

Nebraska Gamblers Assistance Program  
Meeting of the Commission  
October 23, 2015  
9:30AM

Call to Order: Ed Hoffman

Roll Call

Present: Terry Scoville, Teri Teutsch, Paul Leckband, Mark Canada, Ed Hoffman, Janelle Holt, Marla Bruder, Matt Anselmo, Susan Lutz

Approval of the Minutes of meeting of August 21: Moved - Holt, Second – Bruder, Unanimous

Approval of today's Agenda: Moved – Teutsch, Second – Holt; Unanimous

## #2. Director's Report: David Geier

**Legislative Actions and Outreach** – Budgets are based upon projections, so it's important to find a balance between outreach and therapy while complying with legislative requirements. The number of clients and therapy hours are up 13% over two six-month periods, April 1, 2014-September 30, 2014 compared to April 1, 2015-September 30, 2015. The first quarter allotments from Lottery and Charitable Gaming came in slightly below projections. In the upcoming short session it will be better to advance deficit appropriation request and consider amending Section 9-831 and wait until the next biennium to propose an initiative for a new funding formula.

**State Probation** – Last week the Director and Ed Hoffman had a get-acquainted meeting with the Probation Administrator and her deputy to make plans to rejuvenate the relationship between GAP and State Probation with training, CEUs, the Supreme Court and the lower courts, and focus on screening for gambling issues among probationers.

**Lincoln Indian Center** – Met with Greg Donovan of Lincoln Indian Center, which is developing Centers for Care network statewide to provide therapy services to tribal members; plan to develop ways to become more involved with GAP; and contacted State Commission on Indian Affairs, asking to be put on the agenda for their quarterly meeting next January.

**Corrections** - Commissioners discussed approaching state and federal corrections and parole (Anselmo) and investigating federal "Second Chance Act" dollars for gambling treatment. The Commission resolved to establish a sub-committee for funding and developing relationships with these entities, which will include Deb Hammond, Harlan Vogel, Chuck Spence, Matt Anselmo, and Ed Hoffman.

**Deficit Appropriation Request** – The Program is on budget for the first one-quarter into the FY; but looming are the changes we're facing with new providers for provisional certification coming under contract in new Nebraska locations (Broken Bow, McCook, Kearney, Grand Island and North Platte) who are not connected with existing contractor; \$1.2M is specified in the appropriation bill for

therapy contracts but adding more therapists pushes us up against the limit of what GAP can fund; deficit appropriation request is \$100,000 each year because need is demonstrated.

### #3. Approval of Issuance of New Certifications

- Advisory board reviewed and recommends approval
- Merriul Thomas, McCook
- Gary Keck, Grand Island
- Jan Dobesh, Broken Bow
- Amelia DenHartog, Omaha

Motion - Leckband, Second – Hoffman, Unanimous approval

New provider contract terms and Supervisor contract terms – TABLED

New contract with Lincoln therapist Jamie Heng, in the amount of \$22,500 for therapy services and \$7,500 for problem gambling messages. Motion to approve - Hoffman, Second – Canada; Approved by unanimous vote.

Heartland Family Service Contract Increase Request of \$15,000 – To approve a \$15,000 contract increase to the Problem Gambling Messages part of the program contract with Heartland, to provide for employer toolkit adaptation to NE specific copy, in collaboration with GAP, and allow additional outreach and education; Motion - Canada. Second – Holt : Ayes: Lutz, Bruder, Holt, Hoffman, Canada, Leckband, Teutsch; Nay, Scoville; Anselmo abstained.

Panhandle Mental Health Center Outreach Report by Lisa VanWinkle.

### #5 Statewide Outreach and Prevention - Contingencies

- NETV Growing Old Gambling – Motion to approve \$40,000 of underwriting support to NETV for creation of a new documentary; the Director is to negotiate terms to divide this into two or more fiscal years, with up to \$20,000 this FY; Moved by Hoffman, Second – Teutsch; Voting Aye: Lutz, Bruder, Holt, Hoffman, Canada, Leckband, Teutsch, Scoville; voting Nay: Anselmo.
- TV spot: creation of "Bet Regret" commercial will be deferred pending solicitation of at least three proposals for production cost.
- Find out more information re: LACG 24/7 Live Chat/Text training, intake process, etc.;
- Continue monthly newspaper ads at current rates;

#6 Data Analysis Report: The PowerPoint slides created by J. P. Ramirez have been printed and distributed.

#7 NABHO Membership – Lobbying/Trade Association TABLED

#8 Midwest Conference: Underwriting support of \$10,000 did not generate significant attendance last year by Nebraska providers. The Commission requested responses from providers about attendance at the 2016 conference if the funding was used to provide "scholarships" and responses will be discussed at the December meeting.

#9 Legislative Breakfast: Scheduled for March 10, 2016.

#10 Report on Bellevue University for Legal and Religious Leaders: Jerry presented a demonstration of these programs which are now posted and available for enrollment on the Bellevue University website.