CHAIR JAMES: I would refer you to the American Gaming Association documents that were distributed right after lunch, that has policy initiatives on responsible gaming for unattended minors, advertising, and marketing. And also for those of you who requested it.

CHAIR JAMES: John, I would ask that you go ahead and begin to give us a sort of summary or outline of where we are on this particular issue.

DR. SHOSKY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The next chapter that we are talking about is adolescent gambling, and there are a few issues here that are very interesting and segue nicely into the discussion we just had.

One issue that we have been exploring, as we have been constructing the chapter is definitions in scope. And for that we are relying, of course, on studies, not the estimates in the literature, but we have been digging through the few studies that are available.

But what has been very interesting in looking at this is to go through the commentary about the reasons why adolescents gamble. That is noted as point four on the outline.

There is a multitude of reasons, some of them very specific to adolescents, some of the problems that adolescents confront, perhaps without education, or defenses, or maturity, in order to be able, you know, to make better judgements.

And it is the reasons for that gambling that I think are very interesting, and hopefully we will make that clear in the report.

In addition to that I’m hoping that we will be able to take some of the data out of the studies that one would normally
look at, under sports wagering, and cross apply some of that information here, in particular this is what I have in mind.

As you know, many of those studies contain information about high school gamblers. And while the information is gathered because of an interest in sports gambling, there is information in those studies that would be directly applicable here in terms of underage high school gambling. So we will be doing that in the chapter.

As well we are looking at the supporting mechanisms, they vary quite a bit, but there is some very interesting and unique programs, in terms of enforcement, that we would like to highlight. And, in fact, what we are doing is we are going through a variety of enforcement efforts.

Finally, in this chapter, I hope we will talk about industry efforts. And what I mean by that, in particular, are strong statements of commitments to eliminate underage gambling by a wide variety of people across the spectrum, including very prominent industries.

I’m hoping by showing all these statements to demonstrate that there is an opinion in the industry and also in the groups that are trying to curtail gambling on this one issue, that everybody is in agreement, at least I’m trying to show this, that there is a climate of opinion of agreement about illuminating the very change.

CHAIR JAMES: With that I would like to open it up for discussion. John?

COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I realize, John, this is only an outline, and possibly this would be in there. But I think it is particularly important, in talking about adolescent gambling, to
talk about what kinds of gambling adolescents appear to do, which is not specifically mentioned in here.

And, as you know, a considerable amount of material in some of the research that they are finishing, that we contracted for, as well as in some of the testimony, and the research that has been brought to our attention on this subject; the NORC survey, for example, says that not surprisingly because of the age limits that hardly any of this occurs in casinos.

We know from the sports gambling discussion that a great deal of it is sports gambling, which is illegal in most places, and so on. But I think it is extremely important to talk about what kinds of gambling adolescents tend to do.

CHAIR JAMES: Great.

COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I startled you by being so brief.

CHAIR JAMES: You did, I expected at least more --

COMMISSIONER WILHELM: -- few minutes.

COMMISSIONER MOORE: Now, in our report, and I apologize -- but didn’t one of the reports that we had on adolescent gambling, wasn’t one of the findings was that adolescents gaming is not as prevalent today as it was ten years ago?

COMMISSIONER DOBSON: That is a sore subject, Paul. Obviously that was the issue that I strongly disagreed with.

COMMISSIONER MOORE: What I’m saying, in that -- but aren’t I correct in saying that that was one of the findings?

COMMISSIONER DOBSON: It certainly was, from my perspective, yes.

COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: I think the conclusion I came to, and perhaps my colleagues in the research committee may not
agree with me, is that the investment in research on youth and gambling really is not that fruitful if a part of the national population, we got some information that is useful, but had we had the time, and the money, at the time that the Commission had to make the research priorities, it should have been, as Dr. Westfall of Louisiana is doing it at the school level, and it would have to be on a sustained basis through three or four years.

So I think one of the things we should acknowledge, when we get into the area of research, is that we will not have been as helpful to the public on that sector of our research, as we would have wanted to be.

COMMISSIONER DOBSON: Well said.

COMMISSIONER MOORE: My only point for bringing this up is as I said yesterday, and as I said this morning, I hate to see in every Indian a claim that he has to make his living on gambling.

And with that said, adolescents gaming, gaming has gotten so prevalent, and adolescent gaming, to me, is one of the most important things that we will discuss. Having been a schoolteacher before I was fortunate enough to go to medical school, and coached many athletic teams, the youth -- we don’t have to convince, the youth is our future.

And we need to come out, with whatever findings there are, I think that here is 8 men, or 9 men with pretty good brains, and we need to come out, if not recommendations, we need to come up with suggestions how to decrease adolescent gaming.

COMMISSIONER BIBLE: Eight men, and Madam Chair.

COMMISSIONER MOORE: Kay is okay.

CHAIR JAMES: I’m not going there.
COMMISSIONER DOBSON: Let me give the Commission an easy one, a recommendation that adolescents and underage gamblers -- let me start over.

Mandatory minimum legal age of 21 should be applicable to all forms of gambling.

COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: Second.

COMMISSIONER BIBLE: I think we generally agreed with that yesterday.

COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I agree with that, and I -- at the risk of misrepresenting Mr. Lanni in absentia, I believe he said that in the course of our proceedings, as well.

CHAIR JAMES: And, again, I would refer Commissioners to the unattended children and minor section in the AGA information that we just got, because in reading it I thought the language was really quite excellent in what they are suggesting. It should be in the document --

COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: They also recommended that 21 year old statutory limit in their list of recommendations to us.

But I would urge that that be to every form of gambling including state lotteries. I must admit that until I got some information, I was unaware that so many states allowed 18 year olds to gamble, in different or all forms of gambling, many many states.

So this is far more pervasive than I had the impression it was, and that ought to be a very clear recommendation.

COMMISSIONER DOBSON: And we heard testimony that in South Carolina that children of any age can gamble, they just can't collect their earnings. So 4, 5, 6, 8 year olds participate in video poker.
CHAIR JAMES: Some of those were excellent suggestions.

Do you all have that?

COMMISSIONER DOBSON: It was passed out at lunchtime.

CHAIR JAMES: We may want to look at --

COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: Madam Chair, I think we want to have John and the Staff summarize the information we have received in testimony, and from every source, to show that in certain states, in certain kinds of gambling, the age limit on gambling is not really enforced, and lotteries, as I recall, we had some testimony in that area as well.

But we want to develop a clear rationale, not just be for ban, but be for ban with any evidence, that it is needed as public policy.

CHAIR JAMES: Yes, John?

COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I don’t want to re-plow old ground on this question of adolescent research, but I want to make a different point.

CHAIR JAMES: But, for the record, you said we needed more research in that area?

COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I was just trying to be pleasant here. Yes, I did, and I am still frankly very disappointed, now that you brought it up. I think it is --

COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: Are you going to get into the same habit that Mr. Dobson does, he voted against the ACIR research, and keeps beating me over the head with that one? I expect more of you than --

COMMISSIONER DOBSON: I’ll buy him a whole chapter on the report on that discussion. Was the vote 8 to 1, and you were in the 8?
COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: I’m going to mail you a gold star.

COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Jim, you sold out on me. I was the biggest supporter of 50,000 that was your proposal and you went to a quarter million.

COMMISSIONER DOBSON: And I got bludgeoned by my associates here, and intimidated.

COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I don’t want to nit-pick on this, but while it certainly makes sense to me that school-based research on adolescents would be desirable and effective, from what we have been told, what Leo related to Jim and I in the subcommittee, nevertheless it is my understanding, and correct me if I’m wrong, Leo, that kind of research is very expensive.

And I would hate to think that, and I don’t believe you were suggesting this, I just want the record to be clear. I would hate to think that we would make the kind of a recommendation that would end up implying that that is the only kind of research about adolescent gambling behavior that ought to be done, because I think that would be very counterproductive, because it would end up, because it is so expensive, that we would continue not to know very much.

CHAIR JAMES: John, not only is it expensive, but it is also very controversial.

COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Oh, is it?

CHAIR JAMES: As you can imagine, in terms of parental involvement in what their children are asked. In other areas, and in other hats that I have worn in the past, whether it was a sex survey, or whether it was a survey on drug usage, parents feel very strongly about what their children are asked about at school.
So it is costly, and it is also controversial.

COMMISSIONER WILHELM: And I don’t know enough about household survey to know how that does or doesn’t relate to adolescents.

My point, which I’m sure all of us agree on, is simply that we ought to be trying, as best as we can, to push for both focus and dollars in this area, in particular. Because I agree with Dr. Moore that if we had to single out one area that would be important for the future of the country, it would be this one, in my view.

CHAIR JAMES: Additional direction that we would like to give to the writing staff on this particular subject area?

COMMISSIONER DOBSON: One more easy one, at least I think it is easy. Educational institutions should focus on gambling when they talk about addictive behaviors, in the health departments, and in science classes, and what have you, starting in elementary school.

Obviously this has no feet to it except to recommend that public education address this issue, which is becoming an increasing problem.

COMMISSIONER WILHELM: You know I agree with that, I guess, but clearly I agree with it, because you would have to be crazy not to. But I sometimes think that our solution to every social problem in this country is to tell the public school teachers to take care of it, and I don’t believe there is any reality to that.

So while I don’t disagree with it, Jim, it seems to me that that is only one small part of a much larger puzzle, and if we really want public schools to deal with that kind of an issue, in any kind of an in-depth way, as opposed to number 19 on what
happens in 7th grade health class, you know, out of 37 things that are in that class, if we really want public schools to deal with it, they have to get the money to deal with it, because they have to have people that are trained and qualified to do it.

And, again, I’m not disagreeing with the concept that it ought to be part of the educational process. But the fact is that even though we dump all over public schools, and short-shrift their budgets, we also ask them to deal with every damn problem that comes along, because there is a breakdown in our family structure.

COMMISSIONER DOBSON: John, I’m not recommending that we have special classes for this subject, I think that would be too narrow for what they do in public schools. But it can certainly be included in the textbooks, and it could be addressed in the context of other addictive behavior.

COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: There are just a few states that have good educational programs for all ages, of course, but including -- I remember Minnesota had an impressive program.

But I’m sort of inclined to agree, I don’t think we want to make the mistake of saying, put this in the school curriculum, even in small bits. I think it is so overloaded now with so many things that they are given.

But I think that there are ways to talk to kids at their own medium, and the analogy, to get at parents about what happens to their kids and so on, sort of like secondary smoking effects.

There are ways to get at this, and we ought to be talking to the people that have been trying to do it in several states, and maybe we will get some good guidance there.

COMMISSIONER DOBSON: How do you get the parents?
COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: TV spots, public address announcements. Let’s talk to the people that have been doing it with some measure of success.

CHAIR JAMES: Leo, would you object to that being mentioned in health classes when they talk about other forms of potential addiction?

COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: No, I don’t want to object to it. I would really like to suggest to let staff make a quick review of the couple of states that have been way out in front of the rest of the states on this, and let’s just get some guidance from them.

If they say that in physical ed. classes, or somewhere else, that we have had a lot of success in this, let’s see what base we have to go on here. Is that all right?

CHAIR JAMES: Okay. Is that your last one Jim?

COMMISSIONER DOBSON: Yes.

CHAIR JAMES: Anything else that you want to see, or talk about in this particular chapter?

COMMISSIONER BIBLE: I think it goes without saying that adolescent gaming, in any form, is an illegal activity. The data that we had indicated that it was engaged in various legal venues, depending upon the ability of the operator to police the activity.

I think I recollect Terry mentioning, or the NORC report mentioning that in a casino environment, they seemingly had the greatest compliance, it breaks down considerably in the convenience environment where you have machines and lottery devices.

I think the report should reflect that. I mean, you have that data out of the NORC report.
COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: Are you about to change subjects, Madam Chair, or can I follow up on what Bill just said?

CHAIR JAMES: Only when you are ready.

COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: When you are ready I just want to make an announcement, when you are ready to change, when we finish this one.

CHAIR JAMES: Anything else on adolescent gambling?

(No response.)

CHAIR JAMES: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: The announcement is that the Mashantucket Pequot tribe has completed the questionnaire, and are delivering it to us this afternoon.

And so I withdraw my earlier comments about a lack of cooperation from them specifically, but leave it in place for all of the other casinos that did not respond.

CHAIR JAMES: With that, rather than take a break, I’m going to move right on to the economic development. John?