

**Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling  
May 11, 2018  
700 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln Nebraska**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.**

**Roll Call:** Present Canada, Lutz, Leckband, Patterson, Arch and Muelleman. Commissioner Anselmo was expected to arrive late. 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 May 1, 2018. The amended notice of meeting and agenda was posted on the program website and Charitable Gaming website on May 10, 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 previous meeting:** Chairman Canada called for amendments or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of March 1, 2018, and hearing none, the minutes were approved as distributed and posted on public websites.

**Commissioner Lutz asked for personal privilege to speak about Terry Scoville, a Commissioner who died on April 19, 2018, following a long illness. All agreed**

that “We will miss him. We’ll miss his expertise and his honesty. He was a driving force for GAP.” Terry, a resident of North Platte, was appointed as a member of the public at large, and brought his knowledge and experience from his time working with the Salvation Army and other causes to inform the Commission during his tenure beginning in July, 2013. Commissioners individually sent condolences to his family.

### **Director’s Report**

**Legislation** The session ended with enactment of an amendment to the statute allocating Charitable Gaming tax funds to the Gambles Assistance Fund, to increase the amount to \$100,000 per year. This was far short of the goal with this year’s effort, and we will try again at the next session.

**Finance** Several financial reports were distributed and reviewed with the Commission: April 30 monthly accounting reports from Administrative Services Accounting; the May 10 allotment status reports; spread sheet with monthly contracts performance; several detailed spreadsheets itemizing program expenditures on different categories of service. At the current pace, the program will come close to spending the entire amount allotted for this fiscal year.

**Budgets** The Commission received several outlines of possible budget resolutions for the year beginning July 1. The basic concept calls for lowering spending in steps to bring it down to equal projected revenue by the third fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2020. This plan is expected to preserve a balance in the Gamblers Assistance Fund that will sustain operations in the future. The complete budget discussion was held later in the meeting.

### **Commission Membership**

Commissioner Muelleman opened a discussion about membership on the Commission in view of Terry Scoville’s death and the fact that three positions were due to be filled this year but nothing has been done. The Commission directed staff to inquire with the Governor’s office about the status of pending appointments.

### **Amend by-laws**

Current bylaws require a super majority of two-thirds of all serving Commissioners to approve expenditures. Reduced membership, delay in appointments and schedule conflicts jeopardize the ability of the Commission to act on expenditure issues until a full complement of Commissioners is appointed

and confirmed. The Commission requested a draft of proposed changes to the by-law to be presented at the next meeting to address this situation. Once all positions are filled, the super-majority requirement can be restored.

### **Executive Committee Vacancy**

The death of Terry Scoville opens a position on the Executive Committee. Commissioner Lutz nominated Commissioner Cameron Arch. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Muelleman, and adopted by unanimous vote.

### **Agent Brand Contract**

Representatives of our contractor Agent Brand reported on the multi-media BetCareful.com campaign that has been running January 15 – May 15, 2018. The data indicates the campaign is performing better than average and above expectations.

### **FY 2018-19 Budget Resolution**

Commissioners reviewed and discussed budget worksheets to use for planning for the fiscal year that begins on July 1. Expenditures since July 1, 2013, have exceeded revenue and drawn down the surplus balance in the Gamblers Assistance Fund. By the end of this fiscal year the balance is projected to be \$722,000. The current pace of spending cannot be sustained without increased revenue. After discussion, Commissioner Canada moved adoption of a budget resolution outlining total spending in the amount of \$1.789 million. Commissioner Lutz seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Details of the budget were reviewed and adopted by individual votes. The general categories that were adopted are:

Salaries and benefits: \$145,692.

Operating expenses: \$365,850.

Travel expenses: \$3,800.

Government Aid: \$1,150,000.

Unobligated for contingencies: \$123,658.

Commissioner Canada moved to approve an increase in the contract to Agent Brand in the amount of \$100,000, to a total of \$250,000 effective July 1, 2018, plus \$50,000 to be distributed by contracts among counselor, all to be allocated from the problem gambling messages earmarked revenue received from the lottery division marketing budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leckband. The motion was approved by votes of Commissioners

Canada, Lutz, Leckband, Patterson, Arch and Muelleman. Commissioner Anselmo voted no.

Commissioner Anselmo moved to approve funding counselors for counseling services with initial awards in the total amount of \$900,000, effective July 1, and the balance of the earmark in the amount of \$250,000 reserved to meet future demand. Commissioner Lutz seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Canada moved issuance of a contract to a provider for the program's telephone helpline for the amount of \$45,000 for the 6 month period beginning July 1, with instructions to staff to gather information regarding effectiveness of the service and possible alternatives. Commissioner Arch seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous vote.

The budget outline is attached to these minutes.

### **Director Pay**

The Commission discussed the rate of pay of the program director. The resolution adopted on September 22, 2017, proposed an increase in the director's pay to \$75,000 per year. This was incorporated into the mid-biennium budget request that resulted in shifting \$6,886 from operations to salary limit to cover pay increases for both the director and staff. The proposed rate is slightly above the middle of the range for health program manager II, between the mid-point hourly rate and the maximum hourly rate. The director of Gamblers Assistance Program performs duties that exceed the job description duties of the health program manager position, including accounting, drafting legal documents, preparing budgets, developing legislative proposals and communicating with policy makers. Commissioner Lutz moved the increase in director pay to \$75,000 per year, effective July 1, 2018. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Muelleman, and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote, including Commissioner Anselmo who joined the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

### **Counselor Contract Increases**

The director reported that fiscal year expenditures are once again reaching near to the total allotment but that several counselor contracts are about to run out of allocated funding as demand increases. The director requested authority to make selected increases to contracts as funding permits in order to avoid an interruption in service to clients of the program. Commissioner Canada moved to

approve the resolution, and Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion. Motion to approve resolution unanimous.

### **Next Biennium Budget**

The Commission discussed the need to develop outlines of the budgets for the next two years in order to comply with the state budget office calendar for biennial budget proposals. The director will develop budget outlines for consideration at the next meeting.

Staff was directed to poll the Commissioners regarding the date for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

**COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING  
 GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BUDGET RESOLUTION FYE 6/30/2019  
 ADOPTED MAY 11, 2018**

<b>510000 PERSONAL SERVICES</b>	
511100 PERMANENT SALARIES-WAGES	115,678
<b>Personal Services Subtotal</b>	<b>115,678</b>
515100 RETIREMENT PLANS EXPENSE	8,662
515200 FICA EXPENSE	8,849
515400 LIFE & ACCIDENT INS EXPENSE	50
515500 HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE	11,453
516500 WORKERS COMP PREMIUMS	1,000
<b>Major Account 510000 Total</b>	<b>145,692</b>
<b>520000 OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
521100 POSTAGE EXPENSE	250
521200 COMM EXP-VOICE/DATA	10,500
521500 PUBLICATION & PRINT EXPENSE	2,000
524600 RENT EXPENSE-BUILDINGS	2,500
531100 OFFICE SUPPLIES EXPENSE	600
541100 ACCTG & AUDITING SERVICES	2,000
554900 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	48,000
559164 PROBLEM GAMBLING MESSAGES	300,000
<b>Operating Expenses Subtotal</b>	<b>365,850</b>
<b>570000 TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>	
571100 BOARD & LODGING	500
573100 STATE-OWNED TRANSPORT	300
574500 PERSONAL VEHICLE MILEAGE	3,000
<b>Major Account 570000 Total</b>	<b>3,800</b>
<b>590000 GOVERNMENT AID</b>	
595100 CONTRACTUAL AID	<b>1,150,000</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	
UNOBLIGATED/UNCLASSIFIED CONTINGENCIES	<b>123,658</b>
<b>PROGRAM EXPENDITURES TOTAL</b>	<b>1,789,000</b>