gambling.

Ms. Dassopoulos stated in her presentation that based on the study she found the following groups with higher-than-average gambling risks: casino employs, Veterans, younger adults (18-29), Blacks, all non-white ethnic groups (except Asian), online gamblers, and non-metro residents. She finished off with opening for questions.

Mr. Hartwell stated he was impressed by the 23% figure, stating this number is high and concerning. Ms. Dassopoulos informed this is based on only gamblers. Mr. Hartwell wanted clarification on how this was determined. Ms. Dassopoulos clarified this was taken based on the last 30 days, informing Mr. Hartwell that she could break it down by the type of game and frequency as well.

Dr. Kraus stated that the PGSI makes sense and that this is higher than a normal average. He asked if income was considered in this study as well as rural locations. Ms. Dassopoulos stated that metro and non-metro were used, and that income showed no significant intersections.

Ms. Jones stated she was curious to know how many respondents' online gamblers were Ms. Dassopoulos stated online gambling had higher PGSI scores.

Ms. Quirk asked how she started collecting this information. Ms. Dassopoulos stated it was conducted through Amera Speak by panel study and that they have a very comprehensive methodology that ensures the accuracy of information. Ms. Quirk asked if this was a piggyback off a larger study or independent. Ms. Dassopoulos informed this was independent.

Ms. Dassopoulos finished off announcing that there are nine (9) recipients for the mini-grants two from University of Nevada Reno (UNR) and seven from University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV).

Ms. Dassopoulos continued with her presentation showing that there were five treatment providers in Nevada in 2024. There were two providers in Las Vegas and three in Northern Nevada. In 2024 there was a 19% increase in enrollments that the previous year. The largest gambling treatment center is the Dr. Robert Hunter Internation Gambling Center which is responsible for 77% of treatment. 12% of gamblers use healthcare and food assistance and 8% of gamblers use housing assistance. 40% of gamblers have had problems in the last year with some additional who received outpatient treatment. Most people who have tried peer group support found it not successful and have turned to a more formal form of treatment. In 2024 339 follow-up interviews were conducted at day 30, 90, and 1 year of the following interviews access to service, quality and helpfulness, effectiveness, overall quality of care, impact on gambling behaviors, and engagement with community support groups showed a 90%-100% effectiveness and satisfaction rates.

Dr. Kraus asked if in the future if there is a way to add questions about the impact to the family?

Ms. Jones asked if this is available to the public? Which was confirmed it is on the state's website.

Ms. Quirk asked about the crisis calls, wanting to bookmark this for future discussion with the ACPG, suggesting the crisis and inquiry calls could be too added to the data gathering and reports. Also, that peer recovery support specialists are perfect for answering crisis and front office calls and research supports this. Ms. Dassopoulos stated she has mentioned this. Ms. Quirk suggested making this an agenda item for the future.

Mr. Hartwell asked about the timeframe of the data in the presentation. Ms. Dassopoulos confirmed that it was 12 months.

7. Informational – Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling Governance
  - a. Committee Membership – Alan Feldman, Chair

Dr. Kraus clarified verified no one is expiring at this time verified with Kim Garcia.

- b. Discussion on position Statement or Show of Support letter – Alan Feldman, Chair

8. Discussion on Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – Alan Feldman, Chair

Ms. Garcia suggested the end of January suggesting January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, at 10am mentioning talking about reallocations through November and December due to the lag and system outage.

Ms. Pittman suggested talking about the Problem Gambling Awareness Day.

Mr. Hartwell mentioned discussing fiscal and reports.

Ms. Pittman stated that she reached out to a representative with a payday loan center and sent a brochure for problem gambling. She stated she would reach out to Mr. Hartwell as well.

Dr. Jeff Marotta mentioned that the committee will need to start looking at the next fiscal year and ensuring that the committee has the infrastructure to meet demands given, suggesting maybe two different budgets. If successful maybe bringing in more funds.

Dr. Kraus clarified a flat budget and another budget that reflects the increase and revenue that would rap all the current work that is done to show expansion.

Dr. Marotta suggested being able to show how the committee plans to spend unlimited funds as the government takes a long time to get things in place.

9. Public comment – Alan Feldman, Chair

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*Jeanyne Ward with Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT) made a public comment stating that Nevada Certification Board has a Problem Gambling Endorsement that peers can apply for on the Nevada Certification Board and CASAT learning websites.*

*Dr. Kraus asked if this information is on the website and is easy to locate.*

*Ms. Ward stated she would forward this information over to Kim so that this information can be shared.*

*Mr. Feldman shared with the committee that he had productive meetings with the Governor's office legislative director regarding the SB341 activities and were they are with the bill. Discussion was regarding the history of funding and the possibilities of the outcome of the bill. He stated he would reach out to Ms. Ward regarding the certification process as he was asked about this by the director.*

*Dr. Kraus asked if any types of questions that were proposed in the Governor's budget were about gambling.*

*Mr. Feldman stated he brought the poll along which he thought was interesting as it showed that Nevadans were aware of this. However, the rest of it was political and showed that the State show its commitment to this topic.*

10. Adjournment - Alan Feldman, Chair  
Meeting adjourned at 11:21am.