

PROBLEM GAMBLING TREATMENT & SUPPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PGTSAC)

Minutes

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

LOCATION: VIRTUAL ON TEAMS, LINK BELOW

Members:

	Attend	Absent
Anne Rogers, Chairperson – Problem Gambling Prevention Coordinator, Office of Behavioral Health Wellness	x	
Carolyn Hawley PhD, Vice-Chair – Executive Director of the Virginia Council on Problem Gambling	x	
Tony Russell – Interim Executive Director	x	
Michael Menefee – Program Manager of Charitable and Regulatory Programs		x
David Lermond – Executive Secretary		x
Jim Bebeau – Executive Director of Danville Pittsylvania CSB	x	
Colleen Carraccio – Director of Compliance, Portsmouth Rivers Casino	x	
Brian Snell – Vice President of Administration, Colonial Downs	x	
Chrissy Thurmond – Manager Responsible Gaming Relations, DraftKings.		x
Vacant		

TO WATCH REMOTELY VIA TEAMS (CLICK LINK AND REGISTER) :

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/affa522e-7bd4-4d79-8f8c-33b576fb72a2@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

SUMMARY

- I. Welcome – Meeting Begins, Teams Launched
- II. Members of the committee introduced themselves. One members computer did not work with the technology so had to sign off. Two members, David Lermond and Michael Menefee, notified Chair of issues ahead of time and were excused from attending.
- III. Minutes of Last Meeting for Approval – minor edits needed for October minutes. Corrections will be made and reposted to PGTSAC web page.
- IV. Legislative Bills Update Review – The following bills were mentioned.
 - a. HB195 - Gaming in the Commonwealth; prohibition on use of term "casino" by non-casino gaming operators.
 - b. HJ10 and SJ12 - Continues the Joint Subcommittee to Study the Feasibility of Establishing the Virginia Gaming Commission for two additional years, through November 30, 2025.
 - c. HB298 - Allows a qualified organization to use a predetermined percentage of its receipts for those expenses relating to facility maintenance and upkeep.
 - d. HB523 & SB344 – Amenda charitable gaming law, allowing operational expenses and designates .25% of gross receipts to Problem Gambling Treatment & Support Fund.
 - e. HB525 & SB345 – Limits from holding another referendum on Casino for 3 years in a locality that already voted it down.
 - f. HB526 – Reduces charitable gaming fees; adds technical amendments.
 - g. HB991 & SB540 – Allows hosting of lottery games for other states to occur within Virginia.
 - h. HB1016 – Modifies definition of Organization for charitable gaming.
 - i. HB1131, SB429, & SB541 – Removes Richmond as a host city for Casinos; Reducing number of host cities from 5 to 4.

- j. SB628 – Replaces Richmond with Petersburg to allow a referendum for a Casino.
 - k. SB675 – Aims to add a 6th option for a future casino, allowing a referendum in Fairfax County.
 - l. SB124 – Allows sports betting on Virginia colleges.
 - m. SB212 & HB590 – Allows skill gaming across the state with ABC as the regulator.
 - n. SB307 – Allows skill gaming across the state with Lottery as the regulator. Contains referendum requirements and responsible gaming language.
 - o. SB348 & SB397 – posting of illegal gaming tip line.
 - p. SB426 – Provides for a percentage of retainage be distributed as deemed.
 - q. SB694 – Clarifies skill gaming as a form of gambling.
- V. System Mapping for Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services—OMNI
- a. The OMNI team presentation followed this agenda:
 - i. Welcome, Introduction, and Group Norms
 - ii. Our Purpose: Why are we here?
 - iii. Review of data
 - iv. Group Discussion
 - v. Wrap up and next steps
 - b. Data review included data from the Virginia Council on Problem Gambling Helpline and the 2022 Virginia Needs Assessment on Problem Gaming and Gambling. Links to those reports are below:
 - i. https://www.vasis.org/s/Virginia-CRA-Report_Final.pdf
 - ii. https://www.vasis.org/s/2022-Virginia-Gaming-Gambling-Environmental-Scan-Report_FINAL.pdf
 - c. Discussion included input from the group on initial priorities for the group, biggest gaps/barriers to coordinated service provision, and plans for next steps.
 - i. Initial Priorities
 1. Raising awareness in the community of the risks of problem gambling as well as resource availability. Working to shore up community and political support.
 2. Continued focus on transparency around the funding that everyone receives and consistent, open sharing of this information in future meetings.
 3. Continued collaboration and clear sharing amongst the group, so that everyone knows what efforts and initiatives are in place in each organization.
 4. Working to incorporate GameSense more into gambling operations in Virginia.
 5. Discuss ways to garner more resources for the Helpline to provide services.
 6. Begin to think about how to scale services to meet future need.
 - ii. Biggest Gaps/Barriers
 1. Lack of resources to provide prevention, treatment, and recovery services and infrastructure development. Resources are also needed to spread messaging to communities about ongoing efforts.
 2. Lack of community awareness/readiness. Some communities do not see a problem and look at gambling as mostly an economic opportunity.
 3. Community members experience stigma related to problem gambling behaviors/consequences and this may result in lower likelihood of seeking our or engaging with resources/treatment.
 4. Low participation in and awareness of voluntary exclusion programs
 - iii. Next steps
 1. Group members want to gain a better understanding of what other members are working on. There is discussion of the next meeting including a focus on sharing out current initiatives that each committee member is engaged in.

2. Getting an understanding of what initiatives are working and what is less successful at the state and regional level.
3. Getting evaluation in place to track progress toward agreed upon outcomes.
4. Invite guests from different sectors (healthcare, financial, legal, education) into future meetings to share out and build knowledge among committee members.

VI. Wrap-up & Adjourn