



State Committee on Problem Gambling  
*Country Inn & Suites – Lincoln Room*  
5353 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68521  
February 3, 2012 - 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes



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**Purpose & Duration:**

This is the quarterly meeting of the State Committee on Problem Gambling. The Executive Committee meeting takes place one hour before the regular meeting starts.

**Committee Members Attending:** John Bekins, Ed Hoffman, Janelle Holt, Jeff McKeown, Dennis McNeilly, Otto Schultz, Kenneth Timmerman

**Committee Members Absent:** Dennis Buckley, Lois Jurgensen, Steve Sloup (Carmen Engelhardt and John Hill tended their resignations)

**DHHS-Division of Behavioral Health & Legal Staff Attending:** Maya Chilese, Lori Dawes, Sheri Dawson, Karen Harker, Susan Knabe, Iliana Martin, Ruth See, Heather Wood

**Agenda Items:**

I. **Meeting Called to Order – Dennis McNeilly**

Dennis McNeilly, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at **9:07** am. Carmen Engelhardt and John Hill, whose terms expire in July 2012, tended their resignations early. July 1, 2012, four member seats will be open for appointment. It was requested that information be sent to current members from the By Laws containing the statutory sections detailing what membership is desired and the applications' web address.

II. **Approval of Agenda – Dennis McNeilly**

The Agenda for February 3, 2012, was approved by general consent.

III. **Approval of Minutes – Dennis McNeilly**

The Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2011 (Attachment A) were discussed after a copy of an e-mail dated December 1, 2011 was distributed (to be labeled Attachment J). The content of the e-mail from DHHS, was seen as problematic to some Committee members. The e-mail indicated the Divisions intent to ensure compliance the Open Meeting Act. As per the Open Meeting Act, meeting minutes are required to be posted to the public within ten business days. Few Committee members desired ability to review prior to posting, rather than after. Any revisions could be considered at the next scheduled meeting. This would maintain consistency for all Division committees and comply with the law. Other possible options will be explored and brought to the Committee.

IV. **Officer Election – Dennis McNeilly #3**

Due to the resignation of the current Secretary, a new officer needs to be elected. Although Lois Jurgensen could not be at the meeting, she was nominated (with her approval via e-mail) by the Chair and seconded by John Bekins.

**Action:** The Committee voted and approved to elect Lois Jurgensen as new Secretary: Bekins - Yes, Hoffman - Yes, Holt - Yes, McKeown - Yes, McNeilly - Yes, Schultz - Yes, Timmerman - Yes

V. **Review of By-Laws – Ed Hoffman #4**

The vote to approve revised By-Laws was postponed to the next meeting as the two-thirds majority required was not present. All agreed to postpone.

VI. **Confirm Future Meeting Dates – Dennis McNeilly #12**

Next meeting date of April 20 was confirmed. May 3, 2012 is the date for the next Joint Meeting of all three State Committees - SA/MH/PG. Suggested meeting dates of August 3, Nov 16, February 8 and April 19 were reviewed and approved.

VII. **New Provider Application - Maya Chilese #10**

Application for Network Provider (Attachment H) - Prairie Psychological Services, Twila Preston, Director. Clinician Terry Chase, has many years national gambling certification, worked in Iowa, and has now moved to Nebraska in Region 4, several blocks from Iowa casinos. A motion was made and seconded for funding for Prairie Psychological Services for up to \$10,000 in treatment services and an additional \$1,000 in educational/outreach funds.

**Action:** The Committee voted to recommend funding Prairie Psychological Services for up to \$10,000 in treatment services and an additional \$1,000 in educational/outreach funds: Bekins - Yes, Hoffman - Yes, Holt - Yes, McKeown - Yes, McNeilly - Yes, Schultz - Yes, Timmerman - Yes

#### VIII. **Funding Recommendations - Maya Chilese #11**

As per Attachment I, total unallocated funds are \$80,661. Funding Requests have been submitted from Michael Sullivan Counseling for \$15,000 and Crossroads for \$12,600. A late request arrived from Hampton Behavioral Health for an additional \$15,000 due to an increase in clients in the last few weeks, could not be prepared for Committee review on such short notice. There are unallocated funds as well as unutilized funds (see Attachment G as per Karen Harker - Lutheran, Reflections and Lancaster County have not billed - those unused funds could be available). Separate motions were made for voting on the Funding Requests separately, including Hampton's late request. The Committee By-Laws require two-thirds majority for recommendations of funding. Although this was not present, the Committee chose to still review and provide recommendations to the Division, recognizing technical inability to establish full majority in compliance with their By-Laws.

**Action:** The Committee voted to recommend funding to Michael Sullivan Counseling for \$15,000 as requested: Bekins - Yes, Hoffman - Yes, Holt - Yes, McKeown - Yes, McNeilly - Yes, Schultz - Yes, Timmerman - Yes

**Action:** The Committee voted to recommend funding to Crossroads for \$13,000, a bit more than was requested: Bekins - Yes, Hoffman - Yes, Holt - Yes, McKeown - Yes, McNeilly - Yes, Schultz - Yes, Timmerman - Yes

**Action:** The Committee voted to recommend funding to Hampton Behavioral Health for \$15,000, as per projected need: Bekins - Yes, Hoffman - Yes, Holt - Yes, McKeown - Yes, McNeilly - Yes, Schultz - Yes, Timmerman - Yes.

Also part of the Funding Recommendations is the Nebraska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), as part of the Strategic Planning's Evaluation Team's goal (Attachment F). BRFSS is a cross-sectional telephone survey conducted by state health departments as regulated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), using a standardized questionnaire to determine the distribution of risk behaviors and health practices nationally. In Nebraska, DHHS contracts with UNMC to facilitate this. The Division has wanted to add a set of problem gambling question, and the opportunity to do so was available. This opportunity would require \$26,000 over two years (\$13,000 each fiscal year). The data collected would sample Nebraska's general health and better identify problem gambling prevalence and aid in the consideration of quality initiatives and health coordination. After some discussion ranging from views of both pros and concerns, a motion was made and seconded to recommend funding in the amount requested for two years for BRFSS totaling \$26,000.\*\* **Action:** The Committee voted 4 to 3 as follows: Bekins - No, Hoffman - Yes, Holt - No, McKeown - No, McNeilly - No, Schultz - Yes, Timmerman - Yes

#### **Morning Break – 10:45 to 11:00**

#### IX. **FY12-2<sup>st</sup> Quarter Review – Juan Paulo Ramirez and Maya Chilese #7**

Dr. Juan Paulo Ramirez reviewed Attachment E, Second Quarter Helpline and Treatment Data Review, July – December 2011 and comparisons of FY11 vs. FY12. Noteworthy were:

- a. Helpline data shows calls more concentrated in the eastern metropolitan areas suggesting a correlation between caller and casino location
- b. A quarter of callers are African American; this is a significant increase but only within 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter.
- c. Overall higher prevalence of single male callers
- d. Two thirds of problem gamblers have a history of other addiction problems and 50% report a family history of gambling
- e. The majority of helpline calls were referrals from the Iowa helpline
- f. Treatment data shows "self" and "family" as top two referral sources

The Treatment Voucher Program has begun and is being offered to all helpline callers. The voucher is for up to six free counseling sessions and is designed to be an incentive to motivate individuals to seek help. All but one GAP Provider are participating. Data from voucher utilization will be tracked.

As per Committee request, attempts will be made to search out neighboring state's reports and make appropriate comparisons of helpline data.

#### **Public Comment:**

Harlan Vogel-Heartland Family Services, stated they've yet to receive individuals reporting as referred from the new Helpline. Heartland received one, but before they were receiving 2-3 per month. Heartland is also doing outreach. Harlan noted the lack of problem gambling awareness.

Wanda Swanson-Changes, informed the Committee that she will be applying for additional funding before the end of the fiscal year. She also has not received any helpline referrals since July 1, 2011. When asked, she said that she used to receive 1-2 every few months. She is also working on outreach in various Nebraska cities on Proclamations.

Deb Hammond-Choices, was glad to see the funding of a new Provider and that they are in a good location. She received one referral from the helpline, and has changed all outreach materials to reflect the new helpline number. She stated having mixed feelings about research; it would be interesting to have additional information. Also, now that internet gambling is legal, additional problems may arise. There's a possible gambling explosion - youth as well as elderly may be at additional risk for problems.

Gina Fricke-Peace and Power Counseling, also stated that she will be asking for additional funds in April as she began working with five new problem gambling clients last month. She's only received two referrals from the helpline since July, when prior to that she was receiving 2-4 a month. She expressed concern about the lack of CEUs through TAP, and that the basics workshops are being offered far away and require four days of training.

In response to Gina's training question, the Committee would like to place the Counselor Training on the next SCPG meeting agenda. Discussion on continued concerns from providers on lack of new referrals from the new helpline, advertising and/or promotion/awareness of services, etc. continued.

#### **Break for Lunch – 12:45 to 1:30**

#### **X. Division Updates – Sheri Dawson #5**

Sheri Dawson, Division of Behavioral Health, Administrator for the Community-Based Services, addressed the Committee on Division updates, structure, role, goals per Strategic Planning delivery of services and funding appropriations (Attachment E). Sheri also informed the Committee about Medicaid moving to at risk management and upcoming public forums and RFP which seek feedback from all groups.

#### **XI. Continuous Quality Improvement – Heather Woods #6**

Heather Wood, Division of Behavioral Health, Quality Improvement and Data Performance Administrator, as time was short, offered support to the program and encouraged a quality environment. She probed questions as how to gain more participation and evaluate the system and how to move towards a system of care to get consumers what they need. Mental Health and Substance Abuse do consumer surveys which allow them to make decisions with the data in what is a data-driven system. Heather asked everyone to take a look at the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) PowerPoint slides (attachment D) and to contact her with any questions or suggestions. She encouraged activities to identify the strengths and the holes in the system and then see how we are doing as a system for consumers.

#### **XII. Strategic Plan Updates – Maya Chilese #8**

Maya Chilese Updated the Committee on the Service Definition Goals (Attachment F).

- a. Education: NET has shown interest in producing a problem gambling video – a contribution from the Division could be \$5,000 to \$10,000 if we determined a partnership is valuable
- b. Evaluation: QI Process development, and reviewing evaluation processes, developing contingency plans. Looking at DOJ impact on system and gaming, etc.
- c. Treatment: Most strategic planning activities are scheduled for next years with much need for coordination with other behavioral health partners. The Co-Occurring Report and Roadmap initiative will be important for problem gambling as part of mental health and substance abuse fields, and earlier Division trauma initiatives should also be considered.

Rate analysis and service definitions continue to support a recovery oriented system of care.

#### **XIII. Next Committee Meeting: April 20, 2012**

#### **XIV. Meeting Adjourned: At 1:57 p.m.**

\*\*Meeting Minutes amended per State Committee on Problem Gambling meeting on August 24, 2012.

Section VIII. (Add to last paragraph): *Some members of the Committee indicated an understanding of the value and interest in the project but desired more information about it in order to provide a recommendation for funding.*

Minutes prepared by the Division of Behavioral Health, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.  
Minutes are intended to provide only a general summary of the Committees proceedings.