

Problem Gambling Conference Takes Place March 4-5, 2014 "Ohio's Response to a Changing Landscape"

Registration is now open for Ohio's Annual Problem Gambling Conference, which will be held March 4-5 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel North in Columbus. This year's conference will feature the latest science and strategies for helping to reduce problem gambling and treating those with gambling disorders.

Dr. Henry Lesieur and Dr. Mark Griffiths will be the keynote speakers for the conference. Dr. Lesieur is credited with creating one of the most widely-used screening tools for problem gambling and continues to consult on gambling disorders and other related issues. Dr. Griffiths is the Director of the International Gaming Research Unit at Nottingham Trent University in England.

Breakout sessions will cover topics such as community needs assesment, responsible gambling, gambling disorder diagnosis and the development of a new Ohio Problem Gambling Resource Center.

For more information or to register for the Conference, please visit <http://1.usa.gov/1aBXshZ>.

The deadline to register for the conference is Tuesday, February 25. We hope to see you there!



NEW PROBLEM GAMBLING PREVENTION CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY Uses humorous TV ads and billboard messages to highlight the dangers of problem gambling

Last month saw the launch of a new statewide problem gambling prevention campaign - one that uses humorous TV ads and billboard messages to highlight the dangers of problem gambling. Targeting young adults (a demographic that is most at risk for becoming problem gamblers), the "I Lost A Bet" campaign combines these humorous messages with warning signs and other information to convey how problem gambling can disrupt lives. The ads feature links to a website - www.ilostabet.org - that also includes contacts for those seeking help.

In addition to the ads and billboards, the campaign uses social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter as well as online banner advertisements to help drive traffic to the "I Lost A Bet" site. The campaign runs through the end of June.

As the gaming environment in Ohio continues to expand with the opening of racinos, campaigns such as this one are an important part of ORG's efforts to promote responsible gambling and provide assistance to those with a gambling problem.

"ilostabet.org" by the numbers:

41,849 - Unique visitors to the website

100- Anonymous emails outlining the warning signs of problem gambling sent by individuals to a friend or family member
**67 of these emails were opened by the recipient*

960 - T-Shirts distributed

100,000+ - Organic visits

25 Million and counting - Media coverage impressions

Figures courtesy of the Ohio Lottery Commission as of Feb. 10, 2014

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Problem Gambling training and education events are held throughout the year for counselors and other professionals. Participants may be able to receive continuing education credits.

Treating the Disordered Gambler (Stage II)

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

Contact Carol Metlicka at Recovery Resources (216) 431-4131 ext. 4202 for more information.

March 24-25, 2014

Held at the Plains United Methodist Church
3 North Plains Road
The Plains, OH 45780

Problem Gambling Prevention Training

This training event is broken up into two sessions - one discussing how to address problem gambling with a community-wide approach, and one examining the social and environmental issues surrounding problem gambling.

Participants may sign up for one or both sessions at the Drug Free Action Alliance's website: www.drugfreeactionalliance.org.

March 18, 2014

Held at the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County
1400 West 25th Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

VEP Programs Offer Help to Problem Gamblers

The gaming landscape has changed considerably in Ohio in recent years. All four casinos authorized by the voters are now open, and four racinos - horse racing tracks that also feature video lottery terminals - are open, with three other racino facilities scheduled to open later this year. Prior to a single facility opening however, state officials were working to ensure that prevention and treatment programs were in place to address those with a gambling problem.

As part of its responsible gambling efforts, the Ohio Casino Control Commission administers a statewide Voluntary Exclusion Program (VEP), which provides individuals the ability to ban themselves from Ohio casinos. To date, more than 700 individuals have signed up for the program. A person may self-impose a ban of one year, five years or their lifetime. More information about the casino VEP can be found at the Commission's website: www.casinocontrol.ohio.gov or by calling Laura Clemens, the Responsible Gambling Program Coordinator, at 614-387-5848.

In addition, the Lottery Commission operates a similar program for the state's racinos. The racino VEP also permits individuals to self-exclude themselves from the properties for one year, five years, or for life. Lottery personnel have been proactively training racino personnel on the VEP, as well as educating them about the hazards associated with problem gambling and the warning signs to help identify customers at risk.

Each racino operates its own VEP. Individuals who would like more information about the program or who wish to register for the program should call one of the following:

Thistledown Racino: 216-662-8600

Northfield Hard Rock Racino: 330-908-7439

Miami Valley Gaming Racino: 513-934-7366

Scioto Downs Racino: 614-295-8796

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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