

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.*

From the Desk of Paul D. Potter:

The political season is full of promises, accusations, declarations and opinions of all sorts. Among this cacophony, the interests of our clients experiencing the devastation of problem gambling rarely get heard. The few but committed (I am talking to you!) of us that care deeply about problem gambling prevention and treatment need to continue to raise the level of awareness around us. I urge to get out and vote for the candidates you know care about what you care about and have the courage to do the right thing. Your voice has never been more needed. It is easy to become apathetic and fall into despair believing that change is not possible. Together we can make a difference, we have before and we will again. I plan to keep you all informed as we move through this legislative session and when issues impacting problem gambling services arise I will get you the word and provide background and talking points.

William Stafford in his poem entitled “A Ritual We Read Each Other” says it best in the last two stanzas of this powerful poem:

*And so I appeal to a voice, to something shadowy,
a remote important region in all who talk:
though we could fool each other, we should consider--
lest the parade of our mutual life get lost in the dark.*

*For it is important that awake people be awake,
or a breaking line may discourage them back to sleep;
the signals we give--yes or no, or maybe--
should be clear: the darkness around us is deep.*

Problem Gambling Treatment Resources

Seeking Safety

Seeking Safety is a present-focused approach for treating trauma and substance abuse, which can be used in individual or group counseling. It has also been used to treat problem gamblers. Many problem gambling clinicians throughout the state are already using Seeking Safety with their clients. But, did you know that Seeking Safety is also available in other languages, including Spanish, Chinese and Japanese?

Seeking Safety has a website with additional information about the model, frequently asked questions, and information about implementation:

<http://www.seekingsafety.org/> The website also contains additional information about availability of translations (whether in full text or handouts only).

The Synopsis Project

The Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre (OPGRC) has launched the Synopsis Project, which is dedicated to providing “ready access to the gambling research literature.” The OPGRC has created one-page synopses of published gambling research literature. Interested in more information about using motivational interviewing in the treatment of pathological gambling?

There are a number of articles listed on the website. Check it out at:

<http://www.gamblingresearch.org/synopses/>

Service Limitation Variance Requests

We have received some service limitation variance requests. A few reminders:

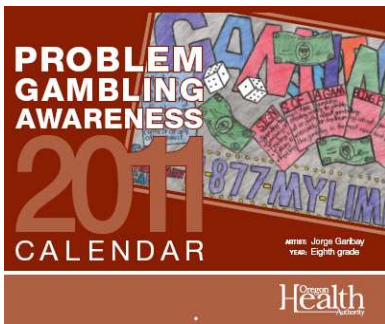
- Please fill out the request form completely
- Complete the form using your clinical formulation and be clear about clinical justification for continued stay
- Include of cover sheet if you are faxing

If you have any questions about the service limitations or the variance process, please contact Jackie.



Roxann Jones from Jackson County Health and Human Services receives the *Clark Campbell Outstanding Media Achievement Award* from AMH's Karen Wheeler. The award was given as part of AMH's "Hope, Resilience & Recovery Celebration" on Sept 24, 2010 in Salem.

Roxann and collaborators developed a problem gambling awareness media campaign called "Think Twice Oregon" that featured local youth in PSAs, TV interviews and a website. Go to www.thinktwiceoregon.com to see their work. Congratulations!



2011 Problem Gambling Awareness Calendar has gone to press!

You will notice a few changes—one is that the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) logo appears on it, rather than the DHS logo, since we are now part of the OHA. The other change is that we've made the calendar smaller in order to cut costs—the dimensions of the new calendar are 7 in. x 8.5 in. Since most people don't keep track of appointments by writing on calendar pages any more, we felt that the smaller, more affordable size would still be useful even if the boxes for each day are a bit smaller. A supply of the calendars will be sent to the county/area designated problem gambling prevention contact person in a few weeks. Once you get them, please start disseminating them right away so folks have them before the start of the new year. Thanks for your support!

New data on Oregon youth gambling

AMH recently completed a statewide survey of youth, the Student Wellness Survey, which included questions on youth gambling. The survey was done through schools statewide, and involved 6th, 8th and 11th graders. A very high percentage of participation was achieved compared to the Oregon Healthy Teens survey, which several large entities have not participated in). Reports on the County and State level overall data are available at: <http://oregon.pridesurveys.com/>.

We will be receiving further analyses of the statewide data, including: correlations between youth gambling and other risky behaviors, youth gambling by gender, youth gambling by ethnic group, etc., in the near future and will share those data with you when they are available.

It is interesting to note that in many counties, youth gambling peaks in 8th grade—that speaks to the need to target early middle school youth and their parents/teachers for education and prevention efforts. Not all counties show that same progression, however, so you should look at your own county data for planning purposes. Other interesting statewide findings:

	Grade 6 State	Grade 8 State	Grade 11 State
Playing lottery tickets.	6.2	8.8	10.1
Playing Powerball or Megabucks.	2.1	2.7	2.6
Playing dice or coin flips.	12.4	14.8	8.3
Playing cards (poker, etc.).	13.2	18.8	17.2
Betting on a sports team.	14.0	18.2	14.5
Betting on a horse/dog race.	1.9	1.6	1.4
Betting on games of personal skill (bowling, video games, dares, etc.).	19.7	25.4	18.3
Gambling on the Internet for free or with money.	2.7	4.7	4.7
Gambling at a casino.	0.7	0.8	1.1
Playing Bingo for money.	6.5	6.0	3.8
None.	57.6	50.9	58.2
Other.	8.8	12.0	8.0

Percentages exclude missing answers.

	Grade 8 State	Grade 11 State
Felt bad about the amount you bet, or about what happens when you bet money	4.2	2.9
Felt that you would like to stop betting money but didn't think you could	2.7	1.8
Lied to anyone about betting/gambling	5.9	3.5
Bet/gambed more than you wanted to	6.4	5.5

Percentages exclude missing answers.

These items were not asked on the 6th grade survey.

Youth gambling in past 30 days

Note that almost half of youth in all three age brackets report gambling in the past month; the top 3 gambling preferences were: betting on games of personal skill, betting on sports teams, and playing cards (poker)

Signs of problem gambling

Note that the last two questions are based on the Lie-Bet screen for problem gambling.

We will be hosting a webinar to review the major findings once the additional correlations are run, so watch for an announcement about that opportunity. In the meantime, **check out your local data on the website above** and please call or email if you have questions: wendy.hausotter@state.or.us or 503-510-1117.

Support Staff Changes

We bid a fond farewell to Patricia Alderson, our PGS Support Staff. Patricia will be transitioning within AMH to provide support to the A&D Specialists. Thank you Patricia for your support the past two years and we wish you the best in your new position!

Cheryl Coakley will be joining PGS on October 15. Cheryl has been with AMH for two years. Please see below for Cheryl's contact information and join me in welcoming Cheryl to the PGS team.

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			
Contact	Title	Phone	Email
Paul D. Potter	Problem Gambling Services Manager	503-945-9709	paul.d.potter@state.or.us
Wendy Hausotter	Prevention Coordinator	503-945-9703	wendy.hausotter@state.or.us
Jackie Fabrick	Gambling Treatment Specialist	503-945-7815	jackie.fabrick@state.or.us
Greta Coe	Outreach Specialist	503-945-6187	greta.l.coe@state.or.us
Cheryl Coakley	Administrative Support	503-945-6811	cheryl.e.coakley@state.or.us

Staff changes? Please notify **Cheryl** ASAP so we can keep our records current!
cheryl.e.coakley@state.or.us or **503-945-6811**