

New Hampshire Council on Problem Gambling
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order by President Duda at 12:40 PM.

Discussion began with the passage of HB 480 specific to Sports Betting here in New Hampshire. Part of that legislation provides funding for a new Council for Responsible Gambling. Here is the language from the legislation:

CHAPTER 338-B
COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING

338-B:1 Definitions. In this chapter, "council" means the council for responsible gambling.

338-B:2 Statement of Purpose. Education, prevention, and treatment relating to gambling

HB 480-FN - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

disorders are an integral part of a responsible gaming environment within the state.

338-B:3 Establishment. There is established the council for responsible gambling which shall promote education, prevention, and treatment of problem gambling within the state.

338-B:4 Membership.

I. The council shall consist of 5 members appointed by the governor and executive council and shall be qualified in the field of addiction or mental health services with a focus on problem gambling and shall be residents of the state. A member may be removed by the governor and executive council only for cause shown in accordance with RSA 4:1. The members shall elect one of their number as chairperson. Three members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

II. Members shall serve 3 year terms and until their successors are appointed; provided that for the initial appointments only, one member shall be appointed to a term of one year, 2 members shall be appointed to a term of 2 years and 2 members shall be appointed to a term of 3 years. Any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired terms.

III. Members of the council shall receive mileage at the rate of state employees when attending meetings of the council or performing duties on behalf of the council.

338-B:5 Powers and Duties. The council shall have the authority to enter into grants and contracts for the purposes of furthering education, prevention, and treatment of problem gambling within the state.

338-B:6 Report of the Council. The council shall submit a biennial report to the governor and executive council on or before October 1 of each even-numbered year. The report shall include a description of the council's activities including a financial report for the relevant time period.

338-B:7 Administrative Attachment. The council shall be administratively attached to the lottery commission in accordance with RSA 21-G:10. In addition to the support provided to an administratively attached agency, the lottery commission shall also provide the following to the council:

I. Funding in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 per fiscal year to conduct the activities prescribed by this chapter. In accordance with the purpose of this chapter, these payments shall be considered administrative expenses of the lottery commission as set forth in RSA 284:21-j.

II. Meeting and office space as reasonably required by the council to conduct the activities prescribed by this chapter.

III. Personnel as reasonably required by the council to conduct activities prescribed by this chapter, except that the lottery commission may charge the council for use of such personnel pursuant to an agreement between the lottery commission and the council.

6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

At this time, the New Hampshire Lottery is waiting on a time/date has to when Governor Sununu will sign that legislation into law. Once that is done, we believe that nominations will be made for a Board of Directors. Those nominations need to be made by the Governor's Office.

Maura McCann will work with Lottery Compliance Officer John Conforti (Esq.) regarding that request. The board will be made up of similar titles and responsibilities along with the definitions of those roles and the power of the board. She asked the group to send along resumes or curriculum vitae.

Ed Talbot provided the Directors Report for the last quarter.

Ed Talbot, Debi LaPlante (both members of the NH Council on Problem Gambling) along with Marlene Warner from the Massachusetts Council were on WGBH Public Radio to discuss problem gambling.

Ed attended the Senate Ways & Means hearing on HB 480. Ed noted that a person testified on problem gambling at that hearing.

Ed has made presentations to both the Manchester Recovery Coach Academy along with Raymond Recovery Coach Academy. He further attended the New England Consortium Meeting in Wells, Maine on June 20.

Ed spoke of not submitting an Express Grant with the NH Charitable Foundation given that the council was awarded one previously. He did discuss completing the necessary paperwork to apply for an Organizational Grant that is due August 1.

The NH Council on Problem Gambling respectfully declined signing on with Northwoods Casino in Berlin to participate this year as a charitable organization. The River Casino and Sports Bar in Nashua has offered the council the proposed dates of September 21 through 30. The council will move forward with this offer.

Ed Talbot presented the Treasurer's report for the last quarter. The council had a balance of \$14,320.01 as of our last meeting. Expenses for the quarter totaled \$8,767.01 leaving the council with a balance of \$5,553.

Maura McCann made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ed Talbot seconded the motion and the council voted it unanimously.

Discussion was further had specific to Equine Therapy offered by an equestrian center in Rhode Island to treat gambling addiction. Maura McCann will reach out to the Rhode Island Lottery as they have a fulltime staff member specific to problem gambling that may know more about this.

A motion was made by Maura McCann to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Heather Gray and voted by the group affirmatively.

The next meeting of the Board will be September 18, 2019 at the Lottery Headquarters in Concord NH.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura McCann
Vice President
New Hampshire Council on Problem Gambling

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