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## Subcommittee on Addiction Services Meeting Minutes

**December 7, 2021**

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**PRESENT:** Mark Vander Linden, Chair  
Victor Ortiz  
Rodolfo Vega  
Marlene Warner  
Yoyo Yau

### **10:33 a.m. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Vander Linden called to order the second meeting of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee's Subcommittee on Addiction Services. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2021 meeting, with all in favor.

### **10:34 a.m. Discussion: Topics and Issues for Subcommittee Recommendations**

Ms. Warner identified that the subcommittee was interested in discussing the topic of third party exclusion at the previous meeting, and that recommendations from the Asian CARES report, as well as advertising had also been mentioned. Ms. Yau provided an overview of some of the recommendations from the Asian CARES report, with Mr. Ortiz suggesting there may be some overlap through the Community Level Health Project, which could result in some informed recommendations.

Mr. Vega suggested compiling the recommendations sections from various related reports, extracting which ones were relevant to the subcommittee's mission. Ms. Warner and Mr. Vander Linden agreed. Mr. Ortiz offered that certain considerations may be conflating the subcommittee's mandate, and wanted to be sure the determinations would be aligned. The subcommittee briefly reviewed and considered the charge as written in the statute, highlighting that the research recommendations "including but not limited to prevention and intervention strategies."

The subcommittee discussed whether their charge included taking on research or audits, but determined that they would be recommending considerations to the Commission, who would then evaluate and work to facilitate.

Mr. Vander Linden noted that his team at the Gaming Commission was currently looking into the gambling advertising topic, as the Commissioners had expressed interest in that. The subcommittee agreed they would be interested in a presentation on that topic during a future meeting.

Mr. Ortiz offered that responsible gambling recommendations often are very focused on gambling, and would encourage the group to consider larger recommendations such as community context. He provided the advertising on busses as an example, noting that asthma rates contribute to health issues and are related to the use of the busses.

Mr. Vander Linden and Todd Grossman, General Counsel for the Commission then discussed the Voluntary Self-Exclusion program and its historical context, as well as their relevance for public records. He noted that a third party exclusion is something that the Commission hasn't yet taken action on, but it does state in statute that a family member or guardian may request in writing an order of exclusion from gaming establishments, applicable to concern that there is a gambling issue. Mr. Vega wondered if any research had been done on the implications of such a provision, superficially concerned about domestic violence as a result. Mr. Grossman added that the language is modeled after similar language in MA pertaining to individuals with drug and alcohol issues, allowing a family member to get a court order to bring someone in to get evaluated and get treatment against their will. Mr. Vander Linden stated that the subcommittee could consider what such a recommendation would look like and what the Commission's role would be. Ms. Warner added that the other two programs she was aware of don't use courts. The casino or business is working behind the scenes regarding the individual's play and utilizing arbitration. She suggested the committee could recommend intermittent steps to court involvement. Mr. Ortiz expressed concerns about family supports and any evidence of such practices and cost/benefit analysis. Mr. Vander Linden supported his concerns but reminded that it was in the statute, so worth evaluating. Ms. Yau expressed interest in evaluating a way of strengthening the consequence.

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Ms. Warner asked if there was an expectation that the subcommittee on addiction services report up to the GPAC at a future meeting. Ms. Crystal Howard, Chief Administrative Officer to the Chair and Special Projects Manager at the Gaming Commission clarified that in the past year the GPAC had heard from other subcommittees, and Mr. Ortiz confirmed as a member of that committee that it can only enhance the work.

#### **11:49 a.m. Next Meeting/ Next Steps/ Other Business**

Mr. Vander Linden confirmed that there would be three items to consider and review: third party exclusion, advertising, and recommendations from community driven research projects, and that they continue to use this group as a catalyst to keep these conversations going. The subcommittee discussed a time frame for the next meeting, noting there is no requirement about when to meet and how often. The committee agreed to meet 3-4 times a year, aiming for quarterly.

Ms. Howard reminded the committee members to submit their signed conflict of interest forms and complete their required ethics training if they had not yet done so.

#### **11:52 a.m. Meeting Adjourned**