



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**GAMBLING COMMISSION**

*"Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest"*

**September Gambling Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**September 8, 2022**

**Commissioners Present:**

**Chair Alicia Levy**

**Vice Chair Julia Patterson (Via Teams)**

**Kristine Reeves (Via Teams)**

**Sarah Lawson (Via Teams)**

**Ex Officio Members Present:**

**Senator Steve Conway (Via Teams)**

**Senator Jeff Holy (Via Teams)**

**Staff Present:**

Tina Griffin, Director; Chris Wilson, Deputy Director; Gary Drumheller, Assistant Director; Julie Lies, Tribal Liaison; Jennifer LaMont, Agent in Charge; Tommy Oakes, Interim Legislative Liaison (ILL); Julie Anderson, Executive Assistant; Nicole Frazer, Administrative Assistant

**Staff Present Virtually:**

Jim Nicks, Agent in Charge; Dan Wegenast, Agent in Charge; Jamie Doughty, Interim Lab Administrator; Suzanne Becker, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

**"Meet the WSGC Staff"**

Director Griffin introduced agency leaders to share their history with the agency and answer any questions from the audience. She also introduced Deputy Director Chris Wilson to the agency. A gentleman from a nonprofit organization asked if staff could provide an audit of his books to make sure he is doing everything correctly. AD Drumheller spoke with him, and he will be contacted by an agent that works in his area.

The "Meet the staff" portion of the meeting lasted about 30 minutes.

There were 50 people that attended the "Meet the WSGC Staff" virtually and six people were in person.

**Chair Levy** called the hybrid public meeting to order at 9:33AM and mentioned that TVW would be livestreaming the meeting. Director Griffin called the roll to confirm a quorum. Commissioner Sizemore was absent.

There were six people in the audience and 53 people virtually.

**Tab 1**

**Consent Agenda**

Chair Levy mentioned that there was one correction to last month's meeting minutes changing it from virtual to hybrid and then asked commissioners if they had any other changes to the September consent agenda. They did not.

**Public Comment:**

Chair Levy asked for public comment. There was none.

*Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented by staff.*

*Commissioner Lawson seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed. 3:0*

*Commissioner Sizemore was not at this meeting and Commissioner Reeves was having connectivity issues and was not on the meeting yet.*

**Director’s Report**

**Director Griffin** stated she was happy to announce the Deputy Director and the Assistant Director positions have been filled. She introduced Chris Wilson as the agencies Deputy Director and Gary Drumheller as the Assistant Director. They both started their new jobs on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The recruitment for the Legislative and Policy Manager as well as the Legal Manager will begin at the end of September. She reminded the Commissioners that at the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting they will begin to discuss the agency’s 2023-2028 strategic plan. In preparation for the October meeting, staff will meet with stakeholders and tribal partners on September 9<sup>th</sup> to get their insight of opportunities and threats that may impact the commission’s ability to achieve future goals.

**Director Griffin** reported that Lummi Nation and Tulalip Tribe of Indians, opened their sports book. There are ten tribes operating a sports book in Washington. Director Griffin announced that the staff recently issued a temporary raffle license to the Seattle Seahawks Charitable Foundation, with an expected launch at the September 12 Seahawks game, and to One Roof, who plan to begin their raffle later in September at the Kraken game. And a reminder that raffles continue to operate under RCW that require a manual draw. More information will be provided at next months commission meeting. In closing, she highlighted the new portion of the commission meeting agenda “Meet the WSGC staff” launched today. It was received positively and will continue this portion of the meeting quarterly.

**Chair Levy** welcomed Deputy Director Wilson to the agency and congratulated Assistant Director Drumheller on his promotion.

**Tab 2**

**Agency Request Legislation for 2023**

**Tommy Oakes, Interim Legislative Liaison (ILL)** presented the materials for this tab. **ILL Oakes** is asking Commissioners for final approval on the agency’s agency request legislation so that it can be moved forward to the governor’s office.

**Chair Levy** asked Commissioners if they had any questions. They had none.

**Public Comment**

**Chair Levy** asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

*Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the agency request legislation, as presented by staff, and to authorize the agency’s Interim Legislative Liaison, to make any nonsubstantive and technical changes as needed to support the bill through the legislative process.*

*Commissioner Lawson seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed 4:0*

### Tab 3

#### Presentation – Problem Gambling Task Force

#### **Roxane Waldron, Manager, State Problem Gambling Program at the Health Care**

**Authority** presented the materials for this tab. Ms. Waldron presented a short PowerPoint to the commissioners and staff.

**Chair Levy** asked Commissioners if they had any questions.

**Commissioner Patterson** asked Ms. Waldron to expand on the funding gap for problem gambling services the prevalence study uncovered. **Ms. Waldron** stated, *“the prevalence study, we were able to estimate the number of people who are likely, that if they were screened, they would likely be at risk for moderate-to-severe problem gambling. And that came up to around 80,000 people in the state. And this is using a more conservative measure of really those who scored high for a risk for problem gambling. So, of the 80,000, we would assume based on previous research that's been done, that approximately one in 10 might be likely to seek services if they knew where services were available, and they could afford it or was covered by insurance, or of course the state problem gambling program. And so that leaves around eight, actually I think it's about 9,000 people. So, of those 9,000 right now, the state problem gambling program is serving 350 people a year. Part of that is probably due to a lack of gambling counselors in many parts of the state. And then part of that is due to... We have almost no money in our budget to advertise our services across the state. So, it's different than Medicaid, for example, where if you are eventually able to get problem gambling covered by Medicaid, there will be a big process involved to let consumers who are enrolled in [inaudible 00:44:01], know that that service is available. So it's kind of a two-piece problem. Even if we were able to get five times the funding that we need for problem gambling treatment, to treat 20% of those folks, which is our estimate of what the state portion should be, that would be around 1,800 people. We don't have the gambling counselors. We are not up to speed on our workforce in any way to be able to meet that need. So, what we are looking at is, recommending an increase in the amount of treatment funding and for other services, including prevention. That is based on a proposed model from the Health Care authority, but that work is the work of the Problem Gambling Task Force, to figure out how that might fit into a recommendation from the task force.”* **Commissioner Patterson** thanked Ms. Waldron for the state’s perspective and reiterated that the state is responsible for approximately 20% of the gambling that is currently taking place, in the state of Washington. And the other 80% of that gambling, are being provided by the tribes? **Ms. Waldron** replied, yes. **Commissioner Patterson** also asked if the prevalence study shows that online gambling doubles the risk for gambling problems. **Ms. Waldron** replied, yes. **Commissioner Reeves** asked Ms. Waldron for her definition of online gaming. Whether it included mobile gaming or virtual reality gaming on a laptop or a phone. **Ms. Waldron** stated that the question asked was "Have you gambled online in the past 12 months?". It was very clear that the question is gambling and not gaming. **Commissioner Reeves** would like to see more defined definitions between gambling and gaming. **Commissioner Reeves** also asked about whether or not in the equity lens that Ms. Waldron provided in the problem-gambling results, whether or not she had collected demographic data of the survey respondents. And how you got from your demographic respondents to an analysis that, within communities of color, within melanated-majority communities, that these communities are going to suffer or are exposed at a higher rate. **Ms.**

**Waldron stated**, *“that is possibly the most significant finding, actually. I think we suspected it, but we didn't know it for sure. So, knowing it is really important, I agree. So, we collected 10 different demographics, including race and ethnicity. Then that was within the data sample that was weighted, so that we had it match the proportion of ethnicity, race, age, gender, and there may have been one other. We had it match more closely the demographic of representing the entire Washington State, so that when you weight a data set, that makes it clearer. It can bring out more of those differences. For example, we had about half the number of percent of Hispanic Latino respondents, then we would have if we'd had a whole that are representing the state of Washington. So, when you weight the survey, we had like 5%, the percentage I think is 10% Spanish speaking within the state. So, when you weight that, then those folks who are within that 5%, now they are double weighted, so that it represents the population of Washington State. So that's the first piece. And that was super important. We did that or very early on after we had the data, and that was done by an organization through the Washington State University Social and Economic Sciences Research Center. So then after we had the weighted sample, then during the data analysis, we could look at that and say, okay, let's look at specific rates. Now we had a large enough group amongst those who were responding, who were white or said they were white, that we could easily see what that percentage was of problem gambling for that group, because that group was so large, the denominator. But if breaking out by Black, African American, Asian, others, those groups, and the respondent rate at the problem-gambling level, because it's such a small slice of the whole pie, we're so small that to see them individually would be meaningless. So, we put those groups all together into non-white, which allowed us to see the difference very easily between white problem gambling rate, and non-white problem gambling rate. We would have to have a larger survey to get down to those specifics. We have numbers, but using statistical significance, their variation was so wide, that we couldn't say it was statistically significant.”* **Commissioner Reeves** also asked to see the survey questions.

**Chair Levy** asked Commissioners if they had any questions. They did not.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Levy asked for public comment. There were none.

At 10:27 AM, **Chair Levy** announced that the Commissioners would go into Executive Session to discuss current and potential agency litigation with legal counsel, including tribal negotiations. The Commissioners are expected to reconvene to the public meeting for adjournment only in approximately one hour.

Executive Session adjourned at 11:06 AM and the public meeting adjourned at 11:06 AM.