

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

June 22, 2007- 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Country Inn & Suites

5353 North 27th St., Lincoln, NE

Committee Members Present: Janet French, Sherrie Geier, Steve Jung, Andrea McAllister, Tom Nutt, Robert Sylvester

Committee Members Absent: Wayne Choat, Kathryn Speck, Richard Stalker, Don Warren

HHS Staff Present: Joel McCleary, Administrator, Office of Consumer Affairs, 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 Treatment Center, Inc; Dianne McNeese, First Step Recovery; Toni Arntzen, First Step Recovery; Maya Chilese, Public Awareness Campaign, Choices Treatment Center, Inc.; Lisa Olivares, Grant Coordinator, Youth Grant Lincoln-Lancaster County.

Call To Order:

Tom Nutt, vice-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

Tom Nutt welcomed all members and guests.

Approval of March 16, 2007 Minutes:

The March 16 Minutes were approved by general consent.

Approval of April 4, 2007 Minutes:

The April 4, 2007 Minutes were approved by general consent.

Approval of Agenda:

The revised agenda was approved by general consent.

Reports

Quarterly Priorities- Eric Hunsberger

The Public Policy Center findings included to improve treatment services, increase reliability and validity. The data collection they conducted supports Goal D of the GAP Strategic Plan 2006-2011. The second priority is the new contracts for FY08, which are in the process of being reviewed by the legal department and sent out by the GAP staff to the providers. Scot Adams will be the new Director of Behavioral Health Services beginning July 1, 2007.

Services Report Card (Provider Reports) – Tom Nutt

Tom Nutt presented the Provider Expense Worksheet first (Attachment A). Sherrie Geier asked the status of Lisa Zlomke. Eric Hunsberger stated that she was notified by certified mail that she won't be provided funds from the state in FY08 and that she needs to provide treatment plans to GAP, Behavioral Health Services, HHSS, for clients that were receiving services under the financial support of GAP.

Janet French asked if Jean Hunt dropped out. Eric replied that Jean Hunt did not ask for any money and has no active clients that need gambling services.

Sherrie Geier stated that a written summary of Officer Reports that were going to be discussed during the meeting would be helpful for reference for the Committee next time.

Tom presented the Provider Report Card as of 01 March 07 next (Attachment B). Tom noted there were no changes with the audits.

Tom presented the Agencies Expense Worksheet (Attachment C). He noted the carry-overs.

Eric noted the PAC contract. He stated there has been an increase of staff at First Step and at Horizon. There are trends shown that support the allocation decisions.

Janet questioned the amount allocated to Heartland. Eric stated that Heartland and Spence Counseling both have a relationship with the correction facilities in Region 6 and so have many clients there. Steve Jung commented that from the corrections and probation professional field, the focus is now more on the actual gambler who is in the correction facility now and their treatment, whereas it used to be on the bookmakers in the facility.

Tom presented the Projected Gamblers Assistance Program Budget Status Report (Attachment D). He noted that there is a minimum of \$150,000 required for end of year payments. Steve Jung asked that the Project Balances that are now in the past be accompanied with an Actual Balance right below it. Sherrie Geier asked that the Carry-over be listed at the top of each quarter summary. This is helpful because when written like that it reads somewhat like a checkbook. She also stated that the Committee would benefit from having a 'Finance 101' training. Eric asked if there was a volunteer who would revise this report, the Projected Gamblers Assistance Program Budget Status Report. Robert Sylvester said he would volunteer to do that.

Eric stated that under Accounts Payable, the NASIS Survey is listed. This report arrived at the GAP office this week. The contract was initiated under Katrina Ondracek. The data collected by this report will be analyzed by the Public Policy Center at UNL.

Steve Jung had questions about the Lottery money. He noted that there was less money coming in through the lottery in the 2nd Quarter than in the 3rd/4th Quarter. He noted that maybe that was because the marketing budget and/or sales were not as high.

Eric stated that the % Variance stems from LB638. The Interest was not shown in the 3rd Quarter. The Interest is wrapped up in Administration and cannot be given directly to counselors.

Janet stated that as a summary, we are doing okay financially.

Eric agreed that GAP is doing okay financially. There has been a provider and a personnel reduction. \$57,000 is going to be carried over and will help us get to \$150,000. Sherrie stated that GAP has had several pieces of legislation- of statute framework- that states how money can be spent. Some legislation is flexible, some is not, and some is both. This Committee needs to understand how the legislation works and how we can use money. We can't make responsible decisions unless we know these things. We need to know what's permissible and what's not.

Janet stated that the Committee should take a special time for financial training.

Membership- Eric Hunsberger

Eric stated that Kate Speck has verbally withdrawn from the Committee because she has accepted a position with the Public Policy Center at UNL which begins July 1, 2007.

Eric sent an application to become a Committee Member to Karen Stevens, who works in the Nebraska Department of Education. Andrea McAllister stated she would like an application packet for someone she would like to see apply. Sherrie Geier stated that the Committee now has three vacancies. Janet French asked if present Committee Members need to re-apply if their terms are up. Eric stated that Committee Members can re-apply, and it is up to the Committee to decide about that. Sherrie Geier asked what happened to Brenda Wagner and Tom Nutt answered that she is still interested in being on the Committee. Eric stated that Janet French, Richard Stalker and Sherrie Geier will need applications. Janet asked if the Committee needs geographical representation. Steve and Sherrie both stated that in the past it has been hard for members to get to meetings when they live far away, and that affects the ability of the Committee to vote.

Eric spoke about the National Conference. He stated that the majority of the Nebraska providers attended the conference. He stated that data concerning gambling will be collected and used at a national level. Toni Arntzen stated that she attended and there were a variety of workshops. She liked the idea of the panel of gamblers at one workshop. Diane McNeese stated that she also went and it was good to know that Nebraska providers are right on target in comparison to the rest of the country. Neuro-feedback counseling was a hot topic at the conference. Deb Hammond, Wanda Swanson and Maya Chilese stated they attended as well. They stated there were not many advanced workshops. At the conference there was a lot of discussion of a holistic, wrap-around approach to gambling counseling.

Guest speakers Maya Chilese and Lisa Olivares spoke about the PAC project and the youth gambling prevention efforts. It is a pilot project. A project sponsored by the YWCA in Toronto has served as a model. The presentations that Maya and Lisa have given have been well-received. Maya and Lisa are interested in giving presentations to the Lincoln Public Schools. GLW Children's Council, Inc. is working with Maya and Lisa to have presentations at the public schools in their area.

New Business

II. FY08 Contract Allocations- Eric Hunsberger (Attachments E, F)

Sherrie Geier motioned the Committee approve FY08 contracts but come back and review them after a financial training at which point the Committee will better understand the funding streams and categories of service to ensure the providers are given proper funding amounts. Steve Jung seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Committee asked Eric to send a copy of the MOA between GAP and the Nebraska Lottery to all Committee Members. This Memorandum of Agreement defines how money from the Lottery is to be spent and the terms that are tied to the moneys.

Eric stated that LB 638 is basically an extension of the date of the funding, authorized by the Lottery. It is money to be used for treatment. It is the only funding that the Committee has total discretion over.

Sherrie stated that the Committee does not have discretion over the LB1039 funding. It can be used for prevention, education, and public awareness.

LB 321 is a reflection of LB332. LB332 has a two-year shelf-life. LB321 has flexible spending that can be used for prevention, education and treatment.

Unfinished Business

Revision/Approval of Bylaws- Sherrie Geier

Sherrie Geier presented a few more revisions to the Bylaws. Steve Jung stated that a two-year term makes more sense for Committee Members. Motion was made by Andrea McAllister to approve one more set of modifications of the Bylaws and seconded by Sherrie Geier. Motion was passed.

Eric introduced Joel McCleary, Administrator, Office of Consumer Affairs, to the Committee. Joel said a few words of introduction and thanked the Committee for the work they do.

GAP Personnel- Eric Hunsberger

Eric stated that he has interviewed several candidates for the open position of Field Representative/Gambling Program Specialist and hopes to have someone hired by July 15, 2007.

LB1039 Implementation, Public Awareness Campaign- Deb Hammond (Attachment G)

Deb Hammond asked the Committee to look over the handouts of the Public Awareness Campaign, Scope of Work- FY2007. She explained that Maya Chilese organized the materials and that Choices Treatment Center has completed all activities as outlined by the quarterly reports.

She stated that while implementing the survey they did in various parts of the state they found that no one knew for sure what the legal ages are for different types of gambling. These are: eighteen years old for bingo; nineteen years old for racetrack; and twenty-one years old for casinos. As Deb's team drove across the state they found that Nebraskans did not have a very solid idea of what is gambling. She stated that Betty Hampton's client numbers are increasing, and that Betty will be implementing screening at Valley Hope. She stated that Jean Hunt has an office in a medical clinic, which is a great location for screening patients for gambling. Deb stated that most people were receptive to taking the survey. Sherrie Geier asked if there was a website and Deb replied there was one. Eric stated that the website could be used as a resource for regional providers, and it was important to look at the expenditure of the website. Deb stated that she was not sure she wants to continue the PAC contract for \$20,000. There may be someone else who is interested in the contract for \$20,000 but she is not interested in it if it is less than \$50,000. This is because it took more money than \$20,000 to accomplish the activities, which includes designing the materials, design space, and storage space of the materials.

LB638 Status- Sherrie Geier

Sherrie stated that as the Committee thinks about doing a legislative activity it is important to look at the objectives. It is important to continue this 'sunset' (date extension of LB638) which guarantees a basement level of funding. She stated it is important to have someone watching legislation. Senator McDonald will try to find someone this year to fill her role. It would be beneficial to extend the sunset date more so that the extension doesn't just go from year to year.

License Initiative Update- Eric Hunsberger (Attachment H)

Eric asked the Committee to review the Letter of Intent from Michael Sullivan that he handed out. Eric stated that one of the main reasons for licensing gambling counselors is that anyone can say they are 'certified,' but if counselors are licensed they are protected by the Nebraska law. The Certification Board that exists now will most likely evolve into a licensing board.

Report- Scope of Work Meeting, May 23, 2007- Eric Hunsberger

Nebraska's major providers were present for the workshop in North Platte on May 23, 2007. Tim Christensen, the former GAP Program Manager, led the workshop. Three key recommendations were produced by the workshop:

1. The creation of a manual which would use Magellan data required, clinical data required for discharge, employability, criminal status, and debt status.
2. Make data reports available to providers on a quarterly basis
3. Establish achievable benchmarks for outcome measurement (measurable objectives)

Eric stated that the report is available for people to read. Sherrie Geier asked that Eric email the report to everyone.

New Business

Training Date Discussion- Tom Nutt/ Eric Hunsberger

It was discussed that the Committee would discuss training initiatives at the next meeting. The training for new member orientation, critical review of the Strategic Plan and Finances 101 will take place on October 19, 2007, at the Country Inn & Suites from 9am to 5pm.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Discussion – Tom Nutt/Eric Hunsberger

- Update on Strategic Plan
- Manager's Report
- Legislative Event Planning
- Election of Officers
- Approval of Bylaws
- Training Initiatives

Adjournment

Tom Nutt adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m. by general consent.

Public Comment

Deb Hammond from Choices Treatment Center, Inc. stated that monthly GAP reports would be useful for everyone to read. She stated that it is important for people to know how many Senators are leaving. Twenty-two Senators are left and fifteen are leaving. She doesn't think the new Senators know about gambling.

Deb Hammond commented that there is new federal legislation that if you have a criminal charge and haven't cleared it your social security check can be held and medicare benefits can be withheld. She recently had a client that had problems with this and didn't realize until she was in the hospital with no help financially.

Dianne McNeese, from First Step Recovery Center, said she's seen things change by licensing the substance abuse counselors. She stated that she believes that licensing gambling counselors is a good thing as long as the present certified gambling counselors can be grandfathered in. She said she is still wondering where all of the hotline referrals are going and would like to see the hotline referral list from the public policy center hotline.

Sherrie Geier stated that the Committee used to have a provider report. Steve Jung said that it helped the Committee to have contact with the providers.