MARG Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Location: Horseshoe Casino

**Present**: Charles LaBoy, Rob White, Jason Bittinger, Joe Cavilla, Jeannie Magdefrau, Matt Heiskell, Rachel Carpenter, Mary Drexler, Ardenia Holland, Kate Tracy, Laura Levy, Lori Rugle, Debbie Haskins, Tamala Law, Jennifer Wetherell, Seth Elkin, James Butler, Sandra Davis-Hart, Melissa Sager, Deirdre Davis, Christina Trenton, Chris Welsh, Bonnie Campbell, Nicky Savage, Marisa Ruthven, Eugenia Connolly, and Evan Richards

**Action Items**:

* Mary will send VEP ethnicity data to Deborah Haskins.

Meeting Called to Order:

Charles LaBoy called the meeting to order at 11:48 am.

Introduction – Horseshoe Baltimore General Manager:

Erin Chamberlin introduced herself and thanked everyone for attending.

General Introductions:

Charles thanked Horseshoe Casino for hosting the MARG meeting. He stated that modifications have been made to the responsible gambling program.

Member Updates:

1. **Maryland** **Council on Problem Gambling (Deborah Haskins):**

Deborah told the attendees that the Council is restructuring and is hoping to expand. They plan to reach out to spiritual communities and launch clergy training. They are inviting clergy members to participate in training during Problem Gambling Awareness Month; participants will receive a certificate upon completing the training.

1. **Maryland Lottery and Gaming (Mary/Charles)**:

Charles shared that Maryland Lottery and Gaming (ML&G) is working to embed more responsible gambling elements in their day-to-day operations; the agency is also pursuing various certifications.

ML&G is also working to help MGM open in December.

*VEP applicant numbers/removal numbers/pending removals*

Mary discussed the VEP data charts and stated that close to 1300 people are on the list; 51 have been removed from the program.

*Bingo VEP*

The bingo hall VEP program is in effect at locations with more than 10 instant bingo machines.

*MLGCA WLA and NASPL/NCPG Certifications*

ML&G achieved Level II WLA certification and is now pursuing Level III. The National Council on Problem Gambling application is due in two weeks.

*Contact with State’s Attorneys offices*

Mary contacted lead state’s attorneys about VEP program violations with the recommendation to send violators for problem gambling assessments.

*Webinars for professionals in community: Responsible Gambling/VEP*

Mary is working on 2 webinars with the Center of Excellence. They are conducting them on responsible gambling, the VEP program, and the VEP program removal process.

Rachel Carpenter asked about the responsible gambling database. Charles LaBoy stated that this has not been pursued due to funding issues.

1. **Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) (Eugenia Connolly)**:

Eugenia asked if ML&G had heard anything on daily fantasy sports legislation in Maryland. Charles LaBoy responded that under the current law, the comptroller has authority over daily fantasy sports and drafted regulations to include consumer protection clauses.

Eugenia stated that the BHA continues to increase the competency of their practitioners. She wants to incorporate problem gambling counseling into existing services. The BHA continues to educate the community and raise awareness of problem gambling treatment and prevention resources. They also continue to work with local health departments and received positive feedback from the Alleghany Health Department.

Eugenia invited MARG members to participate in the planning for the annual problem gambling conference.

1. **Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (Lori Rugle)**:

Lori Rugle: Clinical – The problem gambling conference will be held on 6/16/17.

The Center of Excellence responded to the comptroller’s daily fantasy sports regulations.

The Center is working with health departments on safe gambling practices. The Center is also conducting a webinar series and 30-hour regional trainings. They conducted an awareness campaign in July in Prince George’s County and welcome help with PSAs from the casinos and the Lottery.

Kate Tracy: Research – Kate collaborated with the Prince George’s County Health Department to survey residents on feelings about MGM. The Center is also conducting a cohort study on contributing factors to problem gambling behavior and is studying the precursors to problem gambling addiction. They are also prepping for a statewide prevalence study.

The Center met with Mary about VEP data collection.

1. **Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service (DPSCS) (Sandra Davis-Hart)**:

DPSCS has been busy with the Justice Reinvestment Act.

1. **Maryland** **Judiciary (Gray Barton):** N/A
2. **Maryland State Senate (Evan Richards)**

A group approached the Senator about proposing legislation involving problem gambling addiction.

1. **Maryland House of Delegates**: N/A
2. **Gaming** **facilities (updates):**
   * 1. Hollywood Casino Perryville (Matt Heiskell):
        + The casino performed its annual refresher training on responsible gambling; they did a Judge Judy parody on the gaming floor in view of customers.
     2. Ocean Downs Casino (Joe Cavilla):
        + The casino is being acquired by Churchill Downs and the licensing process is underway. Delaware Park isn’t a part of the acquisition. Moving forward, Ocean Downs will need to decide how to proceed with exclusions at Churchill Downs’ other properties.
        + Construction is underway to expand the facility.
     3. Maryland Live! Casino (Rachel Carpenter):

* The casino performed responsible gambling training and awarded prizes to their employees.
* The casino held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new hotel. They will own two hotels, one on-site and one offsite.
  + 1. Rocky Gap Casino (Jason Bittinger):
* Rocky Gap held responsible gambling training for their employees.
* The casino met with their local health department about individuals with problem gambling habits.
  + 1. Horseshoe Baltimore Casino (Erin Chamberlin):
* Horseshoe Baltimore participated in responsible gambling week in August. They continue to train their staff on responsible gambling.
  + 1. MGM (Tamala Law):
* MGM is excited to open. They have incorporated responsible gambling training in their new hiring process.

Open Discussion

Rob White proposed that the Lottery help promote the 1-800 GAMBLER helpline. Lori added that the number should be visible on billboards and radio advertisements. Charles indicated that he has worked with the casinos on this.

Charles thanked Erin Chamberlin and Horseshoe Baltimore for their hospitality and the participants for attending the MARG meeting. The meeting ended at 12:54 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be January 25th from 11:30am to 1:30pm at MGM.