

# ICPG NEWSLETTER



I have been with the Indiana Council for nearly two years. While the ICPG has accomplished a number of the goals in our strategic plan, much remains to be done. As an advocacy organization, we all would certainly like progress on our goals/mission to move at a faster pace. We will continue to push the "system" for the necessary changes in services to those affected by problem gambling. Working together we will get there sooner rather than later.

Jerry L. Long, ICPG

## The Hidden Problem that the Governor and State Legislature Must Address

Problem gambling is often referred as a hidden problem as we do not see the physical effects and the gambler with a problem rarely shares their situation with others. I think that it can also be said to be a hidden problem in that problem gambling receives so little media coverage. Generally, the only time we see it discussed in media is when the State Legislature seeks to expand legalized gaming in pursuit of "painless revenue increases."

While expanding gambling may be painless for our Legislators, it is not painless for all of our citizens. Some will develop a problem and they and their families will suffer the consequences. Those opposed to expanding legalized gaming venues always cite the number of new problem gamblers that will be created if the proposed legislation is enacted. Unfortunately, this discussion never seems to lead to a thorough examination of the resources available to problem gamblers and their families in Indiana, the effectiveness of these resources and what additional resources are needed.

In late February, the ICPG submitted a Letter to the Editor to more than forty Indiana newspapers. The letter was published by newspapers in Allen, Floyd and Lake Counties. While three out of forty is not very good, it is somewhat better than the Indiana Council's previous efforts which failed completely. Problem gambling will eventually receive the media coverage it deserves. Unfortunately, the problem may have to grow larger with more and more Hoosiers being negatively impacted by this problem. Substance abuse is now recognized as a major concern. There are many different groups involved in addressing this issue with a great deal of success. Problem gambling is not there yet and it will take more time and effort. It will happen.

Forty-eight States now have some form of legalized gambling. It is generally accepted that as many as four percent of those who gamble regularly will develop a gambling problem. There will be sad stories that can not all be hidden for some of these people. A number of the more sensational of these stories will be publicized

in the media. These will move the issue of problem gambling forward. However, this path to progress will be built on the suffering of many Hoosiers and their families. More can and should be done now.

The State Legislature established a dedicated fund for problem gambling initiatives. While we have more resources than most States, we have not been as creative and judicious in how we have used these resources. We now need to better utilize these dollars. FSSA continues to do the same things that have done in the past. The Legislature and the Governor should expect more. The Indiana Council on Problem Gambling asks that they move forward with the following initiatives:

1. **That all dollars now received for problem gambling initiatives be used for this purpose.** FSSA needs to be directed to do this or IC 4-33-12-6 needs to be amended to require this. Fifty percent of current resources are not used for problem gambling.
2. **That the financial means test**

## **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.*

**for State funded treatment be eliminated as it precludes eighty percent of those seeking help from receiving help.** Private insurance does not cover problem gambling treatment. Problem gamblers prepay for treatment with the revenue that they generate for the State. The State must provide treatment as it is a cost of doing business and the State is a partner in all legalized gaming and has a moral obligation to do this.

**3. That more intensive types of treatment be developed for problem gamblers.** Only outpatient treatment is available now and it is not readily accessible in all areas. A regional residential treatment program should be developed.

**4. That a comprehensive plan for addressing problem gambling be developed by FSSA.** FSSA has been charged with addressing problem gambling since 1993. Fresh ideas are needed. A coalition of State government agencies and other stakeholders involved with this issue should be established to develop and implement such a plan. This has been done very successfully in other States. More input is needed if the available resources are to be better utilized. States with far fewer resources are doing far more with regard to problem gambling.

**5. That any new legislation expanding gaming include additional dollars for problem gambling.** This opportunity must not be lost. The only allocated dollars came with the casino legislation. State dollars for problem gambling have never been made available after the fact. No dollars were set aside when the lottery and two race tracks were approved.

Indiana Council on Problem Gambling

## **By the Numbers**

2005 (11 States had casinos and 9 States had racinos)

### **2005 Indiana Facts**

Gross Revenue - Casinos  
\$2.414 billion (4<sup>th</sup>)  
State Revenue - Casinos  
\$777.78 million (2<sup>nd</sup>)

(In 2006 Indiana ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in gross revenue from casinos passing Mississippi.)

Gross Revenue - Hoosier Lottery  
\$739.63 million  
State Revenue—Hoosier Lottery  
\$143.88 million

Gross Revenue - Charitable Gaming  
\$526.43 million  
State Revenue from Charitable Gaming \$ 3.95 million

Gross Revenue - Horse Racing  
\$189.53 million  
State Revenue from H. Racing  
\$6.05 million

2005 Gross Revenue - Gaming  
\$3.87 billion  
**2005 Indiana Revenue—Gaming  
\$931.7 million**

State Dollars spent on Problem Gambling

**\$2 million was spent by FSSA on problem gambling in 2005 (.002 percent of tax revenues from gaming)**

[www.femalegamblers.org](http://www.femalegamblers.org)

In the last ICPG newsletter we listed some on-line resources for problem gamblers. We learned of this site which has been operating since 1999. It was started by an Arizona woman who is in recovery. This site has a chat room and a newsletter.

## **2007 Regional Problem Gambling Conference September 19-21**

The title of this year's conference is: **Partnerships for the future - Examining Impacts of Problem Gambling on Society.**

The conference is being held at the French Lick Springs Resort in Southern Indiana. It will begin at 1 PM on Wednesday and will end at 12 PM on Friday to allow for travel to and from the conference.

We are pleased to have some of the most well known speakers from around North America this year. These include:

Andrew Chambers, M.D.  
**(Gambling and Dual Diagnosis)**

Ed Looney **(Pressure Relief)**

Jon Grant, M.D. **(Gambling Addiction and Related Mental Health Issues & Biology and Pharmacology of Gambling Addiction)**

Bo Bernhard, Ph.D. **(Sociology of Gambling & Gambling Treatment Issues)**

Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D. **(Identification and Awareness Initiatives within the Gaming Industry & Treatment Techniques)**

Roger Svendsen **(Prevention of Problem Gambling Behavior)**

Brent Stachler and George Brenner **(Establishing Gambling Treatment at Local Mental Health Centers)**

We also hope to have Henry Lesieur, Ph.D. as a presenter.

Fifteen CEUs will be available to those attending the conference. Registration is \$90 or \$60 depending on the attendee's membership in one of the hosting organizations.

**Caesars Indiana  
Responsible Gaming  
Ambassador Program**

Joseph Barrett, VP Caesars Indiana

Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. pioneered the casino entertainment industry's first responsible gaming efforts over a decade ago when a group of employees formed a task force to study the issue of problem gambling. After months of research, the task force developed the industry's first initiative to help employees, guests and the public learn about and cope with compulsive and underage gambling. The National Council on Problem Gambling awarded Harrah's its first corporate award, which recognized Harrah's proactive efforts on the issues of problem gambling. As a result, a number of casino companies and State regulatory bodies have sought Harrah's assistance and adopted our responsible gaming programs.

At Caesars Indiana and Horseshoe Hammond, employees know exactly what to do if they are concerned that a customer may not be gambling responsibly. Every newly hired employee receives extensive responsible gaming training that includes underage gambling (Project 21), children left unsupervised at the property (Unattended Children Policy) and customer requests for restrictions or exclusions (Self Restriction/Exclusion Policy). Additionally, every employee receives refresher training during Responsible Gaming Education Week every August. Employees are trained to listen to the statements patrons make and report to their supervisor any statement or series of statements that cause raise their concern.

Responsible Gaming Ambassador programs were introduced at Caesars Indiana and Horseshoe Hammond in 2006. The ambassadors are specially trained supervisors and managers who

offer assistance to patrons with whom they may have a concern. Employees can quickly contact an ambassador, one of whom is always available and who are equipped to offer patrons all the necessary restriction and exclusion forms, brochures and contact information for professional counseling. The ambassadors also share a company-wide database that is used to log all incidents, restrictions and exclusions. This database interfaces with company player tracking systems to ensure up to date responsible gaming information.

These programs and employee training efforts clearly demonstrate how casino operators in Indiana feel about responsible gaming. Industry employees understand this and we hope you do to.

**PG Training Events**

The 2007 series of problem gambling training events provided by DMHA in Indianapolis designed to increase the number of credentialed PG counselors in Indiana continue. More than twenty individuals have attended each two day training event held this year. There is no registration cost for these events. Remaining training sessions:

April 3 & 4 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
May 3 & 4 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

For more information, please contact:

Mary Lay at 317-232-7854 or at Mary.Lay@fssa.in.gov

The central Indiana Chapter of ICAADA is providing a PG training event on May 18 in Indianapolis. It runs from 8:30 Am to 4 PM. The title is **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Pathological Gambling: Dealing with an Addiction without Substances**. The presenter is Curtis L. Barrett, Ph.D. Pre-registration is \$25. On site registration is \$35. Six CUEs are available.

The event will be held at 4740 Kingsway Drive, 5th floor of the Easter Seals Crossroads Building in Indianapolis.

For more information please contact:

Louise Polansky at:  
(317) 232-7841 or at

Gambling Recovery Ministries and the Community Mental Health Center, Inc. of Lawrenceburg are hosting a PG training session on May 16 from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. Registration is \$50 and seven CEUs are available. The event will be held at CMHC located on 283 Bielby Road at Lawrenceburg. The event is titled **Gambling and Gambling Disorders: What Concerned Professionals and Citizens Need to Know**. The speakers are Curtis Barrett, Ph.D., and Margo Bristow, MA, Youth Gambling Specialist.

For more information, please contact Rev. Janet Jacobs at:

(812) 926-1052 or at jjacobs@grmumc.org

This event is made possible by the City of Lawrenceburg Community Grant Program.

**New Charitable Gaming Brochure**

The Kentucky and Indiana Councils on Problem Gambling have jointly produced a new brochure that will be made available to charitable gaming sites in both States without charge. These brochures are available in quantity from either Council by contacting the Councils at:

ICPG (866) -699-4274  
KYCPG (502)223-1823

This project was made possible by a gift from Argosy Casino.

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Indianapolis, IN 46204  
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Fax: 317.632.1434

Please share the **ICPG Newsletter** with others who you think would be interested in the information that it contains. If you know someone that should be added to the electronic distribution, please let us know by emailing us at:

[jllong@indianaproblemgambling.org](mailto:jllong@indianaproblemgambling.org)

## 21st National Council on Problem Gambling Conference

The 2007 NCPG Conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri on June 8-10, 2007. The title of this year's conference is: **Improving Practice and Managing Consequences for Problem Gambling, Substance Abuse and Co-occurring Issues**. Early registration is \$350 for NCPG members and \$400 for others. Students pay \$125. The room rate at the Marriott Downtown for this event is \$110/night plus tax when use ask for the NCPG block rate before May 16, 2007.

Speakers at this event include:

**H. Westley Clark, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., CAS, FASAM**, director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Health and Human Services Administration.

**Thomas Freese, Ph.D.**, director of the Pacific Southwest Addictions Technology Transfer Center and director of training for UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs.

**Tim Fong, M.D.**, UCLA Gambling Studies Program.

**Rena Nora, M.D.**, Intensive Outpatient Program for Problem Gamblers at the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System.

**Jeffrey Derevensky, Ph.D., and Rina Gupta, Ph.D.**, McGill University's Youth Gambling Research & Treatment Clinic.

**Douglas Walker, Ph.D.**, Georgia College

**Gary Gonder, M.P.A.**, Missouri Lottery

**Jon Grant, M.D., M.P.H., J.D.**, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Minnesota.

**Ken Winters, Ph.D.**, director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research and Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota.

This conference is always excellent and this year's emphasis on substance abuse and co-occurring disorders should be of great interest to those working in the mental health, substance abuse problem gambling. CEUs from the various credentialing bodies will be available.

**Join the ICPG and NCPG for \$85 and save \$50 on conference registration while supporting both the Indiana and National Councils.**

## Join the ICPG

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 \$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).

## From the Indiana Prevention Resource Center

The IPRC is developing a new website for communities, schools, youth and treatment providers. Additional resources under development include fact sheets for youth, families and treatment providers that will be downloadable from the web site. The web site will also contain sample PSAs and advertisements that treatment providers can use to let the community know about resources available for problem gambling. The IPRC can be contacted by calling: (812) 855-1237.

**Visit the Indian Council at:**

[www.indianaproblemgambling.org](http://www.indianaproblemgambling.org)