

**STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON  
PROBLEM GAMBLING & ADDICTION SERVICES**

March 16, 2007- 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Country Inn & Suites

5353 North 27<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE

**Commission Members Present:** Wayne Choat, Sherrie Geier, Steve Jung, Andrea McAllister, Tom Nutt, Dick Stalker, Donald Warren

**Commission Members Absent:** Janet French, Kathryn Speck, Robert Sylvester

**HHS Staff Present:** Lee Tyson, interim deputy administrator, Division of Behavioral Health Services; Eric Hunsberger- Gamblers Assistance Program (GAP) manager, Division of Behavioral Health Services; Abigail Davis, staff assistant, Division of Behavioral Health Services

**Guests Present:** Deb Hammond, Choices; Dianne McNeese, First Step Recovery; Toni Arntzen, First Step Recovery; Carmen McLean and Mark DeKraai, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

**Call To Order:**

Wayne Choat, chairperson of the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services (Committee), called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Abigail Davis called the roll of members and determined that a quorum was present.

**Introductions/Welcome**

Wayne Choat welcomed all members and guests.

**Approval of November 17, 2006 Minutes:**

Sherrie Geier outlined some corrections to the minutes. Corrections included on page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph- it should state that Katrina sent out an email; page 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph- should reflect that Christie Scott spoke of donating \$25,000 to NCCG; page 3, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph- Sherrie Geier's name is misspelled twice and should be corrected; page 3, paragraph 5- 2007 should be 2006; page 3, paragraph 6- 2006 should be 2007; page 4, paragraph 2- Ayers Keller should be spelled Ayres Kahler; page 4, paragraph 5- Andrea McAllister's name is misspelled four times and should be corrected; page 4, paragraph 8- recovery should read recovering. The minutes from the November 17, 2006 meeting were approved, as amended, by general consent.

**Approval of Agenda:**

The agenda was revised to list Eric Hunsberger as the presenter instead of Janet French under letter C. "Reports". Also, under "New Business" III and IV, Eric was listed as the presenter instead of Janet French. The revised agenda was approved by general consent.

## Reports

### **Quarterly Priorities- Wayne Choat**

Wayne introduced Lee Tyson, interim deputy director of the Division of Behavioral Health Services (Division), and asked her to say a few words. Ms. Tyson is coordinating the development of the Division's strategic plan. She explained that the plan will document the vision, mission, values and goals of the Division. By March 30, 2007, Ms. Tyson will create a steering committee to work on the plan. She asked Wayne Choat to serve on the committee. She wants to make sure that the Division and this Committee have common goals. The steering committee will consider how to create compatibility between The Division's strategic plan and this Committee's strategic plan. Ms. Tyson explained that, as of July 1, 2007, LB296 will reorganize the administrative structure of the Health and Human Services System (HHSS). The new structure will render the Division's current strategic plan obsolete.

Eric is overseeing the implementation of the GAP Strategic Plan. GAP providers have been contacted and will meet on May 23, 2007 in North Platte to develop the GAP Scope of Work. This activity is prompted by the GAP Strategic Plan.

Wayne asked Eric to talk a little about the budget. Eric directed people to the GAP Budget Status Report, as of 15 March 2007. (*Attachment A.*) He explained that with regard to the 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR Carry Over under Services, the Total Accounts Receivable is \$1,068,335.00. The Total Accounts Payable is about 50%, under Administrative, Account Balance, the Projected Balance as of March 31, 2007 is \$37,189.00, and the total GAP Projected Balance for March 31, 2007 is \$491,040.00. Eric stated that the expenditure versus the revenue was pretty consistent, and the state accounting department had complimented the Behavioral Health Division on how the numbers were leveled and balanced. There will be \$10,000 available to use for new contracts if GAP does not hire another employee.

Sherrie Geier asked for clarification. Eric explained that he was told by the HHSS Finance and Support Department that the GAP does not have to carry FY07 funds over to the FY08 fiscal year to support expenses in the first quarter of the new fiscal year. This policy is a departure from past operating methods.

Andrea McAllister asked for clarification of information on page one. Under Services, Accounts Payable, it states that agency providers were paid \$219,501.00, and then in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Carry Over, under Services, Accounts Payable, it states that agency providers are given \$695,000.00. Wayne commented that the NCCG has \$180,000.00 listed under Account Payable. Eric stated that these numbers reflect amounts that were based on additional money requested by the providers.

### **Services Report Card (Provider Report Card as of March 1, 2007) - Tom Nutt**

Tom Nutt and Wayne Choat reviewed the Services Report Card (*Attachment B.*) Eric explained that there has been a lack of coordination between Lise Zlomke and the GAP. No specific actions have been taken to date, and future action will be based on Lise's future performance. Wayne asked if there were any comments on the withdrawal of Kevin Fitzmaurice. Wayne explained that Fitzmaurice was not able to meet GAP expectations. The GAP maintains that Fitzmaurice was given support and resources.

Sherrie Geier commented that "amendment" was misspelled. She clarified that there was a change in dollars, not people, and that it is important to be clear about what we are counting on this document. Eric stated that the expenditure rate mean should be 58%. Everyone should be at that 58% expenditure rate. As of March 1, 2007, GAP funded providers have an average expenditure rate of 50-51 percent. Lisa Johnson and First Step will be audited (site visits) by the end of the fiscal year. Eric stated that communication with the providers is very good, and that Region I has a good relationship with the providers in its service area.

Andrea McAllister and Steve Jung initiated a discussion about the practicality of having Eric conduct a site visit to Region I. The point was made that if Region I providers are drawing funds, then they should be audited and have a site visit like providers in the rest of the BH Regions. Steve Jung stated that Region I providers should be held accountable, especially if they are considered to be a top priority. Wayne and

Sherrie both mentioned that the GAP is under-staffed, and that priorities have to be determined to assess the feasibility of conducting a Region I site right now.

**Membership, NCRG Report- Eric Hunsberger**

The Committee still has two vacancies. Several suggestions were made of possible appointees. Eric asked Committee members to have interested parties complete the governor’s “Executive Appointment Application” and submit it to the governor’s office.

**Ad Hoc Committee (Bylaws) - Sherrie Geier**

The suggested changes were:

- Under Article III, “three members of the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services shall be consumers.”
- Under Article IV, Section I, “a two-thirds” majority vote by Committee members is needed to award funds and amend the bylaws.
- Other changes were technical and grammatical. (*Attachment C*).

Changes will be made by the Division and sent to members for review prior to the next Committee meeting.

<b>Unfinished Business</b>
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**Legislative Breakfast Outcomes- Andrea McAllister**

The Legislative Breakfast was a success (*Attachment D*.) The cost for catering was \$256.80. Thirteen of the 49 senators attended the Legislative Breakfast. One obstacle was that providers did not send information, such as flyers about their agencies, to Jerry Bauerkemper. If there is a breakfast next year, Andrea said that a different consumer should tell his/her story so the senators who attended this year do not hear the same story again. For consumers, telling their story is difficult and personally revealing. Andrea felt it would be appropriate for someone else to do it next year. Andrea suggested having a dinner instead of a breakfast next year. She would contact senators and bring some providers with her to talk with them.

LB 647 and LB1232 were passed out to the Committee. (*Attachment E*.)

**Strategic Planning- Next Step- Wayne Choat**

Wayne stated that the GAP Strategic Plan required improvement of and approval by the Committee. (*Attachment F*.) Some corrections include:

- Page 5, Action Step 6 - the number should be a 5.
- Steve Jung and Sherrie voiced a concern that this Committee’s money, if not protected, will be absorbed into HHSS general funds in the future.
- In Goal A, Action Step 2 - the wrong words may have been used concerning the Legislative Breakfast.
- In Goal B, Action Step 2 – with the passage of LB 296 the State Policy Cabinet will cease to exist.
- Goal A, Action Step 3- the Division should know what has been tried in the past and failed to work, (referring to this step).
- Goal C, Action Step 2 - license certification. Eric stated that the GAP needs to educate providers. The goal is to increase the number of CCGC providers. Sherrie stated that she was not comfortable having trainers contracted with HHS-BHS that are not CCGC providers. Dick Stalker stated that providers are frustrated with ASI Evaluations.

Eric stated that Tim Christensen will facilitate the Scope of Work meeting on May 23, 2007.

Wayne stated that the Committee needs to continue to refine and make sense out of the Strategic Plan.

**1039 Implementation- Eric Hunsberger**

LB1039 has supported two important projects. The first is the Public Awareness Campaign. A curriculum has been developed called "Play It Safe," and the second is that Ayers Kahler ran several commercials on television concerning problem gambling as part of National Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

**GAP Structure- Eric Hunsberger**

There will be an advertisement for a program specialist next week. This position will work with the GAP and also be a Region 3 field representative. Interviews for the program specialist will begin in early May.

**LB332 Updates- UNL Policy Center Report- Carmen McClean**

Carmen gave a PowerPoint presentation on the GAP Helpline. (*Attachment G.*)

Types of calls:

- Most were wrong numbers - 9% were calls for services, and 11% were direct referrals.
- 200 calls a year occurred.
- Most calls were made in the morning.
- 56% of the callers were male.
- Most callers were between the ages of 35 and 44. Calls from people in the age range of 18-25 doubled from last year. The increase went from 6% to 12% of callers.
- Most callers were married or single, as the presented reported in her presentation.
- 73% were high school graduates and worked full-time.
- 68% played the slots, which was the most common activity.
- The second most common was table games.
- The most common problems were financial, family and emotional.
- 155 referrals were made to agencies - 65 were made to private providers, 56 to self-help groups, and 19 to literature packets.

A survey created by the UNL Public Policy Center is being sent out by providers to their clients to gather quantitative data. It was decided to use a mail-out survey because this type of survey is considered to be more confidential. Neither the Public Policy Center nor HHSS will know the clients' addresses, phone numbers or names.

**New Business**

**FY07 Contract Amendments- Tom Nutt/ Eric Hunsberger**

Eric presented his topic using a PowerPoint Presentation (*Attachment H Available upon request.*) He discussed the additional money requested and how much was then provided. The total requested by Contractors was \$69,500 and the total planned for additional allocation is \$37,500. The \$32,000 request from Choices was not granted.

**FY08 Plan of Expenditures- Tom Nutt/Eric Hunsberger**

Eric summarized the expenditures if the governor's budget and the Appropriations Committee's budgets pass as introduced. If they do not pass or are amended, GAP has available \$790,000. If they do pass and are not amended, GAP's expected budget will be \$1,240,000.

Administrative costs are calculated as 8% or \$90,000.00. This amount will cover the cost of contracting out some services the Division needs to be cover.

"There are two bills connected to prevention and education. LB1039 and LB321, which will be a continuation of LB332 initiatives," Eric Hunsberger stated.

Goal C of the Strategic Plan was discussed. Eric stated that with the endorsement of the regional administrators, providers will submit a plan of how they will become dual certified in future years. The Committee questioned the requirement that providers should turn in a plan of how to obtain dual certification and requested more information on the expenditure plan than was provided in the handout. The Committee wants to review the Strategic Plan before the Committee approves the budget. Sherrie

suggested that Eric contact Tim Christensen about how Tim presented the expenditure plan to the Committee in the past.

Eric stated that the wrap-around treatment that Choices is conducting is effective but expensive, and the GAP can't afford it. Andrea stated that Choices is exceeding the available funds.

Wayne stated that we have to vote on amendments to approve the funds, but the fact that a vote was needed was not stated in the agenda for this meeting so we have a problem. We need an emergency meeting scheduled to discuss on vote on the amendments before March 31, 2007. Sherrie stated she would check to see if a telephone conference would be permitted under Nebraska's Public Meeting Law.

Eric reported that the National Conference is being held in June, and he would like the Committee to consider sending Andrea McAllister to it. The Committee will know by March 31, 2007 if there will be funds to cover Andrea's expenses.

#### **Public Comment**

Dianne McNeese from First Step introduced Toni Arntzen as the new head therapist. Toni replaced Dawna Preitauer. Dianne's concern about the Public Policy Center's study is that she has only received one referral from the Helpline. She heard that there was a waiting list for treatment but she has five providers working for her, and she does not have a waiting list at First Step.

Deb Hammond stated she was on the Committee in 1994. Fifty-thousand dollars is used for public awareness. She has many people working for her. She has part-time and full-time employees. Why is the GAP requiring dual certification? The GAP will be taking her and other providers out of the picture by doing so. The use of best practice standards explains why clients stay with her.

Harlan Vogel stated he was impressed with the leadership of the Advisory Committee. His concern is that money gets shifted around until suddenly next year no one knows where it is. Best practices should be determined based on what the client needs. Then providers should use the appropriate treatment methodology to meet those needs. At Heartland Family Services providers slowly allow the client to fade out of treatment instead of cutting them off abruptly.

Sherrie discussed the legislative intent of LB 332, a bill, introduced by Senator McDonald and passed by the Legislature in 2005. There is also an amendment file on LB 638 to change the 'sunset' on limit below which the annualized transfer of State Lottery funds can fall. The amendment proposed protection until 2013, but a compromise on the floor resulted in protection for only one year. Sherrie stated that the GAP administration and the Committee must keep in mind what the senators think this Committee's money should be used for, and serve as informed advocates in order to ensure continued funding.

Sherrie stated that the Committee needs seven people for the emergency telephone conference, to be scheduled before March 31, 2007. During the call the Committee will discuss FY07 funding revisions that have been requested by some providers.

#### **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

FY08 Allocations.  
Review of Strategic Plan.  
Bylaws Discuss and Vote.

#### **Adjournment**

Wayne adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. by general consent.