



---

## Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

---

**Date/Time:** April 11, 2016 – 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
101 Federal Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Present:** **Executive Committee**

Stephen P. Crosby, Chairman, Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
Enrique Zuniga, Commissioner, Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
Lindsey Tucker, Co-Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Michael Sweeney, Executive Director, Massachusetts State Lottery Commission  
Jennifer Queally, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
Rebekah Gewirtz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Public Health Association

**Attendees**

Mark Vander Linden, Director, Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
Terrance Lanier, Legal Fellow, Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
Victor Ortiz, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Emily Bhargava, Education Development Center  
Jack Vangas, Education Development Center  
Marlene Warner, Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling  
Bruce Cohen, Retired Massachusetts Department of Public Health (participated via telephone)

**Call to Order**

1:06 p.m. Chairwomen Tucker called to order the Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee (“PHTFEC”) Meeting. Chairwoman Tucker moved item seven of the agenda up to discussions with the strategic plan.

**Approval of Minutes**

1:08 p.m. *Michael Sweeney moved for the approval of the January 12, 2016, PHTFEC minutes. Motion seconded by Chairman Crosby. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **Strategic Plan: Services to Mitigate the Harms Associated with Gambling in Massachusetts –Review and Approval**

1:09 p.m. Chairwoman Tucker recognized Emily Bhargava and the rest of PHTFEC for all of its efforts in drafting the strategic plan. Chairwoman Tucker asked the PHTFEC to adopt the document if they had no further concerns.

Chairman Crosby asked about figure 2 on page 34 of the Strategic Plan; specifically, he was under the impression that the group discussed including “increased foreclosures and economic challenges” and “increased crime” in the impact group that could be addressed through the Community Mitigation Fund (“CMF”).

Emily Bhargava removed category headings from figure 2, but did not recall suggestions to include “increased foreclosures and economic challenges” and “increased crime” as impacts that could be addressed through the CMF.

1:15 p.m. Rebekah Gewirtz stated that she would not have an issue with the edits as long as the strategic plan is stating that there are impacts that may be addressed with CMF, and not that certain impacts could only be addressed with CMF. Chairman Crosby stated that the categories on figure 2 are not preclusive, and agreed with her statement.

1:18 p.m. The PHTFEC discussed adding the two aforementioned impacts into the group of impacts that may be addressed through the CMF. The PHTFEC also discussed removing the darkened blue area encapsulating the impacts that could be addressed through CMF, and signifying them through other means.

1:23 p.m. The PHTFEC agreed to remove the darkened blue area from the outermost ring of figure 2, and instead insert a sentence below the chart may state: some of the community-level/epidemiological effects included in the chart above may be addressed through the CMF.

Chairwoman Tucker asked for any other friendly amendments and reiterated that the strategic plan is a living document.

1:25 p.m. *Michael Sweeney moved for the approval of the April, 2016 Strategic Plan: Services to Mitigate the Harms Associated with Gambling in Massachusetts. Motion seconded by Rebekah Gewirtz. Motion passed unanimously.*

1:26 p.m. Chairwoman Tucker stated that the strategic plan receives a revision every two years, and full re-write every 5 years.

### **2016 Research Agenda**

1:27 p.m. Mark Vander Linden explained the research agenda mandate, and presented PHTFEC with a brief review of the current research agenda. Mark Vander Linden reviewed the research activity to date. Mark Vander Linden began with the SEIGMA study.

1:34 p.m. Chairman Crosby explained several aspects of the SEIGMA study as well.

1:40 p.m. Mark Vander Linden explained the main difference between the SEIGMA study and MAGIC study; SEIGMA provides the prevalence of problem gambling in Massachusetts while MAGIC gives the incidence—how many new problem gamblers are entering the population in any given year.

Mark Vander Linden reviewed the voluntary self-exclusion program, and the GameSense Program.

1:46 p.m. Rebekah Gewirtz asked about the GameSense Advisor’s (“GSA”) working hours, and if their current hours are the most efficient time slot for capturing problem gamblers.

Chairman Crosby stated that the GSA hours should be re-evaluated in the future, but the Commission will have a better picture of the most intensive gambling times after receiving information from the player card data.

1:50 p.m. Mark explained the commission is changing Play Management’s name to Play My Way. The program will launch in July.

#### **Fiscal Year 2017 Research Agenda Budget**

1:57 p.m. Mark Vander Linden began reviewing the Gaming Research, Public Health Services and Administration draft for fiscal year 2017.

Chairwoman Tucker asked if the MAGIC study’s \$1,080,000 amount included past start-up costs, and Bruce Cohen explained that there are no start-up costs associated with this study.

2:04 p.m. PHTFEC has a general discussion about the cost of the MAGIC study. Mark Vander Linden explained the Commission went with the least pricely option, and Chairman Crosby stated that Commissioner Zuniga and Mark Vander Linden carefully considered the proposals and chose the best option.

2:08 p.m. Chairman Crosby stated that there had been some difficulty forming the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee (“GPAC”) which sets the annual gaming research agenda.

Mark Vander Linden stated that the current plan is to present a draft of the research agenda for fiscal year 2017

2:20 p.m. Group discussed whether the \$5 Play My Way enrollment incentive should be included in the research agenda budget, or if the casino licensees should pay for the incentive.

2:30 p.m. Chairwoman Tucker suggested adding 25,000 to the budget that would be used for community prevention purposes.

Mark Vander Linden stated that the budget needs to be presented to the Commission

2:44 p.m. *Jennifer Queally moved to adopt the 2017 research agenda budget with an additional 25,000 dollars added to the Department of Public Health's funding for community prevention purposes. Motion seconded by Chairman Crosby. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **Non-Lottery Gaming Machine Presentation**

2:46 p.m. Micheal Sweeney gave a presentation about non-lottery gaming machines operating in Massachusetts.

2:59 p.m. Victor Ortiz stated that this is a relevant issue because these machines are not uncommon across Massachusetts, and found in several socio-economic distressed areas.

### **Other Business**

3:09 p.m. *Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Michael Sweeney. Motion seconded by Jennifer Queally. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **List of Documents and Other Items Used**

1. Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee, Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated
2. April 11, 2016
3. Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee, Meeting Minutes dated January 12, 2016
4. Research Agenda Memo dated April 11, 2016
5. Massachusetts Problem Gambling Services Strategic Plan Overview dated January 12, 2016
6. Gaming Research, Public Health Services and Administration, draft for Fiscal Year 2017
7. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Memorandum dated April 11, 2016 regarding recommendations for the Annual Gaming research Agenda
8. Illegal Gambling Machine Presentation dated April 11, 2016

/s/ Terrance Lanier

Terrance Lanier, Legal and Policy Division