

Problem Gambling Task Force
Quarterly Meeting

SUMMARY

September 29, 2021
9:00 – 10:30 am
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Goals

- Prevalence Study update
- Proposed 2022 Workgroup process
- Workgroup update
- Guest speakers: Tina Griffin (WSGC Interim Director) and Kristi Weeks, Legal Director (WA Lottery)
- Guest speaker: Victor Ortiz, Director of Massachusetts Office of Problem Gambling Services

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)	James Paribello
Hilarie Cash (reSTART Life)	Tina Griffin (WSGC) **	Cosette Rae (reSTART Life)
Vic Colman (Uncommon Solutions) **	Ryan Keith (HCA)	Tana Russell (ECPG)
Sen. Steve Conway	Rep. Shelley Kloba	Roxane Waldron (HCA)
Brandi Crowe (Puyallup Tribal Gaming Agency)	Amber Lewis (On behalf of Chairman Forsman & Suquamish Tribe)	Kristi Weeks (Lottery)
Rosina DePoe (WA Indian Gaming Association)	Mara Machulsky **	Keith Zenishek (Northern Quest Resort, Kalispel Tribe)
Tony Edwards (HCA)	Nanci Watson (community member)	

**** Non-voting member**

Not able to attend: Joseph Benjamin (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), Amanda Benton (WA State Horseracing Commission), Dallas Burnett (Squaxin Island Tribal Reg. Authority), Ali Desautel (Lake Roosevelt CHC), Tim Farrell (DOH), Harumi Hashimoto (ACRS), Melissa Hurt-Moran (Kalispel Tribe BH), Benjamin Joseph (Tribal Council Chairman, Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), Rebecca Kaldor/George (WIGA), Susan Kydd (community rep), Ty Lostutter (UW), Rep. Drew MacEwen, Richelle Madigan (community rep), Tim Merrill (Maverick Gaming), Glen Nenema (Kalispel Tribe), Ricki Peone (Spokane Tribe, HHS Director), Richard Swan, Sr. (Councilman, Colville Tribes), Ruby Takushi (Recovery Café), Carmela Washington Harvey (ECAR Evaluation & Counseling), Keri Waterland (HCA)

Action Items	<i>Assigned To</i>	<i>Date Due</i>
Upcoming workgroup meetings	Workgroup members + staff	PO WG: Fri, Oct 8 CTR WG: Tue, Oct 12 RD WG: Fri, Oct 22
Next PGTF quarterly meeting	All	Tue, Jan 4, 2022, 9 – 11am (via zoom)

Meeting Highlights

<p>Prevalence Study Progress <i>Roxane Waldron, HCA</i></p>	<p>Roxane shared a brief update. See attachment “Timeline-Prevalence study_9-29-2021.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We’ve met our survey response goal! Response rate is over 19% (9400 completed surveys). ○ Survey closed on September 21, 2021. It was open about 10 weeks. ○ SESRC is gathering data and will send to HCA for review in October. Then HCA forwards data to WSIPP for analysis. ○ First data will be released to HCA in early February 2022, with a final report due to Legislature and PGTF by June 30, 2022.
<p>PGTF Timeline + 2022 Workgroup Process <i>Roxane Waldron, HCA</i></p>	<p>Roxane shared the new workgroup process for 2022. See attachment “PGTF Timeline updated 9-29-2021.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We’ll streamline and create a new Final Legislative Report Workgroup (FLR WG) comprised of 1-2 members from each existing workgroup (PO, CTR, RD). ○ The role of the new FLR WG will be to review and comment on the report drafts developed by staff and help finalize workgroup recommendations for the PGTF Final Report due to the legislature in the Fall of 2022. ○ All members present agreed to this new process and agreed to gather for one more PO WG meeting in October. Ty and Maureen expressed interest in having a supportive role with the FLR WG.
<p>Workgroup Updates <i>Meg O’Leary, Uncommon Solutions,</i></p>	<p>Both the CTR and PO workgroups have been meeting monthly since February 2021 and will continue through October 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. The goal is to build a strong case in the final report to the legislature with clear, well-defined, strategic recommendations. Here are highlights from their recent discussions:</p>

Care, Treatment + Recovery (CTR)

- People don't screen for problem gambling.
- Identify number of licensed providers; how many potential providers are out there and how do we encourage them to become problem gambling providers?
- The whole person must be addressed in treatment and recovery—mental health integration
- What is the future of telehealth in WA State? Will it continue to be available as it is now? Interest among clinicians to retain it is strong.
- Show contrast between problem gambling therapeutic and recovery support services offered in WA state vs. Utah and others—create some legislative envy.
- Propose specific legislation or “template” from other successful state examples—create real, actionable recommendations, not just a list of ideas.

Prevention + Outreach (PO)

- Online gambling is illegal in WA, so WA isn't taxing it, and therefore not getting funding for prevention and treatment
- Gaming industry doesn't see gaming behavior as a problem
- Look at integrated prevention and treatment services and co-occurring disorders—better chance to get funding if combined
- There's a disconnect between regulatory arm, available resources, and the gaming operators themselves. Should not be based only on enforcement. It's also harm minimization. Need to connect individuals to actual services.
- Go beyond just sharing research/science—find existing laws/policies in other states/countries as specific example/language, provide template for successful policy and more action-oriented recommendation

PGTF Discussion

- Sen. Conway: WA state legislature is putting money into mental health. Mental health integration is key. Problem gambling shouldn't be siloed anymore, it should be a part of state mental health initiative. HCA should look into how they can partner with this effort. Problem gambling isn't currently tied to the legislative committee focused on health care.

Roxane Waldron, HCA

Research + Data (RD)

- RD WG has been meeting regularly since February and will continue through October 2021. RD WG is also reviewing and refining recommendations. Recommendations to consider funding future prevalence studies every 3-5 years as opportunities for gambling increase.

Vic Colman, Uncommon Solutions

- Recommendation to invest in a robust replacement for the current State PG database used to track treatment (TARGET2000)
- Recommendation to include a two-part problem gambling question in future Healthy Youth Surveys
- Discussion about how to gather additional data needed to do an accurate gap analysis of pg services in the state

Advocacy + Policy (AP)

Vic Colman 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:

- Discussed potential future options to increase Lottery support of statewide problem gambling efforts
- Outreached to key legislators to potentially provide PGTF updates this fall to the two policy committees
- This Workgroup agreed to meet bi-monthly for the duration of this project

Guest Speakers: Partner Organization Updates

Kristi Weeks, WA Lottery
Tina Griffin, WSGC

Lottery Self-Exclusion Program

- Kristi provided an update on the Lottery's Voluntary Self-Exclusion program. The application, program rules and FAQ are now available online. The application must be submitted in-person or notarized and sent via U.S. Mail. The program allows a player to request to be excluded from lottery activities within the state of WA for a pre-determined length of time, and to be prohibited from collecting winnings over \$600 or any second chance drawing prize.
- Thus far, WA Lottery has not received any applications. They are currently developing plans for increased advertising, marketing and outreach.

State Self-Exclusion Program

- Tina shared the state's self-exclusion implementation timeline. For details, please see the attached file, titled "Tina Griffin."

PGTF Discussion

- Nanci: Why is there more than one Self-Exclusion program in Washington?
 - Kristi: The Gambling Commission and Tribes may offer separate VSE programs for cardrooms and casinos.
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- Tana: WA Lottery should consider offering more options to submit the application form. Going in person can be difficult for some and finding a notary can be a barrier to participation.
 - Nanci: One option would be to have the cashier at the location where the person is engaged in gaming sign
 - Brad: I highly recommend a lifetime self-exclusion option for both the lottery and state-wide VSE programs, possibly with the option to apply for removal of the exclusion with evidence of recovery/treatment.

Guest Speaker:
**Massachusetts Problem
Gambling Program Model
+ Framework**

*Victor Ortiz, Director of
Massachusetts Office of
Problem Gambling Services*

Victor Otriz gave a lively and informative presentation. He offered his perspective and examples of programs and outreach activities that are working well in Massachusetts. For details, please see the attached slide deck, titled "Victor Ortiz."

Action Items

*Comm. Julia Patterson,
PGTF Chair*

- PO WG: Fri, Oct 8; CTR WG: Tue, Oct 12; RD WG: Fri, Oct 22
- AP WG: TBD
- Next PGTF quarterly meeting: Tue, Jan 4, 2022, 9-11am (via zoom)