

ICPG NEWSLETTER



Indiana Council on
Problem Gambling, Inc.

Hello all,

It is always a challenge to find the content to make this newsletter an interesting and a worthwhile read. I hope that we have succeeded with this issue. Please help us submitting your ideas as to topics and stories that you think would be of interest to our readers. We also want to hear from you about your suggestions of new projects that the Indiana Council should undertake.

Thanks,

Jerry at the Indiana Council

2011 MidCentral Alliance on Problem Gambling Conference

This year's MidCentral Alliance Conference will be held on September 27 and 28 in conjunction with the Indiana Addictions Recovery Month Symposium. These events will be held in the Indiana Government Center South in downtown Indianapolis. By doing this, the events will provide those working with in other addiction areas with an opportunity to learn about problem gambling. It will also maximize the dollars that we have available for these events.

There will be a full two day track on problem gambling as in the past as well as alcohol/drug abuse tracks. Registration is free but attendees do need to register via the information distributed with this newsletter. Attendees from the problem gambling world are advised to register during the week of July 14-21 to ensure that they will be able to attend as we only have space for 300 attendees. Last year the INARMS alone had more than 300 attendees.

Among the speakers is Judge Farrell from Amherst New York. He will be the plenary speaker on the 28th. Judge Farrell started the first problem gambling court in the US. He was a presenter at the 2009 National conference here.

From a Recovering Gambler

"I appreciate the opportunity to tell my story. I am a 61 year old female and I am a recovering compulsive gambler. I have been a member of a 12 Step GA group for a little over 6 years. I had 4 ½ years clean time before my relapse. I now have been clean from gambling since October 26, 2008.

I am a single female whose children are grown and on their own. I did not have a significant other. I worked nights and did not have a supervisor to whom I had to report. I did little more than sleeping and working and I had no social life.

I began gambling when I was 47 years old. My oldest daughter and I decided to go on vacation to Las Vegas. Neither of us had ever been gambling before and we were excited. My anticipations came true. I gambled day and night. Our hotel room was above the Casino so gambling access was just a few floors below. Wow, how convenient. I was exhilarated by the lights, bells, whistles, hooping, hollering and laughter. We were treated very well. We felt special. Everywhere we went there was another casino and they were so inviting. We were welcomed everywhere we went. I thought

Ah, this is the life!

After being in Las Vegas for 3 days we came home without even the change for a phone call in our pockets. We laughed about it. I was exhausted and thrilled with the whole casino atmosphere. I quickly started checking out where the nearest casinos were to where I lived. The closest ones were 2 hours away. I decided that gambling was something I could do occasionally for my own entertainment. Within about a month I drove to my first local casino.

I would go about once a month with about \$50. Because I bet the minimum amount the money, I was able to gamble several hours at the slot machines. I had a great time and decided that I could afford to gamble a couple of times a month. Since I got paid every two weeks that schedule worked out perfectly.

After several months of occasional gambling, I decided to increase the amount that I bet each time. I would bet the maximum on every third spin. Because my betting amount increased, my money did not last as long and I ran out faster. I was not ready to go home so I would use my casino comp card to get more money. The amount of

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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of money I needed for gambling gradually grew as the amount of time I spent at the casino increased.

I gambled for 7 years. I went from spending a few hours gambling to about 36 hours at a time. There were a few times I gambled even longer. I went from taking \$50 for gambling to several thousand dollars at a time. The amount I gambled exceeded my income. I continued to gamble by using the free money the casinos gave me. The more I gambled the more points I received on my comp card. I found out that I could write checks for cash at the casino, so I did. I would go to Payday Loan companies to get money before my paycheck was issued and go gamble. I took cash advances from all of my credit cards until they reached their limits. I was able to use the ATM's at the casino to get cash for gambling if I withdrew up to the ATM allowed limit, I would wait until after midnight and the ATM's would allow me to get more cash. The ATMs were not connected to the bank thus I could withdraw over the amount I had in the bank. I withdrew \$1000s beyond what was in the bank. I committed illegal acts by writing bad checks and taking money that I did not have in the bank to spend.

As a result of my gambling, I became more and more stressed. My mental and emotional attitude worsened. I became depressed, irritable, argumentative, belligerent, uncooperative and more. I was isolated by my gambling and I had no one to talk to about what was going on in my life. I felt like a failure because I could not stop the gambling even when it was causing great trouble in my life.

I swore I would never gamble again over and over and over again. Every time I said it, I would go back and gamble. I gambled to get away from my problems. The only thing was that the gambling had and was causing my problems.

How is it that an adult who raised 2 children alone and maintained her home and bills for so many years could become so out of control and do the things that I did? I betrayed my values. I felt guilt and shame. I couldn't fix it. How horrifying this was to me. I couldn't let people know but everything was going down the tubes and everyone would know. The thought was too painful. I became hopeless and I even considered suicide.

As a result of my gambling, I had bill collectors constantly calling me. I had bank overdrafts, my utility bills were all behind if not due for disconnect. I was put on a year of probation at work due to my poor attitude and work performance. I lost my home because I fell behind in my mortgage. I almost lost my car. I lost all sense of my self-worth and self-esteem. I lost contact with my family and friends. I lost my support system.

I had been seeing a therapist and one day I told them that I thought I had a gambling problem. I was given information about Gamblers Anonymous and I attended my first meeting. I went to the meeting location and waited for several hours for the meeting to start. I did this so that I would not back out of attending the meeting. That was March 5, 2005. I was afraid to leave. I was so full of fear.

I was again considering suicide. I was looking for a sign of hope even though I didn't think there was any.

What did I receive that night? Hope! I was among people who had the same problem and were receiving help and hope as well. I now have been attending meetings for 6 plus years. My life is so much better. I have learned a lot about myself and why I did the things I did. My job situation has been repaired. I have more contact with my family than I ever did before. I have friends who help me grow into a better me. They have helped me care about life again.

I never dreamed I would become an addict. I can admit it today and not feel shame. I want to let people know that gambling for some of us can become a devastating force. I also want to be available to help these people when they are ready for help. As long as I work my program and stay in recovery I will be able to do just that."

Indiana Senate Enrolled Act 340 Charity Gaming

Senate Enrolled Act 340 would change the following:

1. Requirements for obtaining a charity gaming license
2. Use of charitable gaming proceeds to pay the salaries and benefits of the organization's qualified employees
3. Reporting requirements for conducting charity gaming events
4. Increase in the frequency of allowed charity gaming events
5. Broaden the hours during which gaming events may be conducted
6. Issues related to licensing and regulating national organizations and their affiliates

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Currently the Indiana Gaming Commission has approved licenses for nearly 3500 charity gaming organizations.

The FY09, the most recent annual report, shows:

- \$539,113,829.57 in gross receipts
- \$462,708,482.49 in expenses
- \$76,405,347.08 in net proceeds
- \$9,618,291.42 to the charity
- \$53,993,715.40 retained amount
- \$12,765,892.15 undistributed amount

FY12 Charity Gaming Changes

Organizations that have a single gaming event may use voluntary staff to sell tickets. This excludes tip/punch boards and pull tabs.

A worker who has completed their work requirements for the day may then engage in gambling activities during the remainder of the day.

Credit cards can be used for anything other than a game of chance at the gaming event.

Organizations no longer are required to submit expenses related to non gaming activities.

Organizations may now have events lasting up to 5 days (festivals).

Internet Gambling

Currently nothing seems to garner more interest in the gambling world than internet gambling which would greatly impact the current gaming landscape.

Last July, Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts introduced legislation legalizing and regulating internet gambling.

In mid April, the owners and founders of the three largest **online gambling** sites in the United States were indicted and charged with bank fraud, money laundering and illegal gambling offenses by the Feds.

In June, Congressman McDermott introduced the Internet Gambling and Tax Enforcement Act of 2011, HR2230. This was followed by Congressman Barton's introduction of the Internet Gambling Regulation and Consumer Protection and Enforcement Act of 2011, HR1174

This month it was reported that Herb Simon of Simon Properties in Indianapolis is looking at setting up a new business entity to cash in on the windfall should internet gambling be legalized.

We will keep you updated on the internet gambling happenings in our future newsletters.

Federal Problem Gambling Legislation

With the party switch in the US House of Representatives after last year's election, House Bill 2906 died. Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) has now introduced the Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act of 2011 in the United States House of Representatives as H.R. 2334. He was joined by Rep. Wolf (R-VA), Berkley (D-NV) and Hastings (D-FL), all were previous sponsors of the HR 2906 last year. The \$15 million grant provision is not included in this year's bill due to Congressional leadership's heightened political concerns about authorizing any new spending, but the bill is still an important first step in that formalizes SAMHSA's authority to address problem gambling.

Please contact your Representative to help support this legislation.

Regional Gambling News

The legalization of casinos in Kentucky seems to be stuck at the discussion stage at this time. Illinois has approved a new casino in the Chicago market that is expected to impact the northern Indiana casinos which serve a great many visitors from the Chicago area.

The off and on construction of the four new Ohio casinos is back on track. Governor Kasich had reopened the state contract in order increase the state's share of revenue.

Hosier Lottery

The Hoosier Lottery reports that FY11 revenues totaled \$740 million and generated nearly \$190 million which was transferred to the state's general fund. Scratch off ticket sales dropped to \$465 million from \$474 million in FY10. The newly added multi-state Mega Millions game generated \$12 million and the new Keno like game added another \$10 million.

DMHA Problem Gambling Training Opportunities

October 20, 2011
Women, Trauma, Problem Gambling & Substance Abuse Treatment

October 21, 2011
Integrating Religion & Spirituality into Mental Health Treatment

October 21, 2011
Integrating Bereavement & Loss into Addictions & Mental Health Treatment

November 9, 2011
Gambling 101 & Treatment Planning

Online Registration:
www.ipgap.indiana.edu/training/register.aspx

Study Reveals Gambling to be is a Rising Problem Among Adolescents

A recent study by Dr. Jeffery Derevensky, director of the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors located at McGill University in Montreal shows that problem gambling is most closely associated with younger men.

The study shows that 8% of participating adolescents between 14 and 17 years of age were at risk for developing gambling disorders, and almost 5% were already considered to be gambling addicts.

Additional research shows that one of every 100 Canadians and one of every 100 Americans are compulsive gamblers and are at high risk to suffer from substance abuse. In the UK, online gambling activity (poker, sports betting, and casino) has risen 42% over the last year with little age group or gender distinction.

Dr. Derevensky also found that about 6% of adolescent males took part in one form or another of online gambling during 2010. Furthermore he predicts that this number will increase significantly, especially as smart phone technology becomes more and more common among young people.

Negative outcomes associated with adolescent gambling disorders include family quarrels, behavioral difficulties, and substance abuse problems, as well as financial troubles many of the same problems adults who suffer from gambling addiction face.

Derevensky warns parents to be aware of online activities among children and encourages them to discuss online gambling related issues with teens and even check credit card statements to make sure teens aren't gambling online.

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 any of our printed materials, please let us know by emailing us at:

jllong@indianaproblemgambling.org

Upcoming Problem Gambling Conferences

Indiana Addictions Recovery Month Symposium &

MidCentral PG Alliance Conference
September 27 & 28

Indiana Government Center South
Indianapolis Indiana

NCRG 12th Annual Conference

October 2 & 4

Las Vegas Nevada

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 Gamblers Anonymous Hot Line: 1-866-442-8621
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.info
recoveringgambler.com
Gambling Recovery Ministries UMC: grmumc.org
Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition:
www.indianarecovery.org
Indiana Council on Problem Gambling:
www.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 500 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).