

OhioMHAS Outlines Statewide Plan for Problem Gambling Services in FY 2015



L-R: Director Plouck addresses members of the Ohio Casino Control Commission; Plouck is interviewed by the media following her presentation.

At the October meeting of the Ohio Casino Control Commission, Director Tracy Plouck of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) highlighted current and future efforts aimed at the prevention and treatment of problem gambling in Ohio.

Director Plouck also discussed the Problem Gambling Services Plan for state fiscal year 2015. The state will spend roughly \$5.8 million - an increase of nearly 30 percent over fiscal year 2014 - on the prevention and treatment of gambling addictions. OhioMHAS and its partner agencies will continue to offer training sessions on prevention and treatment aimed at increasing the number of certified gambling-addiction counselors, as well as develop resources for use at the state and community level designed to prevent problem gambling. Officials are also preparing to launch a second statewide survey to track the impact of expanded gambling options in Ohio, as well as a survey of 14-18 year-olds to provide a baseline on attitudes and practices related to problem gambling.

In addition, the state will also undertake an independent review of its problem gambling services in order to ensure Ohio has a high-quality and effective system in place. This review will take place throughout the year, with a final report with analysis and recommendations due before June 30, 2015.

\$1.23 Million Awarded for Problem Gambling Treatment, Prevention

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and its partners in Ohio for Responsible Gambling recently announced that more than \$1 million in grants has been awarded to projects aimed at preventing and treating problem gambling in Ohio.

Grants were awarded to 13 projects across the state. These projects will help create and implement evidence-based strategies for the prevention and treatment of gambling disorders. Grantees include provider agencies, county ADAMH Boards and universities.

Funding for the grants comes from the Problem Gambling and Addictions Fund, which was created by the constitutional amendment authorizing casino gaming in Ohio. The fund receives 2 percent of casino tax revenues.

More information about the grants can be found at: www.mha.ohio.gov.



CollegeGambling.org

Tools Available to Help Educate College Students on Problem Gambling

The National Center for Responsible Gaming has launched a website that aims to educate college administrators and health professionals, as well as students and parents, about the dangers associated with problem gambling.

The site includes videos and other downloadable materials on college gambling that can be customized and shared with new and returning students. Students can also participate in an online survey to see how their gambling behavior compares to other students. Learn more at www.CollegeGambling.org.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislature Authorizes Seizure of Casino & VLT Winnings for Court-Ordered Support; Creates Gambling Disorder Endorsement

A new program that will check casino and VLT winnings for delinquent court-ordered support and the creation of a new gambling disorder endorsement are among the changes included in the Governor’s Mid-Biennium Budget Review, also known as House Bill 483. The bill was approved by the Ohio General Assembly in June, although many of its provisions – including the ones discussed below – did not go into effect until September.

be used to satisfy past due court-ordered support. A similar program is already in use for lottery winnings of \$600 or more.

The bill charged the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) with setting up a system where casino and VLT winnings could

Under the bill, winnings that must be reported to the Internal Revenue Service on form W-2G for federal tax withholding will be held to pay back child support. There is no cap on the amount that could be used, so an individual could forfeit their entire amount of winnings depending on the amount an individual is in arrears on support payments.

The Ohio Casino Control Commission and the Ohio Lottery facilitated meetings between ODJFS and the casinos and racinos to develop a data-match program to identify delinquent parents before paying out winnings. Following the program’s launch in September, regular audits will be conducted to ensure the casinos and racinos are following the law.

The bill also permits a chemical dependency counselor to address gambling disorders, provided they obtain the appropriate endorsement from the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board. Individuals who currently hold an active LCDC II, LCDC III, LICDC or LICDC-CS license will be permitted to seek a gambling disorder endorsement. In addition, those seeking to add the endorsement must complete 30 hours of gambling disorder training and also meet continuing education requirements.

The Board is currently in the process of updating its rules to reflect these new changes, and anticipates completion of this process by the end of the year. More information about the gambling disorder endorsement can be found on the Board’s website: www.ocdp.ohio.gov/gambling.stm.

Ohioans Shine at National Conference on Problem Gambling

The National Conference on Problem Gambling in July featured two of Ohio’s bright lights – Dr. Heather Chapman, who has a longstanding reputation of excellence in the field, and rising star Amanda Burke. Stacey Frohnafel-Hasson, OhioMHAS Bureau Chief of Problem Gambling commented, “We are so proud of Heather for the work she does with Ohio’s veterans and grateful that she constantly shares her knowledge through our regional trainings so that Ohioans with gambling disorder can receive quality treatment services. Amanda represents Townhall II in Kent as a Problem Gambling Prevention Specialist, but she is also working on her doctorate, teaching at Kent State and serving as a model for using science to change lives for the better.”

Recipient of the Joanna Franklin Direct Service Award, Heather Chapman, PhD, NCGCII, BACC, is a clinical psychologist and serves as the director of the Gambling Treatment Program and deputy director of the Veterans Addiction Recovery Program at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Administration Medical Center. Amanda Burke, MA, MEd, CTRS, CHES, presented on Using Logic Models to Create Problem Gambling Prevention Programs during the Prevention Showcase portion of the conference and was awarded the People’s Choice award by popular vote. A number of Ohio professionals attended the event to learn and share their experiences with bringing up a problem gambling system of care.

Community Prevention Efforts

The State of Ohio continues to establish a problem gambling prevention service system designed to prevent or delay the onset of problem gambling, provide early intervention and identification, and provide treatment and recovery support services for those with a gambling problem. Below are highlights of how some local agencies are addressing problem gambling in their communities.

Hamilton County Youth Survey

Conducted every two years by the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati, the Student Drug Use Survey includes more than 56,000 students in grades 7-12 from across Southwest Ohio. 2014 marked the first year that problem gambling questions were included on the survey. Questions were designed to be age appropriate for adolescents and to align with the 2012 Ohio Gambling Survey of adults.

The Hamilton County Problem Gambling Task Force reviewed the survey data, which serves as more of a census than a sampling. Baseline findings indicate that most adolescents do not gamble on a regular basis and less than 3% indicate problem behaviors associated with gambling. Of students who reported gambling:

- 16% of students reported playing/betting on games of personal skill;
- 12.2% reported playing/betting on cards;
- 10.5% reported playing/betting on sports, and;
- 9.9% reported playing/betting on dice/flipping coins.

Among those who do gamble, the most frequent places reported are:

- 23.3% reported gambling at home;
- 13.8% reported gambling at a friend's house, and;
- 10% reported gambling at a community festival.

Within the past year, 58.5% of students reported gambling. Upon deeper analysis, students who used illicit substances were significantly more likely to have gambled in the past year. Those who gambled were 1-2 times more likely to have drank alcohol, smoked cigarettes, smoked marijuana, used prescription drugs or other illicit drugs in the past 30 days.



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National Responsible Gaming Week Collaboration

National Responsible Gaming Education Week was held the first week in August, and Maryhaven and Hollywood Casino Columbus combined their efforts at several events during the week. At the Dublin Irish Festival, Maryhaven's prevention team was able to complete 380 surveys gauging attitudes about gambling and also passed out information about informed and concerned gambling to patrons at the festival. In addition, Hollywood Casino Columbus allowed Maryhaven staff access to consumers on the gaming floor, in concert with the casino's own efforts for Responsible Gaming week. Hollywood employees wore Responsible Gaming Education Week t-shirts and gave out stickers as patrons entered the casino.

Problem Gambling Helpline

3rd Quarter Statistics
(July 1 - Sept. 30, 2014)

Total Calls to Helpline
1,726

Month
July: 561
August: 542
September: 643

Gender
Men: 719
Women: 822
Unknown: 185

Age of Person In Need
1-17: 1
18-24: 71
25-34: 154
35-44: 168
45-54: 274
55 and older: 668
unknown: 390

How People Heard About the Helpline

Casino: 172
Casino Advertising: 98
Billboards: 8
Lottery Games/Tickets: 82
Cards: 28
Tickets: 53
Internet: 43
Family and/or Friends: 44
National Helpline: 8
Other: 103

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, recently released an advisory on gambling problems. It provides an introduction to gambling disorders and problem gambling and their link with other disorders. It also describes tools for screening and diagnosis as well as treatment strategies.



Visit www.samhsa.gov and click on “Publications” to download a digital version of the advisory or to order a free copy.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Problem gambling trainings are offered throughout the year at locations across Ohio. Social workers, counselors and other mental health/addictions professionals are encouraged to attend.

Foundations in Disordered Gambling (Stage 1): This training session is aimed at those who are new to disordered gambling. Participants will gain knowledge and understanding about gambling addiction and prepare to work with problem gamblers and their families.

Dates: Nov. 13-14 in Bowling Green and Dec. 4-5 in Cincinnati.

Treating the Disordered Gambler (Stage 2): This two-day training will assist clinicians in their treatment of gamblers. Please note that completion of Foundations in Disordered Gambling or 12 hours of gambling counseling are prerequisites for this training.

Dates: Jan. 8-9 in Medina, Feb. 5-6 in Bowling Green and April 16-17 in Cincinnati.

Contact Jen Clegg at jclegg@recres.org or (216) 431-4131 ext. 1321 for more information.

Information on treatment trainings can be found at: www.recres.org/TrainingandEducation/GamblingTrainings.aspx

Information on four regional *Stacked Deck* prevention model training of trainer sessions can be found at: www.mha.ohio.gov, the click on ‘Calendar’ or visit www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/upcoming-events for additional regional training opportunities.

“I Lost A Bet” Campaign Wraps; Phase 2 to Launch Later This Year

The “I Lost A Bet” campaign, a statewide effort to highlight the dangers of gambling, wrapped up its initial efforts in August. The multi-media campaign targeted young adults and combined humorous messages with warning signs and other information about how problem gambling can disrupt lives. Individuals could also send an anonymous email to a person they felt was at risk for problem gambling. TV ads, billboards and social media also featured links to a website that included contacts for those seeking help.



Below are some statistics from the campaign, which ran from January through August:

- **167,027:** Visitors to the website
- **320:** Anonymous emails sent by individuals to a friend or family member about the signs of problem gambling (of those, 62% were opened, and 46% of those who opened the email also visited the website)
- **10,410:** Users who viewed the warning signs on the website

**Figures courtesy of the Ohio Lottery Commission*

Phase 2 of the campaign is scheduled to launch later this year.

Responsible Gambling Quarterly is produced by Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG). ORG is a collaborative effort among four state agencies to promote responsible gambling in Ohio and provide resources to those seeking help with a gambling problem.



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