

**Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling
March 1, 2018
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, Patterson, Anselmo, Arch; Absent excused – Monheiser, Muelleman, Scoville

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 February 23, 2018. The amended notice of meeting and agenda was posted on the program website and Charitable Gaming website on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. The notice of meeting has also been continuously posted here at the office of the Gamblers Assistance Program, and available for public inspection.

This meeting of the Commission on Problem Gambling is conducted according to the requirements of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available on the table toward the rear of this room.

Copies of other printed materials that may be considered by the Commission during the meeting are also available to the public on the table toward the rear of this room.

Public comments on issues presented during this meeting will be allowed by the chair from time to time during the meeting and may also be requested by any member of the commission at any time.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of December 1, 2017: Motion by Commissioner Leckband to approve the minutes as posted and distributed without change. Seconded by Commissioner Patterson. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Director's Report

Legislation LB679, the bill introduced by Sen. Krist to increase funding to the program, was subject of public hearing at the Legislature's General Affairs

Committee on February 26. Without a priority status, and in view of the late hearing date, it is uncertain whether the bill was be enacted this session.

Finance February 28 and January 31 reports from Administrative Services Accounting were distributed. The program is at or under budget on all expenditures. Balance remaining in Gamblers Assistance Fund is trending down and will be about \$700,000 by July 1 2018, and as low as \$300,000-400,000 by June 30, 2019, at the end of the current biennium.

The director pointed out to the Commission that the staff report on contract status 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. Reports are being compiled but the sample is not large enough yet to give meaningful data.

FY 2018-19 Budget Contingencies Discussion If LB679 does not pass in some form, the program faces spending cuts of up to 20% across the board, with counseling in line to take large cuts. Even if the bill passes and revenue is increased, the Commission needs to develop an overall strategic outlook to guide future initiatives.

Counselor Contracts: Increasing contract amounts The director explained that a number of contractors will reach or exceed the their contract awards for counseling services before the May meeting. Therefore, a recommendation to increase contract awards was presented. The increases are based on average monthly demand for services since July 1, 2017; number of months remaining in the year; balance remaining unspent as of March 1; and retaining a reserve in the amount of 10%. Increasing these awards for counseling services will assure counselors that there is funding to pay for services rendered, and avoid the need to request emergency funding increases before the May meeting.

Commissioner Lutz moved approval of the following list of increases for counseling services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anselmo and passed by unanimous vote. Counseling awards were increased as follows:

- Choices, increase \$115,000 to total \$448,000
- Spence Counseling, increase \$12,000 to total \$77,000
- Mike Sullivan Counseling, increase \$24,000 to total \$114,000
- Gina Fricke, d/b/a Peace & Power Counseling, increase \$20,000 to total \$73,000
- Betty Hampton, increase \$27,000 to total \$115,000
- Wanda Swanson, increase \$9,000 to total \$62,000
- First Step, increase \$2,500 to total \$14,500
- Ron Felton, increase \$2,800 to total \$55,300
- Joan Yekel, increase \$4,800 to total \$27,550
- Ellen Shafer-Lind, increase \$1,000 to total \$9,000
- Vicki Lawton, increase \$4,000 to total \$19,000
- Kit Johnson, increase \$15,000 to total \$64,000

Commissioner Lutz moved approval of the following list of increases for local and community education, prevention and outreach. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arch and passed by unanimous vote. Awards were increased as follows:

- Choices, increase \$20,000 to a total of \$51,000
- Heartland Family Service, \$10,900 – first time award.

Supervision Contracts Provisional therapists are supervised during their practicum hours by counselors who are paid to do so, and contract awards need to be made. Recommended contracts:

Gina Fricke, to supervise Kit Johnson, an increase in existing contract by the amount of \$4,000. Commissioner Leckband moved approval of the award. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anselmo and approved by unanimous vote.

Gina Fricke, to supervise Mike Arnold, an award in the total of \$450.

Commissioner Patterson moved approval of the award. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leckband and approved by unanimous vote.

Deb Hammond, to supervise Ellen Shafer-Lind, an award in the total amount of \$3,000, contract to expire June 30, 2019. Commissioner Leckband moved

approval of the award. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anselmo and approved by unanimous vote.

Issuance of Provisional Certificates Three individuals have applied for certificates as Provisional Certified Disordered Gambling Counselor. The applicants have submitted their qualifications, and the applications have been approved by the Certification Advisory Board which recommends issuing the certificates.

Motion to issue the provisional certificate to Carly Spring was made by Commissioner Lutz. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leckband and adopted by unanimous vote.

Motion to issue the provisional certificate to Sheree Stabler was made by Commissioner Arch. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Patterson and adopted by unanimous vote.

Motion to issue the provisional certificate to Barb McIntosh was made by Commissioner Patterson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leckband and adopted by unanimous vote.

Exploratory education proposals Anne McCollister presented outlines of two possible education initiatives – one by Everfi, along the model of the existing Financial Literacy courses presented in Nebraska schools with sponsorship by the State Treasurer and state banks; and the other by Inceptia, presented in schools and colleges in Nebraska with sponsorship by the Nebraska Student Loan Program, which would follow the model of the existing Financial Avenue courses. Preliminary cost estimates and timetables to create were discussed. This item was discussion only, pending future funding availability.

Agent Brand Review of Phase 1 Campaign Representatives of Agent Brand presented initial data returns from the digital media campaign. Results are already above normal for public responses, but it takes about 90 days to obtain meaningful data.

Public Comment was solicited throughout meeting.

The next meeting of the Commission will be on May 11, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.