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## Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee (PHTFEC) Meeting Minutes

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**Date/Time:** October 11, 2016 – 3:00 p.m.

**Place:** Mass Gaming Commission  
101 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110

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

Brian Domoretsky, Manager, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
Lindsey Tucker, Co-Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Stephen P. Crosby, Chairman, Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
Rebekah Gewirtz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Public Health Association  
Michael Sweeney, Executive Director, Massachusetts State Lottery Commission

**Attendees**

Marlene Warner, Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling  
Bruce Cohen, Retired Director, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Victor Ortiz, Director, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Ed Bedrosian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
Teresa Fiore, Manager, Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
Mark Vander Linden, Director, Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
Enrique Zuniga, Commissioner, Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
Carolyn Wong, Research Associate, UMass Institute for Asian American Studies  
Alan Xie, Research Assistant, UMass Institute for Asian American Studies

**Call to Order**

3:03 p.m. Chairman Crosby called to order the Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee (“PHTFEC”) Meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

3:04 p.m. *A motion was made to approve minutes from April 11, 2016 with the correction to the spelling of Rebekah Gewirtz’s last name. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

*Chairman Crosby moved for the approval of the PHTFEC minutes for July 28, 2016. Motion seconded by Michael Sweeney. Motion passed unanimously.*

## Research Agenda

- 3:05 p.m. Mark Vander Linden opened the meeting with information relating to a research item from the approved FY17 research agenda- the study of a priority population subgroup.
- 3:11 p.m. Group discussion surrounded the utilization of \$100K for research, which included the release of an open RFI (Request For Information) with the intent of obtaining Baseline information for research, further understanding the impact of casinos, and informing strategies from the data collected.
- Bruce Cohen indicated further planning has not yet been developed and requested feedback from the PHTFEC regarding options on how to allocate the \$100K given there are six groups- African-Americans, risky or problem gambling among friends and families, veterans, immigrants, Asians, and Hispanics.
- 3:25 p.m. Chairwoman Tucker provided brief comments relating to DPH's plan for 2018, after which she suggested building upon existing content (i.e. Baseline population surveys) in advance of casino openings. In addition, she suggested that the RFI be crafted to include experts in certain population groups and broaden the reach to community experts who are not on the research project.
- 3:31 p.m. Group discussion over a concern that there is no special targeted survey for elders. A member indicated the quantity of data available from general population surveys and researchers' ability to screen for elder respondents by age are reasons why a special targeted survey does not exist for older adults.
- 3:35 p.m. Following the group's discussion surrounding research strategies, Chairwoman Tucker asked the group to consider expanding work on prevention and intervention, and treatment programs over time.
- 3:39 p.m. Regarding the proposed research options, Chairwoman Tucker suggested the move toward #2- provide initial small planning grants allowing a team (or teams) to develop comprehensive, longer term approaches to investigate issues in selected sub population groups starting with the release of an RFI.
- Group discussion continued regarding the RFI and parameters for the research project, which included expectations, the range of funding and timeline.
- 3:47 p.m. Chairman Crosby clarified for the group that two ideas were being discussed and noted that one proposal included the use of the \$100K for gathering multiple research *plans* that subsequently would be funded. Whereas, the other proposal would include the application of the \$100K directly into research.
- 3:55 p.m. *Chairwoman Tucker moved for Mark, Bruce, Victor, and Teresa to draft a Request For Information from expert groups on subpopulations 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 to augment the Baseline study with population specific data, and authorize Mark, in*

*collaboration with DPH, to proceed with the RFI prior to the next quarterly meeting. Rebekah Gewirtz seconded the motion.*

Motion withdrawn after brief group discussion where Michael Sweeney requested review of the RFI before the next quarterly meeting.

### **Update on FY 17 Public Health Initiatives**

- 3:58 p.m. Victor Ortiz provided updates and initiatives from the Department of Public Health, Office of Problem Gambling Services' fiscal year 2017 budget brief, during which he mentioned the RFQ (Request for Quotation) process for workforce development was completed and closed on 10/07/2016.
- 4:05 p.m. Group discussion on the topic of community health workers (CHW) and concerns over potential barriers, such as the certification process and fees. DPH indicated a needs assessment will be conducted to help determine service delivery, systemic barriers, and resources.
- 4:07 p.m. Following DPH's budget brief and planning for fiscal year 2017 into 2018, Chairman Crosby suggested for DPH to think about a program budget proposal and share their schedule with the group at the next PHTF meeting in January.
- 4:19 p.m. Group discussion surrounding available funds to maximize the research project, included grants that might potentially be available through the Mass Lottery and Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.
- 4:21 p.m. Chairwoman Tucker summarized the group discussion by saying a follow up will be added onto the next agenda to continue discussions and ideas surrounding funding, collaboration, and strategies. All members were asked to think about where they would like to direct the DPH programs as it relates to their particular population.

### **Public Health Trust Fund**

- 4:22 p.m. Group discussion surrounded the funding of the PHTF, during which Chairman Crosby expanded upon the (3) sources of funding for the PHTF and clarified Gaming Commission expenses. The (3) sources include: a \$5 million assessment on licensees, 5% of the state's tax revenue obtained from a casino's gross gaming revenue, and the Commission assessing licensees for Gaming Commission expenses.
- 4:29 p.m. Group discussion surrounded the benefit of reporting, which will help the group gain an understanding of the direct, fiscal connections between community agencies and casinos.

## **GameSense (GS) Program**

- 4:34 p.m. Mark provided a brief overview of the Research and Responsible Gaming program before introducing Teresa Fiore (Program Manager) who presented an analysis of the GameSense program at Plainridge Park Casino (PPC).
- 4:56 p.m. Mark provided next steps in relation to GameSense, such as program evaluation through the tracking of patron visits to the GS Information Center, tracking of casino employee interactions with GameSense, and a field survey.

## **PlayMyWay (PMW)**

- 5:00 p.m. Mark provided a brief, quantitative summary of PMW that included numbers such as a 14% un-enrollment rate from the program, and over 600 articles being generated from PMW. Of the 600 articles, there were 445 million international page views.

## **Other Business**

- 5:04 p.m. *Having no further business, Chairman Crosby ended the meeting.*

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

1. Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee, Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated October 11, 2016
2. Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee, Meeting Minutes dated April 11, 2016
3. Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee, Meeting Minutes dated October 11, 2016
4. Population Sub-Group Study Memo dated October 11, 2016
5. Summary Analysis of Plainridge Park Casino GameSense Program October 2016
6. PlayMyWay Update 2016
7. Department of Public Health Office of Problem Gambling Services Budget Brief – Updates, dated September 21, 2016