

Problem Gambling Services

Critical Program Updates

*This is our primary communication tool to provide state-funded Program Gambling Services providers with **Critical Program Updates**. Please take time to ensure that you are up to date on clarifications and changes to our system that will appear here.*

May 13, 2010

9-10:30am-PGS Provider

Go to Meeting


Login info coming soon

From the desk of Paul D. Potter:

The budget balancing reductions for Problem Gambling Services has gained the attention of the media. As a result, I have received several concerned emails from individuals who need our services. They have shared their stories of how gambling addiction has taken control of their lives and destroyed their families, their jobs and their future. They asked me to not take away their lifeline to recovery. It is a credit to you in your programs that have so touched the lives of others that they are moved to reach out to me and advocate on their on behalf. I have agonized with the decisions that I have made knowing that Oregonians lives would be affected. It is a responsibility that I do not take lightly and I strive to strike a balance that does as little harm to individuals as possible.

Now we must look to the future and plan for how we will be adding back the lost elements of our system as quickly as possible. Please ask your staff and clients to talk to their legislators, show up at AMH Community Forums and go to website or Facebook and tell their story about what Problem Gambling Treatment and Prevention means to them on a personal level. You can make a difference. On behalf of the countless Oregonians and their families that need our prevention and treatment services I thank you for stepping up!

Organizational Stress is a real and potentially damaging phenomena if not managed well. What happens to organizations when they are broken, wounded or traumatized? Trauma can be



cumulative and subtle caused by constant threats to continued funding along with constant questioning of effectiveness of our programs. We could become shell-shocked by the constant assault. You may feel helpless and terrified, over time rather than all of the sudden. This may result in many symptoms, including difficulty maintaining useful working relationships. We look for the person or entity to blame and direct our rage on them. We can all become stuck in ineffective patterns. Some organizations die when this level of trauma erupts, however others do not succumb. They live and even thrive. How does the happen?

First, by acknowledging openly and frankly the trauma that has and continues to happen. Minimizing this will not help, it only increases the feelings of rage and helplessness. Secondly, we must rediscover and hold on to our faith, values and principles: those core things that attracted us to this work and hold us here day after day. Third, reach out to your colleagues, support one another, challenge each other to work towards learning how to be more proactive, effective and focused. The entire staff of Problem Gambling Services are united and committed to our efforts to work with you and many others to not survive but live and thrive. Please join us!

May 5 PGS Prevention Webinar on Working with Schools RESCHEDULED to August 10 from 1 - 3 pm

Mark your calendars for Aug. 10 from 1 -3 and join us and our special guest experts: Jess Bogli, former Oregon Department of Education staffer and now a national consultant on school health and Isabelle Barbour, coordinator of the Healthy Kids Learn Better Program. Jess and Isabelle have been PGS partners at the State level for a couple of years now and are familiar with problem gambling prevention and awareness challenges in schools. They have many years' experience working within the school setting to get health issues recognized so you will be hearing from those who know best how to get into and work wiht schools. Through their Healthy Kids Learn Better coalition, over 65 teachers from across Oregon have become familiar with our middle and high school awareness tools (f you're not sure what those are, go to our prevention coordinator's website at <http://www.problemgamblingprevention.org/youth.htm>. Before the webinar, I will ask you to submit questions/concerns/issues so they can focus their presentation on what interests you all the most. It'll be a great opportunity, so don't miss it! Registration, instructions, etc. will follow early in August and will be sent via email.

The 24th National Conference on Problem Gambling Prevention, Research, Recovery and Treatment is in Portland this year. Two full conference days and two pre-conference workshop

days offer many opportunities to learn from nationally recognized experts in problem gambling treatment and from experts in our own backyard.

Pre-conference workshops provide a more intensive learning environment, focused on skill-building. Six tracks are being offered: prevention skills, diversity training, evidence based clinical practice, advanced clinical skills, program management & skill development and applied suicide intervention skills training (ASIST).

For full conference offerings, see the attached brochure.

For the Oregon Scholarship rate of \$75 for the two conference days, or for the early bird registration rates, register by May 10, 2010 at www.ncpgambling.org/OR2010



If you'd like to see past issues of this newsletter, go to:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/gambling.shtml> scroll down to "Problem Gambling Services Announcements"

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DHS Problem Gambling Services web site: http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/gambling.shtml			
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Staff changes? Please notify **Patricia** ASAP so we can keep our records current!
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