Problem Gambling Services

From the desk of Paul D. Potter:

There are several potential system change initiatives that are likely to influence the Problem Gambling system this year. Nationally, HR 2906 The Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act, has been introduced in the House and soon will be in the Senate. More info is posted here.
http://www.ncpgambling.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=4177

At the state level, DHS is reorganizing to provide healthcare reform and weave together health and human services. What this means to Problem Gambling Services is not entirely understood yet but as this becomes clearer you will begin hearing about it from many perspectives.

At this writing we do not have the latest forecast of deposits to the Problem Gambling Treatment Fund. A forecast is due in March and that will determine the budget direction of the second year of the biennium.

I want to thank all Directors, Managers, counselors and support staff for all the hard work you do each and every day to assist Oregon's problem gamblers. We still have a vibrant and comprehensive system that we can all be proud of. I look forward to "growing" with you the next year.

National Conference

Oregon will be hosting the 2010 NCPG Annual Conference in Portland on June 9-12. Oregon PGS has subsidized the registration fees for 100 participants from state-funded programs and/or key partner agencies. This will reduce the registration to $75. You will be notified of eligibility requirements and how to register for this reduced rate as soon as the process has been finalized. This will not apply to the registration fee of $100 for any optional pre-conference workshops associated with the Conference.

New Ads

Beginning Jan 18th new treatment ads will begin airing across the state. I have had the opportunity to preview the ad and I think you all will approve as well. We anticipate an increase in calls to the helpline so please prepare for rapid response to referrals.

Carole Hardy, Oregon Lottery, is seeking ideas for a next round of treatment ads. We will be asking a small group of you to meet with Carole to discuss potential story lines but if you have an idea, theme, or suggestions, please either email or call me.

Helpline Updates:

A significant percentage of agency referrals are from the Problem Gambling Helpline. To keep referrals coming in smoothly (and remove barriers for potential clients) be sure your agency's information is current with the helpline by taking the following steps:

1. Confirm that your information is correct on the Helpline web page: http://www.1877mylimit.org/directory.asp
2. Contact the helpline to review your agency's information
3. Anytime there are any changes at your agency, contact the helpline. This may include phone number changes, changes to the intake process, or staffing changes (be sure to also update PGS of any staffing or phone number changes).

Please review attached Helpline Report. It has been revised and data has been added. Please give us feedback so we can incorporate your ideas that would make the data as useful as possible to you. Please provide feedback to paul.d.potter@state.or.us

Client Satisfaction Surveys

A recurring site review finding is that agencies are not completing client satisfaction surveys. This is a simple process that can help agencies and clinicians to identify strategies and areas for improvement – not to mention, preventing a site review finding!

The surveys should be completed semi-annually and are anonymous. For more information or to request the survey, contact Tom Moore at 503-685-6100.

PG Prevention Coordinator Changes

Roxann Jones, Jackson County PG Prevention Coordinator, will be working full time with Jackson County Commission on Children and Families, so Arlene Logan (loganae@jacksoncounty.org) is Jackson County's new prevention coordinator, including problem gambling. Thanks Roxann, for all your great work….and welcome, Arlene!

Oregon Council on Problem Gambling Adds Prevention/Outreach Rep!

Great news! Andy Cartmill, problem gambling prevention/outreach specialist in Washington County, has recently joined the Oregon Council on Problem Gambling. Andy says, "prevention and outreach have always been a big part of Oregon's Problem Gambling Services system. We're .very happy to have a voice within this council." Watch for updates from Andy as the Council moves forward.

2010 Art Search

Recently you should have received an email about the 2010 art search, including the flyer and coordinator instructions…if not, or if you need another copy email wendy.hausotter@state.or.us. The art search has turned out to be a great way to network in the community and results in our annual calendar which is always a good conversation starter!

2010 PG Guide Contains New Prevention Data

PDF versions of the 2010 Problem Gambling Awareness Guide were emailed to you, with a hard copy to follow in the next few weeks. Copies are also posted on the following websites:

http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/gambling.shtml#oregon (scroll down to Resources)

http://lanecounty.org/prevention/pgs/

http://www.1877mylimit.org/resourcetoc.asp (click on “Know the Facts”)

Check out Appendix A for county-specific problem gambling prevention data. We should have more and different data once the new Student Wellness Survey is completed, but for now you can use the county-specific OHT (Oregon Healthy Teens) information.

Problem Gambling Counselor Pre-Certification Class

Attached to this email is the flyer for the 30-hour counselor training program which starts on March 13. In the past we offered this course via Lewis and Clark College twice a year, but due to budget cuts we can only offer it once, so don't wait to sign up. It is a hybrid class, meaning two in person class session and the rest online--see flyer for details and registration information.

County Implementation Plans

A new web-based process for submitting county implementation plans is underway, as you may have heard. The current version of the online form doesn’t include a specific place to report on

plans for use of AD 80 (problem gambling prevention) funds that your county receives—that omission will be corrected in the next iteration of the online form. For this biennium, therefore, you will be asked to follow the normal process for AD 80 funds, i.e. submit a brief AD 80 implementation plan using a form provided by Problem Gambling Services; you should receive that form and the instructions some time in May and plans will be due in June as usual.

If you'd like to see past issues of this newsletter, go to: http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/gambling.shtml scroll down to "Problem Gambling Services Announcements"

Problem Gambling Services Staff **Helpline website: 1877mylimit.org**

DHS Problem Gambling Services web site: http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/gambling.shtml

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Staff changes? Please notify **Patricia** ASAP so we can keep our records current!
patricia.alderson@state.or.us or **503-945-9710**