

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LEGISLATORS FROM GAMING STATES
COMMITTEE ON PARI-MUTUELS
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015
DRAFT MINUTES

The Committee on Pari-Mutuels of the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS) met at the Water Club at Borgata in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on Friday, June 12, at 10:00 a.m.

Rep. Helene Keeley of Delaware, acting committee chair, presided.

Other legislators present included:

Sen. Bill Cowsert, GA
Rep. Matt Ramsey, GA
Rep. Lois Delmore, ND
Rep. Marvin Abney, RI
Del. Eric Nelson, Jr., WV

Others present were:

Susan Nolan, Nolan Associates, NCLGS Executive Director
Candace Thorson, Nolan Associates

MINUTES

The Committee accepted the minutes of its last meeting on January 9, 2015, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

RACEHORSE DRUG AND THERAPEUTIC MEDICATION REGULATION AND TESTING INITIATIVES

Dr. Dionne Benson with the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) said that the RMTC is comprised of 23 industry stakeholders including breed registries, race tracks, horsemen's groups, and industry groups, with highly varied viewpoints on the subject of racing medication and testing. She said the job of the RMTC is to make science based recommendations and policy recommendations related to medications, illicit substances, and laboratory testing.

Ms. Benson reported that the National Uniform Medication Program began in the Mid-Atlantic region in 2013. She said this is a four-part program that consists of a controlled therapeutic substances list, third-party lasix administration, accreditation of laboratories, and a multiple medication violation program. She said the program is endorsed by over 60 horse racing stakeholders.

Ms. Benson said that the controlled therapeutic substances list is a list of medications that are allowed to be present in a horse on race day. She noted that this does not mean that they can have 26 medications given on race day. She reported that currently there are 26 medications on the list, which are accompanied by dose, route, and withdrawal guidance. She said that the controlled therapeutic substances list has been adopted by 17 states, and another ten states are in the process or have substantially approved substances on the list.

Ms. Benson noted that the only medication that is allowed to be administered on race day, under the National Uniform Medication Program, is furosemide, which is also known as lasix. She said the reason for the use of furosemide is to control exercise induced pulmonary hemorrhage. She said RMTC recommends that veterinarians under the control of the racing commission administer furosemide in order to prevent any appearance of impropriety of a veterinarian being in a stall with a horse that is racing the same day. She reported that third party lasix administration is in effect in 14 jurisdictions, with 7 other jurisdictions in the process or considering.

Ms. Benson said that there are approximately 14 laboratories in the United States that test for horse racing medications. She said that RMTC Laboratory Accreditation is the highest level of accreditation available to United States horse racing laboratories. She said the goal of RMTC Accreditation is to ensure that all laboratories are operating at the same high level of proficiency. She reported that there are currently five fully accredited laboratories, one interim accredited laboratory, and two additional applicants.

Ms. Benson said that the Multiple Medication Violation Program's goal is to punish individuals who receive repeated medication violations and deter repeat offenders. She said this system works similarly to a point system for driver's license violations. She said that offenders are issued points based on the severity of the medication violation and the time in which it was obtained. She said the punishment is a suspension that can last for 30 day to 360 days depending on how many points are accrued.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

