

**Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling
September 22, 2017
700 South 16th Street
Lincoln Nebraska**

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

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

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 and the website of the Charitable Gaming Division on September 15, 2017, and on the program website on September 18, 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 July 21, 2017: Motion by Commissioner Scoville to approve the minutes as posted and distributed without change. Seconded by Commissioner Leckband. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Director's Report

Current developments. The Director gave a report on gambling expansion in Nebraska, including "skill touch" games and the U. S. Supreme Court case about sports betting. Reports on Intake & Discharge Outcomes showing the benefit of counseling on some measures were distributed, along with a 4-year Summary of the data from the intake and discharge database.

Legislation. Charitable Gaming Division revenue exceeds the needs of Charitable Gaming Operations, and the current and future needs of the Nebraska Gamblers Assistance Program require added revenue to sustain the mission. Staff is directed to develop legislative proposals to increase the portion the Gamblers

Assistance Fund receives from Charitable Gaming Tax revenue. Commissioners voiced their approval of the proposition.

Finance. Administrative Services Accounting Division reports for year-to-date as of August 31, 2017, were distributed and reviewed. The Program has been under budget every fiscal year under Commission operations but last year expenditures were \$1.84M out of a total appropriation of \$1.88M. This level of spending will draw down the Gamblers Assistance Fund to unsustainable levels by the end of the current biennium. The first two months of the current fiscal year-to-date are at budget levels.

Appropriation. A contractor performance spreadsheet was distributed and discussed. Initial contract commitments left a margin to allow for increased amounts for therapy and prevention/education/outreach as demand justifies, with Commission approval.

Shrader Contract. Eleanor Shrader is a certified counselor who has been working at Boys Town and is moving to Great Plains Mental Health Associates in Omaha. Boys Town has given notice of cancellation of its contract and Great Plains will assume it so Eleanor can continue to provide this service at her new location beginning October 1. The balance remaining in the Boys Town contract will be the starting award in the Great Plains contract. Commissioner Leckband moved to approve the proposed contract, seconded by Commissioner Lutz. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Sanchez Contract. Laura Sanchez is a provisional counselor who started at Heartland and is now affiliated with One World in Omaha. She requests a contract to allow her to continue to provide problem gambling counseling services. The director proposed \$10,000, divided with \$8,000 for therapy services and \$2,000 for prevention/education/outreach, to begin immediately. Commissioner Leckband moved to approve the proposed contract, seconded by Commissioner Patterson. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

NCCG Contract. Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling requests a contract for \$12,000, \$4,000 each, effective July 1, 2017, for three online programs to be presented, recorded and developed for presentation online by Bellevue University, intended to provide continuing education credits that counselors need

for recertification. Commissioner Monnheiser moved to approve the proposed contract, seconded by Commissioner Scoville. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Counselor Rates/Co-pay. After discussion, the Commission resolved to further study this issue and gather comments from counselors. The topic will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Closed session. Commissioner Canada moved to go into closed session to discuss an investigation regarding allegations of criminal misconduct, seconded by Commissioner Lutz. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote and the meeting was closed at 1:05 p.m. At 1:17 p.m., Commissioner Canada moved to end the closed session and resume the public meeting, seconded by Commissioner Leckband. The motion carried by unanimous vote and the open meeting resumed.

Staff Pay. After discussion, Commissioner Canada moved to authorize the director to draft a deficit appropriation request to be submitted by the October 24 deadline, to increase PSL by shifting appropriation from operations without an overall increase in the program's appropriation. The increased PSL would be effective July 1, 2018, for the fiscal year beginning that date. The increase will support increased pay due to reclassification of the staff position from Admin II to Public Information Officer II and an increase in Director's salary to \$75,000 beginning July 1, 2018. The request in the amount of \$5,610 will provide for both salary changes during fiscal year 2018-19. An increase in the salary for the staff position to become effective with the pay period beginning October 16, 2017, can be accommodated within the current PSL level for the current fiscal year. Both of these changes are requested in order to align salaries with the actual nature of the job responsibilities. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lutz. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Agent Brand Prevention and Education Campaign Update. Staff from Agent Brand gave a presentation about the progress on the multimedia prevention/education campaign contract.

Chairman Canada opened the meeting to public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.