

Lane County Problem Gambling Advisory Committee (PGAC) Meeting Minutes: June 2, 2009

Mission: "To reduce the negative effects of gambling in Lane County communities through coordinating effective prevention strategies and linking people to effective resources."

In attendance: Ronda Hatefi (chair), Michel Savage, Julie Hynes (staff support)

⇒ **Announcement: Coalition sustainability training, June 17 and 18**

A free training will be held on June 17 and 18 in Salem on coalition sustainability, which may be of interest to members. Ronda expressed interest in attending. For more information about the training, members may contact Julie Hynes (julie.hynes@co.lane.or.us). Costs associated with travel and meals are eligible to be paid by Lane County.

Julie Hynes will be on family leave from approximately mid-July through mid-October.

⇒ **Oregon Problem Gambling Services: Where we are**

Julie reported on the status of the Problem Gambling Services budget, and referred to information from the Joint Committee on Ways & Means recommended budget of May 18, 2009. (See <http://www.lanecounty.org/prevention/PGS/pgs-budget-updates.htm> for information reported).

⇒ **Lane County updates: Progress, plans on problem gambling prevention & UO project** Spanish PSAs:

Julie reported on public service announcements that were developed for the Spanish-speaking population. Emergence providers and Latino providers task group chair Janese Olalde volunteered their time to record two spots:

- Women friends: Woman shares her husband's problem with gambling;
- Father & child; child asks her father about why he didn't come to her soccer match.

\$2,000 in Spanish-speaking spots were purchased; the ads are airing on La "X" (Channel 660 AM) through mid-July.

English PSAs:

The youth problem gambling spots that were recorded last year (available here: http://www.lanecounty.org/prevention/gambling/media.htm#radio_psas) are also running on 20 local radio stations. \$3,000 in spots were purchased; the ads will be running for eight weeks starting June 8.

UO Problem Gambling Awareness Project (PGAP):

PGAP will be continuing through September with a budget of \$10,000, due to Emergence funding of the program. It is hoped that Oregon Problem Gambling Services will be able to fund the program after September. Navit Parker, coordinator of PGAP, will be providing a host of presentations during the summer to various entities, in addition to coordinating the development of a new website and initiating community mobilizing among college/universities in Oregon.

⇒ **Future of PGAC**

Much time was spent discussing the need for increased committee membership and involvement. The group reviewed some past practices, including community organizing

through face-to-face recruitment, mailings, and other methods. Some ideas for additional recruiting included: placing a message in the “Briefly” section of the *Register-Guard* (RG) prior to meetings, placing an ad in the *Oregon Daily Emerald* (ODE) and *Eugene Weekly* (EW). Ronda volunteered to investigate the method for putting a message in the RG; Michel volunteered to investigate the method and costs of putting an ad in the ODE and EW. Julie recommended that, prior to any ads being placed, the committee review its purpose of additional membership and alignment with committee mission/goals.

Julie reviewed with the group a previous attempt of including PGAC with the Lane County Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) / Local Alcohol & Drug Planning Committee. When the subject was last broached, MHAC members were not ready to formally include problem gambling in their workplan or as a subcommittee.

PGAC could benefit from such an inclusion, as the MHAC/LADPC is a mandated committee, and advises the Director of Health & Human Services on key MH/A&D issues in Lane County. Additionally, problem gambling is the only topic that is part of the required Mental Health & Addictions Implementation Plan (http://www.lanecounty.org/prevention/Docs_special/2009-2011_MH_Addictions-Final-2-2008.pdf), but does not also have formal representation on the MHAC/LADPC.

The MHAC meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at Lane County Mental Health (2411 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. in Eugene), from 11am -1 pm. Lunch is provided.

Ronda and Michel both expressed interest in another approach to the MHAC regarding forming a problem gambling subcommittee (there are currently three subcommittees: alcohol and drug, mental health, and developmental disabilities).

⇒ **Next steps**

Julie was assigned to contact Lane County MHAC staff regarding possible inclusion on the MHAC June agenda.

Update: Julie followed up as assigned and PGAC will be included on the June 25 MHAC meeting agenda. MHAC meetings are open to the public; any PGAC members are encouraged to attend the June 25 meeting. For more information, contact Julie Hynes (Julie.Hynes@co.lane.or.us).

Next meeting: TBA;

**PGAC members to attend June 25 Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting at Lane County Mental Health (2411 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Eugene)
June 25 from 11am – 1pm (lunch provided)**

Lane County Problem Gambling Advisory Committee Goals:

1. Increase community awareness about the effects of problem gambling, and promote awareness that problem gambling is a preventable and treatable public health problem.
2. Reduce gambling behavior among youth by addressing the risk factors that may increase the risk of problem gambling and promoting the protective factors that may minimize the risk of problem gambling.
3. Build and maintain partnerships of individuals, agencies, and community groups to help support community approach to problem gambling prevention.