



Thomas Newton, MPP, REHS
 Director

Chester J. Culver
 Governor

Patty Judge
 Lt. Governor

**Minutes of the Iowa Gambling Treatment Program Advisory Committee
 October 2, 2009 Meeting**

Advisory Members Present	Advisory Members Absent	Others Present
Doug Borkowski Audrey Carlson Candace Peters Chuck Tornblom Dr. Gene Lutz Rev. David Clark Stephanie Lawrence Mary Neubauer Wes Ehrecke Stan Landon	Fred Breen Cynthia Steidl	Mike Getz, Dan Kenel, Mark Vander Linden, Lisa Pierce, Carol Eckels, Monica Stutzman, Doug Billingsley, T.J. Gorman, Peg Naylor, Andrea Meylink, Matt Cihak, Mark Dodd, Mary O’Neill, Deb Prier and Bob Kerksieck

- 1) Vice-Chairperson Doug Borkowski called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. in the absence of Fred Breen and introduced participants at all sites.
- 2) The July 24, 2009 meeting minutes were approved with no changes. Mary Neubauer made the motion and Audrey Carlson seconded the motion.
- 3) Mark Vander Linden gave an update on the FY2010 IGTP budget, complete with two handouts. Doug Borkowski asked what the priorities are if there is an across-the-board cut, and Mark responded that our first priority is to preserve services. Mary O’Neill offered to talk to Julie Shepherd and the Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA) next week about informing legislators of the need for gambling services. Mary O’Neill added that there was a long conversation about problem gambling treatment at the last IBHA meeting and they didn’t think anyone was immune from cuts, but definitely encouraged people to have conversations with their legislators. Mark pointed out that while the total cut was much larger when we look actual expenses in FY2009 (as opposed to the FY2009 contract amounts), the cut for FY2010 was relatively smaller at \$140,430. The IGTP also lost all carry over funds that were not spent in FY2009. It was requested that Mark and I update the 2009 legislative Fact Sheet for 2010 and send it out. Mary Neubauer asked why there was no licensure line in the FY2010 budget and Mark explained that licensure has been merged into his line item.
- 4) Mark Vander Linden gave an update on the 2009 Strategic Plan. We are moving ahead on accomplishing most of the goals set out in the 2009 Strategic Plan. We are working on significantly simplifying GTRS and the UNI Outcomes forms. We continue to look for a casino/racino to partner with us and pilot the iCare responsible Gambling Program in Iowa. Mark added that we are helping programs make connections with the 1700 2-year

licensed social and charitable gaming operators across the state. Wes Ehrecke reminded us that we need to be looking at developing a 2010 Strategic Plan.

- 5) Mark Vander Linden gave an update on HF 811. Mark is working with IDPH staff in tobacco prevention and substance abuse prevention, on the upcoming November 5 Prevention Symposium (which will include a gambling prevention track), working together on other trainings including Motivational Interviewing and the Governor's Conference. There will be some cost savings and efficiencies.
- 6) Bob Kerksieck gave an update on SF2425. As instructed by the legislature in 2008, we continue to work toward joint substance abuse and gambling licensure by July 1, 2010, and to have a plan by then to merge funding streams while protecting services and best practices in both.
- 7) Mark Vander Linden gave an update on the HR2906 Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act of 2009, including two handouts. This federal act appears to be gaining momentum in Congress. It places problem gambling under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and ties income from gambling taxes to SAMHSA to pay for problem gambling services. This is being strongly backed by the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) and their Executive Director Keith Whyte. At last count they had 14 Congressional sponsors, and were looking for sponsors in the Senate.
- 8) 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 it appears that the most recent change cycle on doing a better job of facilitating crisis calls from the Helpline to the programs is showing a significant increase in the number of calls that get to the programs and the number of these callers making and keeping appointments.
- 9) Mark Vander Linden gave an update on the proposed gambling diversion legislation for Iowa. The State of Nevada recently passed a similar proposal and Minnesota has had this in place several years. A draft of the proposal went to the Executive Team at IDPH however it did not make it into their top priorities for the 2010 legislative session. Mary O'Neill said she will push this with the IBHA and their lobbyist. Mary Neubauer asked about funding and Mark said that based on what is happening in Minnesota the cost to do the additional evaluations would be approximately \$54,000 per year, and Iowa currently has the capacity to do this.
- 10) Wes Ehrecke gave a report on the 2009 Midwest Consortium on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse (MCPGSA). He said it was an excellent conference and reasonably well represented by Iowa despite the economy. The 2010 MCPGSA will be in Kansas City, The National Council for Responsible Gambling (NCRG) provided speakers for some sessions and Wes encouraged MCPGSA to utilize NCRG best practices and speakers in 2010. NCRG is very interested in recommending speakers for the 2010 MCPGSA.
- 11) Bob Kerksieck and Candace Peters presented on the Riverside Responsible Gambling training in July. The ICN went down in Iowa City, so Candace wasn't fully able to participate. Some highlights were: 1) Great presentations by Dr. Black, Wes Ehrecke and the Riverside staff the first day; 2) The mix and interaction between gaming staff and treatment/prevention program staff; 3) Finding out that gaming staff and

treatment/prevention program staff share many opinions on subjects such as the preferred length of self-exclusion; and 4) Working together to develop a Responsible Gambling PowerPoint that can be used by everyone. The ratings were such that a similar training is tentatively scheduled in Council Bluffs next year.

- 12) Bob Kerksieck gave an update on ISAIC. He sent material out to the list-serves about the 80 gambling-related books at the library and how to access them, and on how to access other material.
- 13) Tracy Smith was unable to be present to talk about Helpline call data and the media, so Mark Vander Linden and Bob Kerksieck fielded questions and listened to discussion about the FY2009 Helpline Report. Our Helpline calls were down in FY2009, and we are aware that many other states with Helplines also report call volume is down. All together there were 6686 calls to our Helpline in FY2009 (the total report is on our Website), of which over 1,500 were referred to programs. Rev. David Clark and other participants expressed concerns about why calls would be referred back to casinos (760 calls) and want to make certain these transfers are appropriate. This would be especially concerning if any of these calls are problem gamblers – we want to refer problem gamblers to programs rather than casinos to do self-exclusion. Participants also want a better breakdown of the large numbers of “other” calls. Doug Billingsley said that 32% of ADDS calls come from “other-than-helpline” – look at breaking out the “other” category. Mary O’Neill said one caller they are aware of called and hung up four times because of emotions – please track hang-ups.
- 14) Bob Kerksieck gave an update on distance treatment. All nine funded programs now provide distance treatment. Few clients are exclusively distance treatment; however Iowa has many “hybrid clients” using some aspect of distance treatment. There is a rapidly growing body of research that distance treatment is very effective, often as effective as treatment as usual.
- 15) Upcoming Trainings Include:
 - A. **Prevention Symposium**; November 5th. Gambling track for the first time!! Presenter: Annie Lyles, Prevention Institute, Program Manager
 - B. Tentatively Feb. 22 of 2010: Lori Ruggle
 - C. Tentatively March 2 of 2010: Responsible Gambling in Council Bluffs
 - D. April 6-7, 2010: Governors Conference
 - E. July 27-30, 2010: MCPGSA
 - F. Complete FY10 training calendar coming soon.
- 16) 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.
- 17) Adjourn/Next Meetings:
 - A. January 8, 2010
 - B. April 2, 2010

- C. July 9, 2010
- D. October 1, 2010

18) The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Kerksieck, LMSW, ACADC
Health Facilities Surveyor for Gambling Treatment Programs
Division of Behavioral Health and Professional Licensure
Iowa Department of Public Health