

Problem Gambling Services Critical Program Updates January 2012
Program Manager's Update from the desk of Nicole Corbin:

Happy New Year to you all! I look forward to the coming year, and to continuing to provide our partners with helpful information about problem gambling services in the state and beyond.

Right now, almost everyone in the gambling industry and the treatment and prevention fields are talking about the decision released by the Federal Department of Justice last month. This decision essentially states that the 1961 Wire Act, which has previously been the foundation for making internet gambling illegal, only applies to sports betting. This leads to a lot of questions and speculation regarding what will and what will not happen regarding the legality of internet gambling, online poker, keno, and lotteries. At this point, the answers to those questions remain largely unknown, as the issue is complex.

Here are some links to informative articles that should help shed light on this development: (thanks to the Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center for the links and synopses below)

<http://www.gamblingandthelaw.com/blog/320-a-present-from-the-doj-internet-lotteries-and-poker-are-legal-december-24-2011.html>

The United States Department of Justice has given the online gaming community a big, big present, made public two days before Christmas. President Barack Obama's administration has just declared, perhaps unintentionally, that almost every form of intra-state Internet gambling is legal under federal law, and so games may be played interstate and even internationally.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2011/12/winning-online-gambling-casinos-to-sweep-u-s-in-2012/>

Forget the monkey or the rooster, 2012 could be the year of the gambler and experts say that while that would mean more money in states' pockets, it could also put young people and adults at further risk of addiction.

http://wfcourier.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_68d1602e-4466-11e0-8102-001cc4c002e0.html

Legalized online poker may be coming to Iowa. A Senate subcommittee gave initial approval Tuesday to a bill that would authorize the creation of an intrastate Internet poker network and provide a regulatory structure for its implementation, operation and taxation. Ned Chiodo, a registered lobbyist and former legislator representing the Riverside casino and online gaming interests, estimated that 150,000 Iowans play Internet poker "right now, every day, 24-7, illegally" linked to online operators located off shore or in foreign countries that are "highly suspicious."

http://www.responsiblegambling.org/articles/60_Minutes_on_CNBC_tackles.pdf

In early 2011, a special episode of "60 Minutes on CNBC" dubbed "Gambling's Aces" aired. The hour-long installment consisted of three past features that "60 Minutes" has shown about internet gambling, including the 2008 story about the Ultimate Bet and Absolute Poker scandals.

Here is the link to a very informative webinar by Professor I. Nelson Rose that addresses some of these issues:

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/698341910>

Last month a significant change of position by the Department of Justice on the federal Wire Act removes significant barriers and opens the door to internet gambling. There are significant challenges for us to assure appropriate regulations that provide protections and information about risks of this type of gambling.

(Thanks to the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators for this information)

We here at AMH will be keeping abreast of these issues as they develop, and will keep our partners informed. Please feel free to call or write with any questions.

Upcoming Webinars/Trainings:

All Provider Meeting: **February 09, 2012 9-10:30am**

Registration and login information coming soon.

Prevention Updates

Prevention coordinators and others recently participated in a webinar called "Seizing Teachable Moments" where we discussed the importance of, and strategies for, keeping problem gambling on the radar screen in your local communities. The powerpoints for that presentation are on the problem gambling prevention coordinator's website at <http://www.problemgamblingprevention.org/>.

And speaking of "teachable moments", this year's Super Bowl will be taking place the first week in February and it provides another opportunity to bring up concepts such as the availability of treatment and the importance of talking to youth about the risks of gambling. Prevention coordinators were sent a template press release/Op-Ed piece to tailor and use with local media. If you didn't receive it please email wendy.hausotter@state.or.us and you'll receive the template. It's also a great opportunity for prevention and treatment folks to partner in doing some local awareness-building.

Reminder: Problem Gambling Awareness Week (OPGAW) is **March 4 – 10, 2012**. Now's the time to start planning! In a couple of weeks you'll receive a copy of the 2012 Governor's Proclamation,

which some of you use to encourage your local elected officials to do a similar proclamation. There are plenty of great ideas from past OPGAW efforts on the prevention coordinator's website at

<http://www.problemgamblingprevention.org/opgaw.htm> . We will be sending you some new materials in the next couple of weeks, so watch for those as well.

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
Nicole Corbin	Problem Gambling Services Manager	503-945-6722 (w) 503-269-9806 (cell)	nicole.corbinlawson@state.or.us
Karen Wheeler	Addiction Programs Administrator	503-945-6191	karen.wheeler@state.or.us
Wendy Hausotter	Problem Gambling Prevention Specialist	503-945-9703 (w) 503-510-1117 (cell)	wendy.hausotter@state.or.us
Jackie Fabrick	Problem Gambling Treatment Specialist	503-945-7815 (w) 503-602-744 (cell)	jackie.fabrick@state.or.us
Patricia Alderson	Administrative Support	503-945-9710	patricia.alderson@state.or.us

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