

PROBLEM GAMBLING TREATMENT & SUPPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PGTSAC)

Minutes - Draft

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

LOCATION: VCSB, 6641 W. Broad St. Suite 102, Glen Allen, Va

Members:

Anne Rogers, Chairperson – PG Prevention Coordinator, Office of Behavioral Health Wellness	x	
Carolyn Hawley PhD, Vice-Chair – President of VCPG	x	
Jennifer Mullen attended for Khalid R. Jones – Executive Director, Va. Lottery	x	
Michael Menefee – Program Manager of Charitable and Regulatory Programs	x	
Waqas Ahmed – Executive Secretary, Va. Racing Commission	x	
Jim Bebeau – Executive Director of Danville Pittsylvania CSB	x	
Colleen Carraccio – Director of Compliance, Portsmouth Rivers Casino	x	
Rodney Miles – Director of Compliance, Colonial Downs	x	
Chrissy Thurmond – Head of Responsible Gaming Relations, DraftKings		x
Charitable Gaming Representative - Vacant		

Others: Tom Dozier, Willard Robertson, Sam DeMello, Ben Choate, Brianne Doura Schawohl, Sean Fournia, Jennifer Davis-Walton, Emma Freeman, Azeem Majeed, Elizabeth Childress, Dean Hestermann, Lisa Cochran, Matthew Britt, Jill Vaughan, Prin Cowan

- I. Welcome – Meeting began at 10:00 am. Attendance taken, two members are absent.
- II. Minutes of Last Meeting for Approval – Minutes were sent out in February. If anyone has any edits to them please contact Anne.
- III. Evive App – [Recording: 1:30-18:15]
What it is, how we are using it in Virginia, Sam DeMello – Information about the app was shared including visuals of what the components of the app look like. Even though Virginia launched Evive in March, and we have yet to do a full statewide push of it beyond individuals seeking treatment and recovery support through the Virginia Partnership for Gaming & Health, its use is growing. As we get more data, we will then be able to evaluate its use and the potential for a longer term contract (either through an RFP or direct source).
- IV. PGAM Month Updates – [Recording: 19:40-45:55]
 - a. The Virginia Lottery shared its efforts in support of National Problem Gambling Awareness Month, including a new public service announcement that was distributed as part of a robust paid media campaign, and featuring Lottery Executive Director Khalid Jones. While highlighting the Lottery's partnership with the VCPG and the helpline number, the new PSA represents a shift in the tone of the messaging and aims to remind Virginians to make informed healthy decisions.
 - b. Jim Bebeau shared information on the work that CSB's did for PGAM, including posting to social media, other media promotions, utilization of the NCPG toolkit, hosting a screening day, hosting presentations and conferences and partnering with media, colleges, industry, libraries and restaurants (see recording for full list).
 - c. VCPG – Provided many presentations and interviews during PGAM month. Had 12,000 impressions to social medias. Won an award for public relations.
 - d. Virginia Partnership for Gambling and Health – participated in 68 community outreach events, including partnering with industry and colleges, and providing education. Held a symposium on problem gambling. The VPGH network conducted 188 pg screenings with 18% of those screened showing a higher risk. (see recording for full list).

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- e. VDACS – Working on training on PG at local charities. Including training with Managers.
- f. Colonial Downs – Had onsite trainings at all sites. And worked to up the promotion of the help resources.
- g. DBHDS – Provided many presentations during March. Posted messages to their socials each week.

V. Help-Line Data – Carolyn Hawley - [Recording: 46:00-47:45]

Intake numbers increased from the same month of the prior year as follows -in January 55%, February 29%, and March 43% increase.

VI. Voluntary Exclusion Program – Prin Cowan – [Recording: 47:55-1:03:00]

73 enrollments occurred in March alone. 1,808 active & inactive enrollees. Lifetime enrollees must complete the application in person. The Lottery will travel to various locations in the state to meet people to sign up in person so they do not have to travel to Richmond. Average age of enrollees is 40 years of age, and skews male. Most who reapply after a two-year enrollment tend to re-enroll for the same amount of time. VEP includes account-based gaming, sports betting, casinos, charitable gaming and horse racing. Virginia Lottery noted that it is working on increasing the responsible gaming tools available to players through iLottery.. Casinos have their own VSE program too. Rivers offers a 6 month and 1 year ban. They have seen an uptick in those signing up this year than at the same time in 2024.

Rivers shared a copy of their pamphlet with the help information and asked if people have suggested edits to send the suggestion to Rivers. Rivers underage access has dropped dramatically.

A question was raised to the operators present as to whether anything in the current regulation was a hinderance or barrier. It was mentioned that people being prosecuted if they sign up for VSE and then come on site and are treated as criminals may make others less likely to sign up and seek support. VRC and Lottery spoke of partnering to improve this process.

VII. Update on 2025 Legislative Session and preparation needs for 2026 – [Recording: 1:03:05-1:07:00]

New bills that made it through but aren't fully signed yet includes Fantasy Sports age change beginning July 2025 will be 21 years. All gambling locations/opportunities/materials will have to have the National number 1-800-GAMBLER posted in all retail locations. The judge in Hanover County ruled against the state, saying the retailer was allowed to operate these. Some stores have turned back on the machines. But this is just a lower level court so these machines are still considered to be illegal per present law.

VIII. DBHDS – Update on the evaluation of PG services project - [Recording: 1:07:00-1:14:00]

The Office of Research and Evaluation in DBHDS is working on evaluating Problem Gambling treatment, recovery and prevention efforts. They will reach out to committee members and others to gain access to data, interviewing and conducting focus groups, then writing the report for projected release in July.

IX. Wrap-up & Adjourn- [Recording: 1:15:00-1:26:58]

Update from DBHDS included information on the new Curriculum that can be given in as little as 60 minutes or as much as 90 minutes. It is being piloted in May.

A statewide media campaign that includes graphics for bus ads, posted, flyers, rack cards and wallet cards. With the focus on 18-25 year olds and sports betting.

Future Meetings: <https://dbhds.virginia.gov/pgts-committee/>

- July 29, 2025
- October 28, 2025