

INDUSTRY MATTERS

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CALIFORNIA YOUTH ARE BETTING ON THEIR FUTURE AND RAISING PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS

Young people are raising awareness of underage gambling and problem gambling behaviors across California through the [Betting on Our Future](#) (BOOF) multimedia campaign, which mobilizes young people to create lasting changes in their communities.

In 2006, the [California Friday Night Live Partnership](#) engaged youth regarding their perceptions of problem gambling and its prevalence in their communities. The focus groups found that gambling behavior is common amongst youth, takes on many forms, and occurs in many places. The BOOF program was developed to support young people to raise awareness and has continued to address the perceptions and conditions that promote underage gambling. This year, as part of the Betting on Our Future campaign, 25 sites in 11 counties have conducted research, engaged local lottery merchants, shifted social norms, and utilized social media to educate their peers and adults of the dangers of underage gambling and to reduce youth access to gambling activities and products.

BOOF participants began the campaign by administering a statewide survey to assess the norms, attitudes, and behaviors of underage gambling among youth in California. The 2022 survey found that over 94% of respondents started gambling under the age of 18 and more than 1 in 3 were 10 years old or younger when they first gambled. This data helps inform multimedia messages that encourage youth to not gamble and encourage youth and adults to reach out for help if they are participating in problem gambling behaviors.

As part of the project, youth are responsible for developing public service announcements (PSAs) to communicate the risks and signs of problem gambling among youth. The PSAs are shared through [online and streaming platforms](#) statewide. Young people will also create gambling prevention-themed digital artwork to be used in printed publications to inform parents and other concerned adults of the warning signs of problem gambling and the resources available to help their families. The youth inform the public of the no-cost, confidential services that are accessible through the California Office of Problem Gambling’s 1-800-GAMBLER hotline and website.

A critical outcome of Betting On Our Future are the youth and adult partnerships that are forged in pursuit of creating healthier communities. Youth members connect with local merchants to conduct store reviews, make recommendations for reducing youth access to lottery tickets in-store, and collect merchant pledges as a sign of commitment to the youth-driven Betting On Our Future objectives, as well as conduct Town Hall meetings and engage stakeholders and other community members in their prevention efforts.

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CGCC Calendar

Upcoming Licensing Meetings

- April 5*
- April 20*
- May 4*
- May 18*
- June 8*
- June 22*

Gaming Policy Advisory Committee (GPAC)

April 18

Upcoming State Holidays

(Office Closed)

May 29 (Memorial Day)

This article was provided by the California Friday Night Live Partnership. For more information, please visit their [website](#).

California Gambling Control Commission

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OPG CHIEF UPDATES COMMISSION ON PGAM, CALGETS, AND NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

On March 9, [Office of Problem Gambling](#) (OPG) Chief Sosha Marasigan-Quintero presented to the Commission for Problem Gambling Awareness Month, giving an update on OPG’s 14th annual training summit, a CalGETS (California Gambling Education and Treatment Services Program) overview, and OPG’s new Strategic Plan for 2023-2027.

The Problem Gambling Training Summit offered FREE live and pre-recorded workshops throughout March, including “The Blurred Lines of Gambling and Day Trading,” “Earned Media: How to Spotlight Your Program and Reach More Help Seekers,” and “Understanding How to Link the Latino, Immigrant, and Refugee Communities to Mental Health Services.”

These courses were just a few of the new additions for the 2023 summit, which also made past workshops available for viewing.

Ms. Marasigan-Quintero detailed the resources available through CalGETS, which include outpatient and residential treatment programs, and the 1-800-GAMBLER phone line that is available 24/7 in English, Spanish, and several Asian languages.

Ms. Marasigan-Quintero also explained OPG’s efforts on updating problem gambling prevalence data in California via their participation in the California Health Information Survey, and plans on completing a comparison study of other states’ problem gambling treatment services programs by Summer 2023.

The OPG Strategic Plan for 2023-2027 outlined several goals, including delivering education and services to high-risk communities; compiling efficient data to ensure equitable resource distribution; and increasing cultural inclusion and in-language services for a diverse population.

The Commission applauds OPG for their tireless work on helping vulnerable populations through their problem gambling resources, and is excited for what’s to come as a result of OPG’s ambitious and thorough Strategic Plan.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

The Commission congratulates Commissioner Edward Yee on his re-appointment to the Commission! Commissioner Yee’s new term runs through 2026.

The Commission welcomes a new Budget Analyst, Dan Sibley, to the Operations Services Division! Dan comes to us from Intel, where he was an analyst in Revenue Budgeting. Before Intel, Dan worked for almost 10 years in institutional finance.

HAVE AN EVIDENTIARY HEARING BEFORE THE COMMISSION? HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR HEARING

By Kate Patterson
Staff Attorney

The Commission began utilizing Zoom video conferencing to hold Gambling Control Act (GCA) evidentiary hearings in April 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Zoom is a communications platform that allows users to connect with the Commission via video and audio. Users can join a GCA hearing from the Commission's website by selecting the "[Meetings](#)" tab and following the link under "Join Zoom Meeting" or by entering the meeting ID (285 757 8614) through the Zoom application. Using Zoom for GCA hearings has several benefits, such as making hearings more accessible to applicants and witnesses who would otherwise have to travel to the Commission's hearing room in Sacramento. However, utilizing Zoom also presents unique challenges for applicants. Here are some tips to ensure that you are prepared to use Zoom for your GCA hearing:

Ask for Help

Applicants should familiarize themselves with and be prepared to use Zoom prior to the prehearing conference. Using Zoom requires an internet connection and a supported device, such as a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Applicants having difficulties using Zoom should contact the Commission's assigned presiding officer or the [administrative hearings coordinator](#) to request assistance. Commission staff will assist applicants as much as possible with issues including Zoom help, internet access, appropriate location, or device to use. Applicants should also address any Zoom issues with their Designated Agent, as their employer may be able to offer assistance, such as a quiet location and computer to use for the hearing.

Ensure Exhibits Are Accessible

Applicants should have access to exhibits during the hearing. For example, applicants can print the documents or view them from a second device so that they can see the exhibits being discussed during the hearing.

Prepare Witnesses

Witnesses can join the meeting from any location using Zoom as long as they are provided with the Zoom link or meeting ID. In most cases, witnesses will be placed in a Zoom waiting room until it is their turn to testify. However, applicants can also contact witnesses to let them know that it is time for them to join the hearing to testify. Parties should provide copies of any exhibits they plan to question the witness about to the witness, or be prepared to share the document using the screen sharing function.

Be Professional

Zoom allows for applicants to attend GCA hearings in a less formal setting, such as from their own home. However, applicants should be cognizant that GCA hearings are still formal proceedings where Commissioners will view and listen to applicants to make determinations about character and credibility. Therefore, it is beneficial for applicants to ensure that their surroundings and appearance are appropriate for a formal GCA hearing.

Power and Device

Zoom requires a computer, tablet, or phone, which requires a ready power source. In some cases, the battery for these devices may not be sufficient to power the device during the entirety of a GCA hearing. It is vital that an applicant have a power cable, charger, or battery handy. Depending on your device capability, it may also be prudent to have a second device within reach, just to be safe.

Questions?

If you have any questions about an upcoming GCA hearing, please contact the Commission's Administrative Hearings Coordinator, Pam Mathauser, at pmathauser@cgcc.ca.gov or Chief Counsel Jason Pope at jpope@cgcc.ca.gov. Also, please check out the [Administrative Hearings FAQs](#) on our website.

REGULATIONS UPDATE: COMPLETE YOUR TRANSACTIONS REGS SURVEY! ALSO, PUBLIC COMMENT ON SURVEILLANCE REGS COMING SOON

By Rebecca Kirk, Josh Rosenstein, and Alex Hunter
Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Division

Transactions

The Commission held a workshop on draft Transactions regulations on December 13, 2022. The Commission directed staff to make additional revisions to the [proposed modifications](#) to the draft text and to bring this matter back before the Commission for consideration at a later date.

Additionally, the Commission directed staff to conduct an updated survey to gather data on the volume of transactions that would be reported under the draft regulations (a previous survey was conducted for an earlier version of these proposed regulations in 2018). This updated survey is currently underway; Designated Agents received survey instructions via email on March 10, 2023. We encourage and appreciate industry participation in the survey by **April 7, 2023** to better inform development of these proposed regulations.

Surveillance

The 45-day written comment period for the proposed Surveillance regulations will commence soon—please keep an eye out for the notification, and sign up for the [Rulemaking email subscription list](#) if you have not already done so. The [proposed regulations](#) amend Minimum Internal Control Standards regulations concerning surveillance requirements for gambling establishments.

Advertising

The 45-day written comment period for the proposed regulations ended February 13, 2023. The [proposed regulations](#) establish new definitions for gambling-related advertisements, a regulatory framework for the Bureau to evaluate advertisements, and an enforcement mechanism for non-compliance. The Commission anticipates holding a regulations hearing to consider public comments on these proposed regulations, and to deliberate on final adoption or any modifications to the draft text, within the coming months.

Spousal Community Property (Phase II)

At the October 19, 2022 meeting regarding proposed regulations for a Spousal Form Update (Phase I), the Commission directed staff to consider promulgating additional regulations to limit the circumstances under which an owner category licensee’s spouse with a community property interest is required to apply for licensure. Commission staff is continuing to research this issue and will provide an update in the near future.

Hearing Results

(Decisions Effective January 1 — March 31)

State Gambling License
[Fortiss, LLC, approved with conditions February 27](#)

Third-Party Provider License
[Knighted Ventures, approved with conditions February 27](#)

Third-Party Worker License
[Marcos Cabrera, denied March 13](#)
[Xiaojun Chen, approved March 13](#)

Key Employee License
[Scott Hayden, revoked February 13](#)
[Eric Cannon, approved March 9](#)

Tribal Key Employee
[Shin Lee, denied February 13](#)

Work Permit
[Brandt Goodwin, denied March 13](#)

Do You Have 30 Seconds?

Of course you do. Please consider spending those 30 seconds by taking our newest [stakeholder survey](#) and give us feedback about our [CGCC Resource Guide](#), which gives you all the relevant gaming regulations and laws that every person in the California gambling industry should know.

Why should I get the updated booster?

- Increases immunity against COVID-19 and its variants.
- Provides the greatest protection from severe illness, hospitalization, long COVID, and death

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