

Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling
Minutes of the meeting held on November 1, 2013
Omaha State Office Building
1313 Farnam Street, Omaha NE 68102, Room 226

Commissioners present for roll call: Chairman Ed Hoffman, Vice-Chair Teri Teutsch, Co-Secretary Janell Holt, Susan Lutz, Mathew Anselmo, Marla Bruder

Commissioners absent: Paul Leckband, Terry Scoville, Co-Secretary Mark Canada

Welcome & Introduction. Ed Hoffman called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and attendance was taken by roll call. Ed offered those in the audience the opportunity to introduce themselves. Ed mentioned that the commissioners have a legislative packet that they should definitely read. It won't be discussed today but contains some important information.

Item 1. Review & Approval of Agenda:

Ed Hoffman reviewed the agenda items.

Action - Teri Teutsch made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Janelle Holt seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Hoffman, Teutsch, Holt, Lutz, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.

Item 2. Review & Approval of Prior Minutes:

Ed Hoffman presented the August meeting minutes and asked for any revisions. None were offered.

Action – Teri Teutsch made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2013, meeting. Janelle Holt seconded the motion. Roll call vote - Hoffman, Teutsch, Holt, Lutz, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.

Item 3. Job description for Executive Director and discuss timeline for hiring:

Jerry Bauerkemper reviewed the job description for Gambling Director (Attachment A). He stated that, after the commissioners approved the qualifications for hiring the new director, he will provide the information to the state human resources department so the job can be posted.

Ed Hoffman mentioned that it is so important that the commission's relationship with the Dept. of Revenue run smoothly during this transition period.

Teri asked if the job of executive director was too much for just one person. Bauerkemper said the executive can do the job as long as he/she has support staff. The commission will hire the director, and the director should hire the staff – the new director should be able to hire staff that he/she feels comfortable with.

Hoffman said the commissioners should be very active in choosing the new director. Bauerkemper said DHHS always picked thru the applicants and presented the ones best matching the qualifications. Do the commissioners want the Dept of Revenue to provide that service? It was agreed that the commissioners would prefer to review all applications submitted.

Tim Young is the head of Human Resources for the Dept of Revenue and the job information will be given to him – he'll help Bauerkemper with the posting.

Marla Bruder asked if it was mandatory that state employees interested in the position must be interviewed first – Bauerkemper will find that out.

Janelle Holt asked if the director should have a gambling background. Would the director need to go through gambling training? Bauerkemper said the commissioners should set that criteria – the job requirements can be whatever the commission wants.

Ed Hoffman said he felt that it might not be so very important that the director understand gambling, but that he/she understands how to get dollars from the legislature and have strong budgeting and management skills. The next five years are going to be key in keeping this program moving forward and the commission won't be able to do anything unless they get access to the money allotted to the program.

Item 4 – Current Status Certification Committee:

Jerry Bauerkemper said the committee has met and ideas were ironed out. Bauerkemper just needs to edit the document. He'll have that done in the next two weeks and will present it to the commissioners. The next step will be to do a final draft of the document and then decide when to move forward on it.

A public hearing will need to be held for public comment – this can happen in February. Changes can be made depending on comments received and then move on with the certification program. Bauerkemper mentioned that this certification document is a priority so that it can be in place for people to apply in June for certification in September, 2014.

Chuck Spence mentioned that the providers appreciated how comfortable it was to work with the new commission.

Morning Break - 10:30 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

Item 5. Statue of Snitily Carr, Ramiriz & Magellan Contracts:

Bauerkemper reported that those contracts are sitting in DAS (Dept of Administrative Services) right now. The contracts got kicked back once but those issues have been resolved and they should be approved soon.

Item 6 – Deficit Budget Proposals:

Bauerkemper presented the budget request document. Ed Hoffman summarized the deficit budget request. Bauerkemper mentioned that there will be an 18% overrun on the current budget because of the additional client services provided.

Bauerkemper went thru the report that he submitted to the state budget division and explained each amount requested for services, staff, and software. He said that the commission needs to approve the document – if they don't, he'll withdraw it.

Ed Hoffman made the motion to approve the deficit budget proposals as outlined in the document provided: \$239,784 for FY14/15 with the authority to request additional dollars for 2015, which includes \$10,198 for an administrative position, \$11,515 for the executive director position, and \$100,000 for operations expenses for IT development. Teri Teutsch seconded the motion. Roll call vote - Hoffman, Teutsch, Holt, Lutz, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.

7. Current Budget & Client Numbers:

Bauerkemper presented an overview of provider services. He talked about the providers who were not utilizing their budget dollars. There was concern about services not being provided in western

Nebraska. Bauerkemper said there is money available to contract with another provider who would service the western area, if the commission wants to. There was concern about not having the certification process in place. Bauerkemper recommended having a new contractor do outreach to develop a client base and then provide a counselor for client services until the new provider gets certified.

Bauerkemper mentioned that the providers who were doing the most outreach and prevention work were getting the most clients. Ed Hoffman agreed that the providers need to be active in the community to move service information forward. He said the commissioners need to look at that piece in reviewing provider contracts. Bauerkemper said prevention information is so important because it gets people thinking about the problem before the problem becomes a huge issue.

Hoffman mentioned that he and Jerry are putting together some information to present to the federal court to make them aware of the GAP program and how gambling plays into other criminal acts. Mark Anselmo said he would be glad to work as a resource since he is very familiar with the federal system. The other commissioners agreed that this would be a good activity for Hoffman and Bauerkemper to pursue.

Chuck Spence mentioned that prevention work is key to his clinic's service growth but providers need to be cautious about growing their service business over the money allowed in their contract.

Item 8. Discussion/Vote on Report to the Legislature/Governor:

Ed Hoffman gave the commissioners some background on data collection for the GAP program. Statute requires that an annual report be submitted to the governor and legislature. That report was not submitted for FY13 by DHHS and Bauerkemper was not able to access the data necessary to create one. So he has created a report using current fiscal year information for the commission to submit.

Ed Hoffman made the motion to approve the report as provided to the commission with the agreed changes. Matt Anselmo and Janelle Holt seconded the motion. Roll call vote - Hoffman, Teutsch, Holt, Lutz, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm

Next Meeting – February 6, 2014