



Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee (PHTFEC) Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: July 11, 2017- 1:00 p.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal Street, 12th Floor
Boston, MA

Present: **Executive Committee**
Co-Chair Stephen P. Crosby, Chairman, Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Co-Chair Lindsey Tucker, Associate Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Rebekah Gewirtz, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers MA Chapter
Jennifer Queally, Undersecretary for Law Enforcement, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Michael Sweeney, Executive Director, Massachusetts State Lottery Commission

Attendees

Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming, Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Teresa Fiore, Program Manager, Research and Responsible Gaming, Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Enrique Zuniga, Commissioner, Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Rachel Volberg, Principal Investigator, SEIGMA, UMass School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Danielle Venne, SEIGMA, UMass School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Jackie Dias, Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling
Brianna Tolson, Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling
Victor Ortiz, Director of Problem Gambling, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Lauren Gilman, Project Director, MassTAPP
Jack Vondras, Senior Advisor, MassTAPP
Ola Szezerepa, MassTAPP
Bruce Cohen, Chair, Research Analysis and Design Subcommittee
Alissa Mazar, Program Manager, SEIGMA, UMass School of Public Health and Health Sciences

Call to Order

1:00 p.m. Co-Chair Stephen Crosby called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Michael Sweeney moved to approve the PHTFEC minutes dated May 19, 2017. Motion seconded by Rebekah Gewirtz. Motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Lindsey Tucker stated that at the last meeting they spoke about process improvements and the promise of getting materials out in advance of the meetings. She stated that she anticipates will get better. She also noted that they have added public comments to the agenda. She stated that they will also make the meetings 3 hours as opposed to 2 hours. She also stated that they did not switch the day for this meeting but they will do so for future meetings.

Co-Chair Crosby noted for the record Rebekah's new title and employment – Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers MA Chapter.

Co-Chair Tucker stated that she and Chairman Crosby wants the group to consider moving the meetings to every other month as opposed to the current quarterly meeting schedule. She stated that this is in anticipation of the opening of two new casinos.

Age and Gender Analysis from SEIGMA Baseline General Population Survey

Danielle Venne provided an overview of the SEIGMA Gambling Behavior and Problem Gambling by Age and Gender report. She stated that the study was on gambling participation and problem gambling for males and females in certain age groups. She reported that a literature review was conducted and an analysis was conducted with the baseline general population survey which had a sample size of about 10,000. She provided a summary of the gambling demographic chart and noted the participation rates in the following areas: online, casino, and racing gambling.

Ms. Venne reported on the lottery participation rates in traditional games, instant games, and daily games; and participation rates in sports, private betting, raffle, and bingo. Michael Sweeney stated that he thought the instant games data would have been higher. Ms. Venne also reported on the past year participation significant differences between gender and age. Dr. Rachel Volberg noted that they did not differentiate between slots and table games in the baseline survey but in a follow-up study in 2020, they will differentiate between the types of play.

Jennifer Queally inquired about the sample pool. Dr. Volberg stated that the pool consisted of random addresses of Massachusetts residents and samples were taken from specific regions. She stated that the participants, over age 18, had a choice to respond online or through the mail. If there was no response to the survey, a phone follow-up survey was conducted.

Ms. Venne reported on the significant gender differences by age, significant age differences by gender, and significant differences in frequency of gambling. She also reported on problem gambler status for recreational gambling, at-risk gambling, problem gambling and significant differences in problem gambler status.

Ms. Venne provided highlights of the past year participation and weekly, monthly and yearly frequency rates. She noted that future direction includes problem gambling

prevention services directed toward those aged 35-64 and further analysis of gender and age differences to develop prevention recommendations. Dr. Volberg noted that the focus of prevention services is to target those who are at-risk for problem gambling and treatment services will focus on those with problem gambling. Rebekah Gewirtz stated that she has concerns that slots were not separated in the analysis. Dr. Volberg stated that they do intend to obtain this data when they do the next survey. Dr. Volberg also noted that adults age 65 and older do not appear to be a group that is particularly at high risk for problem gambling. She stated that seniors like the casinos for social and cognitive stimulation. Michael Sweeney stated that he would be interested in getting information on the effect on elders with “free outings” offered by the casinos. Rebekah Gewirtz stated that she feels that older adults are vulnerable in these settings. Michael Sweeney inquired about languages and the survey. Dr. Volberg stated that about 8 percent completed the surveys in Spanish.

Co- Chair Tucker thanked Ms. Venne for her report. She stated that, based on this conversation, that the PHTFEC has an interest in getting further information in this area over time, particularly a better understanding of table games and slot machines.

SEIGMA (Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts) / MAGIC (Massachusetts Gambling Impact Cohort) Annual Meeting Report

Dr. Rachel Volberg provided a summary of the presentations that were given at the 2017 SEIGMA/MAGIC annual meeting. Mark Vander Linden noted that the reports are not finalized and that they will come back to the committee and provide a deeper review.

Dr. Volberg reported on the pathological gamblers diagnosis, the amounts that insurance companies were charging, and out of pocket expenses incurred by patients with this diagnosis. She stated that this study revealed that individuals in Massachusetts that receive this diagnosis have complicated health histories.

Dr. Volberg reported on the patron and license plate survey. She stated that this study is a way to obtain information from patrons and it is the only way to see if gamblers are coming from out of state.

Dr. Volberg did not provide a summary on the Plainridge Park Casino operations report. She provided a summary of the MAGIC study. She stated that a lot of lessons were learned on how do cohort studies. She stated that the focus of MAGIC is to look at the rate of new cases of problem gambling in Massachusetts and to inform prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services. She noted that questionnaires were completed by 3,139 respondents with a response rate of 65%. She stated that they are in the process of revising the report with feedback they received and they hope to have it ready soon.

Co-Chair Tucker requested that the PHTFEC members can send any questions about the annual meeting reports to Mark Vander Linden. Co-Chair Crosby stated that we should pick a date as soon as possible for the next annual meeting to allow for many members to attend.

FY17 Department of Public Health (“DPH”) Programmatic Update

Victor Ortiz provided an update on problem gambling activities at DPH during the last year. He thanked their partners, the PHTFEC, and the Gaming Commission for their

support. He stated that FY17 was a great year of accomplishments. He stated that the PHTF Strategic Plan is a blueprint that informs their work. He stated that they identified four priority areas which included: prevention for youth, high-risk populations, community level interventions, and coordination of problem gambling services. He stated that the activities will be implemented in two phases – infrastructure development and implementation of services. He stated that the FY17 problem gambling initiatives include: prevention for youth, parents and at-risk populations; workforce development for community health workers; and workforce development for treatment providers.

Co-Chair Tucker reported that the MassTAPP report is still being reviewed by DPH and when it is final, they will send it out to the PHTFEC members.

Lauren Gilman, Project Director for MassTAPP, provided an overview of the MassTAPP report on prevention of problem gambling in Region C. She stated that MassTAPP is a substance abuse prevention project of Education Development Center (EDC). She stated that they focused on two populations – youth and parents, and men of color who have a history of substance abuse. She provided an overview of the planning process stages which included focus groups and interventions. She stated that they also focused on message development for these populations utilizing an online community toolkit. She noted that focus groups were conducted and they learned a lot about the students' knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about gambling. They also developed a messaging strategy for youth and parents. She stated that they want to raise awareness about the risks of gambling, self-regulation, and self-control. She also reported that they conducted a Photo Voice project to obtain a perception of what gambling looks like to youth through images they see in their daily life. She stated that the project was piloted at two sites. She noted that the results revealed that youth gained a broader understanding of the types of gambling and the parents gained a greater understanding of the importance of preventing gambling behaviors.

Jack Vondras, Senior Advisor for MassTAPP, provided an overview of their strategies for men of color with a substance abuse history. He stated that 19 men in recovery participated in 2 focus groups and 5 recovery providers participated in key informant interviews. He reported that men in recovery are aware of connections between gambling, other addictions, and mental health disorders. He also reported that recovery providers are aware of the financial impacts on their clients. He stated that they developed messaging and intervention strategies that included peer-to-peer coaching strategies. He also provided a summary of lessons learned and recommendations.

Victor Ortiz provided an overview of their workforce development initiative for community health workers. He provided a summary of the role of community health workers and their background. He stated that they bring cultural, socio-economic, and racial diversity to public health and healthcare organizations as part of who they are and what they are trained to do. He stated that they developed three needs assessment goals which included: developing a training curriculum, community level interventions, and training for screening and referrals. He provided a summary of their findings and lessons learned. Michael Sweeney stated that he is supportive of the community health workers and he is glad that they highlighted the area on illegal gambling. Commissioner Enrique Zuniga inquired about the methodology that was used. It was reported that Dr. Terry Mason used focus groups and key informant interviews. Rebekah Gewirtz stated that the role of community health workers could be expanded to the macro level such as

community policy and actions. There was a discussion about including the role of community health workers on macro level issues in the future.

Mr. Ortiz also provided an overview of their workforce development initiative for providers. He stated that they will revise the DPH problem gambling practice guidelines and self-assessment tools. He stated that this will ensure that the providers have access to evidence based treatment. He also noted that they will provide trainings and a web-based platform. Commissioner Zuniga noted that he did not see any mention of the VSE (Voluntary Self Exclusion) program in the tools section and he stated that it can be an effective tool. Co-Chair Crosby stated that at a minimum, the VSE program should be included, and maybe even PlayMyWay. He also expressed concerns about data and Co-Chair Tucker stated that she will look at it and follow up. Mr. Ortiz provided a summary of lessons learned regarding the revisions.

Mr. Ortiz provided a summary of the stakeholder listening sessions. He stated that the purpose is not to just develop products but to engage the community and obtain feedback. He stated that the first listening session was conducted in Boston and they will conduct one in the fall in Springfield. He stated that they hope to expand this work in the future.

Ombudsman John Ziemba provided a summary of his role at the Gaming Commission. He stated that he administers the Community Mitigation Fund but the Commissioners make the determination about the funding. He stated that the fund is meant to help communities offset costs from the construction of the casinos and the impacts to the host and surrounding communities. He provided an overview of the Fund which included the following: applications are due by February 1st, there is a comprehensive review process, the review team makes recommendations to the Commission, and decisions are made in public. He reported that funding decisions have recently been made and they are in the process of drafting contracts. He also provided an overview on the different types of applications such as transportation planning grants, workforce development pilot projects, tribal technical assistance grants, and reserve grants. He stated that they fund a lot of transportation grants. He also stated that they are having conversations with the Massachusetts Historical Society to discuss preservation of historical buildings in these communities. Co-Chair Crosby provided examples of applications that were funded (valet parking for a community health care facility) and applications that were not funded (dredging a canal for a commuter boat). Co-Chair Tucker noted that the funding of a bike path to mitigate traffic also has unintended consequences of health benefits by getting people moving more. Rebekah Gewirtz inquired about the areas of public safety and domestic violence. Ombudsman Ziemba stated that they are focusing now on construction impacts and will look at these areas during the casino's operational phase. Ombudsman Ziemba also provided an overview of the Community Mitigation advisory committees and noted that there are multiple layers of review.

Public Comment

Co-Chair Tucker reported that there were no public comments.

Other Business – reserved for matters the Chairs did not reasonably anticipate at the time of posting

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Rebekah Gewirtz. Motion seconded by Michael Sweeney. Motion passed unanimously.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee, Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated July 11, 2017
2. Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee, Draft Meeting Minutes dated May 19, 2017
3. Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Problem Gambling Services, Budget Brief, Updates dated July 11, 2017
4. Your First Step to Change: Gambling (2nd Edition)
5. Memorandum from Dr. Rachel Volberg (SEIGMA) to the PHTFEC, dated July 11, 2017 regarding Gambling Behavior and Problem Gambling by Age and Gender, with PowerPoint slides
6. Memorandum from Dr. Rachel Volberg (SEIGMA) to the PHTFEC, dated July 11, 2017 regarding Summaries of the 2017 Annual Meeting Presentations, with attachments
7. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Community Mitigation Fund documents
8. FY17 DPH Problem Gambling Services, PowerPoint slides dated July 11, 2017

Cecelia M. Porché
Paralegal/Legal Division