

Problem Gambling Task Force
Quarterly Meeting

SUMMARY

May 26, 2021 / 9:00 – 10:30 am / Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting purpose: Share updates on workgroup progress, gambling industry, and prevalence study.

Facilitator: Commissioner Julia Patterson (WSGC + PGTF Chair)

Time Keep + Note Taker: Meg O’Leary (Uncommon Solutions)

Participants

PGTF Chair: Comm. Julia Patterson (WSGC)	Peggen Frank **	Meg O’Leary (Uncommon Solutions) **
PGTF Co-Chair: Brad Galvin (Brief Therapy Works)	Maureen Greeley (ECPG)	Chris Stearns **
Amanda Benton (WA State Horseracing Commission)	Tina Griffin (WSGC) **	Tana Russell (ECPG)
Dallas Burnett (Squaxin Island Tribal Reg. Authority)	Ryan Keith (HCA)	Keith Seals (Cowlitz Tribe) **
John Chinn (WSGC)	Rep. Shelley Kloba	Ruby Takushi (Recovery Café)
Vic Colman (Uncommon Solutions) **	Amber Lewis (On behalf of Chairman Forsman & Suquamish Tribe)	Roxane Waldron (HCA)
Brian Considine (WSGC)	Mara Machulsky **	Kristi Weeks (Lottery)
Sen. Steve Conway	Chris Masse **	Keith Zenishek (Northern Quest Resort, Kalispel Tribe)
Tony Edwards (HCA)	Tim Merrill (Maverick Gaming)	

**** Non-voting member**

Absent: Joseph Benjamin (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), Hilarie Cash (reSTART Life), Brandi Crowe (Puyallup Tribal Gaming Agency), Rosina DePoe (WA Indian Gaming Association), Ali Desautel (Lake Roosevelt CHC), Tim Farrell (DOH), Melissa Hurt-Moran (Kalispel Tribe BH), Benjamin Joseph (Tribal Council Chairman, Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), Rebecca Kaldor (WIGA), Ty Lostutter (UW), Rep. Drew MacEwen, Richelle Madigan (community rep), Dawn Mangano (Evergreen Gaming Corp), Lucy Mendoza (HCA), Glen Nenema (Kalispel Tribe), Ricki Peone (Spokane Tribe, HHS Director), Cosette Rae (reSTART Life), Sarah Sense-Wilson (Tulalip BH), Richard Swan, Sr. (Councilman, Colville Tribes), Carmela Washington Harvey (ECAR Evaluation & Counseling Services), Keri Waterland (HCA)

Action Items

	<i>Assigned To</i>	<i>Date Due</i>
Schedule time with Sen. Conway, Rep. Kloba, Roxane, Vic and Meg to brainstorm best way to prepare for next legislative session, specially positioning PGTF for committee work sessions.	Roxane	Summer 2021

Add recommendation to final report: A funding objective for ongoing prevalence studies and surveys	Meg + Roxane	Discuss further at June 2021 CTR and PO WG meetings
Add recommendation to CTR and PO WG priority lists for final report: Fully integrate problem gambling into WA state mental health curriculum and counseling programs	Meg + Roxane	Discuss further at June 2021 CTR and PO WG meetings
Next PGTF quarterly meeting	All	Wed, Sep 29, 9-11am

Meeting Highlights

Welcome + Role Call <i>(Comm. Julia Patterson, PGTF Chair)</i>	Introduced guest and potential new PGTF member, Keith Seals (counselor/clinician, Cowlitz Tribe)
PGTF Workgroup Progress <i>(Meg O’Leary and Vic Colman, Uncommon Solutions and Roxane Waldron, HCA)</i>	<p>Care, Treatment + Recovery (CTR) and Prevention + Outreach (PO)</p> <p>Meg shared updates on behalf of the CTR and PO workgroups. They’ve both been meeting monthly since February 2021 and will continue through September 2021. These two workgroups are on the same path, reviewing their 2020 interim report priorities and using a tool we call the “rationale table” to delve deeper into each priority. As we move along, WG members will take on homework assignments to research specific priorities further and share info gathered with full WG. The goal is to build a strong case in the final report to the legislature with clear, well-defined, strategic recommendations. WG members are asking questions like this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What priorities need data and/or research to make robust recommendation for final report? ○ Which items specifically require prevalence study data? ○ What priorities are already being worked on and by whom/org (e.g., members and/or external partners)? <p><i>PGTF Discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sen. Conway: Is there an effort to include problem gambling in mental health counseling training programs? ○ Maureen: Yes and No. People are working on integrating services and weaving problem gambling into counseling programs and mental health curriculum. It’s moving, there is awareness, but we have long way to go. ○ Tana: Absolutely, to be integrated into the curriculum and not rely on just the handful of individuals doing guest presentations. ○ Julia: Can we include this as a WG priority? ○ Maureen: Yes, it’s definitely a priority for CTR and PO WGs.

Research + Data (RD)

Roxane shared updates on behalf of the RD WG. They've been meeting monthly since February and will continue through September. Their process mirrors CTR and PO; however, they've been focused on reviewing survey questions and providing insight and perspective. They'll begin refining their 2020 interim report priorities this summer.

Advocacy + Policy (AP)

Vic shared an update on AP WG progress. They meet regularly to support the PGTF and keep an eye on policy related opportunities to guide, leverage and illuminate the PGTF's priorities. They don't develop recommendations; they're a networking group. Vic highlighted these points:

- The upcoming 2022 legislative session doesn't look like an important one for the PGTF strategy-wise, given that the final report is due in 2022.
- The AP WG will look for opportunities to work with federal delegation on problem gambling
- However, we should approach legislators and request to be placed on work session agendas. For example, the Health Care Committee.

PGTF Discussion

- Sen. Conway: Where are we on the Medicaid issue? Special work session on problem gambling will be difficult with other competing health care advocates requesting their issues be on committee agendas. But Medicaid could get us on a legislative committee's agenda.
 - Roxane: HCA is working on state Medicaid plan.
 - Sen. Conway: Do other states include problem gambling as Medicaid expense?
 - Roxane: Yes. I recall New York and Iowa do. Each state's Medicaid plan is different. I'll look into details about New York's Medicaid coverage for problem gambling. And we'll schedule time with Sen. Conway and Rep. Kloba to brainstorm best way to prepare for next legislative session, specially positioning PGTF for committee work sessions.
 - Rep. Kloba: I just prepared the Committee Days agenda for Gaming Committee. Agree this Medicaid issue should be presented to the Health Care legislative committee.
 - Sen. Conway: Need to add a recommendation to the final report: A funding objective for ongoing prevalence studies and surveys. And how do we coordinate problem gambling with the substance abuse folks?
 - Roxane: Agree we need to coordinate with substance abuse folks. Challenge is that problem gambling is siloed at state
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level. It's partly a federal funding issue about how problem gambling is categorized. This is larger issue throughout the country. We could make state level changes, but must be addressed at federal level, too.

- Tony: Agree with Roxane—the federal funding sources make it almost impossible.

Prevalence Study Update

(Roxane Waldron, HCA)

Roxane shared the survey timeline, methodology and process. Highlights include:

- See attachment “Prevalence Study Timeline_as of May 2021”
- HCA and their team Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) and WSU’s Social + Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC) are developing survey questions.
- HCA organized a consult group to help develop the survey questions: Roxane Waldron (HCA), Rose Krebill-Prather (SESRC), Madeline Barch (WSIPP), Dr. Rachel Volberg (Gemini Research), Maureen Greeley and Tana Russell (ECPG), and Felix Rodriguez (HCA).
- With generous financial support from ECPG, HCA is consulting with Dr. Rachel Volberg on survey scope, framing and strategy.
- Survey will be titled “Health and Recreation Survey.” Intentionally omitting “problem gambling” from title to avoid biased response.
- Survey limited to~ 60 questions that focus on “Need to know” rather than “Nice to know to build strong case for final report. Survey will be offered in English and Spanish. HCA will seek additional funding for separate target survey to gather data from minority and BIPOC communities statewide.
- Draft questions will be sent to RD WG and Core Group (which consists of Julia, Brad, Sen. Conway and Rep. Kloba, Roxane, Vic and Meg)
- Survey launches in early July. Data set will be sent to HCA in September. Final data review anticipated in February 2022.
- HCA delivers final survey questions to SESRC in early June, then they program the online survey. The survey will be a combination of address-based and web-based. We won’t use cell phones because area codes are unreliable—we can’t tell whether the person is a Washington state resident.
- Survey consists of 4 waves, or points of contact, over 10 weeks. The waves begin in early June and include:
 1. Paper letter will be mailed, inviting people to take the online survey. Letter includes \$1 incentive and unique identifier code to access online survey link. We’re not collecting names or protected health information. We’ll mail 52,000 letters and expect 7,500 to respond.

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2. Last two weeks of July 2021: Paper survey (English and Spanish versions) mailed to those that didn't take online survey.
 3. Postcard reminder
 4. Reminder letter

PGTF Discussion

- Maureen: When we look at cultural dimensions, we will want to look not only at gambling behaviors, but at barriers to accessing services and care—gambling and mental health overall -- there's that Integration, again! We will need to look at a number of Intersectionality dimensions that cover culture and other aspects that impact marginalized communities -- whether that be because of cultural impacts, geographic impacts, or a host of other items. A lot to cover.
- Tana: So glad to hear a lot of support for ongoing data collection beyond the prevalence study. Very important.

WSGC Update

*(Brian Considine and
Tina Griffin, WSGC)*

Sports Betting Compacts

- Brian shared this link:
www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2021051028
- Total of 10 compacts. They go to legislature for review, then to WSGC, on to the Governor, then on for federal level review
- Process ends in June and rules go into effect by August 2021.
- Sports wagering could launch by September 2021.

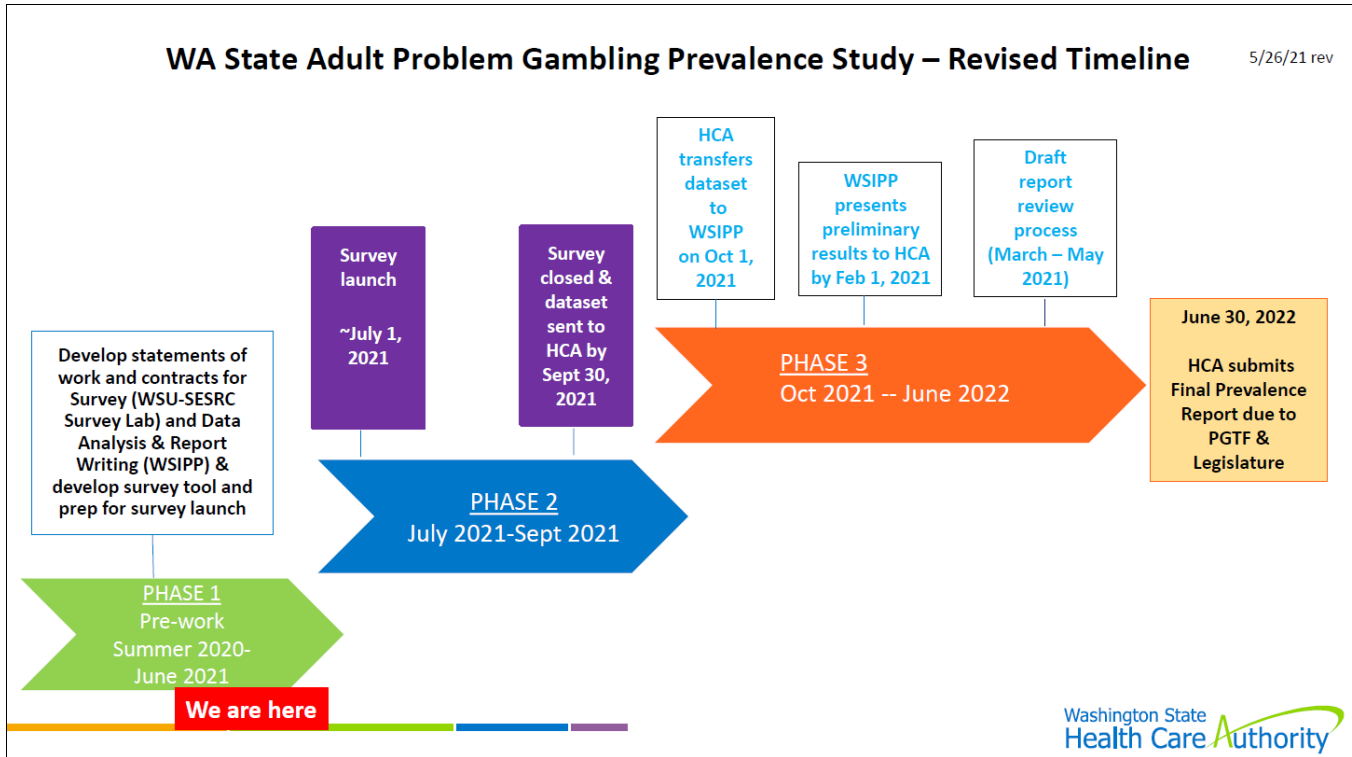
Self-Exclusion Program

- Tina shared the Self-Exclusion Implementation Timeline
- See attachment "PGTF Self-Exclusion Update"

Action Items

*(Comm. Julia Patterson,
PGTF Chair)*

- Next PGTF quarterly meeting via zoom: Wed, Sep 29, 9-11am
 - Schedule time with Sen. Conway, Rep. Kloba, Roxane, Vic and Meg to brainstorm best way to prepare for next legislative session, specially positioning PGTF for committee work sessions.
 - Add recommendation to final report: A funding objective for ongoing prevalence studies and surveys
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Self-Exclusion Program Update – 5/26/2021 – Speaker: WSGC Interim Director:

Self-Exclusion Implementation Timeline

