

Annual Ohio Problem Gambling Conference Draws Nearly 200



Counterclockwise from top left: Dr. Jeffrey Derevensky gives his keynote address; Dr. Lori Rugle speaks during her presentation on SBIRT; participants in a breakout session.

Nearly 200 professionals from across the state braved winter weather to attend Ohio's annual Problem Gambling Conference held March 5-6 in Columbus. The theme of the one-and-a-half-day event was "Growing Awareness, Building Capacity," and included a variety of educational seminars by experts on mental health, addiction, and the prevention and treatment of problem gambling. The conference's keynotes were delivered by Dr. Jeffrey Derevensky of McGill University, an expert in prevention and treatment of problem gambling among adolescents, and Dr. Lori Rugle, director of Maryland's Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling.

The conference, held during Problem Gambling Awareness Month, was sponsored by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG). Along with OhioMHAS, ORG partners include the Ohio Casino Control Commission, Lottery Commission and Racing Commission.

Thanks to all of our sponsors and presenters, and to all those who attended. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

PROBLEM GAMBLING TREATMENT PROVIDERS URGED TO REGISTER WITH HELPLINE

Based on Workforce Capacity Survey findings from Fall 2014, it appears that there are professionals and organizations in at least 56 Ohio counties who are qualified to treat people with a gambling disorder diagnosis. Despite this evidence, the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline only has listings for 47 individuals/agencies with gambling disorder treatment capacity - many are multiple sites of a single agency in one county. To make sure the Helpline has the most updated information available, professionals and certified treatment agencies that are qualified to treat clients with a gambling diagnosis – co-occurring or standalone – should be adding relevant service information to the Helpline database. To sign up for the Problem Gambling Helpline database, [click here](#) to request inclusion or to update information.

STATE SYSTEM REVIEW EXPERT MAROTTA PROVIDES PG FORUM OVERVIEW

Prompted by a commitment to continually improve problem gambling services in Ohio, OhioMHAS partnered with Jeff Marotta, PhD, to facilitate a four-hour workshop entitled Problem Gambling Services System Improvement Forum. The Forum was designed to solicit input and ideas for improving the problem gambling services system in Ohio, and is part of a year-long effort to analyze the state's problem gambling services system of care. Marotta - an expert in state and international problem gambling service systems - gave an overview of the day's findings at the March conference.

Invitations to system stakeholders resulted in about 40 workshop participants representing various groups, including higher education, social service agencies, treatment agencies, advocacy groups, and Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Boards. Participants addressed five program areas and brainstormed possible solutions: Community Readiness, Treatment, Prevention, Collaboration, and Capacity Development.

Suggestions that met with the highest rankings for action included:

- Develop a new problem gambling awareness campaign
- Workforce development; Increase treatment structure and provider competency in implementing evidenced based practices
- (Focus on) cultural competence / messaging to diverse populations
- (Focus on) behavioral health field education
- Make a Building Community Gambling Awareness toolkit; simple and appealing ABCs
- Enhance communication between (community) groups

A final report is expected to be available by June 30.

Problem Gambling Helpline

1st Quarter Statistics
(Jan. 1 - March. 31, 2015)

Total Calls to Helpline

1,162

Month

January: 454

February: 353

March: 355

Gender

Men: 609

Women: 540

Unknown: 13

Age of Person In Need

1-17: 3

18-24: 46

25-34: 176

35-44: 150

45-54: 196

55 and older: 362

unknown: 229

How People Heard About the Helpline

Casino: 151

Casino Advertising: 35

Billboards: 9

Lottery Games/Tickets: 62

Cards: 17

Tickets: 15

Internet: 49

Family and/or Friends: 37

National Helpline: 4

Other: 144



Registration is now open for the 2015
National Conference on Problem
Gambling, held July 10-11 in Baltimore.
[Click to go to the conference page.](#)



29th National Conference
on Problem Gambling

Preparations Underway to Launch Round Two of the Ohio Gambling Survey

In SFY 2012, the state, in partnership with Kent State University, undertook the first-ever Ohio Gambling Survey to establish a baseline for prevalence of gambling and risk levels for problem gambling and gambling disorder addiction. At this time, proposals are being accepted for Round Two of the state survey. The Round Two surveys will be modeled after the original survey, and will be collected throughout SFY 2016 and analyzed in SFY 2017. The plan is to gather sufficient cell phone and landline surveys to provide county or regional data across the state.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Problem gambling trainings are offered throughout the year at locations across Ohio. Social workers, counselors and other mental health/addictions professionals are encouraged to attend.

Advanced Disordered Gambling Training: This two-day session focuses on the Pathways Model, which helps professionals identify the appropriate treatment strategies for individuals with a gambling disorder. The training will be led by Lia Nower, J.D., Ph.D., a Professor and Director of the Center for Gambling Studies at Rutgers University.

Dates: May 26-27 in Cleveland and May 28-29 in Columbus.

Contact Jen Clegg at jclegg@recres.org or (216) 431-4131 ext. 1321 for more information.

Problem Gambling Symposium: Hosted by the Cuyahoga County Problem Gambling Coalition, this event aims to raise community awareness of problem gambling and increase local treatment capacity. CEUs and RCHs will be available for social workers, counselors and chemical dependency professionals. More information can be found [here](#).

Dates: June 19 (8:30a - 3:30p) at the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, 11890 Fairhill Road, Cleveland.

Contact Ashley Hartman at ahartman@recres.org or (216) 431-4131 ext. 1108 with questions.

Additional information on treatment trainings can be found at www.recres.org/GamblingCEUs.



Gambling Disorder Endorsement for LCDC IIs and Above Now Available

After nearly five years of collaborative effort, the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board (OCDPB) has a new endorsement in place for treatment of Ohioans with a gambling disorder diagnosis. Clinicians must hold an active LCDC (Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor) II, LCDC III, LICDC or LICDC-CS license with the Board to be eligible to receive a Gambling Disorder Endorsement.

To receive the Endorsement, applicants must complete 30 hours of gambling specific education in the following content areas:

- Knowledge of Gambling Disorder
- Gambling Counseling Practice
- Special Issues in Gambling Treatment
- Professionalism in Gambling Treatment

Ohio professionals who have attended the 36 hours in Stage 1, 2, and Advanced Gambling Treatment trainings, supported by OhioMHAS and the Ohio Lottery Commission, have received the required education. Applicants may be eligible for a Preliminary or a Renewable Endorsement, depending on number of hours of supervised clinical experience in treating people with gambling disorder. To register for the Gambling Supervision conference call(s), [click here](#). To learn more about the Endorsement requirements, [click here](#).

Responsible Gambling Quarterly is produced by Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG). ORG is a collaborative effort among four state agencies to promote responsible gambling in Ohio and provide resources to those seeking help for a gambling problem.



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