

ICPG NEWSLETTER



While we did not expect the Indiana General Assembly to consider a further expansion of gambling this year, that was not the case. House Bill 1153 allows the sale of pull tabs, punch boards and tip boards in Indiana taverns. We delayed this newsletter until we knew the outcome of this proposed legislation.

The 2008 Mid-Central Conference on Problem Gambling will be held September 17-19 rather than the date we cited in our last ICPG Newsletter. The conference will be held at Fort Mitchell Kentucky (near Covington) which is across the Ohio River from Cincinnati.

Information on both of these issues are detailed in this ICPG Newsletter.

Jerry L. Long, ICPG

2008 Mid-Central Conference on Problem Gambling - Completing the Cycle

As this newsletter written, planning is nearly complete for the **2008 Mid-Central Conference on Problem Gambling**. This year's conference will be held on **September 17, 18 and 19** at the newly remodeled **Drawbridge Inn at Fort Michell Kentucky** near Covington Kentucky and Cincinnati Ohio. Hotel rooms are \$75 plus applicable taxes. The registration cost will remain \$60 for members of the NCPG and its affiliates and \$90 for all others. Registration can be made at: **ww.kycpg.org** beginning on May 1. Financial support from the Indiana and Kentucky state governments allow the Alliance to keep the registration cost very affordable.

This a joint effort of the **Mid-Central Alliance on Problem Gambling**. The Alliance consists of the following seven **National Council on Problem Gambling** affiliates:

[Illinois Council on Problem Gambling](#)

[Indiana Council on Problem Gambling](#)

[Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling](#)

[Michigan Association on Problem Gambling](#)

[Ohio Council on Problem Gambling](#)

[West Virginia Council on Problem Gambling](#)

[Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#)

These seven states, along with Tennessee and Virginia comprise two of the fourteen **Addiction Technology Transfer Centers**. Tennessee and Virginia do not yet have NCPG affiliates. The ATTCs are dedicated to identifying and advancing opportunities for improving addiction treatment. With the growth of legalized gaming, the ATTCs have added gambling addiction to their core alcohol and drug addiction efforts. The **Great Lakes ATTC** will again be a conference participant this year.

This conference will again feature some of the most prominent names in the field of problem gambling including:

Carl Braunlich, Ph.D., University of Nevada - Las Vegas

Tim Fong, M.D. University of California—Las Angeles

Rob Hunter, Ph.D, Problem Gambling Center, Las Vegas

Henry Lesieur, Psy.D., Ph.D., Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital

David Ledgerwood, Ph.D., Wayne State School of Medicine

James Whelan, Ph.D., University of Memphis

The 2008 conference is titled, **Completing the Cycle**. The workshops will address:

- Advertising/Awareness
- Identification/Screening
- Interventions/Treatment
- Maintenance/Aftercare

Thirteen CEUs will be available. We hope to have 200 conference attendees this year. Please join us in September. Great presenters, great venue at a very affordable price.

Expansion of Gambling?

Since this year's legislative session was the short session and the key issue was home owner property tax relief, we did not expect any legislation that would result in an expansion of legal gaming. We were mistaken. **House Bill 1153** allows Indiana taverns to sell pull tabs, punch boards and tip boards. The interesting story is now this came about at a time when we thought the main focus of the short, two month, legislative session would be property tax

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Our position did not prevail.

ICPG Mission Statement

The Indiana Council on Problem Gambling strives to generate awareness, promote education, and be an advocate for quality treatment of problem gamblers in the State of Indiana.

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2008 Gambling Expansion in Indiana?

relief given the political fallout around the state in last November's elections.

I will try to explain the chain of events and the "logic" behind this action. It will be easier to follow this if we take it step by step.

1. In 2006 charitable gaming organizations were allowed to sell pull tabs, it isn't just bingo and raffles anymore. There are 2689 such organizations, a great many but not all of these sell pull tabs as well as alcohol.
2. Last year legislation was passed that allowed each of the two central Indiana horse racing tracks to add 2,000 slot machines in 2008, if they paid a \$ 250,000,000 dollar fee to the state and shared the proceeds with the State. The tracks were each also required to contribute \$500,000 to the State's Problem Gamblers' Fund annually.

So that it could be said that this was not an expansion of gaming, a crack down on the many thousands of illegal "Cherry Master" video gambling machines accompanied this legislation. It was argued that there would be a net decrease in gambling if the highly addictive illegal video games were eliminated. These were in bars, truck stops, social clubs, home garages, etc. throughout the state.

3. The increased efforts to eliminate these illegal machines hurt many of the small taverns who relied on these illegal gambling proceeds to remain profitable.

Because of this these taverns then found themselves to be at a competitive disadvantage with those charitable gaming organizations who could sell alcohol and pull tabs. It should be noted that some of these charitable gaming organizations previously had illegal video gaming machines too.

4. The tavern owners successfully made their case to the **Legislature** that they needed help to compete and stay afloat. This help being pull tabs, punch and tip boards.

It is impossible to tell to what extent the "Cherry Master" machines have gone away because they were in so many places. Is this a reduction or an expansion of gambling? We don't know. There are several thousand taverns throughout the state. How many will choose to sell pull tabs? Again we don't know.

What we do know is that a small percentage of Hoosiers will become addicted to pull tabs. This is true of every type of gambling, illegal and legal, including bingo.

The Indiana Council exists to see that help is available for Hoosier problem gamblers and their families. To that end we testified before the committee considering this legislation. We asked that an annual fee be paid to the **Indiana Problem Gamblers' Fund** by each tavern selling pull tabs. We noted that this was required of the casinos and race tracks. We noted that the Legislature had set a precedent that all for profit entities engaged in gambling contributed to the fund and we did not want to see this good precedent lost. We failed in this effort.

We believe that the Legislature should not be selective with regard to who helps repair the lives that become damaged by state sanctioned gaming. We hope that this year's decision will not become a new and very poor precedent when the Legislature considers the next proposed expansion of gambling.

The Indiana Council is neither for nor against legal gambling. We do understand the need to find revenue to support the governmental services that we all want. We all desire to pay as little tax as possible for these government services. Nearly \$1 billion dollars will be paid to the Indiana General Fund this year as a result of legalized gaming in Indiana. Additionally, Indiana greatly benefits from the economic development and tourism associated with gaming. Because of this, legal gaming will continue to provide a painless solution for most of us, but not all of us. We hope our Legislature acts differently the next time.

ICPG'S Joe Daniel Receives the 2008 KYCPG Jim Cooke Leadership Award

Our sister organization, the **Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling** has recognized **Joe Daniel** who is a long time board member, past board president and the driving force behind the founding of the Indiana Council.

This award is the highest individual honor bestowed by the **KYCPG** and honors Joe's commitment to helping problem gamblers and his consistent efforts to foster cooperation among the state Councils affiliated with the **National Council**. The ICPG congratulates Joe.

Suicide/Gambling Conference

The **Behavioral Health and Family Studies Institute of Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne**, with support from the **Division of Mental Health & Addiction (DMHA)** is holding a conference for those interested in suicide prevention/intervention and problem gambling. This one day conference is titled, “**Suicide Prevention: Are You Gambling with Your Life?**”

The keynote speaker will be **Paul Quinnett, Ph.D.**, President/CEO of the **QPR Institute** in Spokane Washington.

Speakers discussing problem gambling at this conference are:

George S. McCellan, Ph.D. is the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at IU-PU Fort Wayne. He is the co-editor of **Gambling on Campus** and is a recognized expert on gambling by college students.

David Ledgerwood, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist and faculty member in **Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences at Wayne State University of Medicine** in Detroit Michigan. He has published numerous papers on problem and pathological gambling.

This event will take place on **Thursday, April 3, 2008** at the Indiana Government Center – South, 402 W. Washington Street in downtown Indianapolis. Registration is through the Indiana University – Purdue University FW Continuing Studies Department. To register online go to the following link: <https://learn.ipfw.edu/ShowGroups.awp>. The conference registration cost is \$40.00 which includes CEU's through the University. If you are interested in any additional information, please contact **Michelle Smith** at: smithmr@ipfw.edu or by phone at 260-48-4184 for assistance.

2008 DMHA PG Training

The 2008 problem gambling training events provided by **DMHA** in Indianapolis continue. There is no registration cost for these events.

Training sessions:

April 8 & 9

(Biogenetics; Neurochemistry & Psychopharmacology & the Brain of gamblers; Special populations (teens, seniors, multi-cultural); Issues for women)

June 3 & 4

(Spirituality & Recovery; Treatment Design & levels of care; Relapse prevention; Workplace & EAP issues; Reimbursement strategies; Transference & counter-transference issues; Ethics standards; Resources; Certification standards)

Joanna Franklin MS, NCGC II will be the trainer for these sessions.

The training events will be located at the Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis. Registration begins at 7:45 AM and the sessions begin at 8:30 PM and end at 5 PM. For more information, please contact **Jennifer Kelley** at 812-855-7831 or jenkell@indiana.edu

Department of Corrections

In late 2007, **DOC Commissioner Donahue**, implemented an initiative that required all of Indiana's State correctional sites to address problem gambling. It was hoped that **Gamblers Anonymous** meetings could be held at each site. Making this happen was problematic. A check of the GA web site indicates that there are 24 GA meetings each week in Indiana. There are 36 DOC facilities. DOC contacted Gamblers Anonymous, the Division of Mental Health & Addiction, several of the PG

treatment providers and the **Indiana Council**, looking for assistance with this project.

Given the small number of GA meetings in our state, the number and location of the DOC facilities and the restrictions required at DOC facilities; a creative solution was needed.

The Indiana Council sought and received assistance from the Indianapolis GA organization (www.indyga.org). On January 8, a workshop training session was held at Indianapolis for staff from each of the DOC facilities. Three Indy GA members, one of which is a ICPG board member, conducted this training. The goal was to train a staff member from each facility to lead a problem gambling support group. The meetings will not be GA meetings as they will not be lead by a GA member.

The meeting was very interesting in that the discussion made clear the limitations that must be imposed by the location of such meetings. Safety and security out weigh confidentiality in these support meetings.

The ICPG commends Commissioner Donahue for recognizing the need to address problem gambling in the DOC facilities and Gamblers Anonymous for assisting DOC in finding a way to facilitate the support meetings.

NPGAW March 9 –15

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week took place last week. The goal of NPGAW is to educate the general public and health care professionals about the warning signs of problem gambling and to raise awareness about the help that is available both locally and nationally.

Considerable useful information and resources on problem gambling can be found at: www.mpgaw.org.

Court Program Outreach

On February 28, **George Brenner LCSW, LMFT, ICAC** and a long time ICPG board member, presented a workshop titled "**Basics of Problem and Pathological Gambling and Its Treatment**" at the Annual Conference for Court Alcohol and Drug Programs sponsored by the **Indiana Judicial Center**. There are approximately 53 of these court programs in Indiana. More than 70 court program staff attended this event which was held in Indianapolis. **Jane Seigle**, executive director of the Indiana Judicial Center contacted the ICPG and the Indiana Council suggested George as the speaker on this issue.

The group was actively engaged in the presentation which included prevalence data, types of gaming, associated crimes, co-morbidity with other mental health and addictive disorders, treatment strategies, barriers to treatment, challenges in identifying problem gamblers and assessment tools that can be used to identify problem gamblers as well as other information on this subject.

One major area of concern of the attendees was that none of the court programs represented had even a basic gambling screening tool or questions as part of their formal assessment process. George suggested utilizing the lie/bet questions as a starting point in looking for a gambling problem when assessing court program clients. We think that this is an important first step with the court programs with regard to helping to get problem gamblers the treatment that they need for problem gambling.

Problem Gambling Work Group

The **Division of Mental Health & Addiction** has established a work group which will examine the delivery of treatment services to problem gamblers. The group will also consider more intensive treatment regimens beyond outpatient counseling, the only state funded gambling treatment currently available. The group's first meeting was held on March 13 and there will be monthly meetings in the future to continue working on this project.

The work group includes staff from DMHA, the **Indiana Prevention Resource Center** and George Brenner and Jerry Long from the Indiana Council.

2008 Problem Gambling Conferences

2008 NCPG Annual Conference

June 26-28 Hyatt Regency Hotel
Long Beach, CA
www.ncpgambling.org

2008 Mid-Central Alliance Conference

September 17-19 Draw Bridge Inn
Fort Mitchell, KY

2008 NCRG Conference

November 16-18/Las Vegas NV
www.ncrg.org

Helpful Contact Information

Indiana Problem Gambling Help Line: 1-800-994-8448

Indiana Voluntary Exclusion Program (VEP): 1-317-234-3600

National Problem Gambling Help Line: 1-800-522-4700

Indiana Council on Problem Gambling: 1-866-699-4274

Gamblers Anonymous: www.gamblersanonymous.org

Gam-Anon: www.gam-anon.org

Indianapolis Gamblers Anonymous: www.indyga.org

Female Gamblers: www.femalegamblers.org

Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition: www.indianarecovery.org

Indiana Council: www.indianaproblemgambling.org

Newsletter and Printed Materials

Please share the **ICPG Newsletter** with others who you think would be interested in the information that it contains. If you need our free brochures, please let us know by emailing us at:

jllong@indianaproblemgambling.org

Support the ICPG Through Your Annual Membership

Individual Membership of the ICPG (\$50)

Joint Individual Membership of the ICPG & National Council on Problem Gambling (\$85) (NCPG Membership is \$75.
Joint membership saves you \$40)

Sponsor (Businesses with up to 10 employees) (\$125)

Sponsor (Businesses with up to 50 employees) (\$250)

Sponsor (Businesses with more than 500 employees) (\$500)

Indiana Council on Problem Gambling membership supports efforts to address problem gambling and is tax deductible. The ICPG is a Federal 501(c)(3) not for profit organization (35-1999551).