

New Hampshire Council on Responsible Gambling

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

New Hampshire Lottery
14 Integra Drive
Concord, NH 0301

March 4, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Present: Ed Talbot, Dot Duda, Debi LaPlante, Maura McCann, Heather Gray

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM.

The first order of business was to provide mileage transportation documents for Talbot, Duda, Gray and LaPlante. The documents were provided and instructions regarding the completion of those documents was given to the group. The completed documents were signed and dated and will be provided to the New Hampshire Lottery Commission for processing. Payment is made by check sent via the US Postal Service. Each time a member travels for Council business, mileage and other related expenses will be paid.

Election of Officers was the next order of business was the election of officers. Per the legislation for the Council which is now law, a chairman alone is to be elected. A motion was made by Ed Talbot to have Council Member Maura McCann to serve as the chairman of the council. The motion was seconded by Debi LaPlante. Following no further discussion, a unanimous vote was recorded.

Director of the New Hampshire Council on Problem Gambling Ed Talbot presented an updated expense report. The balance of monies available to run the council as of December 18, 2019 was \$14,631.51. Following the expenses of office rent, salary, phone bill of \$8,415.93, the balance as of March 4, 2020 stands at \$6,220.58.

In order to be able to provide funding from March 2020 to June 30, 2020, the New Hampshire Council on Problem Gambling requested gap funding of \$9,950 so as not to interrupt services provided. This funding will cover the 24/7 hotline coverage, recovery center visits and presentations, Gamblers Anonymous visits, screening promotions and continuation of Problem Gambling services.

A motion was made by Debi LaPlante to expend the amount of \$9,950 for that gap funding. Heather Gray seconded. Duda and Talbot recused themselves from voting. McCann, LaPlante and Gray voted approval of the motion.

Dot Duda, member of the New Hampshire Council on Problem Gambling attended the New England Consortium Meeting held on January 31, 2020 in Sturbridge, MA. She reported that the group was discussing the National Annual Conference that will be held in Boston, MA in July of 2021. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of work that will be necessary to run that meeting using volunteers from all of the New England states as well as anticipating requests for sponsors for that meeting.

The next order of business was to increase the board membership. There are a few leads with some interest from New Futures members as well as possibly asking interested legislators join the group. This is an on-going effort.

Ed Talbot reported 8 calls regarding problem gambling in the last quarter. Those calls are leaning towards Sports Betting which may be because that product just became available in New Hampshire or the time of year, when that type of betting is popular.

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month and the Ed Talbot will be reaching out to the 14 recovery centers from Berlin to Claremont to Keene, to Nashua and over to Portsmouth as well as Dover/Rochester and Manchester to discuss screening for gambling disorder. Screening (Biosocial Gambling Screen) for the disorder starts with asking three questions:

- During the past 12 months, have you become restless, irritable or anxious when trying to stop/cut down on gambling?
- During the past 12 months, have you tried to keep your family or friends from knowing how much you gamble?
- During the past 12 months, did you have such financial troubles as a result of your gambling that you had to get help in living expenses from family, friends or welfare?

The council ended the meeting looking forward as to what the next few months entail. Direction includes an easy to follow protocol for advancing the work of the council as well as a short term plan for the Council on Responsible Gambling to maintain the services that New Hampshire provides. Part of this direction is the earlier gap funding for the Council on Problem Gambling that was approved.

Next up would be drafting RFP for the following services for upwards of a 5 year period.

Outreach and awareness, helpline, social media and web presence, public service announcements, ongoing outreach and screening activities among special populations and community events.

Next would be statewide self-exclusion which would include collaborating with the Lottery/Charitable Casinos/Sports Betting to develop and maintain such a program.

Further, there is a dire recognized need for gambling clinical services here in New Hampshire.

A secondary RFP would cover the engagement of stakeholders to develop activities to expand the pool of organizations and individuals such as academics, non-profit organizations and community groups who might contract for Responsible Gambling services in the granite state. Further it would cover research and monitoring, complete and provide to the Department of Health & Human Services gambling training, needs assessment with substance addiction providers, monitor and evaluate capacity building progress amount treatment providers.

At 2:00 pm, a motion was made by Maura McCann to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Heather Gray and voted by the group affirmatively.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at the Lottery Headquarters in Concord NH.

Respectfully submitted,
Maura McCann

Chairman
New Hampshire Council on Responsible Gambling