

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

November 17, 2006 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Country Inn & Suites

5353 North 27th St., Lincoln, NE

Commission Members Present: Janet French, Sherrie Geier, Steven Jung, Andrea McAllister, Tom Nutt, Robert Sylvester

Commission Members Absent: Wayne Choat, Kate Speck, Richard Stalker

HHS Staff Present: Eric Hunsberger-Gamblers Assistance Program Specialist, Division of Behavioral Health Services; Alexandra Castillo, Staff Assistant, Division of Behavioral Health Services

Guests Present: Deb Hammond-Director, Choices, Mark DeKraai, Nebraska Policy Center, Cindy Nichols – Legislative Research, Lance Lambdin-Legislative Research, Andre Mick-Legislative Research, Wanda Swanson

CALL TO ORDER

Tom Nutt, Vice, Chairperson of the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Alexandra Castillo called the roll of members and determined that there was a quorum.

Introductions/Welcome

Tom Nutt welcomed all members and guests.

Approval of August 11, 2006 minutes:

Clarifying information to Committee members; the minutes of August 11, 2006 are submitted without the name of person making the motion on page 4. HHSS staff taking notes on August 11, 2006 is no longer employed with HHS and the person's name could not be determined.

By general consent the minutes for August 11, 2006 meeting were approved with a clarifying statement to be added at the beginning of the minutes to explain the reason for unknown names and corrections be made to Laurie Sutter's first name on page 3 and to Wayne Choat's last name on page 5. Motion Carried.

Approval of Agenda:

Discussion to add an agenda item was requested, but based on not being an emergency the agenda was not changed. The informational item by member will be part of Public Awareness. By general consent the agenda was approved.

Reports

National Center for Responsible Gambling – Janet French

Ms. French attended the 7th Annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction in Las Vegas New November 12-14, 2006.

The conference titled Lost in Translation, The Challenge of Turning Good Research into Best Practices. Janet briefly reviewed her report (*Attachment A*) and will be making a presentation in sections in upcoming advisory meetings. There is a lot to cover and she wants to share all of it with the members but in small portions. She pointed out that there is very little distinction between gambling and alcohol addictions. It was stated that brief intervention on a regular basis can be very useful. Checking in with counselors often does work great. Useful and interesting web sites are listed in her report. Janet's report on the NCRG conference will continue to be an agenda item.

The advisory committee is developing a method of funding to enable members to attend national conferences to see what other states are doing.

Officer Reports

- Chair (Quarterly Priorities)
Assessing the budget, with Amendment 3 not passing and Initiative 421 not passing, no funds will be allocated during this service year.

Katrina sent an email to all providers

Handouts were distributed to the committee members. (*Attachment B*)

At the last meeting the carry over was to be over \$250, 000. What is currently in the system is not that amount. Eric emphasized all funds allocated to providers, entities and pilot programs and or administrative funds will be utilized up to July 10, 2007. We are required a carry over of less than \$150,000 and at the end of the service year the estimated amount is \$10,000. We are taking action to accommodate carry over requirements.

The July 2006 carry over was \$283,000.

Tom Nutt mentioned the need to request help by outlining states to request support from Iowa Casinos for the Nebraska citizens developing gambling problems due to the Iowa Casinos.

Eric and Jerry Bauerkemper are working with Christie Scott and public relations managers with Harrah's Casinos in Council Bluffs. (*Attachment C*) Christie spoke of donating \$25,000 to NCCG.

Eric, Christie and Jerry Bauerkemper are working at finalizing a plan of action to get donations from casinos. This is the slow relationship-building process.

- Vice-Chair (Services Report Card) (*Attachment D*)
Eric briefly explained the table. Contract compliance refers to; are they submitting a scope of work given the contact guidelines. Understanding what services are being provided. Table lists; service, compliance and audit status. The table also shows the audits completed and the ones being scheduled.
The priority of funds recommendation are; 1) Strategic Plan, 2) National and Nebraska Health objectives, 3) State Behavioral Health Strategic Plan, 4) National Council on Program Gambling 2007 check list.
Recognition of priority funding are; 1) Rural community providers to find the hidden populations in 2) The Nebraska National help line 3) Urban Community providers 4) Pilot Prevention Programs, 5) Training of providers, 6) Administration and 7) Evaluation.

The concern is that Rural Community providers are placed as a priority and they have not used the funds in the past years. The funds are eventually taken and given to other providers. The concern also is that the funds are held for rural while urban are short on funds and that individuals are going without treatment.

Clarification of why Rural Community Providers are first priority including LB1039 activities and federal funding strategies given Nebraska's perceived niche (access to health care in rural communities). Rural education and prevention programs are needed and may increase the number of counseling. The goal is to have awareness expand into rural Nebraska. This does not mean there is a difference of importance among rural and urban providers. It does support the importance of establishing/maintaining a fiscal infrastructure within rural areas given national trends.

Motion was made by Robert Sylvester and seconded by Andrea McAllister to accept the priority funding list as presented by Eric Hunsberger. Roll call vote taken was unanimously in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Comments; Priority of state audits – how to pick or choose

- 1) Any indication of non compliance
- 2) Staff is needed to conduct the audits (contact with peer review to do audits)
- 3) Contract compliance
- 4) Finances

Based on the findings, recommendations are made and reported to this committee.

Kevin Maurice, he is scheduled for the next audit.

- **Secretary (Membership Status)**

At this time all the members with expired membership status have been reappointed by the Governor. Two new members are still needed and will be appointed by the Governor and hope to have more to report on that at the next meeting.

Comments:

- Suggestion to have a young person as a member such as out of high school or college.
- Age is not a determining factor
- Interest and knowledge is very important
- A total of 3 members must be consumers (1 of the 2 new members must be a consumer)

Ad Hoc Committee (Re-writing By-laws)

At the May 2006 meeting the members agreed to rewrite the by-laws. One of the specific areas is related to: dispersing of funds, to approve/deny funding, suggestion is 7 out of 9 members must be present to vote on fund allocations.

Committee agreed the Ad Hoc Committee needs a lead person (Sherrie) to meet with Eric. The revision of by-laws will be a 2 meeting process. The persons to be involved in the revision are: Steve Jung, Sherrie Geier, Janet French, Tom Nutt and Wayne Choat will be consulted. (Tom will talk with Wayne to set up a meeting)

BREAK

Unfinished Business

Strategic Planning – Next Step

The third meeting is scheduled for September-October 2006

Scope of work have been developed and outlined in the handout, "Sample Scope of Work." (*Attachment E*).

Tools are listed for contract monitoring and accountability of outcomes, such as the quantity and quality of phone calls received and how many were educated.

Proposal to the committee is to have a final strategic planning meeting before February 1, 2007 to start to educate legislature, to define what are our long term goals are, and to incorporate Scopes works from providers, agencies and funding entities for support that are collected by the end of this service year.

Would this committee be willing to meet in Kearney, February? All board members, providers and entities of GAP are to attend. The strategic planning meeting needs to be prior to the Legislature breakfast. The result of the Strategic planning meeting is to have a base line program for legislature to know how GAP functions and how state reserves and federal reserves are supported.

Legislature Breakfast with the Senators is set for February 21, 2007 at 7:00 am in the State Capitol building.

Committee members agreed to have the GAP strategic planning meeting in Kearney Nebraska at the Holiday Inn. Date will be determined by December 1, 2006 and members will be advised.

Suggestions:

- to do a practice session, to review how to make presentation for the Legislature Breakfast
- Committee members are asked to contact new senators in their areas. The Legislature Breakfast notification needs to be sent out soon.

LB1039 Status

Press conference was held in September 28, 2006 at the Capital Building. Committee viewed local published articles and advertisements that happened as a result of LB1039 and this press conference. Nancy Hicks of the Lincoln Journal Star published an article regarding the National helpline. Hicks contacted Iowa's 1-800 Bet Off help-line and

contacted the state director, asking, "Why can't I dial the number from other areas?" As a result, Iowa opened the help-line to surrounding areas. At the press conference other items included were; Public service announcements and Telethons. The Lottery has purchased media coverage of \$90,000 for PSAs in support of the public awareness campaign.

Starting in July the lottery will providing 5% quarterly to GAP for carry over purposes.

Ayres Kahler, the media agency, allocated billboards throughout the state. Planned are several in Omaha and several in Lincoln and other poster boards statewide (10) with the National numbers. The other areas will be; Bellevue, Elkhorn, Chadron, Scottsbluff, Grand Island, Kearney, Norfolk, Wayne, York. These locations were determined based on provider locations and frequency of traffic and population.

A Suggestion was that billboards be placed in the areas of Valentine, Hastings, Nebraska City, Auburn and along Hwy 75 and Interstate 29.

Program Evaluation – Mark DeKraai, Public Policy Center

Dr. DeKraai briefly spoke of developing an informative evaluation. They are taking information that GAP has collected and working with Magellan information. In December they are conducting a focus group meeting of people that have gone through treatment, and also collecting stories. The goal is for a comprehensive and informative evaluation. Interviews are planned with help line staff to gain information. Providers of gambling and members of groups such as committee members will be asked to interpret data that has been collected. They will be asking and talking with providers on what information providers are collecting and what outcomes measures are wanted. The Public Policy center is offering technical assistance to help programs develop ongoing evaluations.

New Business

Public Awareness Campaign

Andrea McAllister briefly explained her ordeal as a problem gambler. She was sure to include emotional information to help others feel the pain and to understand how devastating it is. She spoke of a conversation she had with her neighbor regarding Amendment 3 and the funding for Problem Gambling. Her neighbor was not aware nor had knowledge of the many issues of problem gambling and not aware that it could exist in any neighborhood, good or bad areas. Her neighbor is a writer and encouraged Ms. McAllister to get her story out and help others. Ms. McAllister is coming out publicly with her story as a problem gambler. The Lincoln Journal Star will be interviewing Ms. McAllister and her story will be published next weekend (November 25-26, 2006). She wants to include in her story how she got better and where she's at today.

GAP Structure

The Gambling Program manager position has reviewed applications and interviews will soon be completed. The job position for support staff previously held by Linda Jensen is open and applications are being submitted and that position should be filled soon.

Eric has applied for the position of Program Manager. The desired plan is for him to take that position and that the program specialist position will be opened and start the hiring process for that position. We hope the Program Manager position will be officially hired by the next meeting.

November State Election Results

It's obvious that the public has spoken. Amendment 3 was not passed. The committee has serious decisions to consider and determine on how to use the funds that are available. The allotments for FY 08 are not what they were for FY06 and FY07. It's not wise to count on a bill passing this year. It's very important to prove and show the Senators that there is a need for services. The help of Providers, Committee members, and recovering consumer's support and data collected will be needed.

LB332 Projected Outcomes

Eric reported on 2 prevention programs that have met compliance. They both report back quarterly. They established relationships with the local school districts. The difference between the Lancaster report and the Garfield/Wheelers report is the information obtained was based on the initiatives they were in violation of. The reports were valid. They included qualitative information. They have been able to make a more sound foundation of relationships that have been producing contacts. Lancaster County board set up several individuals to formulate valid curriculum based on some evidence-based practice. They have a partnership with a population to test that curricula. Eric would like to report back on that every 6 months.

•Future Meetings

March 16, 2007

June 8, 2007

September 7, 2007

November 9, 2007 (may need to be changed at a later date)

Public Comment

Deb Hammond, Director of Choices, Lincoln Nebraska

Her strong concern is that the Problem Gambling billboards need to be targeted in southeast Nebraska in the close proximity of the Council Bluffs casinos. To education Nebraska is the most important task to do. Deb thanked the committee for their continued support.

Dawna – providers struggle with identifying outcomes.

Motion was made by Robert Sylvester to include/invite consumer, providers and committee members to the Legislative Breakfast on February 21, 2007. Motion was seconded by Steve Jung. General consensus was in favor of motion, motion carried.

Andrea and Wayne will take the lead in the arrangements on the Legislature Breakfast.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

State to report- Educational Strategic material

Date with agenda of educational Strategic meeting

Finalize on Legislative Breakfast

By-laws

Status of outcomes of LB1039

Membership reappointment

Janet French – part 2 report on NCRG

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2 pm.