

ICPG NEWSLETTER



From the Indiana Council

Time seems to have passed quickly since May and the first issue of this newsletter. I believe that we don't always realize just how many positive things are happening. Hopefully this newsletter will make this clearer to all of us working on the issue of problem gambling and this will then support us in our efforts. We hope that you will share your activities with us so that the Indiana Council can support your efforts.

Please send us any information that you wish to share and we will add it to our web site and include it in this next newsletter. The ICPG also welcomes your suggestions as to activities and projects that we can and should undertake.

Finally, we hope to see many of you at the Indiana/Kentucky Problem Gambling Conference in September at Jeffersonville. This year's workshops again look to be excellent. Please plan on attending. The conference provides a rare opportunity to obtain nearby training for a very small cost. By attending you will also ensure the continued growth and expansion of this event.

Thanks,

Jerry Long, Executive Director
ICPG

2006 Indiana/Kentucky Problem Gambling Conference September 13-15

Ramada Inn Riverfront in Jeffersonville Indiana

Since 2004, the Indiana Council and our sister organization, the **Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling** have pooled resources to present an annual conference on problem gambling. In 2006 the conference is supported by a \$15,000 grant from the **Division of Mental Health and Addiction**. This dollar amount represents a major increase in support by DMHA and has allowed us to expand the scope of the conference and to have presenters from more distant locales. We thank DMHA for this support.

This year our Keynote speaker is **Mark Potenza, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor of psychiatry at Yale University whose presentation is titled **Problem and Pathological Gambling: Neurobiology, Co-Occurring Disorders and Treatment**. **Lori Ruggle, Ph.D.**, director of the Gambling Treatment Program, Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs and clinical/research director of Trimeridian, Inc. will be providing the closing keynote presentation titled **Common Ground; Integrating Substance Abuse and Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment**.

Margo Bristow, M.A., PCGC, substance abuse coordinator for Oak Park and Forrester River Illinois High School and will be presenting a workshop session on **Youth and Gambling**. **Ed Looney, CCGC**, executive director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey and will be presenting on **Pressure Relief**. **Nichelle Anthony** of the Kentucky Lottery, **Tricia Lavore** of Casino Aztar and **Curtis Barrett, Ph.D., ABPP** are on the gaming industry panel whose topic is **Awareness to Action**. **Lia Nower, Ph.D.**, associate professor at Rutgers University, School of Social Work will present sessions titled **Clinical Management of Problem Gambling** and **Advanced Therapeutic Techniques for the Treatment of Problem Gamblers**. **Dan Smith, M.A., CCGC, NCGC** of Ravenswood Institute Gardens and Retreat Center will present a session titled **Essential Recovery: Grace and Trust**. **Chris Bojrab, M.D.**, president of the Indiana Health Group will present a workshop session titled: **Gambling Treatment and Suicide Risk**.

We welcome the **National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors** as a new conference sponsor this year. **NAADAC** is assisting the Councils in

adding a second conference track that provides training relevant to a wide spectrum of counselors. Problem gambling addiction shares much with other addictions. With this conference we recognize this and hope to provide knowledge on problem gambling to a broader audience. This track includes presentations on **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy** by **Curtis Barrett, Ph.D.**; **Pharmacological Treatment** by **Mark Potenza M.D., Ph.D.**, an extensive workshop on **Motivational Interviewing** presented by **Jean Marlatt Henry, LCSW** and **Suzanne Carrier, LCSW** of the Kentucky Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse; and a session on the presented by **Dan Smith, M.A., CCGC, NCGC** titled, **Art and Science of Addiction and Recovery**.

We hope to expand this conference to include participation by other State Problem Gambling Councils and their State addiction agencies. Our ultimate goal being an annual regional multi-state conference that provides cost effective training and information to those involved with problem gambling and other addictions.

Argosy Supports ICPG

In the inaugural addition of this newsletter, in May, we told you that **Argosy Casino** had decided to give the ICPG the dollars won by individuals who had excluded themselves from the Lawrenceburg casino when they were caught violating their self exclusion agreement with Argosy. These dollars had accumulated over more than three years. The size of this gift, \$40,229.19, was quite unexpected. The Indiana Council thanks Argosy and its parent corporation, **Penn National Gaming**, for their generosity and for the vote of confidence. These funds will be used for a number of new ICPG projects and we welcome your ideas for new projects. At the Council's board meeting on July 20, it was decided to use some of these dollars on joint projects with the Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling that will benefit citizens of both States, as these dollars were generated by gamblers from both States.

ICPG Expanded Web Site

The Indiana Council's new web site is scheduled to be placed later this month. This project is funded by a grant from the **Hoosier Lottery's Community Grant Program** and project dollars from **Argosy Casino**. The ICPG web site,

www.indianaproblemgambling.org,

will have information designed to help problem gamblers and their families as well as extensive information for those researching this issue. The web site is designed to be a clearing house for those seeking help for and information on problem gambling. Visitors will be able to access the Council's brochures, newsletters and press releases. The site will contain information on the State funded treatment provider network and contact information for Indiana credentialed problem gambling counselors.

Statewide surveys, VEP data, Annual Help Line reports, Help Line data by year and by county, treatment enrolment data by year and by county. Training event information will be available along with links to the various State agencies involved in gaming and their annual reports. Problem gamblers will be able to share their experiences anonymously by submitting them to the Council for inclusion on the web site. It is hoped that the sharing of this information will help gamblers as well as others as they see that there is help and hope for such problems. If you know of information that you think should be added to the web site, please let the Council know. We are always open to good ideas.

You will be notified by email as soon as the revised web site is in place.

Indiana Council on Problem Gambling 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.

Developing a Successful Gambling Treatment Program

by Brent Stachler

Park Center in Fort Wayne, began the development of a Gambling Addiction Treatment Program in Fall 2002. The result of the many promotional activities has been very positive in that the Indiana Department of Mental Health and Addiction recognizes this treatment program as one of the best in Indiana. However, reaching this achievement required the investment of time, energy, and resources. During the first year of its existence, time was devoted to training other staff regarding specific questions to ask when conducting a clinical interview, such as the Lie/Bet questions, and being persistent with the use of the South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS) during the intake/assessment process. If your treatment facility has a company newsletter, then submit article for each publishing about problem gambling. The rationale being to increase awareness of problem and pathological gambling, since individuals suffering from this disorder will not necessarily present for services with this problem. Other suggestions include the placement of Lie/Bet cards, program brochures and other related material throughout the treatment facility where clients wait.

Many of the promotional activities required the assistance of others, such as staff specializing in marketing and public relations. Initially, various community resources, who had the potential of becoming a referral source, received letters and program brochures about the existence of problem gambling the community and the existence of treatment. Some these included Credit Counseling services, the Mental Health Council, the Mental Health Association, the Probation Department, Bankruptcy Attorneys, Human Resource professionals, EAP-providers, Pastoral community, Union Representatives and to the local universities and colleges. Other ventures to consider are developing a working-relationship with one or more Credit Counseling Service (s), being available to provide education about problem gambling to community organizations, and participating in community health fairs, as gamblers will likely need additional financial services.

With regards to availability and access to treatment, it is **important to be able to provide services within 24 hours of the problem gambler's call for help, recognizing the**

gambler is in crisis now and highly unlikely to attend a scheduled appointment. Most importantly, **offer the gambler hope and praise him/her for taking the first step by calling for services.** Once the gambler has initiated treatment, **strongly recommend involvement in Gamblers Anonymous (G.A.) for continued support of recovery and be aware of the area schedule of meetings.** Be willing to **attend open G.A. meetings** as this, too, is very important, as it provides the opportunity to **develop a relationship with this community as well as become educated about G.A.** If possible, **offer space at your treatment setting for a G.A. meeting.**

One final thought is to **become active in the awareness campaign by participating in the annual National Problem Gambling Awareness week (NPGAW) and to become an active member of the Indiana Council for Problem Gambling.**

If you have questions for Brent, he can be reached at Park Center at:

(260) 481-2700 or bstachler@parkcenter.org

Proposed Federal PG Legislation

HR 6009, the Comprehensive Awareness of Problem Gambling Act of 2006, was introduced in the US House of Representative on Friday, July 28 by **Rep. Marty Meehan (D-MA)**. This bill includes: financial support for a national problem gambling public awareness campaign, \$4 million a year for 4 years for research and \$10 million a year for 4 years for prevention & treatment.

The **National Council on Problem Gambling** played a major role in the drafting of this legislation. There are a great many more steps before this bill would become law. We need to gather Congressional support for the bill. Members of Congress are responsive to individuals in their district and state. Please contact the Representatives in your district and state and ask them to co-sponsor this bill.

Twelve Individuals Pass the NCCCB Test in June

In this newsletter in May, we told you that individuals who had met the classroom training and clinical supervision requirements necessary to take the written **National Gambling Counselor Certification Board** examination would be taking the test in June. All twelve individuals who took the test in Indianapolis passed the test. It is rare that this happens and it speaks highly of the training provided by **Joanna Franklin of Trimeridian**. We thank the **Division of Mental Health and Addiction** for the long term commitment that this very positive outcome required. If these twelve individuals submit the required documentation and fees to the **NCCCB**, Indiana will have increased the number of credentialed problem gambling counselors by more than forty percent.

DMHA Plans Additional PG Training in SFY 2007

Additional problem gambling training is planned by DMHA this State fiscal year along with a clinical supervision component. When the training details are known, we will add them to the ICPG web site.

ICPG Brochures and Cards

During the last year the ICPG has produced and distributed 15,000 of our new ICPG brochures and 30,000 problem gambling cards. These are available in quantity from the Council free of charge.

Please contact the ICPG toll free at: (866) 699-4274 or by email at jljongindy@aol.com, if you need these materials.

20th National Council on Problem Gambling Conference in St. Paul Minnesota

The conference, held St. Paul Minnesota in June, was attended by approximately 400 participants this year. This annual event provides an opportunity to meet and discuss problem gambling with others working on this issue from around the country and the world. The NCPG continues to grow this excellent event which has come to be an international conference. Next year the conference will be held in Kansas City Missouri and in 2008 it will be held in Long Beach California. The Indiana Council is hopeful about hosting this event in 2009 in Indianapolis, as the Indiana Council was the runner-up for the 2008 conference.

Casino Aztar Responsible Gaming Program

by Tricia Lavore, Casino Aztar

Since opening its doors as Indiana's first casino in December 1995, Casino Aztar Evansville has taken a very proactive approach to the identification and prevention of problem and underage gambling.

"Casino Aztar's commitment to responsible gaming is a consistent, year-round effort. We work diligently to educate our employees and we meet our obligation to inform the public about this issue. It has been a priority since our casino opened," said Jim Brown, Casino Aztar's president and general manager.

With extensive internal policies developed to deal with problem and underage gambling, Casino Aztar has a very comprehensive and effective program. Seminars by nationally-recognized experts, extensive new employee training, periodic follow-up instruction and the inclusion of comprehensive responsible gaming materials in employee handbooks are some of the means by which Casino Aztar addresses the issue.

The Responsible Gaming Committee, which includes representation from each operating department, has the responsibility of developing, implementing and monitoring the responsible gaming program at Casino Aztar. The committee meets regularly to direct employee training and awareness programs. The committee also reviews all requests for reinstatement of gaming privileges submitted by guests who had voluntarily excluded themselves from the casino.

In addition, customer awareness materials, such as posters, brochures and cards are provided throughout the property, and the materials are also provided to customers by Casino Aztar employees. Responsible gaming messages, including telephone numbers for assistance programs, are also included in advertising and marketing materials.

Casino Aztar was Indiana's first casino to develop and implement a voluntary self-exclusion program for individuals who feel they may have a gambling disorder. The casino also worked in conjunction with the Indiana Gaming Commission as it developed the statewide self-exclusion program.

As a conscientious corporate citizen, Casino Aztar has developed a close cooperative relationship with area counseling agencies and actively participates in all public awareness campaigns. This includes support of the American Gaming Association's annual Responsible Gaming Education Week, which was observed last month. Educational Activities and events were conducted for Casino Aztar employees August 7 - 11. In addition, bracelets imprinted with the message "Keep It Fun" were distributed to area mental health services providers to illustrate the casino's appreciation for the professional treatment agencies. A special fund, supported by forfeited jackpot money, has also been established by Casino Aztar to pay for counseling services for those in the area who are in need of assistance but without resources or insurance coverage.

The first casino operator in the state to implement Project 21, an educational awareness program designed to heighten awareness concerning underage gambling, Casino Aztar's Project 21 Scholarship Program has awarded \$25,000 in scholarships to area students since the program was launched in 1997.

Casino Aztar has been nationally recognized by the American Gaming Association for its efforts. A member of the Indiana and Kentucky Councils on Problem Gambling, Casino Aztar received the Kentucky Council's Annual Industry Award for "... exceptional contributions toward recognition, prevention and treatment of compulsive gamblers."

IGC Voluntary Exclusion Program

July 1, 2006 marked the second anniversary of the Indiana Gaming Commission's self exclusion program for gamblers (VEP) at Indiana's ten casinos. Individuals are able to exclude themselves from all Indiana casinos by completing just one form.

A person may sign up at any Indiana riverboat casino or at the IGC office in Indianapolis for one year, five years or lifetime exclusion. The list of excluded persons is confidential. In order to sign up for the VEP, an interested participant must fill out a Request for Voluntary Exclusion form in person, witnessed by a gaming agent or staff member. The participant must complete the form of their own free will and not be under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances or prescription medication. Once enrolled, it is the responsibility of the VEP participant to stay away from gaming areas of the casinos. If an individual is found to be violating their agreement by being in an Indiana casino, they will be escorted from the casino. Any winnings can not be collected and any losses are not recoverable.

A person signed up for one or five years may request removal from the program at the expiration of that time period. A Request for Removal form must be completed in person, witnessed by a gaming agent or staff member. Pending IGC approval, the person will then be removed from the program.

As this is written, **1336 individuals from 14 States** have excluded themselves. The majority of these are from Indiana and the States contiguous to Indiana.

State

Indiana 413

Illinois 528

Kentucky 256

Ohio 184

Michigan 18

Gender

52.04 percent are males

47.96 percent are females

Length of Exclusion

One year 32.28 percent

Five years 21.66 percent

Lifetime 46.06 percent

The complete VEP report is available from the IGC at: <http://www.in.gov/gaming/vep/pdfs/statistics-report.pdf>

and on the ICPG web site:

www.indianaproblemgambling.org.

For more information on the VEP, please contact:

Angela M. Bunton, IGC VEP Program Coordinator

(317) 234-3600

vep@igc.in.gov

20th National Council on Problem Gambling

Conference in St. Paul

The conference held St. Paul Minnesota in June was attended by approximately 400 participants this year. This annual event provides participants an opportunity to meet and discuss problem gambling with others working on this issue from around the country and the world. The NCPG continues to grow this excellent event which has come to be an international conference. Next year the conference will be held in Kansas City and in 2008 it will be held in Long Beach California. The Indiana Council is hopeful about hosting this event in 2009 in Indianapolis as we were the runner-up for the 2008 conference.

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Gambling Recovery Ministries

by Reverend Janet Jacobs

During June, the outreach work of Gambling Recovery Ministries was privileged to be presented within the breakout session entitled "Faith Based Approaches to Problem Gambling" at the 20th Annual Conference on Prevention, Research & Treatment of Problem Gambling in St. Paul, Minnesota. During this yearly event, presented by the National Council on Problem Gambling, two and one-half days are packed with plenary sessions and a wide variety of workshops – all addressing the topic of problem gambling. The session, wherein GRM's Director Rev. Janet Jacobs shared leadership, was the only one with a focus on faith based work within the conference. Highlights of this workshop included an historical perspective on faith based responses to gambling, GRM's ministry and outreach, clinical work in utilizing the Steps with a focus on spirituality, and a special meditative exercise to enhance the sense of (re) connection to others and to the Higher Power.

The workshop's room filled up quickly and it was observed that there was *standing-room only!* During the Q & A time, there were many questions. Specifically, individuals wanted to know the mechanics of GRM and how we were able to serve as a *bridge* in linking problem gamblers with clinicians, GA/Gam-Anon, and pastors. Although the concept of faith based outreach was not new, the practical application within these above-mentioned arenas seemed like a novel breakthrough-of-boundaries. Re-encapsulated in the earnest inquiries is GRM's outreach work of informing, connecting, and serving as a spiritual foundation. Indeed, when persons come seeking help and/or during training sessions with pastors, social workers, and health professionals, we deem it a privilege – and a vitally significant duty – to provide up-to-date information on the disorder of pathological gambling, as well as specific resources for help.

For more information, please visit the GRM web site at: www.grmumc.org

2006 PG Conference Registration Information

Registration fee includes all breaks; conference handouts; and CEU applications. Parking is complimentary.

\$50 — for members of NAADAC or State

Councils affiliated with National Council on Problem Gambling

\$75 — non-members

One-Day Fee: \$25 members, \$35 non-members

Registrations received after Sept. 1, 2006, and

on-site registrations will be assessed a \$15 late fee.

Hotel INFORMATION — Reservations at the conference rate of \$72 single/double, plus tax, may be made by calling the Ramada Riverfront, 700 West Riverside Drive, Jeffersonville, IN., 812/284-6711. Complimentary airport shuttle and continental breakfast provided. Tell reservations clerk you are attending the Indiana/Kentucky Fall Conference. **Rooms must be reserved by September 1, 2006, to special rate.**

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SEND registration form below

to KYCPG, P.O. Box 4595, Frankfort, KY 40604-4595; or fax with MasterCard or VISA information to 502/227-8082. For assistance call 502/223-1823 or e-mail kmstone@mis.net.

Name: _____

Organization/Agency: _____

Job Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St.: _____
Zip _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Please charge my: [] Visa [] MasterCard



Membership Application

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Work Telephone _____

Home Telephone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Annual Membership

_____ Individual Membership of the ICPG (\$50)

_____ Joint Membership of the ICPG & National Council on Problem Gambling (\$85) (NCPG Membership is \$75. Joint membership saves \$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 issues in Indiana and is tax deductible. The ICPG is a Federal 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization (35-1999551).

Indiana Council on Problem Gambling

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