



Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: December 16, 2014

Place: Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon Street, Room 222, Boston

Present: Dennis A. DiZoglio, Chairman
Stephen P. Crosby, Gaming Commission Chairman
Members: Sen. Jennifer Flanagan (via conference call); Sen. Richard Ross, Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante, Rep. Angelo L. D’Emilia, Lydie Ultimo, Thomas Land, Brian Lang
Invitees: William Messner, David Stein, Barbara Anthony

Absent: None

Call to Order

Chairman Crosby opened the 3rd public meeting. He asked members to introduce themselves. He then spoke of a complication that needs to be addressed relative to gaming licensees’ representatives being special state employees under state ethics law if they are members of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee (“GPAC”).

Chairman Crosby then introduced Dennis DiZoglio to the members of the Committee. General Counsel Blue and Deputy General Counsel Grossman of the Gaming Commission swore Mr. DiZoglio in as the new chairman of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee.

Chairman Crosby gave a summation of the awarding of licenses and the open license in Region C.

Mr. Lang asked if the Commission could decide not to award in Region C.

Chairman Crosby acknowledged that the Commission has that discretion.

Mr. Lang asked about the issue of CORI and the status of that with the Legislature.

Mr. Grossman stated that some language has been drafted and submitted to the Legislature.

Mr. Lang requested that the GPAC member get a copy of the statute and possibly endorse it.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Chairman Crosby mentioned that the licensees supported the CORI reform and that the CORI issue could be put on the agenda of the next meeting.

Mr. Lang concurred with that proposal for the next meeting.

Senator Ross explained that the Legislature had explored the CORI issue and noted that stricter standards are the better standards.

Ms. Anthony noted that the importance of practical experience from a consumer standpoint in terms of what the atmosphere is like and what the issues are.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman DiZoglio sought approval for the minutes from the July 2013 meeting; Senator Ross so moved; Mr. Lang questioned whether an amendment inserting his question on scope was made to the minutes as requested at the October meeting; Mr. Ziemba pointed out where that insertion was incorporated into the minutes, Mr. Lang approved that insertion; upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman DiZoglio sought approval for the minutes from the October 2013 meeting; Mr. Lang so moved; upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mark Vander Linden the Director of Research and Responsible Gaming for the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and Steve Keel the Director of Problem Gambling Services with the Mass. Department of Public Health then presented an overview of the current research agenda, the two studies underway, and their recommendations for the ongoing research agenda.

Ms. Anthony asked if related variables within the baseline such as bankruptcy were considered.

Mr. Vander Linden said that the study covers both social variables as well as economic fiscal variables.

Representative Ferrante asked if factors such as cultural facilities, tourism are included in the study.

Mr. Vander Linden said that tourism and visitation are under the economic impacts.

Mr. Vander Linden also discussed the Public Health Trust Fund and the empowerment of the secretary of Health and Human Services to control spending in the Public Health Trust Fund.

Chairman Crosby provided details about the Memorandum of Understanding between the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and the Department of Public Health in order to maximize dealing with problem gambling and related matters.

Mr. Vander Linden then spoke about the Gaming Research Advisory Committee. He then directed the member's attention to the PowerPoint presentation on SEIGMA and MAGIC studies.

Mr. Messner asked whether the effect of gaming was being looked at through any other dimension in terms of economic effects and employment.

Mr. Vander Linden said yes and described reviews of impacts on employment, household income, business starts and wages.

Mr. Land discussed that there is a range of communities that are being looked in order to get an assessment of the 70 measures.

Representative D'Emilia asked whether other states have had similar social-economic studies to which GPAC can compare the study.

Mr. Vander Linden responded that there are no other social-economic impact studies that have been done.

Mr. Stein asked if this research being formally merchandised to other state agencies for their use.

Mr. Vander Linden responded that a specific plan has not yet been developed but the intent is to maximize the use of the data.

Mr. Land indicated that the interface of information with other state agencies has been an on-going discussion.

Chair DiZoglio suggested that once the data is collected that the data should be communicated with the secretaries such as EOPSS and Housing and Economic Development.

Mr. Vander Linden believes that he will have the final study results work by April 1 and that the reports will be complete in May.

Mr. Keel then spoke on the Mass. Gaming Impact Cohort study called “MAGIC”, a longitudinal cohort study.

Ms. Anthony had a question about whether the research is going to examine the efficacy of the programs, and the adequacy and efficacy of the programs directed at this population.

Mr. Keel said yes. Information gathered will guide the use of Public Health Trust Fund dollars for prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support.

Chairman Crosby stated that the idea is to know what kinds of educational programs, treatment programs, and intervention strategies work and which do not.

Mr. Keel continued with his report covering how targeted intervention, treatment and recovery support work; what are safe levels of gambling; and how the development of guidelines for awareness and prevention can prevent people from making wrong choices.

Mr. Land asked whether there were plans for replenishment of study participants.

Mr. Vander Linden said that there is no intent to replenish.

Mr. Vander Linden had the following recommendations:

1. Continue the scope of the current research agenda including SEIGMA and MAGIC for the next term;

Representative Ferrante indicated her support of these recommendations however, would like to see what is being done on the cultural facilities, tourism and live racing side of gaming and requested a session where people could ask questions on the full research agenda to make sure that each area is being addressed.

Mr. Vander Linden stated recommendation two: Establish evaluation measures and processes collect and analyze data and report findings to determine the effectiveness of responsible gaming initiatives.

Mr. Vander Linden then noted that those gaming initiatives would be (1) the self-exclusion program; (2) the effectiveness of the on-site responsible gaming information centers; and (3) the play management features.

Mr. Vander Linden then stated recommendation three: Procure services with an experienced nonprofit research entity to collect, anonymize, store and disseminate

information generated by loyalty programs, player tracking software, player card systems and any other information system.

Chairman Crosby noted that this was probably the first time the Committee had heard about the self-exclusion programs. He also indicated that due to the lack of a chairman, there could not have been meetings to vote on these items and that in the future there will not be the issue of quorum as the host community and licensees will be in attendance.

Representative D’Emilia asked if other members of the GPAC were to be seated.

Chairman Crosby indicated that full membership will happen after the ethics concerns by licensees are resolved.

Ms. Anthony questioned if the Responsible Gaming Framework is included in Mr. Vander Linden’s recommendation.

Mr. Ziemba pointed out to the committee that they were not being asked to opine on the responsible gaming framework.

Mr. Vander Linden concurred that the Responsible Gaming Framework was approved by the Commission and adopted by the Commission on September 25 with the exception of the play management which, was adopted two weeks prior.

Mr. Vander Linden indicated that under Chapter 194, Section 97 of the Act, data collected through loyalty programs, player tracking software, player card systems or any other information system will be disseminated to qualified researchers.

Chairman Crosby indicated that the Legislature has told the Commission to collect this information and make it available to the researchers.

Ms. Anthony asked whether any financial information associated with the data collected from the player cards, such as credit card numbers or bank account numbers, were captured in the data.

Mr. Vander Linden indicated that such information is not captured.

Chair DiZoglio sought an endorsement of the motions contained within the packet materials found on page 6 of the Report on the *Research Agenda of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission* with the wording amended in section 1) to read: “Establish evaluation measures and processes, collect and analyze data and report findings to determine the effectiveness and benefits of responsible gaming initiatives outlined in the MGC Responsible Gaming Framework.”

Mr. Lang so endorsed.

Upon Motion Made and seconded, it, was unanimously approved.

Chair DiZoglio then turned the meeting to Ombudsman Ziemba who described the community mitigation committees and how they are going to advise the GPAC. The next topic was the Community Mitigation Fund for 2015 and the recommendations for a reserve account to be set up for communities.

Chair DiZoglio suggested that as part of future agendas there be a subcommittee update and that the subcommittees make recommendations to the GPAC.

Chairman Crosby asked if members of the GPAC could have an informal role in the subcommittees.

Mr. Ziemba replied that members of the GPAC could have an informal role like that of the invitees to this Committee.

Chair DiZoglio suggested quarterly meetings and requested members to make sure that they are up to date on their ethics trainings.

Chairman Crosby requested a consistent schedule of quarterly meetings for the GPAC.

Ms. Anthony would like to know the jurisdiction of the Attorney General's office and that of the Gaming Commission and which organization is responsible for looking at the rules and regulations governing advertising, sales, and marketing practices by casino operators?

Mr. Ziemba explained that a representative of the Attorney General's office sits on the Public Safety Committee. However, the oversight issue has not yet` been addressed.

Chairman Crosby said that the Commission has the authority to set up whatever regulations were appropriate with regard to the advertising practices.

Chair DiZoglio then made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Anthony motioned to adjourn

Representative Ferrante: “Second”

All in favor “aye”.

Motion to adjourn carried.

/s/ Mary S. Thurlow

Mary S. Thurlow, Secretary

List of Documents and Other Items Used at the Meeting

1. Agenda of Meeting
2. Minutes of July 16, 2013 meeting
3. Minutes of October 21, 2013 meeting
4. Report on the Research Agenda of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission
5. Responsible Gaming Framework publication
6. Draft guidelines and application for the 2015 Community Mitigation Fund
7. Three charts displaying the Gaming Policy Advisory Groups and their responsibilities
8. PowerPoint on SEIGMA and MAJIC Studies