

**Problem Gambling Task Force
Quarterly Meeting**

SUMMARY

January 4, 2022 / 9:00 – 10:30 am / Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Goals

- 2022 Outlook
- Prevalence Study Update
- 2021 Workgroup Recap + FLR WG Launch
- Guest Speaker: Brianne Doura-Schawohl on legalized sports wagering

Facilitator: Commissioner Julia Patterson (WSGC + PGTF Chair)

Time Keep + Note Taker: Meg O’Leary + Vic Colman (Uncommon Solutions)

Participants

PGTF Chair: Comm. Julia Patterson (WSGC)	Ali Desautel (Lake Roosevelt CHC) **	Mara Machulsky **
PGTF Co-Chair: Brad Galvin (Brief Therapy Works)	Maureen Greeley (ECPG)	Meg O’Leary (Uncommon Solutions) **
Amanda Benton (WA State Horseracing Commission)	Tina Griffin (WSGC) **	Tana Russell (ECPG)
Hilarie Cash (reSTART Life)	Ryan Keith (HCA)	Ruby Takushi (Recovery Café)
Vic Colman (Uncommon Solutions) **	Rep. Shelley Kloba	Roxane Waldron (HCA)
Sen. Steve Conway	Susan Kydd (community member) **	
Rosina DePoe (WA Indian Gaming Association)		

**** Non-voting member**

Not able to attend: Joseph Benjamin (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), Dallas Burnett (Squaxin Island Tribal Reg. Authority), Brandi Crowe (Puyallup Tribal Gaming Agency), Tony Edwards (HCA), Tim Farrell (DOH), Peggen Frank, Harumi Hashimoto (ACRS), Melissa Hurt-Moran (Kalispel Tribe BH), Benjamin Joseph (Tribal Council Chairman, Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), Rebecca Kaldor/George (WIGA), Amber Lewis (On behalf of Chairman Forsman & Suquamish Tribe), Ty Lostutter (UW), Rep. Drew MacEwen, Richelle Madigan (community rep), Tim Merrill (Maverick Gaming), Glen Nenema (Kalispel Tribe), James Paribello, Ricki Peone (Spokane Tribe, HHS Director), Cosette Rae (reSTART Life), Richard Swan, Sr. (Councilman, Colville Tribes), Carmela Washington Harvey (ECAR Evaluation & Counseling), Keri Waterland (HCA), Nanci Watson (community member), Kristi Weeks (Lottery), Keith Zenishek (Northern Quest Resort, Kalispel Tribe)

Action Items	<i>Assigned To</i>	<i>Date Due</i>
Next Advocacy & Policy Workgroup meeting	Workgroup members and staff	Tues, Jan 25, 10-11am
Finalize FLR Charter	Meg	By the May 25 Quarterly Meeting
Next PGTF Quarterly Meeting	All	Wed, May 25, 9am-12pm

Meeting Highlights

<p>2022 Outlook <i>Meg O’Leary, Uncommon Solutions Inc</i></p>	<p>Meg presented the updated timeline, including these milestones ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 30, 2022 – Prevalence Study Report due to PGTF & Leg. ○ Nov. 30, 2022 – Final Legislative Report due to Legislature
<p>Prevalence Study Update <i>Roxane Waldron, HCA</i></p>	<p>Roxane gave a brief update on the status of the Prevalence Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data collection ended Sept 2021 (19% response rate – hit goal) ○ Data cleaning completed--9249 surveys in the dataset ○ WSIPP will begin sharing preliminary findings in Feb 2022 ○ Final report due from HCA to PGTF & Legislature by June 30, 2022
<p>2021 Workgroup Recap + FLR Workgroup Launch <i>Meg O’Leary + Roxane Waldron</i></p> <p><u>PGTF Workgroups:</u> CTR = Access to Care, Treatment, and Recovery PO = Prevention + Outreach RD = Research + Data AP = Advocacy & Policy FLR = Final Legislative Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 2021, the CTR, PO, and RD* Workgroups continued to make progress with refining recommendations and identifying what else the PGTF needs to know to craft robust recommendations. ○ These workgroups finished up their recommendation tables in October 2021, so are no longer meeting regularly, and will be consulted as needed in the crafting of the final legislative report. ○ In preparation for drafting the report, PGTF staff are in the process of gathering additional information identified by the workgroups. ○ The AP Workgroup will continue to meet bi-monthly. ○ A new workgroup tasked with completing the Final Legislative Report will begin meeting in March 2022. A draft charter was shared with members (see at end of Summary). ○ Chair, Vice-Chair, and at least one member from each workgroup. ○ Sen. Conway raised the importance of outreach to key stakeholders, especially state agencies, regarding specific recommendations (especially any funding requests) prior to the Final Leg Report being submitted in November 2022. (The AP Workgroup will have a role in this important work). Staff will add the importance of this communication to the FLR Charter.
<p>Guest Speaker: Legalized Sports Wagering <i>Brianne Doura-Schawohl, Principal, Doura-Schawohl Consulting (consultbds.com)</i></p>	<p>Roll out of Sports Wagering (Note: Slide deck will be shared, along with link to the recording of the presentation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brianne noted that the key to success is to collaborate and share on this issue and applauded the existence of the PGTF in WA State. She pointed out the importance of having these discussions in each state before sports wagering is legalized.

Key Points

- Gambling is very ingrained in our culture
- Sports wagering is clearly emergent since the federal sports betting ban was eliminated in 2018
- Definition of sports betting defined differently among states
- There is social component to this, also found in casino attendance. It's a different demographic than old-school sports betting
- Now 30 states and other territories have legalized sports wagering (representing over 55% of our population)—it is here to stay
- Pandemic likely accelerated this process as well as budget shortfalls and challenges at the state level
- New trend: “adjusted gaming revenue”—some states permit a % of promotional revenue to go untaxed. This may be pushing the amount of gambling and problem gambling.
- Different approaches among states (retail only, mobile only or retail & mobile together). There are different age requirements and tax approaches.
- Future trend: possible Federal oversight of gambling but will be politically contentious. More feasible is Federal engagement with problem gambling (regardless of Federal oversight of gambling).
- International trends are instructional—there is a reining-in on gambling based upon the prevalence of problem gambling. Advertising also called out as a key motivator for gambling. Spain has heavily rolled back advertising during football games. Australia banned gambling with credit cards. UK limited the max wager.
- Problem gambling numbers are big, and explosion of sports gaming will exacerbate the numbers.
- Problem gambling investment infrastructure—new report coming that will include WA State.
- Current Realities
 - Poor gambling infrastructure
 - New openness to gambling not protecting consumers enough
 - Lack of coordination—e.g., 800 numbers
 - Need more research and funding support—need sustained funds
 - Cashless wagering—need strong limits otherwise a big problem
- Recommendations
 - Need to educate ourselves
 - Need \$ for prevention, tx, recovery & research
 - Mandate education in K-12
 - Protect problem gambling funding for problem gambling
 - Regulators need dedicated staff to help enforce laws
 - Exclusion—boat hasn't sailed too far away so it is still timely to affect the recommendations in the policy sphere

Note: Brianne agreed to continue to respond to questions after the meeting was adjourned—here are notes from that discussion:

- UK is doing algorithm development to track problem gambling behavior for possible intervention.
- ‘*Talk-Ban-Stop*’ is one tool to get problem gamblers the help they need via first outreach through Helpline that connects them to treatment (not just a referral) & adding blocking software for gambling on the individual’s phone.
- Canada has developed ‘Positive Play,’ also a great tool
- Prevention will not only help prevent suffering but will also save money for taxpayers.
- Brianne notes that once the Prevalence study report is completed, Brianne can share an algorithm (tool) that shows the financial impact of problem gambling on state residents. This demonstrates how untreated problem gambling’s ‘hidden costs’ could possibly be mitigated by a robust investment upstream in Prevention.
- Telehealth is emerging as a great way to help with increasing treatment for gambling issues.
- Brianne strongly recommends that, as part of any fiscal ‘ask’ to the state legislature, states should include research in perpetuity. She shared that Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and several other states have done a great job with this.

Action Items

*Comm. Julia Patterson,
PGTF Chair*

- FLR Workgroup begins to meet in March (date TBD)
- Next PGTF Quarterly Meeting: Wed, May 25, 9am-12pm (online)