

**Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling
December 1, 2017
700 South 16th Street
Lincoln Nebraska**

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

Roll Call: Present - Canada, Lutz, Leckband, Scoville, Patterson, Anselmo, Muelleman, Arch; Absent excused - Monheiser

Announcements: Chairman Canada called for a moment of reflection. Chairman Canada announced that the Meeting Notice and Agenda were published on the state events calendar, the program website and the website of the Charitable Gaming Division on November 17, 2017. The amended notice of meeting and agenda was posted on the program website and Charitable Gaming website on November 30, 2017. The notice of meeting has also been continuously posted here at the office of the Gamblers Assistance Program, and available for public inspection. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available on the back table in the meeting room.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of September 22, 2017: Motion by Commissioner Muelleman to approve the minutes as posted and distributed without change. Seconded by Commissioner Arch. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Director's Report

Legislation Gambling bills introduced last session remain on file except for the keno bill, which was killed but could be reintroduced. Fantasy sports legislation remains pending but action is unknown.

Finance October 31 reports from Administrative Services Accounting were distributed, including the Program Summary, the Fund Summary by Fund, and the Allotment Status report. The program as a whole is under budget as of October 31. The daily personnel status report and allotment status reports as of December 1 continue to show the program is under budget.

The staff prepared Contract Performance Report has details on the status of expenditures for counselor and major vendor contracts. This report shows that counseling contractors have withdrawn 44% of their contract award totals as of October 31. The director pointed out to the Commission that this staff report shows amounts paid for services by the month when services were rendered, while the state accounting reports reflect amounts paid for the month when paid. Therefore, amounts paid in July were for June services, meaning there is an overlap of the periods reported. Since program contracts are written for the fiscal year and budgets are based on the current fiscal year, the Commission needs to follow contract performance during this fiscal year.

Data Reports The process of developing a format for gathering data is ongoing. Counselors are expected to complete forms that have demographic data about counseling clients that can show outcomes. These forms are based on evidence-based practices and research and are expected to provide data by which program outcomes as well as risk factors for gambling addiction can be estimated.

Gambling in the News Ponca tribe casino to be located in Carter Lake will be opposed by states of Iowa and Nebraska, but appears likely to be opened in a few years. Skill Touch and Bank Shot games continue to spread around the state, without effective regulation. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on Monday regarding state-sanctioned betting on sporting events in New Jersey. The case is expected to establish national precedent for gambling regulation.

Ron Schroeder Contract Ron Schroeder has completed training, supervised practice and passed the national test to be awarded a certificate, and now wishes to enter a contract for gambling addiction counseling effective today. Commissioner Canada moved that Ron Schroeder be approved for a \$10,000 contract, effective December 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Muelleman. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Point of Personal Privilege Chairman Canada announced that the Executive Committee prefers to limit decisions in between official meetings of the Commission to emergency or urgent situations or requests such as a counselor drawing their entire contract allotment and needing added funding before the next scheduled meeting of the Commission.

APGSA Annual Dues of \$2500 Commissioner Canada moved to approve payment of 2017-2018 Annual Dues of \$2500 to the Association of Problem Gambling

Services Administrators. This group as started by an earlier director of the Nebraska program and functions as a clearinghouse of information about gambling addiction and treatment programs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leckband. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Counselor Contracts -- Co-Pays The Commission discussed adopting a program policy to require counselors to accept the program rates for counseling services and not allow clients to be charged any added amounts, such as copays. The Commission believes: (1) cost paid by clients for counseling services should be uniform among consumers; (2) counseling that is paid for and free to the client is consistent with our mission; and (3) prevention and education messages that emphasize the fact that our service is free and confidential appeal to the public. Commissioner Lutz moved to approve the “no-copay” policy. Commissioner Scoville seconded the motion. Voting to approve: Canada, Lutz, Scoville, Leckband, Patterson, Arch and Mullemann. Commissioner Anselmo abstained and Commissioner Monheiser was absent. Motion carried.

Keno Tax Funding Proposal Overview. The director explained the current status of the effort to increase revenue to the program by seeking a reallocation of the revenue generated by the charitable gaming tax. Documents explaining the need for the added funding were distributed. Commissioners will be asked to present the proposal to their individual senators as the legislative session approaches.

Agent Brand Review of Phase 1 Campaign Representatives of Agent Branding presented their concepts for a multimedia campaign that is intended to create discomfort in the public about gambling, and include a link to the program website which will be updated to make it more appealing to people seeking information.

Legislative Breakfast March 1, 7:30AM State Capitol, Room 1126 Staff announced that a legislative breakfast is tentatively scheduled for March 1, which will feature presentations of current program activities and documents supporting increased revenue.

A tentative 2018 Meeting Calendar was agreed upon by Commissioners present: March 1, May 11, August 17, November 16

Public Comment was solicited throughout meeting.

Adjourn Commissioner Leckband moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn until March 1 was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.