



ASSOCIATION OF PROBLEM GAMBLING
SERVICE ADMINISTRATORS

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 21, 2015

MINUTES (approved 1/20/16)

Attended: Kate Goodenough-Hackett, Eric Preuss, Lori Rugle, Kathy Scanlan, Helen Ghebre, John Hostetler, Stacey Frohnapfel-Hasson, Laura Rostolsky, Larissa Pixler, Patrick Petrie, Jeremy Wampler, Mark VanderLinden, Alia Lucas, Marisa Marino. [There were others who attended but were identified only as numbers on the ZOOM login roll call list. Please let Kathy Scanlan know if you were present and not listed here.]

Preliminary Items

1. Welcome and introductions

President, Lori Rugle welcomed members. Members introduced themselves and answered the question; “What’s in your car trunk?” (Some seriously weird answers!)

2. Minutes

- Board Meeting 9/16/15
- Annual Meeting 7/9/15

Minutes of the above meeting were approved after a motion made by Mark VanderLinden and seconded by Stacey Frohnapfel-Hasson.

3. Fiscal reports

- Year to date 9/30/15
- Account balances 9/30/15
- Dues structure process

The fiscal reports listed were reviewed by treasurer, Eric Preuss who indicated that income and expenses are as expected for the 1st quarter.

Lori summarized the Board’s process for restructuring APGSA dues. She discussed an article the Board is using as a template. Kathy Scanlan will forward the article to members. Lori also requested feedback from members regarding dues structure and also regarding what members believe their states see as a benefit to APGSA membership. Lori anticipates a proposal on 2017 dues being sent to members for feedback after the first of the year. There was further discussion about the Board’s search for funding sources in addition to members’ dues. One World and SAMSHA were mentioned as possible sources. Members were asked to reply with any sources they might know of. John Hostetler offered to help write proposals.

Members’ Exchange

Helen Ghebre and Mark Vanderlinden facilitated a discussion of members' replies to the questions below based on APGSA's mission and vision. Results will be used to map strategic goals for the year.

APGSA Mission and Vision

The Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators (APGSA) supports the development of services that will reduce the impact of problem gambling. APGSA is an active association that enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of its member organizations through support, information dissemination, and adherence to professional standards.

Below are questions with members' responses:

1. *What do you see as the role of this Association as it relates to the mission and vision?*

- *To be considered the experts or clearinghouse on standards of care, practices and processes for the treatment of gambling disorder.*
- *APGSA should keep the states abreast of prevalence, trends and approaches to treat this population.*
- *Address challenges and barriers to treatment and make recommendation as to how states should address these issues.*
- *It provides an opportunity to network and have immediate contact with experts in the field of problem gambling.*
- *This venue more than any other allows instant access to contact individuals around the country. We are able to find the most current research and up-to-date information in the realm of addiction in general and gambling addiction, specifically.*
- *Provides a variety of topics in its Resource Library that would be helpful to gamblers, family members, students of gambling research, professional clinicians, and academicians.*
- *For the general public, this site allows people to search for help and information across states; it is a facilitator of information related to areas of concern to family members of problem gamblers.*
- *Define "supports the development of services that will reduce the impact of PG". What would this look like? For example:*
 - *APGSA PG State Survey – strategies for APGSA members to effectively use the information to impact change nationally, as well as at the regional/state level.*
 - *Collaborative projects coordinated by APGSA to fill in the gaps (research, treatment, prevention, education, media campaigns, etc.)*

- APGSA Subject Matter Experts – what are APGSA renown for (regionally/nationally)? How can membership access for mentoring, presentations, project development, etc.
 - Alignment with NCPG/NCRG/NASADAD (Others?) – are we sitting at the right tables for behavioral health discussions to include PG.
- To enhance problem gambling services by keeping workforce updated with references, resources, and any changes in professional standards.

DISCUSSION among members took place:

Helen Ghebre identified a theme that ran through the responses being APGSA's role as setting and promoting standards of excellence related to the states' practice of problem gambling services. Helen then facilitated discussion among members.

Laura Rostolsky saw the role of APGSA as a clearing house of information; Mark VanderLinden talked about expanding ways to collect and disseminate information; Lori Rugle spoke about setting standards and benchmarks for best practices. Members questioned whether APGSA had the authority to identify and develop standards or only to disseminate findings; some felt there was no one other entity to do it, and that the APGSA survey provided significant data to use to create best practices. Discussion of the use of the survey led to questions about what information can we gather that makes the organization more valuable, and how can it be used to make policy. John Hostetler suggested that, like accreditation, information could be used to set minimum standards. Helen suggested that comparisons with other states in itself sets standards.

In another vein, members talked of the role of APGSA in supporting members. Suggestions were made about members' professional development, the importance of support of members new to their positions (Mark talked about how helpful members were to him in developing a system when he was new in Iowa.). Suggestions for more opportunities to support members included specialized technical assistance, and posting of questions on the website.

Collaborations with like organizations was also seen as the role of APGSA. Lori requested that anyone with specific organizations in mind send that information to her.

2. Would you make any additions/deletions/changes the mission and vision?

- *Currently I would not make any changes. However to ensure we stay on the right track, I would always ask "why" when we are considering doing something. Does the answer to "why" correspond to what our mission/vision lays out.*
- *I have no additions/deletions.*

DISCUSSION

There seemed to be agreement in the discussion that the mission and vision captured well APGSA's purpose and that no major changes to the mission and vision were needed.

There was a suggestion that the wording "reduce the impact of problem gambling" could be made specific by naming whom we are talking about. Discussion followed that suggested keeping it general might keep it more inclusive.

Lori wondered if there might be a more positive way to say "reduce the impact" and thereby promote the use of positive change rather than eliminate a negative. She requested any thoughts on this be sent to her.

3. What will it take to move us toward this vision?

- The only suggestion I have would be the creation of a quarterly/semi-annual newsletter for members- a document that pulls together all APGSA updates, meeting overviews, future plans...

DISCUSSION

A question was asked about whether or not APGSA has a strategic plan and whether or not we are following it. Kathy explained that at present there is not an APGSA strategic plan. However, this past July the Board met to set its own Board goals for the year. One of the goals that the Board set for itself is to engage membership in creating a plan, if not a full blown strategic plan, then a strategic mapping, for the year ahead. A step in that direction was begun at the Annual Meeting in July with the start of the World Café and the visioning process that members participated in. Responses to the questions discussed at this meeting will provide information to continue the process. As soon as the Board has drafted a more complete description of the process, it will be shared. Members and Members input will be sought.

Lori mentioned that in order to move APGSA toward its vision and mission, members will be welcomed to join work groups around the Board goals that will be shared with Members as soon as they are in shape to share. (The bare bones of the goals the Board set for itself are included in the minutes of the Annual Meeting.)

NEXT STEPS

As follow up, Kathy will compile a summary of responses to the 3 questions and of this discussion, and send it out to members. As the Board works on its' Board goals, one of which is to develop a strategic map for moving APGSA forward, it will use the

information gained from members answers and discussion of these questions as a starting point. The Board will work to continue the discussion by seeking members' involvement and feedback throughout the process.

ADJOURN

At 2:03pm (ET) Larisa Pixler made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Jeremy Wampler, and the meeting was adjourned by Lori Ruggle.