

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING
1423 KELLOGG STREET
GREEN BAY, WI 54303
WWW.WI-PROBLEMGAMBLERS.ORG

For help, call:
1-800-GAMBLE-5

Winter 2009

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN funded by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health/ Family Services - Bureau of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery in the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR: Potawatomi Bingo Casino



WISCONSIN COUNCIL
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

Welcome to 2009

Happy New Year! As 2009 begins, the staff and Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling look forward to continuing and expanding the services we provide to compulsive gamblers, their family members and to the state of Wisconsin.

The WCPG will celebrate its 16th anniversary in 2009. Requests for our services continue to increase, not only through calls to the Helpline but by requests from schools, service groups, professional conference, etc. Calls to the statewide 24-hour Helpline have increased 277% since the Helpline began in 1996.

The Council continues to provide training to treatment providers who are interested in treating compulsive gambling disorders. Currently we have 77 treatment providers who are providing services to compulsive gamblers and their families throughout the state.

Calls to the Helpline continue to increase. Callers to the 24-hour Helpline receive referrals to Gamblers Anonymous meetings, GamAnon meetings and treatment providers who have been trained specifically to work with the compulsive gambling addiction.

On March 19-20, 2009, the Eleventh Annual Compulsive Gambling Awareness Conference will take place at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. We look forward to hosting our 11th Annual Statewide Conference as we bring in national and local speakers.

As our Statewide Public Awareness Campaign continues, we continue to look for new ways to provide quality information throughout the state on the compulsive gambling addiction and to let people know that help is available for those who are affected.

During 2009, we look forward to continuing our partnership with the Potawatomi Bingo Casino. The partnership with Potawatomi Bingo Casino helps keep the Helpline operating and expanding its services provides sponsorship and scholarships for the annual conference and provides training programs in the Milwaukee area.

We are very thankful to the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health/Family Services-Bureau of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery in the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for their ongoing support and recognition of compulsive gambling disorders.

As 2009 moves forward, I look forward to working with all of you and keeping you updated on what is happening at the Council.

Rose Gruber, WCPG Executive Director

2009 Board of Directors:

Sharon Salm-President,
Kelly Skindzelewski,
Executive Vice President
Nancy Baker-
Vice President,
Sue VanderGeeten-
Treasurer,
Carol Ermo-Secretary,
Gina Greatens, Jessalyn
Harvath, James Lewis, Ed
Ramsey, Aaron Sabel,
Larry Schoville, Bob Truax,
Mark Wesenberg

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Fritz Beck, Alice Byrnes,
Amelia Cornelius, Becky
Hobbs, Kathy Hughes, and
Scott Stein

2009 Administrative Staff:

Rose Gruber-
Executive Director
Cheri Braley-
Helpline/Training Coordinator
Renee Salamonski-
Conference Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

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One's best success comes after their greatest disappointments.
Henry Ward Beecher

2009 TRAINING SCHEDULE - CONTACT WCPG FOR DETAILS
920-437-8888
1-800-GAMBLE-5
wi-problemgamblers.org

2009 GREEN BAY TRAINING SCHEDULE

DATE	TRAINING	LOCATION	Registration Deadline
April 16-17, 2009	Phase 1	1423 Kellogg St Green Bay, WI	April 10, 2009
May 7-8, 2009	Phase 2	1423 Kellogg St Green Bay, WI	May 1, 2009
August 27-28, 2009	Phase 3	1423 Kellogg St Green Bay, WI	August 21, 2009
September 24-25, 2009	Phase 4	1423 Kellogg St Green Bay, WI	September 18, 2009

Save Money!!

- **Sign up for Phase 1 and 2 or Phase 3 and 4 at the same time and receive a \$25.00 discount!**
- **Sign up for all 4 Phases and receive a \$100.00 discount!**
- **Get 3 people from the same agency to attend and receive a 10% discount off the Total!**

Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards.

Become a Part of the Call Responder Team!

The WCPG is continuously looking for ways to improve the services it provides to compulsive gamblers and their families in the state of Wisconsin.

We are looking for your help. We will be hiring a Call Responder Team to help us improve services on the 24hr Helpline. The office will continue to cover the Helpline Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm. Call Responders take a shifts or a week at a time answering the 24 hour Helpline during non -office hours. Call Responders will be given a cell phone and the Helpline will be forwarded to that cell phone. We will be paying a stipend of \$25-\$45 a shift. Training will be provided at no cost to you. If you are interested in hearing more about this exciting new direction the Helpline is taking, please contact us at 920-437-8888 or 1-800-426-2535.

GA and Gam-Anon members are encouraged to apply to become a Call Responder. WCPG requests that a recovering gambler, who wishes to participate, have a minimum of one year of abstinence. Thank you.

National Gambling Awareness Week March 1-7, 2009

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, along with the National Council on Problem Gambling, is working to raise awareness about the consequences of those with the gambling addiction. We hope the information in this newsletter will in some way help in our mission of promoting education on problem and pathological gambling. For more information or resource materials, please contact us at 1-800-GAMBLE-5.

Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go.

William Feather

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling 2008 Year in Review

The year 2008 was the tenth year of our Compulsive Gambling Public Awareness Campaign. It was our fifteenth year in operation and the thirteenth year of the 24-hour Helpline. The Council continued to see tremendous growth over the past year.

The Public Awareness Campaign contains six different project areas used to enhance the awareness of Problem and Compulsive Gambling. These areas include the 24-hour Helpline, Mini-grants for Community-Based Activities, High School Educational Curriculum, Statewide Compulsive Gambling Awareness Conference, our Public Relations Media Awareness Campaign, and the Training of Human Service Professionals.

24 Hour Helpline

The Helpline received 12,946 calls in 2008 with the highest month of calls being January, with 1,434 calls. Our Helpline number is included in more than 145 telephone directories throughout the state. We were originally in 15 books. Hits to our website are increasing annually, having received 5290 hits in 2008. The highest month of hits was January with 654 hits. The average debt amount reported to the Helpline was \$36,706. Many people refuse to divulge this information or are confused about their indebtedness. During the year 2008, 1761 referrals were made and 625 packets of information were sent.

High School Educational Curriculum

We continue to work with schools in implementing the curriculum "Gambling: Choices and Challenges". Distribution of this program is important because teens are rapidly becoming the fastest growing population involved in problem and compulsive gambling. To date we have received more than 600 requests from schools across Wisconsin wanting this educational program. Many of them already have implemented the curriculum into their programs and a number of the others have implementation dates in place. We are currently revising the curriculum to include updated research and trends. Presentations in schools throughout the state continue.

State Wide Compulsive Gambling Conference

Our Tenth Annual Statewide Conference on Problem Gambling was record breaking with 160 participants who attended the two-day conference in Green Bay on March 8-9, 2008. National speakers included Rick Benson (Florida), LaTrice Hambright (Pennsylvania), David Hodgins (Canada), Jeffrey Miller (Wisconsin), Renee Siegal (Arizona), Dan Smith (Missouri), Arnie Wexler (New Jersey), James Walsh (Delaware) and Ken Winters (Minnesota). For the first time, a 4-hour pre-conference workshop was held with Dan Smith presenting "Drumming as Cross Cultural Healing for Gamblers and Other Addicts". Topics at the conference included: prevention and treatment issues, disabilities, older adults, intervention, ethics, effects of gambling on family and the gambler, spiritual growth, legal issues and financial issues. Four awards were given to recipients that have been instrumental in helping the Council continue to expand education, awareness and prevention of Problem Gambling. The Special Recognition Award was given to Alice Byrnes. The Outstanding Volunteer Award was given to Diana Abelt. The Leadership Award was given to Doug LaBelle. The Spirit Award went to Robert McGuigan.

Training of Human Service Professionals

The WCPG sponsored two Phase I and Phase II training sessions throughout the state during 2008. Two Phase III and Phase IV sessions were also held. A "Stakes are High" training was held in Green Bay. Four Department of Corrections trainings were held during 2008. Two hundred thirty six training units were provided through these sessions.

We continue to develop a list of all persons/agencies within the State of Wisconsin qualified to provide training, education, treatment or public information at various levels, for use by such groups as Employee Assistance Programs, Human Resource personnel, AODA personnel, School Counselors, Treatment Providers and civic and church groups.

Public Relations/Media Campaign

As part of the media awareness campaign, the following has been accomplished or continues:

- ⇒WCPG continues to develop a list within the State of Wisconsin of persons/agencies who are qualified to provide training, education, treatment or public information at various levels on the issue of compulsive gambling.
- ⇒Planning, development, and implementation of public awareness-phase nine.
- ⇒Printing and distribution of eleven different posters.
- ⇒One-on-one media interviews in the state's five main media markets.
- ⇒More than 450 media contacts including newspapers, radio, and television.
- ⇒Numerous press releases on the WCPG effort.
- ⇒Continued distribution of "Is Gambling Affecting Your Life?" (approximately 80,00 have been distributed)
- ⇒Exterior bus signage continues in several cities throughout Wisconsin, as well as cards for the insides of buses.
- ⇒Billboard advertising continues.
- ⇒Bus Shelter ads were developed for Milwaukee.
- ⇒Bathroom ads in Wisconsin Casinos.

- ⇒Exhibits at a variety of conferences and programs throughout the state.
- ⇒Tokens, magnets, pens, pencils, note clips, back scratchers, calendars, oven sticks, and computer dusters are being distributed in a variety of ways throughout Wisconsin. These public awareness “tools” are an excellent opportunity to get the 800-Helpline number out to thousands of people. People are more likely to pick up a pen, which has the 800 number on it, rather than they may take a pamphlet.
- ⇒Continues partnership with the Wisconsin Lottery.
- ⇒Increased number of materials in our “Resource Library”.
- ⇒Continues distribution of WCPG brochures including “special population” brochures.
- ⇒A new brochure for parents was developed and distributed.
- ⇒Continues distribution of quarterly “Legislative Newsletter”.
- ⇒Continues distribution of new “Membership Brochure”.
- ⇒Continues development of a data collection process for a “book of experts”.
- ⇒Reached an estimated 13,000 people through contacts at exhibits, workshops and conferences.
- ⇒WCPG continues to speak to a variety of groups—EAP, Social Service departments, counselors, people working with the elderly, Dept. of Corrections, etc. to provide education and awareness on the compulsive gambling addiction.
- ⇒WCPG placed ads in “Teaching Today”, a statewide newspaper that goes to almost all of the schools in Wisconsin. This will be a great contact with people who work with adolescents who have a high rate of becoming addicted to gambling.
- ⇒WCPG continues to distribute our quarterly newsletter to approximately 5,600 people throughout the state.
- ⇒A public awareness folder for 2008 was developed and distributed.
- ⇒Public Service Ads were placed on cable TV.
- ⇒A workplace brochure continues to be distributed to generate more awareness in the workplace environment.
- ⇒A legislative newsletter is distributed quarterly to all legislators in Wisconsin.
- ⇒A brochure geared toward parents is being developed and will be distributed.
- ⇒An ad continues in the Union Labor Directory, which is given to thousands of people.

Mini-Grants

The mini-grant program continues. The mini-grants help to enhance the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling public awareness programs. There were four mini-grants awarded in 2007-08. The grants were awarded to: Ain Dah Ing, Chippewa County, Dunn County and Sawyer County.

The mini grant awarded to Ain Dah Ing helps provide resources and awareness materials for their annual substance abuse conference. The goals were to:

- Increase awareness of problem/compulsive gambling.
- Provide resources about the problem gambling addiction.

Mini-grants were awarded to Chippewa and Dunn Counties. The goals of these two projects are to:

- Provide public education on the compulsive gambling addiction.
- Display monthly ads in Senior Times newspapers.

The fourth grant was awarded to Sawyer County. The goals of this mini-grant are to:

- Provide resources, information and support on problem gambling.
- Provide written resources.
- Display billboards which will provide public awareness resources.
- Provide newspaper ads.

The Request for Proposals for the 2008-09 mini-grants was distributed. These will be awarded in early 2009.

Potawatomi Bingo Casino Sponsorship

Through the Potawatomi Bingo Casino Sponsorship we were able to provide Phase I-IV trainings in the Milwaukee area. Sponsorship was provided for the Tenth Annual Conference and 15 scholarships were awarded. The sponsorship also provides assistance for the operation of the 24-hour Helpline and printing of brochures/booklets.

WCPG has had a very challenging and productive year. We will continue to move forward in all of our endeavors. We look forward to continuing and expanding our programs in the year 2009.

Save the Date!!

The National Council on Problem Gambling and the Indiana Council on Problem Gambling bring you the 23rd Annual National Conference on Problem Gambling.

Make plans to attend the oldest and largest conference on problem gambling in the world. Hear more than 100 of the top presenters from across the U.S. and around the world.

**Hyatt Regency Indianapolis
June 25-27, 2009**

For more information check online at ncpgambling.org

**Congratulations to
Kelly Skindzelewski!!**

Kelly Skinzelewski was elected by the board of directors, as the new Executive Vice President. Kelly follows in the footsteps of Kathy Hughes who resigned from the position in August.

WELCOME KELLY!!



Passing of Dr. Rena Nora

It is with great sadness that we report the news of Dr. Rena Nora's passing on Saturday, November 8, 2008. Dr. Nora was a great friend of the NCPG and words cannot express how much she will be missed by all. In 2006 she was featured as one of the prominent pioneers in the field of problem gambling.

**Congratulations to the two
newest WCPG Board Members
Ed Ramsey and
Mark Wesenberg!!!**

There is Still Time to Register!

March 19 & 20, 2009

Eleventh Annual

Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference

There is still time to register for our 2009 state conference, which will be held March 19 & 20, 2009, at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. Early registration rates are available until February 24, 2009. Scholarships are available. Hotel reservations should be made prior to February 24, 2009 to be eligible for the conference rate of \$89.00 per night. To reserve your room, call The Kalahari Resort and Conference Center at 1-877-525-2427; spaces are limited.

This conference will bring together Treatment Providers, Researchers, Criminal Justice Personnel, EAP Professionals, Social Workers, Tribal Officials, Elected Officials, Educators, Students, HR Personnel, Clergy, Compulsive Gamblers, and Family/ Friends of Problem Gamblers.

Continuing Education Credits applied for with the following: Department of Regulation and Licensing, National Council on Problem Gambling, Employee Assistance Certification Commission, Wisconsin Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Work and Substance Abuse.

For more information or to download a conference brochure / scholarship application, you can visit our website at: wi-problemgamblers.org.

For help, call: 1-800-GAMBLE-5

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

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**Newsletter now Available via
email....**

Please contact
The Wisconsin Council
on Problem Gambling
1-800-Gamble-5
or email:
wcpgamble5@new.rr.com.

Check out this newsletter on the web at: www.wi-problemgamblers.org

The Wisconsin Council On Problem Gambling provides resources, public awareness and education on problem and pathological gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.

Our goals are to:

- Promote public education and awareness of pathological and problem gambling disorders.
- Maintain a toll-free statewide Helpline where pathological and problem gamblers and their families can call for immediate and continuing assistance in dealing with the addiction.
- Advocate quality assistance for all individuals affected by gambling problems.
- Identify "high risk" individuals and groups of problem and pathological gamblers and provide prevention activities and information.
- Provide expert training to professional counselors in the treatment of pathological and problem gamblers.
- Compile and maintain a database of statistical information concerning problem and pathological gambling in Wisconsin.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT:

The WCPG is currently accepting volunteers. Anyone interested in donating their skills and time to the organization by answering Helpline calls or helping with administrative projects is encouraged to contact us at (920) 437-8888.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

The WCPG has both books and videos in our lending library. Materials can be loaned out on a two week basis. These materials can also be mailed to you. For more information, call Cheri at (920) 437-8888 or email her at: wcpgamble5-cheri@new.rr.com.