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 Director

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 Governor

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 Lt. Governor

**Minutes of the Iowa Gambling Treatment Program Advisory Committee
 January 8, 2010 Meeting**

Advisory Members Present	Advisory Members Absent	Others Present
Fred Breen Audrey Carlson Cynthia Steidl Wes Ehrecke Dr. Gene Lutz Mary Neubauer Stephanie Lawrence Stan Landon	Candace Peters Chuck Tornblom Doug Borkowski Rev. David Clark	Mary O’Neill, Tracy Smith, Mark Vander Linden, Lisa Pierce, Monica Stutzman, Doug Billingsley, Sue Stannard, T.J. Gorman, Andrea Meylink, Matt Cihak, Gary Eisnnicher, Margaret Van Ginkel, Jeff Graber, Audra Diederichs, Tammy Reiff, Deb Prier, Diane Thomas, Becka Limpke, Doug Fisher, Eric Stayton, Scott Peterson, Carol Eckles, Susan Poe, Kelly Grunhovd, Willy G., Fred P. and Bob Kerksieck

- 1) Chairperson Fred Breen called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and introduced participants at all sites. This took longer than usual since several people were also calling in on a conference call line we made available because of weather problems in many parts of the state.
- 2) The October 2, 2009 meeting minutes were approved. Lisa Pierce reminded us that she had requested some information at the October meeting. She was asked to turn in a Freedom Of Information (FOI) request.
- 3) Fred Breen led the discussion on appointing a subcommittee to nominate new advisory committee members for FY2011. Fred, Cynthia Steidl and Stan Landon volunteered. Mark Vander Linden will represent the Department. The group will make recommendations to the Director of the Department. We can have as many as three more members according to our bylaws.
- 4) Fred Breen led the discussion on Bylaw revision. There was considerable interest in making member terms three years instead of two years. This issue will be explored further when the nomination subcommittee meets.
- 5) Mark Vander Linden gave an update on the FY2010 IGTP budget, complete with a handout. The IGTP budget was reduced by \$715,000 in October, then “backfilled” by the Governor, however the “backfilled” funds never arrived and now we must reduce FY10 contract amounts by \$715,000. The Helpline, ISAIC, ZLRIgnition, Training Resources and UNI were cut a total of \$372,918. Treatment and education contracts were cut 7-

10% based on utilization. Treatment and education contracts on schedule or ahead of schedule to use all their funds were cut the lesser amount. Transitional Housing was cut 53%, however this continues funding at the same level being expended in the last few months. Wes Ehrecke asked where we will start with for the FY2011 budget, and Mark Vander Linden responded that we really don't know what the legislature and governor will do. We are probably more at risk of cuts since funding now comes through the general fund rather than directly to a special fund from casino and lottery revenue. The total cut to problem gambling programs for the year will be 18%. This is larger than the 10% across-the-board cut because some money had to be routed to substance abuse treatment to save them from talking a much larger cut in matching Federal funds through a "Maintenance of Effort" mandate.

- 6) Fred Breen led the discussion on the 2009 Strategic Plan and a needed 2010 Strategic Plan update. Some goals will have to be deferred because of a lack of funding, some goals are ongoing, new areas need to be added and Kelly Grundhvd asked that we make the Strategic Plan more prevention-friendly. The vast majority of goals in the FY2010 Strategic Plan have been completed. Fred Breen, Wes Ehrecke, Stephanie Lawrence, Lisa Pierce, Margaret Van Ginkel, Diane Thomas and Stan Landon volunteered to work on this. Fred suggested getting a small group together to get this started.
- 7) Mark Vander Linden gave an update on HF 811 and Bob Kerksieck gave an update on SF2425. Joint licensure rules were submitted and are scheduled for the March 10 Board of Health, with a tentative adoption date of July 7. They will be open to public comment once published. We are also working on merging data and clinical systems with substance abuse. We are also working on increasing cooperation between substance abuse, tobacco and gambling prevention.
- 8) Mark Vander Linden gave an update on the HR2906 Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act of 2009. This continues to pick up support and co-sponsors in Congress, including both Democrats and Republicans. At this point three Iowa Congressmen are cosponsors: Boswell, Braley and Latham.
- 9) Bob Kerksieck gave an update on the Gambling NIATx project. All nine current problem gambling treatment programs and the Helpline are participating. All programs have made significant gains since the program started in April, and there has been a marked improvement in facilitating crisis calls from the Helpline to the programs, resulting in a significant increase in the number of calls that get to the programs and the number of these callers making and keeping appointments. Starting in June, GTRS admissions are increasing again despite ad revenue and total helpline calls being down.
- 10) Sue Stannard gave an update on ISAIC. She said that National problem Gambling Awareness Week March 7-13 is on the front page of their Website at: <http://www.drugfreeinfo.org/>
- 11) Tracy Smith from ZLRIgnition did a presentation on Helpline call data and the media with a PowerPoint showing the relationship between advertising and call volume over the years.
- 12) Margaret Van Ginkel from the Helpline responded to some questions that participants had at the last advisory committee meeting. The two largest areas of concern were "other"

calls and stats showing some callers were referred to the casinos. Margaret said that for the most part “other” calls are hang-ups, wrong numbers and crank calls. Margaret added that after talking to a woman who wanted help but said she had called and hung up several times, Margaret is now aware that many of these callers may be trying to reach out for help, however there is currently no way to differentiate among these calls, and no way to respond differently. Margaret added that generally calls that are counted as referred to casinos are calling asking for a casino phone number, or wanting to know what is on the buffet at a particular casino today (two examples). Helpline staff recommend that these callers hang up and consult their directory. Margaret says that Helpline staff will not give a caller the phone number of a casino. Margaret also mentioned that the Helpline gets some calls asking if it is OK to go to the casino to self-exclude. After considerable discussion the strong consensus was to repeat that we recommend that callers go to the treatment program in their area to self-exclude.

- 13) Bob Kerksieck began a discussion on self-exclusion, giving an overview of past and current thought on this topic:
- A. For years a lifetime ban was considered the way to go. That consensus has changed significantly in the last few years.
 - B. NCPG, NCRG, the Canadian responsible Gambling Council and researchers such as Dr. Rachel Volberg now support having the length of the ban be directed by the gambler, with lengths available from months up to lifetime.
 - C. Advisory Committee member Rev. David Clark sent an e-mail to our group also strongly supporting this from the perspective of a recovering gambler.

Other participants spoke regarding this, including:

- D. Mary Neubauer stated that many are still uncomfortable with this proposed move and that we should wait until we have empirical evidence that this is a safe way to go to make certain a change does no harm.
- E. Wes Ehrecke stated that we need consensus to make the case, so it wouldn't be as controversial. He recommended that we go to treatment providers next to make certain they are behind this.
- F. T.J. Gorman said there are a lot of differing views and we need to make certain there is a lot of discussion before we move forward.
- G. Willy G. and Fred P. (recovering gamblers) spoke in favour having the length of the ban be directed by the gambler, with lengths from months up to lifetime. They also spoke in favour of asking the casinos to do more to screen those entering casinos to make certain that self-banned gamblers cannot go back into a casino to gamble. Willy particularly noted that he would like to see IDs scanned at casinos so he really couldn't get into a casino.

The Strategic Planning committee will look at adding this as a longer-term goal.

- 14) Upcoming Trainings Include:
- A. Feb. 22 of 2010: Lori Rugle ICN training.
 - B. Tentatively March 2 of 2010: Responsible Gambling in Council Bluffs (**Note:** Since the meeting this tentative date has been changed to May 7, 2010).

- C. April 6-7, 2010: Iowa Governors Conference in Des Moines.
- D. June 9-12, 2010: National Council on Problem Gambling 24th Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon.
- E. July 27-30, 2010: Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse (MCPGSA) 7th Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.
- F. November 14-16: National Center on Responsible Gambling 11th Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

15) Public Comment

- A. Wes reminded the group that the NCRG conference in Las Vegas is November 15 - 17.
- B. Wes also asked if we could get together to talk to legislators about different options for self-exclusion.
- C. Stan Landon stated that as a retired corrections officer, he knows that we either pay to help people or pay for them other ways.

16) Adjourn/Next Meetings:

- A. April 2, 2010
- B. July 9, 2010
- C. October 1, 2010
- D. January 7, 2011

17) The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Kerksieck, LMSW, ACADC
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