

Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling
Minutes of the meeting held on August 8, 2014
700 S 16th St., Lincoln NE 68508

Commissioners present for roll call: Chairman Ed Hoffman, Vice-Chair Teri Teutsch, Co-Secretary Janell Holt, Paul Leckband, Susan Lutz, Mathew Anselmo, Terry Scoville

Commissioners absent: Co-Secretary Mark Canada, Marla Bruder

Welcome & Introduction. Ed Hoffman called the meeting to order at 9:13. Commission roll call was taken. A quorum was announced.

Item 1. Approval of Minute from May meeting:

The May 16, 2014, minutes were presented for approval (Attachment A).

Action - Ed Hoffman made the motion, seconded by Matt Anselmo, to approve the minutes of the commission meeting held on May 16, 2014. Roll call: voting yes - Ed Hoffman, Janell Holt, Paul Leckband, Susan Lutz, Mathew Anselmo, Terry Scoville. Abstaining - Teri Teutsch. Motion passed.

The agenda for the May meeting was publicly posted at the meeting location of 700 S. 16th St., Lincoln, and posted in advance on the Nebraska Dept. of Revenue website.

Item 2. Approve agenda for today:

David Geier stated that the meeting notice was published on the State of Nebraska events calendar on July 24th and was posted on the Dept of Revenue site on July 28th, and has been posted at the Ferguson House meeting location for the last two weeks.

Ed Hoffman mentioned that DHHS has a Problem Gambling web link on their site that does not include the CCGC counselors. Geier said he will work on getting that corrected.

Item 3. Current financial report, results of activities in first year:

David Geier presented a copy of budget and activity reports (Attachment B,1-4). Geier reviewed each report with the commission members.

Item 4. Proposed biennial budget 2015-2017:

David Geier asked for direction from the commission on the biennial budget – either set up a budget committee or delegate the executive committee to create the biennial budget. Six commission member votes are required to pass the biennial budget – the budget must be approved and submitted to the State of Nebraska by September 15, 2014.

Ed Hoffman called for a break at 10:14 am. The meeting was resumed at 10:32 am.

Geier gave the commission members a copy of the open meetings law regulations concerning emergency meetings (Attachment C). Ed Hoffman recommended creating a subcommittee to put the budget together and present information to the commission, and then call a full meeting of the commission to vote on the proposed budget. It was agreed to hold a public meeting on September 10 2014, at 3:00 pm at the Ferguson House in Lincoln to discuss and approve the proposed budget. Geier

will post an agenda as soon as possible. The commission created a budget subcommittee consisting of the following members: Mark Canada, Susan Lutz, and Matt Anselmo.

Action - Ed Hoffman made the motion, seconded by Teri Teutsch, to appoint a subcommittee to create a proposed biennial budget to present to the NCPG commission members for approval.

Roll call: voting yes - Terry Scoville, Susan Lutz, Paul Leckband, Ed Hoffman, Janell Holt, Teri Teutsch, Mathew Anselmo. Motion passed.

Item 5. Funding for staff position:

David Geier talked to the commission about hiring an administrative assistant for his office. The assistant would work with him at the Ferguson House location. The position has been posted and applications received.

Action - Ed Hoffman made the motion, seconded by Teri Teutsch, to approve funding up to the maximum allowed by current appropriations for hiring a staff person for the NCPG office, with the understanding that David Geier will have the ability to give salary raises to that staff person as he sees appropriate.

Roll call: voting yes - Terry Scoville, Susan Lutz, Paul Leckband, Ed Hoffman, Janell Holt, Teri Teutsch, Mathew Anselmo. Motion passed.

Item 6. Financial support for Midwest Conference, membership dues to national organizations:

David Geier provided information on the annual Midwest Conference held for mental health providers. In the past, the GAP program paid \$10,000 to support the conference. The commission asked Geier to provide more information on conference support so that the matter can be acted on in a future meeting.

Geier presented a letter from the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators (APGSA) (Attachment D) that outlines the benefits of purchasing a membership and conference attendance for David Geier.

Action: Paul Leckband made the motion, seconded by Teri Teutsch, to approve the \$2,500 expenditure for enhanced membership to APGSA for David Geier.

Roll call: voting yes - Terry Scoville, Susan Lutz, Paul Leckband, Ed Hoffman, Janell Holt, Teri Teutsch, Mathew Anselmo. Motion passed.

Item 8. Report of State Auditor: discussion of possible litigation:

Action: Teri Teutsch made the motion, seconded by Paul Leckband, to enter into executive session to discuss the auditor's report and litigation issues.

Roll call: voting yes - Terry Scoville, Susan Lutz, Paul Leckband, Ed Hoffman, Janell Holt, Teri Teutsch, Mathew Anselmo. Motion passed.

The commission entered into executive session at 11:11 am.

Action: Teri Teutsch made the motion, seconded by Janell Holt, to go out of executive session.

Roll call: voting yes - Terry Scoville, Susan Lutz, Paul Leckband, Ed Hoffman, Janell Holt, Teri Teutsch, Mathew Anselmo. Motion passed.

The executive session ended at 11:49 am.

Item 7 – Proposals for legislation in upcoming sessions:

David Geier said that the commission will need to address funding and mentioned looking at the lottery unclaimed prize fund as a possible additional source.

Ed Hoffman called for a break at 11:53 am. It was agreed to have a working lunch, which progressed at 12:03 pm. Susan Lutz mentioned that she needed to leave the meeting in an hour, so it was agreed to change the order of agenda items so Susan could participate in action items.

Item 14. Request for contract increase: Catholic Charities:

David Geier presented an email message from Sherry Scott, Catholic Charities, requesting an increase in their current contract amount (attachment E). It was a consensus of the commission to leave the Catholic Charities contract at \$5,000 and, after they can show the need for more services and draw some of their contract dollars, the commission will consider an increase.

Item 15: Expansion of service to underserved areas.

David Geier presented a proposal from Spence Counseling to provide additional services in the northeast area of the state (Attachment F). The Spence proposal requests a contract increase of \$82,500. It was agreed to take no action at this time. This topic will be addressed again at the next regular meeting. Geier provided a copy of the rate schedule for services contained in this year's provider contracts (Attachment G).

Ed Hoffman asked Geier to talk to Snitily Carr about providing some marketing information for the commissioners at the next regular meeting.

Item 16: Public Information proposals: JL Schmidt, Prairie Fire –

David Geier provided a proposal from JL Schmidt (Attachment H). Schmidt has a newspaper column that is published in many small town newspapers. He is offering to write public interest stories that focus on gambling issues and where to go for help. His column is currently published in a variety of Nebraska newspapers.

Action: Ed Hoffman made the motion, seconded by Mathew Anselmo, to fund JL Schmidt up to \$2,500 to publish outreach and education pieces on problem gambling.

Roll call: voting yes - Terry Scoville, Susan Lutz, Paul Leckband, Ed Hoffman, Janell Holt, Teri Teutsch, Mathew Anselmo. Motion passed.

David Geier provided copies of the Prairie Fire newspaper – a free publication that is distributed throughout Nebraska. The editor asked Geier for a story to promote the GAP program. Geier asked for the commission's approval to submit an article to this newspaper. The commission agreed it was acceptable to provide news stories for publication in the various free newspapers in Nebraska.

Item 17: Website development: Nebraska.gov, DAS Chief Information Office, Snitily Carr:

David Geier talked to a few contractors about creating a website for NCPG, and the most cost effective that he found was Internet Nebraska. The fee was a flat \$800 to create a website.

Snitily Carr has already created marketing materials and strategy that the commission has paid for. Geier will contact Snitily Carr to see how the commission can use that material and will provide that information at the next commission meeting.

Action: Ed Hoffman made the motion, seconded by Janell Holt, to approve paying \$800 to Internet Nebraska for preparation and funding of an NCPG website

Roll call: voting yes - Terry Scoville, Susan Lutz, Paul Leckband, Ed Hoffman, Janell Holt, Teri Teutsch, Mathew Anselmo. Motion passed.

Item 9. Establishment of Commission audit committee and standards for conduct of field audits of vendors:

David Geier said that the venter contracts state that their client records be audited. Geier asked for guidance on doing the audits and requested that an audit committee be established for Geier to report to and give him some direction.

Action: Matt Anselmo made the motion, seconded by Teri Teutsch, to establish an audit committee.

Roll call: voting yes - Terry Scoville, Susan Lutz, Paul Leckband, Ed Hoffman, Janell Holt, Teri Teutsch, Mathew Anselmo. Motion passed.

Susan Lutz and Teri Teutsch agreed to serve on the audit committee.

Item 10: Certification standards for counselors. Establish certification committee. Renewal of current certificates:

David Geier presented copies of the Training and Certification Standards Manual (Attachment I). He indicated that the last page of the manual contains the approved list of members to the Disordered Gambling Counselor Certification Advisory Board. There was discussion about adding two more members to the committee. Janell Holt and Terry Scoville said they would serve.

Susan Lutz left the meeting in progress at 1:30 pm.

Geier asked for the authority to issue renewal certificates upon receiving from the providers a letter requesting certificate renewal and proof of their 50 hours of continuing education hours.

Action: Ed Hoffman made the motion, seconded Matt Anselmo, to approve the Training and Certification Standards Manual and to include the Disordered Gambling Counselor Certification Advisory Board which shall consist of five counselors and two commission members.

Roll call: voting yes - Terry Scoville, Paul Leckband, Ed Hoffman, Janell Holt, Teri Teutsch, Mathew Anselmo. Susan Lutz was absent. Motion passed.

Action: Paul Leckband made the motion, seconded by Terry Scoville, to allow David Geier to have authority to approve the counselor's renewal certificates per requirements of the certification manual and proof of continuing education.

Roll call: voting yes - Terry Scoville, Paul Leckband, Ed Hoffman, Janell Holt, Teri Teutsch, Mathew Anselmo. Susan Lutz was absent. Motion passed.

Item 11. Status report: Bellevue University online training program:

David Geier presented a document concerning the Bellevue training contract that outlines the complete training program criteria. Jerry Bauerkemper, of the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling, provided an overview of the status of the Bellevue training program.

Item 12. Testing service for candidates for certificate.

Jerry Bauerkemper and David Geier provided information to the commissioners on testing to obtain the problem gambling provider certificate.

Item. 18 Telehealth: distance counseling.

It was agreed that using phone, texting, and video should be an acceptable tool for counseling. David Geier provided a copy of the Gambling Treatment Providers Manual (Attachment K), referring to the service definition paragraph on page 6.

It was suggested that, to track the service, the telehealth information could be added to the Turn Around Document (TAD). Geier said he would work on that.

Geier provided a copy of the program manual constructed by Rhonda Spence and a review by Spence (Attachment L).

Geier provided to the commissioners DVD copies of a NETV program that has to do with gambling called "Growing Up Gambling".

Ed Hoffman suggested that the commission consider creating a 2 and 5 year strategic plan. It was agreed that the commission needs a tool to track action and measure success.

Ed Hoffman provided time for public comment.

The next NCPG meeting date was set for September 10, 2014, at 3:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.