



Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee (PHTFEC) Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: January 10, 2017 – 3:00 p.m.

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

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, Massachusetts Public Health Association
Jennifer Queally, Undersecretary for Law Enforcement, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Michael Sweeney, Executive Director, Massachusetts State Lottery Commission

Attendees

Bruce Cohen, Retired Director, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (via telephone)
Teresa Fiore, Program Manager, Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Heather Gray, Associate Director of Academic Affairs at the Division on Addiction, Cambridge Health Alliance
Debi LaPlante, Director of Research and Academic Affairs at the Division on Addiction, Cambridge Health Alliance
Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming, Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Jakob Linnet, Division on Addiction, Cambridge Health Alliance
Victor Ortiz, Director of Problem Gambling Services, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Cecelia Porché, Paralegal, Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Marlene Warner, Executive Director, Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling
Carolyn Wong, Research Associate, UMass Boston, Institute for Asian American Studies
Alan Xie, Research Assistant, UMass Boston, Institute for Asian American Studies
Enrique Zuniga, Commissioner, Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Call to Order

3:02 p.m. Co-Chair Stephen Crosby called the Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee (“PHTFEC”) meeting to order.

3:03 p.m. *Co-Chair Lindsey Tucker moved for the approval of the October 11, 2016, PHTFEC meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Michael Sweeney. Motion passed unanimously.*

FY17 Public Health Initiatives

3:08 p.m. Victor Ortiz, Director of Problem Gambling Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, provided an update which included a summary of the following: a prevention initiative to integrate problem gambling with substance abuse prevention, MassTapp contract to develop a Region C prevention plan, community health workers will conduct a needs assessment in Region C, Cambridge Health Alliance (“CHA”) has been awarded a contract for workforce development and revision of practice guidelines, development of a stakeholder advisory group, no updates reported on the school survey, data storage proposal, and statewide capacity building. He also noted that today is his first year anniversary and he thanked the team for their excellent work.

Commissioner Enrique Zuniga suggested clarification for the geographic area they refer to as Region C – he suggested they may wish to change the term to Plainridge/Plainville.

Michael Sweeney, Executive Director of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, suggested that a stipend be offered for community health workers who engage in this work.

Bruce Cohen, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (retired), stated that we need to be as expansive as we can with the youth survey.

FY 17 Research Agenda Update

3:15 p.m. Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming, provided a summary of the following gaming research agenda items.

Study of Gambling Behavior among Special Populations in MA

Mark Vander Linden stated that the PHTFEC requested that an RFI (Request for Information) be released as opposed to an RFP (Request for Proposal) for the study of gambling behavior among special populations in Massachusetts. He stated that Bruce Cohen was instrumental in drafting the RFI. Mr. Vander Linden stated that the RDASC (Research Design and Analysis Sub Committee) felt that they had sufficient information to move to an RFP. Mr. Cohen stated that they are working on a draft for subcontractors. He also stated that we should get the process moving as soon as possible to get the money out to the communities as fast as we can. Co-Chair Lindsey Tucker, Associate Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, stated that she would add clarification that the total amount is \$100,000 no matter how many applicants. Mr. Ortiz stated that he would add the terms understanding and experience. With regard to the language that the applicant doesn't have to be based in Massachusetts, Mr. Sweeney stated that he feels we have a lot of resources in Massachusetts and would like to stay within the state. Co-Chair Crosby suggested using language “applicants from Massachusetts preferred.” Carolyn Wong inquired about the language “may include a separate

application” on page three under potential research strategies. Mr. Vander Linden stated that an applicant may have a planning grant. Co-Chair Tucker offered clarification. Mr. Cohen suggested we may include a separate application for future funding. Mr. Sweeney expressed concern about a February 1 start date. Mr. Vander Linden stated that he will adjust the date. Mr. Vander Linden asked the committee if it would make sense to move forward with an RFP, with edits discussed today.

Co-Chair Crosby moved that the Committee move forward with the RFP with edits discussed today. Motion seconded by Michael Sweeney. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sweeney also suggested that language be included that makes reference to the Massachusetts privacy laws and ownership of data. He stated that he is looking for a level of protection against a breach. Co-Chair Tucker stated that she can add that to the contract. Rebekah Gewirtz, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Public Health Association, stated that she would like to see the following language in the objectives section – “how will this lead to action.” Mr. Vander Linden stated that he will circulate a final draft. He also stated that he would like to send this out to Ms. Gewirtz’s membership/newsletters.

3:41 p.m. **Data Transfer, Storage and Access Project**

Mr. Vander Linden provided an update on the data transfer, storage and access project. He stated that he explored a partnership with the Department of Public Health (“DPH”) because of their capacity and expertise. He reported that he and Commissioner Enrique Zuniga met with staff at DPH. He also drafted a scope of work to be done, which included the transfer, storage and access of data from the SEIGMA (Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts) study, MAGIC (Massachusetts Gambling Impact Cohort) study, player cards, and other research projects. He provided a summary of the tasks and roles. DPH responded that it is within their capacity to do this work. The budget was \$100,000 for the remainder of the fiscal year. DPH projects the budget will be closer to a \$150,000 range. Commissioner Zuniga stated that DPH would deliver data after a process of review. Mr. Vander Linden stated that we need to figure out details on who does what. He stated that the RDASC is a voluntary group that does a lot of work and their level of detail is outstanding. He stated that they are excited about expanding beyond a peer review group. Co-Chair Crosby stated that the legislature wanted to make a point in having the data available to the public.

Current and Upcoming Reports

Mr. Vander Linden stated that we need to seek advice from the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee (“GPAC”) when developing the annual research agenda. The GPAC met on December 19, 2016 and they voted to adopt the Gaming Research Agenda as it exists. Co-Chair Crosby stated that the GPAC tried to meet sooner but they couldn’t get a quorum due to the ethics rules. Mr. Vander Linden stated that GPAC recommended that the special population survey be expanded to include non-US born students as well as older adults. He stated that he wanted the committee to consider these two new groups. Co-Chair Crosby stated that he is not sure about the non-US born students because you cannot go into a casino until you

are 21. Mr. Vander Linden stated that this may have been suggested to get an understanding about youth and gambling to build intervention and treatment models. Mr. Ortiz stated that they may be able to support this population with the work they are doing with the youth survey and try not to reinvent the wheel with another survey. Ms. Gewirtz stated that she believes that older adults are particularly at risk and there are policies in place that do not recognize this. She cited the example of senior center bus trips to Foxwoods as an activity. She stated that older adults are vulnerable in a variety of ways. Co-Chair Crosby stated that we can direct our researchers into a deeper dive of this population area (older adults). Co-Chair Tucker suggested that we have the SEIGMA team present on their data for older adults and the committee agreed. Mr. Vander Linden stated that we can invite Rachel Volberg to come in and address these issues. Mr. Cohen suggested that we also look at elder income and educational levels. Mr. Cohen inquired on when the reports will be coming out. Mr. Vander Linden stated that the reports should be complete by the next meeting in April. Co-Chair Tucker suggested that it should be put on the agenda. The committee had a discussion around the non-US born students, how age is validated, and what is the definition of a non-US born student.

4:13 p.m. Mr. Vander Linden reported on the SEIGMA projects which included the baseline real estate conditions of the host communities and the Plainville crime baseline report. He stated that they have one year of data to compare to the baseline and the reports are posted on the website. Co-Chair Crosby noted that there was no change in crime in the surrounding communities although there was an increase in credit card fraud, which may or may not be related to the casino. Mr. Vander Linden noted that Mark Nichols will be presenting on the impact to the lottery on January 19th.

Mr. Vander Linden provided a summary of various initiatives that are in progress and when they are expected to be completed. He reported that the Plainridge Park Casino (“PPC”) operations report is expected to be completed in June 2017, along with a patron survey. He also went over the CHIA (Center for Health Information and Analysis) manuscript and reported that a June release is expected.

Mr. Vander Linden went over the MAGIC activities which included a Wave II cohort study and that report will be done in the first quarter of 2017. He also reported on the evaluation of the responsible gaming initiatives. The report on the voluntary self-exclusion study of enrollees by the CHA is expected in June.

Mr. Vander Linden reported on the GameSense Information Center (“GS Center”) and a study on casino employee knowledge of, and opinions about, the GS Center. Marlene Warner, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling, noted that casino employees have an elevated risk of problem gambling. Debi LaPlante, Researcher with the Division on Addiction at Cambridge Health Alliance, stated that it is important to look at employees because the employees are going to be the ambassadors of GameSense, and you want to know their perspectives on gambling. The committee discussed questions that could be included in the employee survey. Mr. Sweeney raised a concern that it is hard to believe that the operators of a casino would take no action if they were able to quantify if their employees had a problem. Ms. LaPlante stated that PPC would not have access to individual data; it would be an anonymous and voluntary survey.

Mr. Sweeney stated that he would have concern if interviews of employees were done on site. Ms. LaPlante stated that most of the questions are about the evaluation of GameSense rather than the employees.

Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) Updates

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Updates

4:32 p.m. Co-Chair Tucker stated that we will skip the DPH updates and the PlayMyWay slides are self-explanatory and can be reviewed by the members.

Co-Chair Tucker spoke about the budget for next year. She stated that the biggest difference is expanding the DPH programing. She stated that the first thing is to look at the work they would like to do and then build a foundation for the future so that when more money is available they will be able to expand their work.

Preliminary FY18 Budget Discussion

4:34 p.m. Victor Ortiz provided an overview of the DPH strategic initiatives budget proposal which included the following: (1.) Prevention – they will continue with regional planning process and move into regions A and B (\$450,000); (2.) Treatment – they will conduct a needs assessment, gap analysis, referrals, and data collection before MGM opens; (3.) they will conduct a needs assessment for Plainville and continue with other regions and they will scale up the community health workers (\$200,000); (4.) they will integrate gambling with suicide and violence prevention and they want to conduct exploratory research (\$150,000); (5.) they will research health promotion campaigns to raise awareness in regions (\$200,000); and (6.) they want to hire a project coordinator. He stated that they are requesting this money to create a solid public health response. Co-Chair Tucker stated that no vote is required; this is just a first pass on the budget. Co-Chair Crosby stated that clarification is needed for numbers 2 and 3 to prevent an overlap. Co-Chair Tucker provided clarification and stated that the role of the community health worker is prevention and referrals as opposed to treatment. Commissioner Zuniga asked if both needs assessments have to be done in one year – could they be done close to the opening of the respective casinos – Region B 2018 and Region A 2019. Co-Chair Tucker stated that a lot of the work for the health promotion campaign will be social media, with a focus on the target populations. She stated that down the road they could look at billboards. Co-Chair Crosby stated that we have experience with promotional campaigns. Ms. Gewirtz applauded the work that went into their initial budget. She stated that our mission is to mitigate consequences and this is a step to do that. She looks forward to the details. Mr. Sweeney stated that he supports the work/budget proposal and looks forward to details down the road. Co-Chair Tucker stated that they are planning for more details in March. She stated that any questions can be addressed at the next meeting. Commissioner Zuniga inquired if they had any plans to embed ways to measure outcomes and success. Co-Chair Tucker responded that there will be an evaluation component. Co-Chair Crosby stated that by March we need to start flushing these out with internal discussions. He stated that a job description is needed for the project coordinator and that \$200,000 seemed high for a campaign and suggested that they may want to talk to Elaine Driscoll. He also inquired about the \$450,000 and requested backup in writing to review.

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

4:57 p.m. Co-Chair Tucker stated that the next meeting is scheduled for April 11th. She stated we could do a meeting in late March or an early April date, to be determined.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Co-Chair Tucker. Motion seconded by Co-Chair Crosby. Motion passed unanimously.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee, Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated January 10, 2016
2. Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee, Meeting Minutes dated October 11, 2016
3. Department of Public Health, Office of Problem Gambling Services, Budget Brief – Updates, January 5, 2017.
4. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Memorandum dated January 10, 2017, regarding FY 2017 Gaming Research Agenda
5. Draft Study of Gambling Behavior among Special Populations in Massachusetts
6. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Memorandum dated November 29, 2016, regarding Data Transfer, Storage and Access Project
7. PlayMyWay 2016 Update, PowerPoint Slides
8. Voluntary Self Exclusion Statistics 2016, PowerPoint Slides
9. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Memorandum dated January 10, 2017 regarding GPAC Update
10. Gaming Research, Public Health Services and Administration Budget

/s/ Cecelia Porché
Cecelia Porché, Legal Division