



Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee (PHTFEC) Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: May 29, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.

Place: Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Present: Executive Committee

Lindsey Tucker, Co-Chair, Associate Commissioner, Massachusetts
Department of Public Health
Enrique Zuniga, Co-Chair, Commissioner, Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Jennifer Queally, Undersecretary, Executive Office of Public Safety
Michael Sweeney, Executive Director, Massachusetts State Lottery
Rebekah Gewirtz, Executive Director of the National Association of Social
Workers, MA Chapter and Representative of the Massachusetts Public Health
Association

Attendees

Victor Ortiz, Director of Problem Gambling Services, Massachusetts
Department of Public Health
Teresa Fiore, Program Manager of Research and Responsible Gaming,
Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming,
Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Giles Li, Executive Director, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center

Call to Order

12:13 p.m. Co-Chair Tucker called to order the Public Health Trust Fund Executive
Committee (PHTFEC) Meeting.

Approval of Minutes

12:12 p.m. *April 4, 2018 minutes:*
*Co-Chair Tucker asked if there were any proposed changes for the April 4th
meeting minutes. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to approve the April 4th
minutes as the vote was postponed last meeting. Jennifer Queally made the
motion and Co-Chair Tucker seconded it. All present members approved with the
exception of Co-Chair Zuniga and Rebekah Gewirtz abstaining as they were not
present at the April 4th meeting.*

May 9, 2018 minutes:

Co-Chair Tucker asked if there were any proposed changes to the May 9th meeting minutes. Michael Sweeney proposed a change to page 2 and clarified point regarding GameSense and the 'barbershop' prevention programs. Ms. Fiore will incorporate the edits.

Co-Chair Zuniga clarified a comment made on page 3 about indirect costs. Michael Sweeney requested that on page 5 paragraph 3, that 'language diversity' be changed to 'language and cultural diversity'.

With no further changes, Co-Chair Tucker asked for a motion to approve the May 9th minutes as amended. Rebekah Gewirtz made the motion and Co-Chair Zuniga seconded. All present members approved.

FY19 budget

Co-Chair Zuniga began by highlighting the change in the budget. He suggested that going forward that a summary level one pager be produced to show how the budget has progressed and evolved.

Co-Chair Tucker agreed and noted how it would be beneficial to show how the conversation occurring here is reflected in the budget.

Jennifer Queally stated that it was helpful to have highlighted addressed changes.

Co-Chair Zuniga noted that the proposed change is to allocate \$100,000 from the GameSense program to address at risk population needs. He further went on to note that it is currently under research. Co-Chair Zuniga also noted that they have looked into conducting listening sessions and RFIs so that there is input on what groups are concerned about. Co-Chair Zuniga stated that the proposed \$100,000 also includes a reduction in the indirect rate of GameSense.

Mark Vander Linden also added that adding the \$100,000 would increase the allocation for at risk communities to \$200,000. Mr. Vander Linden noted that it would be a great idea to work more closely on procurement and RFI research with DPH.

Co-Chair Zuniga noted that in last week's meeting in western mass, there was a presentation that discussed the diminishing returns of large population's research. One of the areas that were previously mentioned was the difficulty to reach communities that do not respond. They discussed alternative methods of contacting, stakeholder interviews, thinking of new ways to engage community responsiveness.

Jennifer Queally stated that in general, research via phone calls seems like a lackluster approach. She further stated that she would like to see the money allocated on programs more than research, as she feels as though they should be responding to research that has already occurred.

Co-Chair Zuniga replied that is a real issue. Ideally, they'd like to see a stronger correlation between research and problems addressed. He discussed the challenge that researchers

have in accumulating responses and their awareness of the issue. He then noted how it is important for them to think about what the proportion of programs to research is.

Jennifer Queally noted that with casinos opening soon, there is an opportunity to research a new cross-section of folks.

Rebekah Gewirtz stated that the robust discussion in previous meetings has touched on the topic of intervention versus prevention. GameSense is a great tool for intervention for those who are already at the casino and at-risk. However, she believes the PHFTEC charge should be not only intervention but also prevention. She discussed the importance of informing people about the risk of going to the casino and further mentioned how they can think about preventing people from going to places that are harmful.

Steve Crosby stated the difference between two organizations (DPH and MGC) in terms of their agendas and how MGC targets prevention within the casino. He discussed the fact that the people who are at risk are those who already go the casinos and broke down the percentage of those individuals who would be labeled problem gamblers. He explained that in this scenario the GameSense and 'Play my Way' could be seen as a preventative tool due to its ability to prevent those already going to the casino from moving from healthy gambling to at risk or problem gambling.

Jennifer Queally stated that this is the type of information she would want included in terms of goals and structure for the PHTF. She reiterated the need to note what the group's role is and what the goals and objectives are. As an example she discussed the elderly population and whether their target audience would be those who are predisposed or the entire elderly population. She discussed the increased rate of problem gambling when coupled with other risk factors.

Steve Crosby agreed and also noted that the co-morbidity factor is almost 100% and the parallel between mental health and at risk gambling is extremely high.

Rebekah Gewirtz expounded on her previous point and explained that she didn't mean prevention in the literal sense (preventing people from physically going to casinos) but prevention in the sense averting addiction and disease and helping people understand the risks of gambling; particularly slot machines.

Jennifer Queally agreed and suggested of a public service announcement regarding slot machines.

Co-Chair Tucker stated that in the interest of time, they must move on but in the next meeting it might make sense to bring the GameSense evaluation. She informed them that she and Victor had discussed the opportunities to presents about current programs and activities within communities and the need for additional staff to be included in the budget for these programs.

Co-Chair Zuniga also informed the members that they will also be hearing from Judith Glynn about the strategic plan.

Michael Sweeney stated that the letters they received from Boston Chinatown and others articulate far better than he can about the progress that has been made. He is glad to see them moving forward in the direction of having on the ground impactful engagement.

With no further comments Co-Chair Zuniga asked for a motion to approve the budget. All present members approved.

Sports Betting

Michael Sweeney discussed sports betting and daily fantasy sports. He hopes that this body would encourage the same regulations that are placed on lottery and casinos would be applied to sports betting and daily fantasy sports. He would like to officially put it on radar.

Steve Crosby stated that it is important and suggested that the PHFTEC take a formal position in writing. The statue could potentially funnel the money to this body. From his standpoint, if the legislature would put money towards this, it should go to PHFTEC.

Jennifer Queally replied that if all funds came to this body, there would need to be additional seats for representation.

Co-Chair Zuniga mentioned the white-paper on sports betting and the position of increasing education. He noted that there is a sense that there lies the policy education think of ways to prevent negative impacts.

Jennifer Queally discussed the impact on youth.

Co-Chair Zuniga noted that the Senate passed a version of daily fantasy sports. However, the House has an extension and it then becomes a question of how the committees reconcile it. The timing and direction of DFS regulation is unknown.

Public Comment

Giles Li was then invited to speak. He thanked committee and Michael Sweeney for their responsiveness to his concerns. He went on to say that all communities will feel the impact of the casinos and that there needs to be more conversation so that difficult concepts will be addressed.

With no further comments Co-Chair Tucker asked for a motion to adjourn. Jennifer Queally made the motion and Rebekah Gewirtz seconded it. All present members approved and the meeting adjourned at 1:02pm