

**Problem Gambling Task Force
Quarterly Meeting**

May 25, 2022 / 9:00 – 10:30 am / Virtual Meeting via Zoom

SUMMARY

Meeting Goals

- Updates on timeline and recommendations

Facilitator: Commissioner Julia Patterson (WSGC + PGTF Chair)

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

Participants

PGTF Chair: Comm. Julia Patterson (WSGC)	Tony Edwards (HCA)	Mara Machulsky **
PGTF Co-Chair: Brad Galvin (Brief Therapy Works)	Rebecca George (WIGA)	Meg O’Leary (Uncommon Solutions) **
Amanda Benton (WA State Horseracing Commission)	Tina Griffin (WSGC)	Tana Russell (ECPG)
Hilarie Cash (reSTART Life)	Ryan Keith (HCA)	Roxane Waldron (HCA)
Vic Colman (Uncommon Solutions) **	Rep. Shelley Kloba	Nanci Watson (Community member)
Rosina DePoe (WA Indian Gaming Association)	Amber Lewis (On behalf of Chairman Forsman & Suquamish Tribe)	

** Non-voting member

Not able to attend: Dallas Burnett (Squaxin Island Tribal Regulatory Authority), Sen. Steve Conway, Brandi Crowe (Puyallup Tribal Gaming Agency), Alexandria Desautel (Lake Roosevelt Community Health Center), Maureen Greeley (ECPG), Harumi Hashimoto (ACRS), Melissa Hurt-Moran (Kalispel Tribe of Indians), Benjamin Joseph (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), Ty Lostutter (UW), Rep. Drew MacEwen, Glen Nenema (Kalispel Tribe of Indians), James Paribello, Ricki Peone (Spokane Tribe of Indians), Cosette Rae (reSTART Life), Richard Swan, Sr. (Colville Tribes), Ruby Takushi (Recovery Café), Carmela Washington Harvey (ECAR), Keri Waterland (HCA), Kristi Weeks (Lottery), Keith Zenishek (Northern Quest Resort, Kalispel Tribe of Indians)

Action Items	<i>Assigned To</i>	<i>Date Due</i>
Share slides highlighting Part 1 prevalence survey findings	Roxane Waldron	June 2022
Look at ways to include Tribal PG services and certified counselors for the PG helpline list	ECPG staff and Roxane Waldron	Summer 2022
Next PGTF Quarterly Meeting	All	Wed, July 27, 9am-12pm

Meeting Highlights

Prevalence Study Update

Roxane Waldron

Roxane shared the Part 1 update and findings from the 2021 WA State Adult PG Prevalence Study. Highlights include:

- Survey was open July through September 2021
- 2/3 of responses were online and 1/3 were paper surveys
- Spanish language version available
- 19.2% survey response rate (~9200 completed surveys)
- 45% of respondents gambled in past 12 months; 55% didn't gamble in past 12 months (during COVID)
- Of all adults, 43.6% are gamblers at no or low risk for PG; 1.4% are gamblers at moderate to severe risk for PG
- Among gamblers, 73% of gamblers gamble at brick and mortar venues only. These gamblers have a low risk (1.7%) for PG/gambling disorder.
- Among gamblers, 27% of gamblers also or only gamble online. The prevalence of PG is much higher for these gamblers. They have a moderate to severe risk (7.8%) for PG/gambling disorder.
- At the time the survey was conducted, legal sports wagering at Tribal casinos had not opened, so all the online gambling identified in the survey is illegal. Because it's illegal, online gambling is not regulated, or taxed. It's anticipated that online gamblers will need PG services, but there is no state funding to help pay for it. Therefore, existing and limited treatment dollars are stretched further without additional funding.
- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) gamblers are at **double the risk** for moderate to severe PG than "white" (6% vs. 2.8%)
- For more, please listen to the recording that begins ~00:07:00.
- Roxane will share more updates at the July PGTF meeting:
 - Online Gaming & PG
 - Co-occurring disorders & PG
 - Opinions & beliefs about gambling
 - Outreach & awareness of PG services
 - Emerging areas of concern/insight

PGTF discussion

- Rep. Kloba noted she was surprised to see that King County has a lower rate of gambling compared to the other 9 regions in the survey. Could this be tied to education levels?
- Roxane will see if there are any clear correlations, but this data cannot show any causation.

**Final Legislative Report
Workgroup Update**

*Roxane Waldron
Vic Colman*

- The team is working with the FLR workgroup and PGTF subject matter experts (SMEs) on the first draft of the final legislative report due in Nov 2022. The team will share the rest of the draft recommendations with PGTF members in July.
- At this point, we have approximately 25 recommendations generated by workgroups in 2020-2021. Some will be folded into other recommendations as strategies.

Roxane shared PGTF recommendations that are complete or in progress:

- Increase # of certified PG counselors to meet expected demand and across geographic barriers (in-progress)
 - Prevalence study data supports this recommendation
- Increase reimbursement rates for PG Provider agencies
- Require Responsible Gaming training for all casino and venue staff (will be based on future funding expansion—haven't been increased since at least 2011)
- Expand Medicaid to including PG tx as a covered service in WA (in-progress at HCA)—earliest would be Jan 2024 if approved
- Gain clarity on tx and recovery support services offered by Tribal BH agencies (WIGA presentation will address this today)
- Voluntary Self-Exclusion (completed—opened on May 1, 2022)
- Include a two-part gambling/PG question in the Healthy Youth Survey every time going forward (completed—included in 2021 HYS and now a high-priority question for future years)
- The team will share updates on the remaining set of recommendations at the July 27 PGTF Quarterly meeting

Vic shared the policy brief objectives recently initiated by the Advocacy & Policy workgroup. These will be offered to a few select state agencies as a resource in preparation for the 2023 legislative session. State agencies begin discussing opportunities for agency request legislation and budget requests in April, so the AP workgroup wanted to provide a preview early on. The policy brief objectives and affected state agencies include:

1. Integrate problem gambling awareness, prevention, treatment, and recovery into behavioral health planning, policy, and treatment settings. (HCA)
 2. Improve availability and access to problem gambling treatment and recovery services through public and private behavioral health care delivery channels. (HCA, Insurance Commissioner)
 3. Increase funding for the dedicated state problem gambling fund to meet current and future clinical treatment needs and enhance problem gambling-related services to better serve WA State residents. (HCA)
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4. Tackle emergent commercial sports wagering. (WSGC)
 5. Address Online Gaming and Implications for Problem Gambling (HCA, Attorney General)

Presentation: Problem Gambling Treatment available through Tribal Behavioral Health Agencies

*Rebecca George,
Executive Director,
WA Indian Gaming
Association (WIGA)*

Rebecca provided a detailed overview of treatment available through Tribal behavioral health agencies in WA state. Highlights include:

- Washington Tribes support PG prevention, counseling, and education; offer treatment for tribal and non-tribal members that's culturally appropriate and community-based; fund PG programs, train and build staff capacity to recognize and address PG; and offer self-exclusion programs
- WIGA initiated a successful digital/print awareness-building campaign for those who have a problem and those seeking help
- For more details, please listen to the recording that begins ~00:57:25.

PGTF discussion

- Julia: request ECPG and PGTF staff investigate ways to include Tribal PG services and certified counselors on the PG helpline

Upcoming PGTF Quarterly Meetings + Member Updates

- Wed, July 27, 9am–12pm (continue recommendations review)
 - Thurs, September 29, 9am–12pm (consensus on recommendations)
 - Tim Ferrell (WA State Department of Health), Tim Merrill (Maverick Gaming), and Susan Kydd (community member) are no longer serving on the PGTF
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