

Transcript of the Testimony of

**LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD
MEETING**

August 21, 2025



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1 STATE OF LOUISIANA LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD AUGUST 21, 2025 MEETING This Louisiana Gaming Control Board Meeting was taken in by Belinda K. Amerson, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, at the LOUISIANA STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE COMMITTEE ROOM 5, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA on the 21st day of August, 2025.	2 1 APPEARANCES: 2 3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER HEBERT 4 MS. LANDRY 5 MS. HERNANDEZ 6 MR. JACKSON 7 MS. LEWIS 8 MR. POOLE 9 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER 10 MR. SHOLES 11 MS. BECNEL 12 MR. LANGLEY 13 JAROD CONIGLIO 14 COL. HODGES 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
3 1 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 2 I would like to call to order the 3 meeting of the Louisiana Gaming Control 4 Board for Thursday, August 21, 2025. 5 Ms. Hernandez, would you please call 6 the roll? 7 Oh, I'm sorry. 8 Ms. Landry, would you please call 9 the roll? 10 MS. LANDRY: 11 Chairman Hebert. 12 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 13 Here. 14 MS. LANDRY: 15 Ms. Becnel. 16 MS. BECNEL: 17 Here. 18 MS. LANDRY: 19 Mr. Jackson. 20 MR. JACKSON: 21 Here. 22 MS. LANDRY: 23 Mr. Langley. 24 MR. LANGLEY: 25 Here.	4 1 MS. LANDRY: 2 Ms. Lewis. 3 MS. LEWIS: 4 Here. 5 MS. LANDRY: 6 Mr. Poole. 7 MR. POOLE: 8 Here. 9 MS. LANDRY: 10 Ms. Hamilton-Acker. 11 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER: 12 Here. 13 MS. LANDRY: 14 Mr. Sholes. 15 (No response). 16 MS. LANDRY: 17 Ms. Traylor. 18 (No Response). 19 MS. LANDRY: 20 Colonel Hodges. 21 COLONEL HODGES: 22 Here. 23 MS. LANDRY: 24 Secretary Nelson. 25 MR. CONIGLIO:

5 1 Jarod Coniglio here for Secretary 2 Nelson. 3 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 4 Okay. We do have a quorum. 5 Thank you, Members, for being here 6 this morning. 7 Board Members and ladies and 8 gentlemen, I'd like to take a point of 9 personal privilege to welcome today and 10 thank Colonel Robert Hodges, the 27th 11 Superintendent of the Louisiana State 12 Police and Deputy Secretary of Public 13 Safety Services, for taking time out of 14 what I and many of you know is an 15 extremely busy schedule to sit with us 16 today. 17 Colonel, we look forward to your 18 continued leadership along with your great 19 team in the Gaming Enforcement Division 20 under Major Albright's leadership, your 21 collaboration and your partnership as we 22 continue working together to ensure a 23 strong, fair, and well-regulated gaming 24 industry for the people of Louisiana. 25 Thank you, again, for being here.	6 1 COLONEL HODGES: 2 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 3 I didn't know if I had the right 4 button. 5 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 6 We haven't had enough practice. Go 7 ahead. Go ahead. You're good. You -- 8 Colonel Hodges: 9 Very good. 10 Good morning, everyone and thank you 11 for giving me this opportunity. 12 Obviously, Gaming is very important to the 13 Louisiana State Police, to our business 14 industry, to our community, to the 15 residents and visitors of Louisiana. And 16 I think given that I've had some time 17 spent in those roles over the years of my 18 -- I made thirty years in June -- that 19 gives me, I guess, a different 20 perspective, more importantly a -- a 21 comprehensive outlook on the importance of 22 this group, the Control Board, the Gaming 23 Enforcement Division, our partnership with 24 the Attorney General's Office, and 25 everyone that's -- that's present here and
7 1 has an interest in the success of 2 Louisiana. 3 Nothing's more important to any of 4 us than -- than our children. And I think 5 the work and the jobs that the gaming 6 industry creates for those in Louisiana 7 and those who travel here are a direct 8 product of providing things for our kids. 9 And our business industry and the 10 partnership that Major Albright and the 11 team now, our Lieutenant Colonel Bo Lummus 12 over investigations as well as our 13 incoming Captain Will Bosworth replacing 14 Justin Berry and -- and of course, Captain 15 Jonas Martin, Director Jeff Traylor, our 16 team, our -- our Gaming Enforcement 17 Division team does an outstanding job of 18 ensuring not only that the gaming industry 19 is regulated with highest regard of 20 integrity and honesty, but that we're 21 business friendly and that we understand 22 the importance of what it takes to be 23 successful in Louisiana. 24 So I would like to thank everyone 25 who continues to be part of the process,	8 1 voicing your opinion, bringing new ideas, 2 keeping us competitive against other 3 states, more importantly understanding 4 where gaming is going in both Louisiana 5 and across the country and how do we 6 continue to find that balance with 7 technology, with advancement, with AI in 8 the future, but still providing a great 9 business model for Louisiana, more 10 importantly, an opportunity for jobs and 11 the future generation. So thank you so 12 much, and I -- I will defer back to the 13 Chairman. 14 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 15 Thank you, Colonel. And the Board 16 as well would like to welcome Captain 17 William Bosworth, who is now over Gaming 18 Operations. Captain Bosworth, in the back 19 there, welcome, and as well as Lieutenant 20 Colonel Bo Lummus who is over the Bureau 21 of Investigations. Thank you both for 22 being here today with us. And Colonel, 23 one last request, we ask that you wear 24 your uniform next time you visit, so that 25 you're not out-dressing all of the Board

9 1 Members. Thank you. 2 All righty. Moving along. This is 3 our public comment period. If anyone 4 would like to comment on any agenda item 5 before the Board this morning, now is the 6 time to come forward. 7 Seeing none, we will now move on to 8 Item III, the approval of the minutes. At 9 this time, I would ask Board Members for a 10 motion to waive the reading and approve 11 the minutes of the July 17, 2025 board 12 meeting. 13 MR. POOLE: 14 So moved. 15 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 16 It's been moved by Mr. Poole; and 17 seconded by Mr. Jackson. 18 Is there any discussion? 19 Any opposition? 20 Hearing none, that motion carries 21 and the minutes are approved. 22 At this time, we will move on to 23 Item IV on our agenda, our revenue 24 reports. 25 Good morning, Ms. Jackson.	10 1 MS. JACKSON: 2 Chairman Hebert. Good morning, 3 Chairman Hebert and Board Members. My 4 name is Donna Jackson with the Louisiana 5 State Police, Gaming Audit Section. 6 During July, the 15 operating 7 riverboats generated Adjusted Gross 8 Receipts of \$151,008,069. The state 9 collected fees totaling \$32,466,735. 10 Page 2 shows the riverboat revenue 11 broken down by regional market. This 12 month's revenues represent a decrease of 13 \$10.4 million or 6.5% from June, but an 14 increase of approximately \$13 million or 15 9.4% from last July. 16 Next, is a summary of the July 2025 17 gaming activity for Caesars New Orleans, 18 found on page 3. Caesars generated 19 \$21,310,337 in gross gaming revenue. 20 These revenues represent an increase from 21 last month of \$900,000 or 4.4%, and an 22 increase of \$3.6 million or 20.4% from the 23 same month last year. During July, the 24 state received \$5,520,548 in minimum daily 25 payments.
11 1 Next, I'll present the revenues for 2 Slots at the Racetracks. During July, the 3 4 racetrack facilities combined generated 4 Adjusted Gross Receipts of \$26,261,029, a 5 decrease of \$730,000 or 2.7% from June, 6 but an increase of \$1.2 million or 4.8% 7 when compared to last July. During July, 8 the state collected approximately \$4 9 million in fees. 10 I will now move to the Video Gaming 11 information. 12 There are currently 12,191 video 13 gaming devices activated at 1,382 14 locations. Net Device Revenue for July 15 2025 was \$64,413,057, an increase of \$2.4 16 million or 4% when compared to June 2025, 17 and an increase of \$4 million or 6.4% when 18 compared to last July. Total Franchise 19 Fees for July totaled \$19.4 million. 20 Next, I will present the July 21 revenue for sportsbook. During July, the 22 retail sportsbooks accepted approximately 23 \$13.3 million in sports wagers, resulting 24 in net proceeds of \$1.3 million and 25 \$133,000 in state taxes. The mobile	12 1 sportsbooks accepted \$213.4 million in 2 sports wagers, resulting in net proceeds 3 of \$30.1 million and \$4.5 million in taxes 4 paid to the state. 5 Finally, for Daily Fantasy Sports, 6 gross revenues for July were approximately 7 \$367,000, with net revenue of \$41,000 and 8 taxes of \$3,300. 9 Are there any questions? 10 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 11 Board Members, are there any 12 questions for Ms. Jackson? 13 All right, Ms. Jackson. Thank you 14 for your hard work in compiling and 15 presenting the report. 16 Before moving on to Item V, let the 17 record reflect that Judge Sholes is now 18 present. 19 Okay. Item V on our agenda is our 20 procurement and employment compliance 21 reports for the second quarter of 2025. 22 Mr. Lewis, good morning. Please 23 identify yourself for the record. 24 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS, JR: 25 Assistant Attorney General Kanick

13 1 Lewis, Jr. 2 Good morning, Chairman Hebert and 3 Board Members. Today, I'll be presenting 4 the staff reports on riverboat and 5 racetrack casinos -- excuse me -- casino 6 licensees, compliance with employment and 7 procurement conditions for the second 8 quarter of 2025. 9 I'll begin with the riverboats. The 10 second quarter reports are taken from 11 figures reported by 15 operating 12 riverboats to the Louisiana Gaming Control 13 Board. In the second quarter of 2025, 14 approximately 9,700 people were employed 15 by the riverboat industry. Of that 16 number, 9,503 were Louisiana residents, 17 6,070 were minorities and 5,204 were 18 women. Four licensees achieved total 19 compliance this quarter; and those 20 licensees are Boomtown New Orleans, 21 Horseshoe Lake Charles, L'Auberge Baton 22 Rouge and Margaritaville. Excuse me. 23 Next, I'll address employment. Six 24 licensees did not meet their total 25 employment goals; and they are: Sam's	14 1 Town Hotel & Casino, which achieved 364 2 out of a goal of 385; Horseshoe Bossier 3 City, which achieved 529 out of a goal of 4 550; Belle of Baton Rouge Casino, which 5 achieved 187 out of a goal of 350; The 6 Queen Baton Rouge, which achieved 362 out 7 of a goal of 375; Amelia Belle Casino, 8 which achieved 163 out of a goal of 165; 9 and Bally's Shreveport, which achieved 529 10 out of a goal of 625. 11 All licensees either met or exceeded 12 their goals in all of the subcategories 13 under the main category of employment with 14 the exception of Treasure Chest Casino, 15 which achieved 50.2% out of a goal of 51% 16 under the subcategory of female employment 17 and L'Auberge Lake Charles, which achieved 18 49.4% out of a goal 51.86% under female 19 employment. 20 Next, I'll address procurement. The 21 licensees are grouped according to three 22 subcategories, which appear in your 23 report. Those subcategories are 24 Louisiana, Minority and Female 25 Procurement.
15 1 Under Louisiana Procurement, one 2 licensee did not meet their goal; and that 3 licensee is Golden Nugget Lake Charles, 4 which achieved 58.8% out of a goal of 65%. 5 Under the subcategory of Minority 6 Procurement, three licensees did not 7 achieve compliance with its voluntary 8 condition; and those licensees are: Live! 9 Casino, which achieved 3.7% out of a goal 10 of 10%; The Queen Baton Rouge, which 11 achieved 12.1% out of a goal of 13%; and 12 Boomtown Bossier City, which achieved 13 12.2% out of a goal of 13%. 14 For Female Procurement, two 15 licensees did not achieve compliance; and 16 those licensees are: Live! Casino, which 17 achieved 6.3% out of a goal of 10%; and 18 Golden Nugget Lake Charles, which achieved 19 13% out of a goal of 15%. 20 Are there any questions regarding 21 the riverboats? 22 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 23 Board Members, are there any 24 questions regarding the employment and 25 procurement numbers?	16 1 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Lewis. 2 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS, JR: 3 I'll move now to the racetracks. In 4 the second quarter of 2025, approximately 5 1,377 people were employed by the 6 racetrack casino industry. Of that 7 number, 1,137 were Louisiana residents, 8 755 were minorities and 751 were women. 9 Two racetracks achieved total 10 compliance this quarter, and they are 11 Evangeline Downs and Fair Grounds. Delta 12 Downs did not achieve its Louisiana 13 Employment condition. It achieved 59.5% 14 out of the 80% condition. And Louisiana 15 Downs did not achieve its Female 16 Employment condition. It achieved 52.6% 17 percent out of the 60% condition. All of 18 the licensees met their Minority 19 Employment conditions this quarter. 20 Under Procurement, all licensees 21 either met or exceeded their goals. 22 Are there any questions regarding 23 the racetracks? 24 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 25 Okay.

17 1 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS, JR: 2 Thank you. 3 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 4 That concludes the report -- thank 5 you, Mr. Lewis. 6 Okay. Board Members, the next 7 agenda item. 8 We will now hear from Don Pledger, 9 the Executive Director of the Louisiana 10 Association on Compulsive Gambling. Don 11 recently joined the LACG team in late 2023 12 and comes to the organization with over 13 thirty years of experience in healthcare 14 systems, development, implementation and 15 sustainability. He has his Bachelor's and 16 Master's from LSU with a focus in 17 Administration and Psychology. He's 18 passionate about trauma and crisis 19 recovery, addiction recovery, and 20 supporting those most vulnerable to mental 21 health challenges. 22 I recently had the opportunity to 23 visit with Don and his staff at both, The 24 Center of Recovery Facility for Inpatient 25 Treatment in Shreveport as well as LACG's	18 1 Problem Gambling Helpline Operations 2 Facility in Bossier. And I can tell you 3 that morale is extremely high to the 4 employees at both facilities. 5 Don is here this morning to give us 6 an update on the wonderful work being done 7 by LACG as well as some trends that he is 8 seeing in the Problem Gambling space. 9 Don? 10 MR. PLEDGER: 11 Chairman, thank you for the time for 12 me to be in front of this Board. And 13 Board Members, thank you for that as well. 14 I wanted to speak a little bit -- I 15 don't know -- yeah, here we are. So I 16 want to speak a little bit about the 17 legacy of The Louisiana Association on 18 Compulsive Gambling. I'm -- I'm under -- 19 understanding that we have some Board 20 Members that may be fairly new, and so 21 that's just a brief recap of kind of where 22 we came from and where we are today could 23 be helpful to this Board. 24 So LACG became into existence in 25 1996. In 1999, we began providing
19 1 treatment services for residents of the 2 State of Louisiana. And that's when the 3 CORE program actually opened its doors and 4 started treating individuals. 5 At that time, Problem Gambling 6 awareness, prevention, education, and 7 certainly treatment was a bit of a 8 frontier. LACG, the State of Louisiana 9 through the Department of Health and 10 Office of Behavioral Health was really 11 creating a lot of the format -- the 12 framework of what the future needed to 13 look like and how we were able to address 14 this need and provide services to the 15 individuals. 16 In the year 2000, LACG was asked by 17 the Office of Behavioral Health to start 18 answering the Problem Gambling Helpline. 19 So for those of you who are old enough to 20 remember, Y2K was a time that we thought 21 that our technology was going to crash on 22 us, and we were going to really be 23 struggling with a lot of things throughout 24 our society. And we decided that was the 25 perfect time for us to start answering a	20 1 Helpline. So at 12:01 -- 0 -- 0 -- 12:01 2 a.m., January 1, 2000, we started 3 answering the first calls and celebrating 4 25 years of doing that now. 5 LACG continues to answer the Problem 6 Gambling Helpline. We answer for other 7 Problem Gambling Helplines of other states 8 as well. And, also, we are the safety net 9 for the National Problem Gambling 10 Helpline. So we answer a lot of calls on 11 a daily basis. 12 Most of my time is going to be spent 13 talking about some trends and what we're 14 seeing coming in through the call center, 15 so I'm going to say a couple of things 16 about the treatment services right now. 17 At the CORE program, we have treated 18 somewhere around 5,000 individuals -- let 19 me change that a little bit -- 5,000 20 unique admissions into our program. 21 Sometimes we have re-admissions. Today we 22 are sitting at about 30% capacity of what 23 we can provide in our Residential CORE 24 Treatment Program, and we also have 25 capacity in our intensive outpatient and

21 1 outpatient programs. I hear this to be 2 the same across the state in the local 3 governing entities that provide Problem 4 Gambling outpatient services as well. 5 There is a need that is out there and 6 capacity to fill that need. And so I'm 7 going to talk about some of that data that 8 kind of supports what I'm framing out for 9 you right there. 10 First, what I'd like to talk about 11 is just a little bit about some statistics 12 that trend over the years. Last July, 13 just last month, the National Problem -- 14 the National Council for Problem Gambling 15 had their annual conference in Ohio. And 16 it was a great opportunity to get with 17 other states, talk about the trending 18 they're seeing and seeing what's happening 19 at the national level beyond just doing my 20 own research. 21 We're seeing that the calls that are 22 coming in with the Problem Gambling 23 Helplines have been fairly consistent. We 24 saw a spike in those calls coming in 25 around COVID, and we saw that spike across	22 1 the nation as well. It just wasn't just 2 with Louisiana. And where we thought 3 there was going to be maybe a continued 4 raise there, what we saw is that it came 5 up and started to go back down again to 6 its national -- its kind -- its natural 7 state. 8 And if you look down at the table a 9 little below that, I'm going to start to 10 talk a little about Mobile Sports Betting. 11 You can see clearly that there's a 12 significant increase in the calls that 13 come in to the Problem Gambling Helpline 14 as we legalize Sports Betting in 15 Louisiana, especially Mobile Sports 16 Betting. 17 And that trend is continuing. And 18 the last graph shows for calendar year 19 2025. We're on track to probably get 20 somewhere between low 90s to high 80s on 21 the calls coming in. I'm giving you real 22 numbers here because as we talk about 23 percentages and impact and calls coming 24 in, I think it's relevant that we speak to 25 real numbers.
23 1 LACG is not for or against gambling. 2 In fact, we enjoy a very strong 3 relationship with casino properties across 4 the state. And we know that most 5 individuals that go into these properties 6 and gamble are not going to have a 7 problem. It's how we address the ones 8 that do end up having problems. 9 I'm just going to add a special 10 mention here, because there are two call 11 centers that answer for the Louisiana 988 12 Lifeline; it's LACG and VIA LINK. And so 13 as we're seeing some of these trends on 14 the calls that are coming in to Problem 15 Gambling, I wanted to include that we're 16 seeing an increase in Problem Gambling 17 calls that are coming in actually to the 18 988 line. There's been a -- a large media 19 campaign to get awareness out there 20 nationally about the availability of this 21 three-digit line. And so often times 22 those that might be having problems with 23 gambling or loved ones with problems with 24 gambling, they're reaching out to 988 not 25 thinking about the other help lines that	24 1 are available to them as well. So I think 2 it's important to look at how we're seeing 3 increases in those calls as well. 4 I'm going to draw some comparisons 5 to some national studies that are out 6 there, and you'll see the reason for that 7 in this particular slide. So I'm making 8 some comparisons to New Jersey. There is 9 a lot of differences between the state of 10 Louisiana and New Jersey. There's some 11 commonality that I feel like we can learn 12 from it. Some experiences that they've 13 had, that we may not have to learn on our 14 own. So Rutgers -- through Rutgers 15 University, their most recent Prevalence 16 Study -- or actually one of their prior 17 Prevalence Studies was in 2017. Their 18 most recent is in 2023. For the State of 19 Louisiana, they -- and they legalized 20 Mobile Sports Betting in 2018, four years 21 ahead of us. Our most recent Prevalence 22 Study was 2017. And I -- I know that the 23 Department of Health, Office of Behavioral 24 Health is finally finalizing their most 25 recent Prevalence Study. I haven't seen

25 1 it. I don't know what is in it, but I 2 know they're -- they're at a point they're 3 going to be able to release that in -- in 4 the near future. Because it's not 5 released right now, I was looking at some 6 of the information that is coming out 7 nationally, and from New Jersey that might 8 be some indications for us to pay 9 attention to as we move forward in 10 responsible gaming, addressing the needs 11 of Problem Gambling through prevention and 12 education and that kind of thing. 13 So some of the trends that we're 14 seeing out there. Online gaming is 15 increasing significantly. In fact, some 16 states are seeing this at an increase of 17 three times of prior years, and I think 18 that is something for us to pay attention 19 to. And while not increasing at the same 20 rate, those that choose to gamble and mix 21 the venues is also on an increase from 22 what we've seen in prior years. And I 23 bring that up because the more an 24 individual chooses to game in different 25 types of platforms and venues, it does	26 1 elevate a risk of developing Problem 2 Gambling and potentially evolving into 3 gambling disorder. 4 Of the emerging adults into 5 gambling, there is also an increased risk 6 in drug use, overeating, binge eating, 7 excessive video or internet gaming, and of 8 course, suicidal thoughts. Among those 9 struggling with addictive disorders, which 10 ob -- you know, obviously that we are an 11 industry in Problem Gambling looking at 12 very similar effects. Those struggling 13 with problem gambling have the highest 14 suicide rates of other addictions. 15 In emerging adults are younger, 16 mostly represented by males; however, 17 female engagement is on the rise. So I've 18 got three children. They're not children 19 anymore. One is an adult with two kids of 20 his own, living in Michigan. The youngest 21 two are 18 and 19 and in school here in 22 the State of Louisiana. And when I read 23 information and see studies talking about 24 excessive video or internet gaming time, 25 streaming time, I know that to be true
27 1 with my own kids. I look at that and have 2 those conversations with them on a daily 3 basis. So there are some things that are 4 very natural in their environment that's 5 very common between them and their peers 6 that links itself to mobile betting. 7 Among those aged 21 to 24, there's a 8 measurable increase in sports betting. 9 And I would like to point out notably 10 within I-gaming -- with in-game betting 11 and parley betting. Both of these are 12 very high risk. Often at times that the 13 games are happening can be very impulsive. 14 And the younger generation are those 15 entering into the gaming as entertainment 16 are less likely to utilize some of the 17 mobile platform responsible gaming limit 18 functions that are there. So they may -- 19 they bet more than they intended and more 20 often than they intended during a 21 particular activity. 22 And I'm going to highlight this 23 through the next two slides. When 24 comparing Superbowl weekend 2024 to 25 Superbowl weekend 2025, which was a huge	28 1 celebration for us because we hosted it 2 here in the State of Louisiana, it was 3 also a bit of a surprising game for those 4 of you who watched the game. It was a bit 5 of a blowout for the Eagles. And so I 6 think there was a lot of money lost. 7 There was a lot of in-game betting that 8 was going on trying to recover some money, 9 and some winnings that I'm -- I'm sure 10 happened. But if you look at the volume 11 of the calls we had the prior year come in 12 to our Helpline Call Center compared to 13 what came in in 2025 and what ended up 14 being a very unpredictable game, it was an 15 increase of 44%. And one other thing that 16 I would like to call out while I'm showing 17 you this slide, is there's actually two 18 bar graphs here, and you can barely see 19 the orange one. These are calls taken 20 into the center, and then the orange are 21 actual intakes that were completed. So we 22 had a lot of calls coming in, that once we 23 answered the line, I'm sorry I have the 24 wrong number; or they may stay on with us 25 for a little while and decide they don't

29 1 want to stay on the call. Some of these 2 individuals were truly looking for the 3 skins or the mobile apps that they're 4 utilizing, and they saw a phone number and 5 called it. Motivation made it, may have 6 been a complaint, trying to get a bet in, 7 who knows what it might have been. And 8 that's normal for us. We do get a lot of 9 calls, that once we answer the line it's 10 I'm sorry, I didn't mean to call you. 11 I'm also pointing this out because 12 there's a lot of ambivalence with those 13 struggling with Problem Gambling. And 14 what we've learned is it takes a lot of 15 calls into the Helpline before we actually 16 walk someone through a complete intake 17 where we can make some referrals and 18 recommendations and help to engage them 19 into treatment. And that ambivalence is 20 -- brings them to making the call, but not 21 being comfortable following through the -- 22 with the call. It could be ten and twenty 23 times, and it could be over a span of 24 years this happens to individuals. And 25 when that happens, the financial damage	30 1 that is done that lays behind them, the 2 family damage, legal damage, employment 3 damage, can really build up. 4 So this next slide is looking at the 5 same two comparisons of Superbowl 6 weekends, but I had mentioned earlier that 7 we answer for more than just the State of 8 Louisiana. So if you notice here on 9 Superbowl Sunday 2024 when we include all 10 of the gambling lines that we're answering 11 for, there were 858 calls that came in. 12 That's a lot of calls in one day. That 13 was a very busy Call Center. And we only 14 staff up for situations like this when we 15 know it's predictable that we are going to 16 have a higher than usual call volume. We 17 didn't expect 1,397 calls that happened in 18 2025. So I just kind of want that to soak 19 in a little bit. That's a significant 20 increase; and, actually, that is a 63% 21 increase over the prior year. And when I 22 talk to you about parleys and in-game 23 betting, I'm confident that there is a 24 correlation between these two, but I will 25 also openly say I express that only to be
31 1 what I believe to be a correlation. There 2 is national research that parley and 3 in-game betting is on the increase and 4 with our younger population that's 5 stepping into gaming. So I just take the 6 next step from there to make that 7 comparison for awareness. 8 All right. And I am -- I promise 9 I'm winding up. So this is a continuum of 10 Problem Gambling. It's a very simple 11 chart, but I bring this to the forefront 12 because most individuals -- most of us in 13 the State of Louisiana, we fall within 14 non-gambling, recreational gambling, and 15 maybe a few at at-risk gambling. And when 16 I say most of us, by in large, the 17 population of us in this state, that's 18 where we fall. And if you've ever been to 19 a party and had more drinks than you 20 intended to have and regretted it the next 21 day and you're not an alcoholic, a lot of 22 those people fall into this at-risk 23 gambling category. There may have been an 24 event that they bet too much on, they 25 regretted it, wished they hadn't. And a	32 1 lot of those individuals can reel it back 2 in, and this can be a form of 3 entertainment that they enjoy. Some of 4 those individuals, it grows further down 5 that line into Problem Gambling and 6 Gambling Disorder. And that's where we 7 speak up and try to be of help. 8 So the geography of Prevalence of 9 gambling. So according to the National 10 Council on Problem Gambling, approximately 11 3-4% of the adult population meets the 12 criteria that I had expressed just a 13 moment ago. An interesting stat that I 14 think is going to really evolve over time 15 is a person living within 50 miles of a 16 casino is twice as likely to develop 17 Problem Gambling than those who are 18 further than 50 miles away. It will be 19 interesting to see how this changes as 20 more and more gaming and gambling becomes 21 virtual. 22 In Louisiana -- and again this is 23 the 2017 study, the most recent Prevalence 24 study is -- is not quite published yet -- 25 revealed that approximately 179,000

33 1 Louisiana residents are at risk. Only 2 about 10% of people with a gambling 3 problem seek treatment. And part of that 4 goes back to the point I made about the 5 call volume that comes in and how many of 6 those translate into intakes and 7 referrals. 8 Interestingly, there's a national 9 study that shows that those struggling 10 with Gambling Disorder, of the different 11 addictive disorders that are out there, 12 they're the least likely to believe that 13 treatment works. And I found that to be 14 very interesting and don't have an answer 15 as to why that would be the case. 16 There -- there are unique 17 differences between those dealing with 18 Problem Gambling and those dealing with 19 the other addictive disorders. And 20 treatment with them is addressed in -- in 21 a different way. But interesting that 22 they find that it's least likely to work 23 for them. 24 So where do we go from here? Evolve 25 in how we continue to connect an	34 1 individual in need to resources across the 2 state. We are becoming an increasingly -- 3 a society driven by technology. So how do 4 we continue to embrace that technology to 5 be in front of the individuals that are in 6 need with resources and provide some 7 resources in an innovative way that maybe 8 we haven't in the past? Educate the -- 9 the power of prevention and the 10 effectiveness of treatment. We see with 11 smoking, we see with under-age drinking, 12 that prevention at earlier ages makes a 13 positive impact on those problems. So the 14 idea of strengthening our prevention 15 programs with the young people of our 16 communities - elementary, middle school, 17 high school - that education will help 18 them to recognize the risks that's in 19 front of them so that they don't stumble 20 into that risk. The idea of effectiveness 21 of treatment, we need to be more vocal 22 about how well treatment works. There are 23 some strong success rates within the State 24 of Louisiana that I believe to be maybe 25 even slightly higher than the national
35 1 average. We need to be bragging on those 2 things so our residents know that 3 treatment does work, and it's available. 4 When it comes to media campaigns -- 5 and I made this point a moment ago -- 6 we're looking down more than we're looking 7 up. With LACG, right around January of 8 this year, we really changed our media 9 campaign. So we're less about being on 10 billboards or bus routes and that kind of 11 thing. How do we get on streaming 12 platforms? So we're on streaming 13 platforms now talking about the Helpline. 14 We are on ESPN Mobile talking about the 15 Helpline. And, really, I'm -- I'm testing 16 the waters. I'm looking to see if this 17 helps to make an impact to get in front of 18 people that we haven't been in front of 19 before. But I think we need to continue 20 to look that way on how we get in front of 21 a population that is different than it was 22 ten, twenty, thirty years ago. And then, 23 finally, support the clinical skills-set 24 of the professionals making themselves 25 available to those looking to find	36 1 recovery. Because we know that there is 2 more need out there that is being 3 connected to treatment. We see it in 4 court. We see it in our own outpatient 5 programs. And I hear it regularly from 6 local governing entities that have 7 dedicated clinicians to provide these 8 services and not many individuals are 9 being connected. So we continue to think 10 outside of the box as we collaborate, I 11 mean all of us when I talk about that. 12 About how we can better connect people, 13 but also thinking about, you know, 14 different ways to provide that service 15 possibly, and maybe tell if that was the 16 direction that it can go to be helpful. 17 But how we can just better get that 18 individual through that Lifeline of that 19 initial reach out for help, to being 20 connected with, in contact and working 21 with skilled professionals that can help 22 them through the clinical aspect of 23 Problem Gambling and final recovery and 24 help them through the financial aspect of 25 final recovery.

37 1 And with that, I -- I leave it open 2 to any questions. I may have spoken a 3 little longer than intended, Chairperson. 4 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 5 Very important topic, though. 6 Board Members, are there any 7 questions for Mr. Pledger? 8 Judge Sholes? 9 JUDGE SHOLES: 10 Good morning. Considering the -- 11 what you've just informed us that the 12 proximity to a casino increases the 13 probability of having the problem, should 14 we be investing more in inpatient 15 treatment facilities and services south of 16 I-10 or at the southern half of the state? 17 MR. LEDGER: 18 So in the history of LACG, there 19 were actually -- there was actually the 20 CORE Residential Treatment Program, that's 21 often referred to as inpatient in the 22 Shreveport/Bossier area, and there was 23 actually a CORE South that was in the New 24 Orleans area. And after Hurricanes 25 Katrina and Rita, LACG, we chose not to	38 1 reopen CORE South. It was a struggle to 2 keep it occupied. 3 I -- I think there is an opportunity 4 for there to be a residential program in 5 north and south Louisiana. What we 6 learned when we had two programs is some 7 individuals wanted to stay closer to home 8 as they went through residential 9 treatment. Others wanted to step out of 10 their own community for that treatment and 11 then come back. I think if there were two 12 op -- options, we would see the same type 13 of thing happen. Again, I think there is 14 more connection to the individuals in need 15 and the capacity is there, but I can see 16 some benefits of there being a program in 17 South Louisiana as well. 18 JUDGE SHOLES: 19 Thank you. 20 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 21 Any other questions, Board Members? 22 And Judge Sholes, we -- Mr. Pledger 23 and I, did have that discussion when I 24 visited with him. It was a wonderful 25 visit and I think just from his
39 1 presentation today, you all can see that 2 he is an innovative thinker in this space. 3 We also both agreed that, you know, as 4 there is rapid change in the ease within 5 the last few years with which individuals 6 are able to gamble, it's going to require 7 innovative and new ways of bringing 8 awareness to -- and I'm going to say the 9 wonderful services, and I -- and correct 10 me if I'm wrong, but I think Louisiana has 11 -- is the only state that has free 12 services for Problem Gamblers and their 13 families. 14 Just in the last few months we've 15 had several meetings with the Office of 16 Behavioral Health, and I'm very excited 17 about some of the things that I've heard 18 over -- just over the past few weeks about 19 new and innovative ways that we're going 20 to bring awareness to Problem Gambling in 21 this state. 22 Mr. Pledger -- and -- and finally, I 23 have to also acknowledge the wonderful 24 work that's being done by the attorneys 25 over at the Attorney General's Office in	40 1 the Gaming Division and the Problem 2 Gambling Resource Services Program. We 3 have -- or they have shared a -- a 4 wonderful partnership with LACG in the 5 past, and I hope that under Ms. Himel's 6 leadership that continues as well, Mr. 7 Pledger. But just know that you have a 8 partner in this Gaming Control Board, and 9 I look forward to our continued 10 partnership. And thank you for your time 11 today. 12 MR. PLEDGER: 13 Thank y'all very much. 14 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 15 Okay. At this time we will move on 16 to Item VII, Casino Gaming Issues. 17 First up is the Consideration of the 18 Certificate of Compliance for the 19 Alternate Riverboat Inspection of the 20 gaming vessel of PNK (Baton Rouge) 21 Partnership, doing business as L'Auberge 22 Casino and Hotel Baton Rouge. 23 Good morning, Gentleman. Please 24 identify yourselves for the record. 25 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS, JR:

41 1 Assistant Attorney General Kanick 2 Lewis, Jr. 3 MR. FRANCIC: 4 I'm John Francic with AVS. 5 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS, JR: 6 Good morning, Chairman Hebert and 7 Board Members, Mr. Francic and I are here 8 to discuss the issuance of L'Auberge Baton 9 Rouge Casino's Certificate of Compliance. 10 On June 24, the inspection process began 11 for the annual certificate approval. At 12 that time, there were no deficiencies 13 noted. We request that upon the Board 14 accepting the report submitted by AVS, you 15 will move for the issuance of L'Auberge 16 Baton Rouge Casino's Certificate of 17 Compliance, which expires on August 31st 18 of 2026. 19 Mr. Francic will now provide details 20 on the inspection. 21 MR. FRANCIC: 22 Good morning, Chairman and Board 23 Members. 24 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 25 Good morning.	42 1 MR. FRANCIC: 2 I'm here today to present the 3 results of the 2025 annual hull and life 4 safety examination for L'Auberge Casino 5 Baton Rouge. On June 25th and 25th -- on 6 -- on June 24th and 25th, AVS inspectors, 7 Jeff Boyle and Pete Bullard conducted the 8 required annual inspection for L'Auberge 9 Baton Rouge Casino in accordance with the 10 Louisiana Gaming Alternate Inspection 11 Program. 12 The inspection included a 13 comprehensive review of key safety systems 14 of vessel integrity. The team evaluated 15 fire protection measures, verified the 16 egress routes, observed the operation of 17 emergency lighting, tested emergency 18 generator, examined the mooring system, 19 and oversaw a fire drill. Other required 20 life safety elements were also addressed 21 during the visit. 22 There -- there were no deficiencies 23 reported during the safety inspection. 24 Based on our thorough evaluation of the 25 2025 annual survey required by the
43 1 Louisiana Gaming Control Board, it is now 2 considered complete. It is recommended 3 that -- of AVS that L'Auberge Baton Rouge 4 Casino be issued a Certificate of 5 Compliance. 6 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 7 Okay. Board Members, are there any 8 questions of Mr. Lewis or Mr. Francic? 9 If not, I will entertain a motion to 10 issue an annual Certificate of Compliance, 11 which expires August 31st of 2026. 12 So moved by Ms. Becnel; seconded by 13 Mr. Langley. 14 Is there any discussion? 15 Any opposition? 16 Hearing none, that motion passes. 17 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS, JR: 18 Thank you. 19 MR. FRANCIC: 20 Thank you. 21 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 22 Our next item is Item B, the 23 Consideration of the Certificate of 24 Compliance for the Riverboat Gaming 25 Landside Facility of Louisiana Casino	44 1 Cruises, LLC, doing business as The Queen 2 Baton Rouge. 3 Mr. Lewis. 4 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS, JR: 5 Good morning, Chairman Hebert and 6 Board Members, again, I'm Assistant 7 Attorney General Kanick Lewis, Jr and I'm 8 here on the matter of the issuance of a 9 Certificate of Compliance for The Queen 10 Casino Baton Rouge. On May 15th, the 11 Louisiana State Fire Marshal began the 12 inspection process for the approval of The 13 Queen's annual Certificate of Compliance. 14 At the time of the initial inspection, 15 there were deficiencies noted. The 16 property corrected the issues, and the 17 Fire Marshal completed a re-inspection on 18 August 4th. The Board has a copy of those 19 reports; and as you can see, there were no 20 issues found at the time of the 21 re-inspection. I now present these 22 findings to the Board and request that 23 upon the Board accepting the report as 24 submitted by the State Fire Marshal, you 25 will move for the issuance of The Queen

45 1 Casino's Certificate of Compliance, which 2 will expire on August 31st of 2026. 3 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 4 Board Members, are there any 5 questions for Mr. Lewis? 6 I do know that Mr. Bruce Woods, 7 General Manager of The Queen is here. I 8 don't think we have any questions for him, 9 but I just wanted to acknowledge you. 10 Good to see you, Mr. Woods. 11 If there are no questions, I will 12 entertain a motion to issue an annual 13 Certificate of Compliance, which expires 14 on August 31, 2026. 15 So moved by Ms. Hamilton-Acker; 16 seconded by Mr. Poole. 17 Is there any discussion? 18 Any opposition? 19 Hearing none, that motion carries. 20 Thank you. 21 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS, JR: 22 Thank you. 23 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 24 Board Members, we'll now move into 25 our final agenda item, Item VIII, Video	46 1 Gaming Issues. And Item A under VIII is 2 the Consideration of the truck stop 3 application for Amelia Petroleum, LLC, 4 doing business as UNO Casino. 5 Good morning and please identify 6 yourself for the record. 7 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL NATHAN: 8 Good morning, Chairman Hebert and 9 Board Members, I'm Assistant Attorney 10 General Andrea Nathan. 11 INVESTIGATOR VERRETT: 12 Criminal Investigator Glenn Verrett, 13 Louisiana State Police, Gaming Enforcement 14 Division. 15 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL NATHAN: 16 We are appearing before you this 17 morning in the matter of the Original 18 Application of Amelia Petroleum, LLC, 19 doing business as UNO Casino for a Type 5 20 Video Draw Poker Gaming Licence. 21 The proposed truck stop facility is 22 located in St. Mary Parish, at 9699 23 Highway 182 East in Morgan City. This 24 facility has never been licensed as a 25 truck stop. The Applicant provided a
47 1 letter from a registered civil engineer to 2 verify that the facility meets the one 3 mile rule provided by Louisiana Revised 4 Statute 27:422. 5 Shakeel Shamsuddin and Aslam Noorani 6 each hold a 50% membership interest in the 7 applicant. The spouses of both members 8 have completed Acts of Donation. The 9 interests held by Mr. Shamsuddin and Mr. 10 Sorrani -- Noorani -- excuse me -- are 11 their separate property, with a 12 reservation of fruits and revenues. 13 On February 3, 2025, the Applicant 14 leased the immovable property of the 15 proposed truck stop facility located at 16 the pro -- proposed truck stop facility is 17 located on along with all improvements, 18 rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, 19 appurtenances, and advantages from Morgan 20 City Holding, LLC; and the Applicant 21 entered into a Video Draw Poker Device 22 Placement Agreement with S&K Amusement, 23 LLC. 24 Investigator Glenn Verrett inspected 25 the proposed truck stop facility and	48 1 conducted updated suitability 2 investigations of the associated persons. 3 He is present this morning to report his 4 findings to the Board. And following his 5 presentation, the Board will need a motion 6 and vote to approve or deny the Original 7 Application of Amelia Petroleum, LLC, 8 doing business as UNO Casino. 9 INVESTIGATOR VERRETT: 10 Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Board 11 Members. 12 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 13 Good morning. 14 INVESTIGATOR VERRETT: 15 Again, I'm Investigator Glenn 16 Verrett with the State Police Gaming 17 Enforcement Division. I conducted updated 18 suitability investigations of Shakeel 19 Shamsuddin and Aslam N. Noorani. I did 20 not find any information that would 21 preclude them from continuing to 22 participate in the Video Gaming Industry. 23 An on-site inspection was conducted, 24 and it was determined that the 25 establishment meets all of the criteria of

49 1 a qualified truck stop facility as set 2 forth in Video Gaming Law. The truck 3 parking area is constructed of asphalt, 4 accommodating 50 tractor trailers. The 5 travel lanes are constructed of concrete 6 and meet the requirements for ingress and 7 egress. There is a separate trucker's 8 lounge, a full service laundry facility, 9 private showers for men and women, and a 10 travel store with trucker's supplies. The 11 truck stop has a restaurant on-site that 12 is owner-operated. It has permanent 13 storage facilities for fuel with 3 storage 14 tanks. Gulf Coast Complete Diesel 15 Services, Incorporated will provide the 16 on-site repair services. All required 17 licenses and permits were posted and valid 18 at the time of inspection. 19 The establishment consists of 12.969 20 contiguous acres. The Applicant's 21 proposed truck stop facility complies with 22 Louisiana law, because it is not located 23 within one mile of any property listed on 24 the National Register of Historic Places, 25 public playgrounds, residential property	50 1 or a building primarily used as a church, 2 synagogue, or public library or school. 3 I found no information that would 4 preclude the issuance of a Type 5 Video 5 Draw Poker Gaming License to Amelia 6 Petroleum, LLC, doing business as UNO 7 Casino. 8 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 9 Thank you. 10 Board Members, are there any 11 questions for the Attorney General's 12 Office or State Police? 13 If not, I will entertain a motion to 14 approve the truck stop application. 15 And that motion has -- has been 16 approved. I'm sorry, motion made -- 17 excuse me -- by Ms. Lewis; and seconded by 18 Judge Sholes. 19 Is there any discussion? 20 Any opposition? 21 Hearing none, that application is 22 approved. 23 Thank you. 24 INVESTIGATOR VERRETT: 25 Thank you.
51 1 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL NATHAN: 2 Thank you. 3 CHAIRMAN HEBERT: 4 At this time, Board Members, we come 5 to the end of our agenda. I would ask for 6 a motion that we adjourn. 7 So moved by Mr. Jackson; and 8 seconded by Ms. Lewis. 9 We are adjourned. 10 Ladies and gentlemen, have a great 11 day. 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	52 1 REPORTER'S PAGE 2 3 4 I, BELINDA K. AMERSON, Certified Court 5 Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, the 6 officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal 7 Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Article 1434 (B) 8 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, before 9 whom this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby 10 state on the record: 11 That due to the interaction in the 12 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding, dashes 13 (--) have been used to indicate pauses, changes 14 in thought, and/or talkovers; that same is the 15 proper method for a Court Reporter's 16 transcription of a proceeding, and that dashes 17 (--) do not indicate that words or phrases have 18 been left out of this transcript; also, that any 19 words and/or names which could not be verified 20 through reference material have been denoted with 21 the phrase "(phonetically spelled)." 22 23 24 BELINDA K. AMERSON, CCR 25 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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2 This certificate is valid only for a
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8 do hereby certify that this hearing was reported
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19 defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure
20 Article 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions
21 of the board;

22 That I am not related to counsel or the
23 parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in
24 the outcome of this matter.

25

BELINDA K. AMERSON, CCR
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