

New Hampshire Council for Responsible Gambling
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2021 1:00 PM

Present: Chairman Maura McCann, Commissioner Ed Talbot, Commissioner Dot Duda, Commissioner Debi LaPlante, Commissioner Heather Gray

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCann at 1:05pm. The meeting was televised by Microsoft Teams.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 16, 2021 MEETING

Motion was made by Chairman McCann to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2021 meeting. Commissioner LaPlante moved the motion and Commissioner Talbot seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

2. REPORT BY THE COUNCIL OF PROBLEM GAMBLING

Commissioner Talbot provided the financial and activities report of the New Hampshire Council on Problem Gambling (NHCPG). Follow-up discussion centered on the lack of Gamblers Anonymous (GA) meetings in the state of NH. Commissioner Talbot noted that there is only one regular GA meeting in the state, held in Hampstead, with no meetings in the North Country. Commissioner Talbot intends to refer helpline callers to Smart Recovery, which has more availability. Commissioner Talbot also will reach out to his contact at the Easter Seals about their fellowship opportunities. Together, the Commission developed a plan for the NHCPG to establish and promote more GA meetings, potentially to be held at the NHCPG office in Concord. We discussed a comprehensive marketing package using resources we have already established, including outreach to a reporter for the Conway Daily Sun.

Commissioner Talbot noted that he has been discussing self-limit/self-exclusion options with helpline callers; Chairman McCann reviewed current self-limit/self-exclusion options available for NH iLottery customers.

3. PROJECT UPDATES

Currently, a priority for the NHCPG is building its infrastructure (e.g., bookkeeping, office lease, office equipment, software, web presence). Discussion of NHCPG activities centered around this type of work. A consultant is developing 1- and 3-year strategic plans for the NHCPG to fulfill its contracted helpline, awareness building, and training duties. NHCPG is collaborating with the New Hampshire Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselors Association (NHADACA) to develop a course leading to certification in problem gambling treatment. The primary objective will be to train presently licensed clinicians.

4. REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES FOR FY21 AND FY22

Chairman McCann opened up discussion about a public education campaign to be funded by, and coinciding with, the introduction of historic horse racing in the state. We discussed distributing problem gambling awareness materials at all historic horse racing sites. FY21 budget was \$90,000, which was distributed to NHCPG for capacity building work including infrastructure development as discussed above. FY22 budget is \$100,000 and the council would like to see a proposed budget for FY 22.

5. MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

Commissioner Talbot noted that he will invite the NHCPG consultant to attend the December meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioners Talbot, Gray, and LaPlante will be presenting at the NHADACA NH Behavioral Health Summit in December and will begin planning that presentation. The title of their presentation will be, "What NH Providers Need to Know about Gambling and Gambling Disorders." They will strive to introduce behavioral health counselors to the topic of gambling and gambling disorder treatment, with an emphasis on how their existing skills could transfer to the treatment of gambling-related problems.

Chairman McCann discussed her preparation of the Annual Report.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 from 1- 2:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman McCann at 1:56pm.

Maura McCann, Chairman

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Gray
Commissioner
New Hampshire Council for Responsible Gambling