

OHIO CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
10:00 A.M. – October 21, 2020  
Meeting Held Virtually – Microsoft Teams Live Event

The regular meeting of the Ohio Casino Control Commission (Commission) was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chair June Taylor. Vice-Chair Jo Ann Davidson and Commissioners McKinley Brown, Will Lucas, Ranjan Manoranjan, and Lynn Slaby were also in attendance. Commissioner Steinhauer had an excused absence. The minutes of the September 16, 2020 meeting were approved following a motion by Commissioner Lucas and seconded by Vice-Chair Davidson.

Executive Director Matthew Schuler began his report with a presentation from Lori Criss, MSW, LSW, Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services, of the fiscal year 2020 (FY2020) Annual Report on Problem Gambling, noting the FY2020 plan's achievements and milestones. Director Criss noted that although the COVID-19 pandemic overlaid unique circumstances on the behavioral health system of care in the year 2020, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) did not waver in creativity and commitment to continue to provide quality care and problem gambling communications to Ohioans.

Director Criss began her report announcing Ohio had earned national recognition for its responsible gambling initiatives at the 2020 National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gambling Awards ceremony held in July 2020. Ohio was honored in three major award categories, winning two awards for its "Change the Game Ohio" youth gambling prevention campaign, and one award for its "Get Set Before You Bet" at-risk adult population responsible gambling initiative.

In FY2020, community coalitions continued to be utilized to assist in expanding knowledge of problem gambling issues in Ohio and prevent problem gambling. Ten community organizations were awarded grants for problem gambling prevention in their community. These organizations completed an education program and began implementation of programming for six months, until the COVID-19 crisis required transition to online and virtual interventions. To date, 1.7 million Ohioans have been reached by the strategies employed. Next, Director Criss reported that the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline "Chat Feature" moved to being offered 24 hours a day in the summer of 2020, due to the increase in phone and computer communication. Chat calls were reported to have risen 100% since 2018, with 386 calls being seen in FY2020. Additionally, data showed that the Problem Gambling Helpline was utilized more in FY2020 than in FY2019, with a total of 6,047 individuals calling-in and 868 being treated.

Director Criss indicated that over ten years, Ohio has been building capacity at both the state and community levels for prevention, early intervention, and treatment of gambling disorders. To continue these efforts, a web-based survey with stakeholders in Ohio's problem gambling service system was implemented to gain more clarity regarding the current status of the state's problem gambling services successes and challenges. The survey found that 61% of providers screened all clients for problem

gambling and that 65% of those providers provided problem gambling prevention or treatment services to adolescents.

Director Criss then provided an overview of problem gambling campaign statuses and training results. The “Get Set Before You Bet” marketing campaign, which educates Ohioans on what responsible gambling looks like, saw increased website traffic in FY2020, with a total of 357,000 visits and a 102% increase in new visitors. The “Change the Game Ohio” campaign was launched in the last six months of 2019 and expanded in 2020, bringing attention to the potential harmful effects of gaming and the gambling embedded within gaming for children and adolescents. As with any potential addiction, the earlier people are introduced to the behavior or chemical, the more likely they are to develop problems as adults. A large sample of Ohio youth that participated in the Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey suggested that 3.4% of Ohio teens have behavioral markers for problem gambling. This campaign provides resources to help educate and inform adults and young people about potential gambling problems.

Next an update was provided on the new statewide voluntary exclusion program (VEP), which allows individuals to ban themselves from all 11 of Ohio’s casinos and racinos in a single application process. The all-Ohio VEP allows individuals to sign up for one-year, five-year, or lifetime exclusion lengths. OhioMHAS continued to work with the Commission to ensure that qualified clinicians are available to help facilitate the participant’s removal interviews. Since 2012, there have been approximately 5,700 participants in the VEP, with 4,000 currently active and 900 individuals enrolling just in 2020.

This year, the OhioMHAS Problem Gambling staff made dozens of presentations to disseminate education and build awareness of problem gambling prevention, treatment and recovery to state and community groups and populations of focus. Educational events featured responsible gambling resources such as informational exhibits that included the outreach campaigns “Before You Bet” and “Change the Game Ohio.” An estimated 5,000 people were reached, including a variety of new audiences such as Veterans and the Supreme Court of Ohio. It was noted that the “SMART Bet” and “Campus Cents Financial Wellness Program” that were developed for ages 18 – 25 to prevent problem gambling and improve financial literacy were set back due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The SMART Bet program was implemented in several locations in FY2019, but the workgroup meetup for FY2020 was postponed due to the pandemic. This workgroup is scheduled to meet in FY2021 to continue its prevention efforts. The Campus Cents program is anticipated to launch in FY2021, with plans to solicit participants in an all-virtual format. The “Risky Business” problem gambling prevention program designed for juvenile justice involved youth ages 13 – 17, was noted to have proven effective with both “universal” and at-risk prevention audiences.

This year professionals working in or wishing to learn more about problem gambling in Ohio were provided training opportunities to receive 3.0 hours of Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board approved education for “Problem Gambling 101” and 3.0 hours of approved Prevention ethics. These

were well attended events and were able to take place virtually to work around the constraints of COVID-19. Gambling disorder treatment training again took place for clinical professionals at five locations in Ohio for 111 professionals. FY2021 sessions are currently underway for the first six months and are being held virtually over three consecutive days. To date, 35 licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors have earned the Gambling Endorsement. The Ohio Problem Gambling Treatment Supervision Fellowship Program graduated a small cohort of clinical supervisors in its fifth year, with a total of 30 clinical supervisors having now graduated from the program. An estimated 4,000 people were reached through dozens of problem gambling education and awareness trainings conducted this year. For a second year, a four-day training program was held for clergy, lay ministers, religious persons, and other faith leaders to provide informed guidance, educational materials, support, spiritual care, and help to people and families impacted by problem and gambling disorder. Director Criss reported that OhioMHAS will continue to reach out to those citizens who are naturally engaged with individuals to spread the gambling prevention resources and messages.

Finally, Director Criss reviewed future FY2021 problem gambling plans. A Facebook social media bootcamp is planned to offer intense training on developing social media content, schedules for posting, and working with Facebook on purchasing ads and boosting posts. A virtual training by a national expert will be offered to professionals to provide education on how social media can build engagement for organizations. All 11 of Ohio's casinos and racinos expressed the desire to partner with OhioMHAS again to conduct environmental scans to evaluate the gambling sites for responsible gambling messaging improvements. In FY2021, the scans will be repeated and follow a similar process done in FY2019. Ohio for Responsible Gambling agencies will provide materials and technical assistance to help the gaming properties offer a safe environment from a responsible gambling perspective. Lastly, a 2022 Ohio Gambling Survey is planned. Previous surveys have provided insights and analysis that have served as the basis for the state's and communities' planning and implementation efforts for the array of services for prevention of problem gambling, education on responsible gambling, clinical care for Ohioans with Gambling Disorder, and recovery supports. Throughout FY2021, planning for the desired outcomes, content, and methods for the 2022 survey will take place, and development of the framework for the new survey is anticipated to be completed by the end of FY2021.

Next, Rick Anthony, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Operations, provided a budget report for the first quarter of FY2021. Mr. Anthony indicated that FY2021 estimates were revised to account for the casino closures and internal changes made during the pandemic. Tax revenue was on track with estimates for the quarter. Mr. Anthony reported that the tax distribution that will be made this month will be about \$300,000.00 above estimates. Mr. Anthony indicated that wagering at the casinos is currently on track for the month for what is typically seen year-over-year, but the Commission will continue to monitor revenue trends. Casino-gaming-employee and key-employee fees were reported to be down, and this is most likely due to the casinos continuing to slowly return to normal operations after reopening and conservatively hiring casino gaming employees. Mr. Anthony reported that expenses

were below estimates, which was mainly attributed to salaries being down, as the Commission has determined not to fill a few positions at this time. An uptick in purchased personal services will be seen going forward due to the Commission beginning to hold administrative hearings again, which had been halted for a couple of months during the pandemic. Supplies and maintenance are down this quarter, as well as equipment estimates were down due to no equipment being bought during the quarter.

Mr. Anthony reported that \$40,000.00 in revenue was received this quarter for the Enforcement Fund, from a joint investigation. Although expenses were below estimates for the quarter, Mr. Anthony explained that now that the Agents have returned to the casinos, expenses are expected to go up as clothing allowances are requested. No equipment was purchased during this quarter. Finally, training costs remain down due in-house trainings and contracted training with Owens Community College that was paid during the last fiscal year.

Lastly, Mr. Schuler ended his report with a review on the Commission's law enforcement initiatives. The Commission is in the process of attaining a state certification with the Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board (Collaborative). Mr. Schuler explained that the Collaborative is a multi-disciplinary group comprised of law enforcement, elected officials, community members, academia, and faith-based leaders, and is housed in the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) within the Department of Public Safety. The group is charged with creating uniform minimum standards for all law enforcement agencies, including use of force, hiring, and improvement. In so doing, OCJS created a law enforcement certification process with one clear and distinct goal—to build a rigorous review process with legitimacy in both the eyes of the public and other law enforcement agencies. Mr. Schuler indicated that Governor Mike DeWine highlighted this certification in the Spring, and after discussing it with the Commission's Director of Enforcement, Mike Masterson, it was decided that the Commission should pursue OCJS certification. The Commission submitted all of its law enforcement policies, procedures, directives, and training curriculum to OCJS for review and now has been deemed provisionally certified. The Commission's next step in the certification process is to have an on-site assessment, and a final review by the Executive Director of OCJS. Mr. Schuler noted that although the Commission's law enforcement policies and procedures did not change, this certification is considered a badge of honor for the Commission in recognizing its commitment to high standards and professional excellence in law enforcement. Mr. Schuler reported that the Commission will continue to pursue all opportunities to continue to achieve high standards and partner with the Governor's priorities and join nearly 500 other law enforcement agencies at the local and state level.

Monica Wilcoxon, Investigator Supervisor, presented to the Commission for consideration 5 key-employee license applications. The Licensing & Investigations Division completed background investigations of the applicants, which did not uncover any material derogatory information, and recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2020-36, granting or renewing, as applicable, key-employee licenses to: Massimiliano Chiara, International Game Technology PLC; Oliver Chow, Aristocrat Technologies, Inc.; Jay Tarbell, Hollywood Casino Columbus; Eric Wolfman, Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati;

and Dennis Dziak, Penn National Gaming, Inc. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Manoranjan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slaby and approved.

Andromeda Morrison, Director of Skill Games, presented to the Commission for consideration 39 skill-based amusement machine-related license applications. The Skill Games Division completed background investigations of the applicants, which did not uncover any material derogatory information, and recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2020-37, granting skill-based amusement machine-related licenses upon receipt of the required licensing fees. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Vice-Chair Davidson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved.

Aleah Page, Manager of Licensing, Casino Gaming & Fantasy Contests, presented to the Commission for consideration the fantasy contest operator license application for Ownersbox 3.0 Corporation (Ownersbox). The Commission's Licensing & Investigations, Legal, Regulatory Compliance, and Problem Gambling Services Divisions completed a suitability investigation of Ownersbox, which did not uncover any material derogatory information. Ms. Page recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2020-38, granting an initial three-year fantasy contest operator license and approving both variance requests. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Vice-Chair Davidson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slaby and approved.

Craig Donahue, Manager of Compliance and Auditing, presented to the Commission for consideration the three-year approval of Pauly Rogers and Co. (Pauly) as an independent registered certified public accounting firm for the purpose of conducting financial statement and compliance audits for Ohio fantasy contest operators. Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 3772-74-15, fantasy contest operators are required to undergo a financial audit each year and a compliance audit once each three-year licensure period. A motion to approve Pauly was made by Commissioner Brown. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manoranjan and approved.

Chris Fleenor, Manager of Electronic Gaming, presented to the Commission for consideration, the certification of an independent testing laboratory. Pursuant to R.C. 3772.31(B), the Commission is required to certify independent testing laboratories to scientifically test and technically evaluate all slot machines, mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic table games, slot accounting systems, and other electronic gaming equipment. Independent testing laboratory The Slovenian Institute of Quality and Metrology (SIQ) has applied for certification. The Regulatory Compliance Division completed an investigation to assess SIQ's capability to provide information and services to the Commission in accordance with Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 3772-15. After doing so, the Regulatory Compliance Division concluded SIQ has met the requirements for certification and recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2020-39, granting SIQ's independent testing laboratory certification. Commissioner Manoranjan made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-39, approving SIQ for a three-year independent testing laboratory certification. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slaby and approved.

Mr. Oyster, General Counsel and Director of Licensing & Investigations, presented to the Commission for consideration of the following four final orders:

A casino gaming licensure final order regarding the denial of casino gaming license applications (case #2020-LIC-013, -015, -017, -018, -021, & -024). Chair Taylor moved to deny the casino gaming license applications for the cases listed in the final order. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Davidson.

A casino gaming licensure final order regarding Patrick Sangiovanni (case #2020-LIC-001). Chair Taylor moved to approve and adopt the Report and Recommendation without modifications to deny the Casino Gaming Employee License Application for Patrick Sangiovanni. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved.

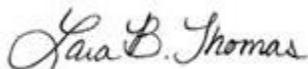
A casino gaming licensure final order regarding Samantha Som (case #2020-LIC-014). Chair Taylor moved to close the Casino Gaming Employee Renewal License Application for Samantha Som. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slaby and approved.

A casino gaming licensure final order regarding the revocation of casino gaming licenses (case #2020-LIC-005, -023, & -029). Chair Taylor moved to revoke the casino gaming employee licenses for the cases listed in the final order. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Davidson and approved.

Ms. Morrison then presented to the Commission for consideration a skill-based amusement machine licensure final order regarding the denial of skill-based amusement machine license applications (case #2020-SLIC-115 – 117, -132 – -134, -137, -138, -155 – -157, -168, -169, -183, -184, -221(A), -222(A), -223, & -228). Chair Taylor moved to deny the skill-based amusement machine license applications for the cases listed in the final order. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manoranjan and approved.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Signed,



Lara B. Thomas

Commission Secretary

Approved: November 18, 2020