

Problem Gambling Services

Critical Program Updates

*This is our primary communication tool to provide state-funded Program Gambling Services providers with **Critical Program Updates**. Please take time to ensure that you are up to date on clarifications and changes to our system that will appear here.*

PGS All Provider Webinar

November 18, 2010

9-10:30am

From the desk of Paul D. Potter:

State-wide enrollment numbers have been declining over the last two years while average length of stays has been steadily increasing. This is the reverse of the previous trend of steady enrollment increases since 1995 (with one year exception) and stable lengths of stay. We cannot account for these decreases in enrollment due to budget reductions because the decline started before and continued throughout allocation increases and decreases. Looking back to 08-09 we experienced a 7.5% decrease in enrollments and 09-10 was down another 12.5%.

We have not idly sat by and watched this reversing trend without attempting to right the ship. We commissioned an outreach study to determine what factors were contributing to the decline in enrollments. As a direct result of this study, we added five new outreach codes to encourage and support programs to focus on client identification and engagement at the local level. Additionally, our efforts were successful in supporting the new ISSR to require all state funded mental health and addictions programs to screen for problem gamblers which should make appropriate gambling treatment available to a large number of new clients if local PGS programs actively seek out opportunities to take advantage of these changes.

The recent service limitation policy change was also directed at reversing the decline in enrollments. By reducing the length of stay of individual clients, we are creating more capacity for new clients to access our system. This will require that programs use this as a time to focus on efforts to identify and engage new clients. The outreach study concluded that another area with strong potential for quickly increasing enrollments was to focus on the process prospective clients must go through in order to schedule that first, critical session.

I invite you to dialogue with me and/or among your staff about the issues raised here. I plan to reserve the November 18 All Provider Meeting to continue the dialogue; however, do not feel like you must wait until then to respond. You can call, email, fax or snail me with your input, feedback, concerns and comments. As you engage in this dialogue here are some points to ponder:

- Are we paying less attention to outreach? We know that our clients don't come through the usual A/D or MH referral route. This means our outreach efforts must be ongoing and diligent.
- Do the Lottery ads need to run more often or longer?
- Are we making contact with clients but not engaging them?
- Is there nothing that can be done because of bad economy and budget constraints?

I am convinced that the changes that have been implemented and your focus on all areas of your programs, where you can identify and engage new clients who need our services, we can quickly return to the steady increases in enrollments we have experienced in past years.

PREVENTION TIP SHEET

Changes for the 2011 OPGAW Guide

We are beginning the process of updating the annual community resource guide—it's going to be quite different this time as we will be cutting down on the size of the publication and focusing mainly on prevention, treatment and systems data (the type of info that is currently featured in Sections 1, 3 and Appendices A and B). The fact sheets and other pg background materials will also be updated, but rather than print them we will post them on the PGS website—the list of those resources and their URLs will be included for easy reference in the revamped guide. The new guide will be available after the first of the year for use in 2011.



A copy of the current guide can be found at <http://www.problemgamblingprevention.org/opgaw.htm> and click on the icon below (right column on the webpage)

2011 Problem Gambling Awareness Calendar

Work is also underway on the new awareness calendar. It will have a different look this year as we make some accommodations to reduced budget, but it will still look great. Designated prevention coordinators will receive a stock of calendars by the end of October to allow time for dissemination before the start of 2011. If you are not your area's designated pg prevention person, but would like some copies of the calendar please contact your county/area problem

gambling prevention person (if you aren't sure who that is email wendy.hausotter@state.or.us and we'll put you in touch).

Problem Gambling Prevention website goes FB!

Our great one-stop-shopping resource on problem gambling prevention and awareness (www.problemgamblingprevention.org) now has a Facebook page! If you're on Facebook, please consider adding us to your Friends.

In the News: Website promotes college students betting on their own grades

Check out this NPR feature on a new website that lets college students bet on their own grades: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=129427828>

PGS to Host Spring Problem Gambling Training for Prevention and Treatment Providers

Mark your calendar for **May 12 and 13**. We'll be hosting a rare opportunity for all of us to get together in person and earn some CEUs! The training will be held at the Black Bear Inn Conference Center in Salem and there will be something for treatment and prevention folks, so don't miss it...more details as we finalize the arrangements.

Leadership and Learning Organizations Webinar November 17, 10am-12n;

An email will be forthcoming with registration details approximately around Nov. 8th.

Imagine committed and passionate leadership at all levels of your organization. What could be created? This webinar will acquaint you with what happens when a group commits to learn together. You will hear how to expand your personal capacity to create the results you most desire. How to build a sense of commitment and transform collective thinking skills will be described. A way of thinking about the forces that shape the behavior of systems will be introduced.

From The Fifth Discipline by Peter Senge

A recent policy change has implemented a 12-month service limitation. As you review your caseloads and are considering whether a client is appropriate for service conclusion, consider the following:

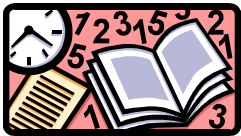
- Pathological Gambling must be the primary diagnosis
- Level of overall risk must be specifically identified
- Client must be motivated to engage in the individual service and support plan (ISSP)
- Client and clinician must have agreed upon the ISSP and service conclusion date

Also, keep in mind successful completion criteria for clients who will be concluding treatment. Clients are considered having successfully completed treatment when they have met the following three criteria:

1. Completion of a minimum of 75% of short-term treatment goals
2. Completion of a continued wellness plan (relapse prevention plan) for post-treatment
3. Lack of engagement in problem gambling behaviors for at least 30 days prior to discharge

For the clients that will be concluding treatment, help the client to prepare for ongoing success:

- Complete a wellness plan/relapse prevention plan
- Refer the client to community supports in your neighborhood, such as GA <http://www.1877mylimit.org/gameetings.asp> and Voices of Problem Gambling Recovery <http://vpgr.net/index.html>
- For tips on referring clients to GA:
<http://www.1877mylimit.org/tipsforcliniciansonreferringclientstoga.asp>



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!

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