

Problem Gambling Services Critical Program Updates December 2011

Program Manager's Update from the desk of Nicole Corbin:

The days are getting ever shorter, the weather ever colder, and the year is drawing to a close. During this time, many of us celebrate some of the numerous holidays December brings. This month includes Hanukkah, Bodhi Day, Winter Solstice, Yule, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and others. You, your colleagues, and your clients may celebrate some, all, or none of these days.

Whatever your personal season brings you, I want you to know how much I appreciate your outstanding work with our communities, with problem gamblers and their families throughout the year. The work you do is life-changing and life-saving. Thank you.

I wish you all a season of joy, peace, and abundance.

Legislative Award

On November 28th, Voices of Problem Gambling Recovery (VPGR) held a ceremony to recognize two elected officials, Oregon State Representatives Carolyn Tomei (D - Milwaukie) and House Democratic Leader Tina Kotek (D - North/NE Portland).

The legislators were presented with the Legislative Champion Award in recognition of significant leadership in reducing gambling related harm in Oregon by placing public health in front of gaming revenue, supporting recovery, and advancing the care, treatment, and quality of life for people impacted by problem gambling in Oregon.

Last year, Representatives Kotek and Tomei co - sponsored two pieces of legislation to improve services for those with gambling problems. House Bill 3675 was written to stabilize funding for problem gambling services and House Bill 3343 called for the creation of a Problem Gambling Services Advisory Committee. Although neither of these bills passed in 2011, Reps Tomei and Kotek were instrumental in reigniting conversations that are continuing today about creating solutions to reduce gambling related harm.

“Representative Tomei has been a longtime beacon of hope for those in the problem gambling recovery community. Ever since her first session as an Oregon State Legislature in 2001, she has led efforts to address problem gambling related issues, said Dr. Jeff Marotta, a nationally recognized problem gambling expert and educator. “Rep. Kotek has emerged as a

true champion for those invested in addressing problem gambling related issues. Rep Kotek has introduced legislative bills on the behalf of VPGR and has provided guidance to the organization on strategies to become effective grass roots advocates for policy change.”

”I am honored to be chosen for this award. I believe the work we have done will help those with gambling problems find solutions is critical to the health of our communities,” said Tomei.

“It is ironic that the state’s funding woes prevented us from taking some major steps forward in addressing problem gambling in the 2011 session. Far too many Oregon families are suffering financially because of problem gambling,” said Rep. Kotek. “You can be sure Representative Tomei and I will be reintroducing that legislation in 2013 and we hope to receive a more favorable outcome.

Voices of Problem Gambling Recovery is a Portland based consumer advocacy group devoted to speaking for those affected by problem gambling by educating others about gambling and problem gambling, promoting recovery, advocating to state and local government on behalf of problem gamblers and their families, and increasing community awareness of problem gambling.



Prevention Updates

Student Wellness Survey 2012

The latest version of our student wellness survey is underway as schools are currently being contacted about participation in this year’s process. When all is said and done it will provide us with, among other data, updated information on the prevalence of youth gambling and problem gambling in grades 6, 8 and 11 throughout Oregon. We should have new data by the end of summer and we will share it with you as soon as it’s available. As a reminder, current SWS data for each county is available at <http://www.problemgamblingprevention.org/facts.htm> (click on 2011 PGS Data Book, then on “download the complete data book”).

Lottery Data by County

If you would like to know how many Lottery retailers there are in your area you can go to <http://oregonlottery.org/GameInfo/Default.aspx> and in the right side column on that page you will see “Where to Play” with a drop down menu which allows you to search by city, county or zip code.

For 09-10 Lottery sales per county go to:

<http://www.problemgamblingprevention.org/docs/LotterySalesbyCountyFY2010.pdf>

Problem Gambling Prevention: Seizing Teachable Moments Webinar Jan. 4 from 2 – 3:30 pm 1.5 CEU

Join us for an important discussion of how and when to seize the moment when it comes to problem gambling issues in the news; we'll pay special attention to lessons learned from the recent ORCade media coverage. We'll also review products and templates you can use and we'll identify new materials you'd like that will help you do your job effectively and efficiently.

Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/683968994>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

Lewis & Clark College is offering an Advanced Problem Gambling course. For registration or additional information, please go to:

<https://graduate.lclark.edu/live/news/13940-advanced-gambling-counselor-certification>

Treatment Updates:

The holidays can be wonderful – time with family and friends, parties and celebrations, decorations, gift giving, music and travel. They can also be very difficult – those who do not celebrate or do not have family and friends available can feel marginalized and people may feel compelled to spend money or create an experience that is not realistic. Even those who are having a wonderful time can find themselves exhausted, over-committed and stressed out.

Consider taking time with your clients to create or review wellness plans this month. Talk about the triggering effect the extra stress of the season can have, and help them develop strategies to cope. Increasing group or GA attendance may be helpful.

And don't forget to take care of yourselves, as well!

Continuing Care

Many clients complete their goals and objectives as outlined in their treatment plan, but would like to continue with some sort of aftercare. Continuing care group, or aftercare, is a billable problem gambling service, per Service Element A&D 81. Agencies may enroll clients in continuing care group for up to twelve months after individuals have completed treatment as usual. This is in addition to the one year standard authorization for treatment. Continuing care group can facilitate ongoing recovery or to avert potential relapse. For more information on how to bill for continuing care groups, please visit our website and review Service Element A&D 81.

Residential/Outpatient Workgroup

Bridgeway Recovery Services and OHA Problem Gambling Services would like to invite you to participate in a follow up discussion regarding treatment services for problem gamblers in Oregon on **January 23rd, 2012**. On August 10th, 2011 clinicians from all over the state gathered both over the phone and in person to discuss systemic road blocks for clients success. The workgroup collectively agreed to pilot the proposed changes and then meet again in three to six months.

Please look for an email next week with more information and the minutes from the last meeting. We hope you can attend!

Upcoming Trainings:

See attached calendar for more information.

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
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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**