

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

Roll Call: Present in person: Leckband, Lutz, Zohner, Volnek and Monheiser.
Absent excused: Lambert

Announcements:

Chairperson Lutz made the following announcements:

The notice of this regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on Problem Gambling was posted publicly on January 30, 2026 on the State events calendar and on the website of the Gamblers Assistance Program. The notice of meeting with the agenda has been available continuously in the office of the Gamblers Assistance Program in Whitehall Campus, building 7, 5800 Walker Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska since the date when the notice was posted publicly.

This meeting of the Commission on Problem Gambling is conducted in compliance with the requirements of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is on the table in 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 in 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.

The sequence of our discussion of agenda items and the timing of discussion are tentative and subject to ruling by the chair as this meeting goes on.

Let us now pause for a moment of reflection before we move on to the next item on the agenda.

Approval of minutes of previous meetings:

The Chair called for amendments or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2025. Hearing none, Commissioner Leckband moved for approval of the minutes as distributed, seconded by Commissioner Moore.

The Chair called for a vote. Voting yes: Leckband, Lutz, Zohner, Moore, Volnek and Monheiser. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Director Narrative Report: Legislation; Administrative Services Financial Reports; Operations and Data Reports.

The Director presented a series of reports about program activities, program finances and data. The director’s narrative report is attached to these minutes.

Agenda Item 6: Planning

Commissioners discussed the status of pending legislation about the future of the Commission. If the Commission is dissolved, all records will be turned over to DHHS. If the Commission continues, the program offices will be moved to remodeled space at the Racing and Gaming Commission offices. Timing of the potential move is uncertain. No action was taken by the Commission.

Agenda Item 7: Approve increases to counselor contracts for FY25-26

Meeting materials included a list of contracts with counseling services for the current fiscal year for which award amounts are needed to assure payment to counselors through the upcoming months. Commissioner Leckband moved for approval of the increases, seconded by Commissioner Zohner. The Chair called for a vote. Voting yes: Leckband, Lutz, Zohner, Moore, Volnek and Monheiser. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 8: Approve new counselor contract for FY25-26

Meeting materials included a proposal for approval of a new counselor contracts for Wilson Services of Lincoln. Commissioner Leckband moved for approval of the new contracts, seconded by Commissioner Monheiser. The Chair called for a vote. Voting yes: Leckband, Lutz, Zohner, Moore, Volnek and Monheiser. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2026, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at a location in Lincoln to be determined.

ATTEST: _____, Todd Zohner, Secretary

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING
FEBRUARY 13, 2026
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COMMISSION STATUS

The Legislature's General Affairs Committee advanced a bill (LB1001) that would approve transfer of administrative support for Gamblers Assistance to the Racing & Gaming Commission. The first round vote ("General File") was in favor of the bill. The next step is second round voting ("Select File") which will probably be soon.

The bill that would transfer Gamblers Assistance to the Department of Health and Human Services (LB1072) is pending at the Appropriations Committee. The bill incorporates the Governor's overall budget proposal covering many other agencies and programs. Rules of the Legislature require the Appropriations Committee to complete their preparation of the bill by March 9. Because of the complexity of the budget the Committee's recommendations will probably not be announced before then.

The Legislature will need to resolve the differences between the committees by the end of the session.

CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS

Meeting materials include state accounting financial reports and internal spreadsheets showing results of operations so far this year. As usual, our largest spending category is counseling services.

The current budget that includes lower counseling rates that started January 1 is attached.

GAMBLING OUTLOOK

Casino expansion continues. WarHorse Lincoln recently announced another expansion project; Dakota City is under construction; Ogallala construction is in progress. There are now 3,410 casino slots and 57 table games in operation at the 5 casinos.

Our share of the casino gaming tax revenue has averaged \$116,000 monthly since last July with a bit of an increase in the past three months. Revenue from this source may exceed our current projection of \$1.3 million for the year.

Another gaming situation in Nebraska is the 5,800 "skill" games scattered around the state. The promoters of these devices are required to pay 5% tax quarterly. Gamblers Assistance share of the tax is \$83,672. At this pace our total this year will likely be \$180,000, as projected in our current budget.

First half transfers from Lottery were \$921,132, about \$39,000 more than last year.

However projections for the rest of the year are for lower amounts. For our purposes a conservative projection is \$1.1 million total.

Nebraska Horsemen and WarHorse Gaming have joined in another initiative petition, this time to legalize remote sports betting. If they get enough signatures the issue may be on the ballot at the general election this fall. If the issue is approved by the voters their sports betting will then be in competition with the unregulated and untaxed "prediction markets" gambling that is spreading across the country.

LEGISLATION

Senator Spivey has introduced another version of her bill that would increase the rate of tax on the "skill" devices and change the formula for dividing the proceeds. Gamblers

Assistance share would remain at 2.5% of the tax. Public hearing on the bill was on January 28; the Revenue Committee has not yet acted on the bill.

OTHER NEWS

So far there are no takers in Nebraska to serve as the platform for our new counselor training. Bellevue University will stop offering the course at the end of March.

David Geier

February 13, 2026

GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

REVENUE

Share of State Lottery profits <i>500,000 + 1%; Constitution Article III Section 24</i>	850,000
5% of State Lottery ad budget <i>Statute Section 9-831</i>	250,000
Share of Charitable Gaming tax <i>Legislative fixed amount appropriation</i>	400,000
Share of Casino Wagering Tax <i>Racetrack Gaming Act Section 9-1204</i>	1,300,000
Share of MACD Gaming Tax	180,000
Investment Income <i>Gamblers Assistance Fund earnings</i>	<u>8,000</u>
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE	<u>2,988,000</u>

EXPENDITURES

510000 PERSONAL SERVICES

511100 PERMANENT SALARIES <i>Limit set by Legislature</i>	149,532
515100 RETIREMENT PLANS EXPENSE <i>Employer share 7.5%</i>	11,215
515200 FICA EXPENSE <i>Employer share 7.65%</i>	11,439
515500 HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE <i>Employer share of premiums</i>	32,664
516500 WORKERS COMP PREMIUMS <i>State assessment</i>	<u>1,000</u>
Personal Services Total	205,850

520000 OPERATING EXPENSES

521100 POSTAGE EXPENSE	150
521400 CIO CHARGES <i>State data; communications</i>	10,000
521500 PUBLICATION & PRINT EXPENSE <i>State printing</i>	2,000
522200 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION <i>National Conference</i>	1,500
524600 RENT EXPENSE-BUILDINGS	4,000
531100 OFFICE SUPPLIES EXPENSE	750
534600 EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES <i>Texts, manuals</i>	500
541100 ACCTG & AUDITING SERVICES	4,400
541200 PURCHASING ASSESSMENT	400
554130 VIDEO SERVICES <i>Zoom Video</i>	7,250
554900 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	
<i>Data analyst</i>	80,000
<i>Bellevue Univ. training & testing</i>	3,500
<i>Helpline service</i>	32,500
559100 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	
<i>Midwest Conference sponsorship</i>	5,000
559164 PROBLEM GAMBLING MESSAGES <i>RFP Awarded Contract</i>	<u>350,000</u>
Operating Expenses Total	501,950

570000 TRAVEL EXPENSES

571100 BOARD & LODGING <i>Commissioner travel; Hotels/2 conferences</i>	3,500
572100 COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT <i>National Conference air fare</i>	750
573100 STATE-OWNED TRANSPORT <i>.32/mile; 12.50/day</i>	1,000
574500 PERSONAL VEHICLE MILEAGE <i>Commissioner, staff travel .70/mile</i>	<u>1,500</u>
Travel Expenses Total	6,750

544300 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

544300 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES *Counseling services* **2,119,290**

Assumes 12,000 hours counseling; 400 admission assessments

TOTAL ALL PROJECTED EXPENDITURES **2,833,840**

APPROPRIATION

3,208,877

CASH FUND STATUS

BALANCE 07/01/25 **395,439**

PLUS PROJECTED REVENUE FYE25-26 **+ 2,988,000**

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FY25-26 **3,383,439**

MINUS PROJECTED EXPENDITURES FY25-26 **- 2,833,840**

PROJECTED BALANCE 06/30/26 **549,599**