

Fall 2007

September - December

Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling

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REMOTE GAMBLING

Gambling at your Fingertips - Everywhere

REMOTE GAMBLING

Gambling at your Fingertips - Everywhere. Remote gambling is any form of gambling in which a person does not need to be physically present. It can be conducted from the safety of a gambler's own home, car, airplane, street corner, café, school room, board room or any place a remote device is operable.

What makes Remote Gambling a growing concern?

- It is immediate – accessed from anywhere, anytime
- It is a solitary endeavor
- It is even more hidden than other forms of gambling
- Others know that it is a problem only after their lives have been painfully effected

Remote gambling includes:

- Internet sites which include any form of betting imaginable
- Mobile devices for text messaging and internet/web access
- Cell phone, telephone
- Interactive TV

Facts on Remote Gambling

- Internet has over 2,500 gambling sites and the number is growing daily

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**Congratulations
To Jeff Court
for Passing the
National Exam!**



Mini-Grants

We have received several applications for mini-grants for 2007-2008. We were pleased to award the mini-grants as follows:

- **Ain Dah Ing, Inc.** for their 3rd Annual Conference in August 2008.
- **Chippewa County Dept of Aging** for public advertisement in the Senior Times on problem gambling with referrals to WCPG.
- **Dunn County Office on Aging** for public advertisement in the Dunn County Senior Hi-Lites on problem gambling with referrals to WCPG
- **Sawyer County Information & Referral Center** for local radio station air time and billboard signage on problem gambling and the "Gambling Away My Golden Years" curriculum.

Exciting Adventure

On August 16, 2007 the main office of the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling made a huge transition!

We moved to a new location. We are en-

joying the additional space which was very much needed (and we are utilizing every possible inch)!

We are sure this will enhance all aspects of

the Council.

Thank you for your continued support. WCPG wouldn't be the growing Council that we are today without you!

Looking at The Past and Preparing for The Future....

By Rose Gruber



Rose Gruber
Executive Director
Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling

I recently celebrated my 10th anniversary with the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling. The Council today is completely different from when I walked in the door 10 years ago. Our office then consisted of one room, two desks, a computer and me (with a few less gray hairs). Today we have an eleven room office, several more computers and desks and have gone from me to three. It has been exciting to watch the changes and growth the Council has gone through and at times its trials and tribulations.

In 1997, the 24-hour Helpline received 3,865 calls from problem/compulsive gamblers and their families. In 2006, the Helpline received 9,206 calls. As of July 31, 2007, the Helpline is on target to receive over 10,000 calls this year. It is so exciting to see the increase in calls. It means that people are beginning to understand that compulsive gambling is an addiction and that help is available.

Over the past ten years the Council has grown in many other ways as well. We are currently in the 10th year of our statewide public awareness campaign, which receives funding from the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health/Family Services-Bureau of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Through the public awareness campaign we are able to reach thousands and thousands of Wisconsin residents. Throughout the state, we have signage in bathrooms of 11 casinos, billboards in several locations and the 1-800-GAMBLE-5 Helpline number is currently listed in over 130 telephone directories. Posters, brochures, booklets and pamphlets have been developed and thousands of these are distributed each year. We do many interviews resulting in several hundred newspaper, television and radio stories each year. Our goal is always to let people know that gambling can become a problem, that help is available and how people can get help. Public speaking, trainings and exhibits are another way we provide public awareness throughout the state. Several casinos provide responsible gambling programs and our phone number is listed on many of the lottery tickets in the state.

Planning is underway for the WCPG's 10th Annual Conference to be held March 13 & 14, 2008, in Green Bay, Wisconsin. My dream goal for the 2008 Conference is "208 participants in 2008". Mark your calendars and tell your friends! This year's conference was held in Green Lake, Wisconsin on March 22 & 23, 2007, with 115 attendees. Evaluations told us this was the best conference yet.

The conference continues to be a great way to bring together state and national experts in the gambling addiction field to present workshops on treatment, high-risk groups, special populations and other topics.

Over the past several years we have implemented the curriculum "Gambling: Choices and Challenges" into many middle and high schools throughout the state. We are also in the process of updating the school curriculum. Continuing the distribution of the curriculum is important because teens are becoming one of the fastest growing populations to become addicted to gambling. We continue to look for ways to do outreach with students in the state of Wisconsin. (continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

WCPG continues to implement its training program for treatment providers throughout the state. The training program helps build resources for compulsive gamblers and their families who are seeking treatment. Since the public awareness campaign began in late 1998, the WCPG has provided over 1000 units of training.

Another exciting program at the WCPG is our mini-grant program. This program is part of our public awareness campaign and provides mini-grants to individuals or agencies to provide specific public awareness, educational, informational and various activities on compulsive gambling at smaller levels within their communities. The mini-grants help the WCPG enhance its public awareness programs. The mini-grant program has awarded 16 mini-grants to date. These grants were used to inform adolescents and their educators on the issue of compulsive gambling. Ads were published in senior citizen newspapers; placemats were developed and provided to nutrition sites and other events for senior citizens. An awareness campaign was developed at a local university along with a survey on college age gambling. Billboard and print campaigns were developed in rural Wisconsin areas to provide awareness to its residents. A half-day training program was developed to provide education to professionals who work with senior citizens to teach them the concerns of a compulsive gambling addiction.

In the past years, we have been involved in a prison outreach program. We have been able to provide books on compulsive gambling to several of the correctional facilities for use in their libraries. One of the facilities started their first Gamblers Anonymous meetings in November 2004 and the second facility began theirs in September 2005. Several other facilities hope to do the same in the near future. During 2006 and 2007 the WCPG began providing 6 hour trainings for D.O.C employees. The trainings have been well received and we look forward to providing additional D.O.C. trainings in 2008.

The more outreach we do, the more we realize how much more there is to be done. As the compulsive gambling addiction becomes more accepted, the number of people reaching out for help continues to grow.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped “grow” the Council over the years. Everyone’s involvement either financial, in-kind, attending a workshop or conference, being a member of the WCPG’s Board of Directors or volunteering, helps the Council grow day by day. All of us continuing to work together will insure that services are available for compulsive gamblers and their families far into the future.

“Some people come into our lives and quickly go, some stay for awhile and leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same.” *Author Unknown*

Thank you all.

Rose Gruber
Executive Director



Happy Fall Y'all

1-800-GAMBLERS

Remote Gambling (Continued from page 1)

- Online poker has over 400 websites and is growing daily
- Presently there are over 5 million transactions conducted per day, or an average of about 300 bets per second
- There is no US regulation on how the sites control payouts and percentages.

The sites could manipulate the gambler to think they are skilled and can outplay the others on the site. Once winning and playing with greater amounts of money the site could decrease the gamblers odds and take the winnings back with interest.

Attractive to persons who:

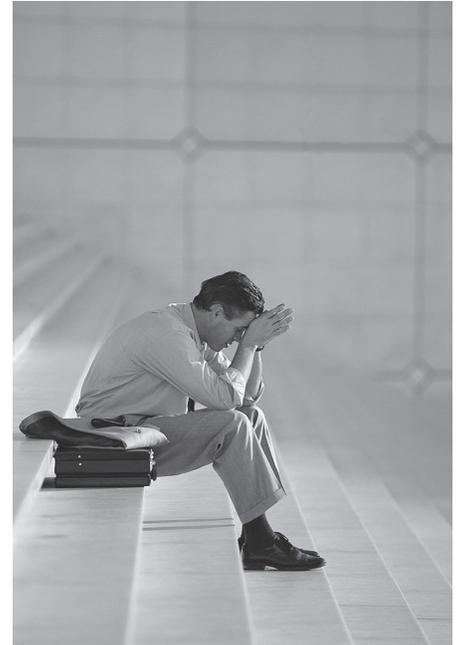
- Want immediate access
- Are socially shy and lack confidence
- Prefer privacy
- Are uncomfortable with physical nearness to others
- Disabled and do not want to be seen as different
- Want to decrease social barriers based on sex, race, age, disability
- Want to be someone they are not

Remote Gambling makes the gambler feel:

- Uninhibited – people do and say things in cyberspace that they wouldn't ordinarily say in the real world.
- Interactive with others without face to face contact
- As if they can escape and get away from the real world
- Intelligent, skilled and all powerful until they start losing

Thoughts of the Remote Gambler

- You don't know me – anonymity
- You can't see me – invisibility
- See you later – don't relate in real time, wait for messages
- It's just a game – real money does not change hands – it's all credits
- We're equals – authority really does not exist

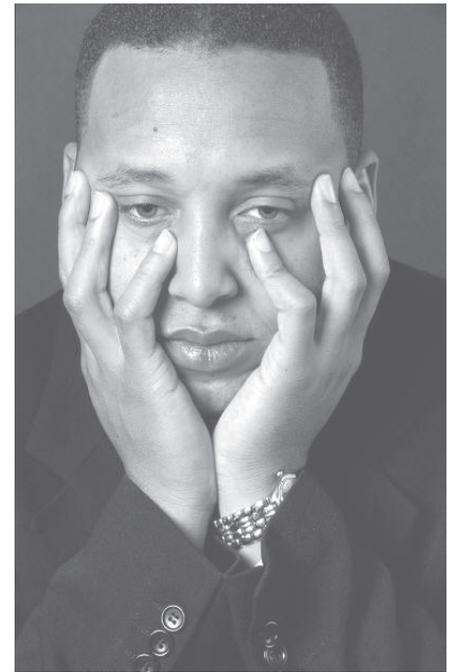


Phase 1 & 2 Trainings

Phase 1 & 2 trainings are in the process of being scheduled. More information will be coming in a brochure to all treatment providers in the area. If you would like a brochure and want to be sure you are on the list please call or e-mail.

920-497-8888

e-mail wcpgamble5@new.rr.com



What Remote Gambling Provides

- Gratification: No waiting, instant
- Anticipation: Removed, instant action, adrenaline rush
- Companion: Always there when needed
- Fantasy: Takes you to it, change persona, gender bender
- Expression: In a private world, more satisfying than real life
- Ego: Boosts fragile/bruised ego
- Constraints: Lacking boundaries. Limit only by extent cash/credit
- Chasing: Several times a day. PC is a beckoning finger. (Bellringer, 2006)
- A Chance: to lose financial resources, friends, jobs, family, freedom, etc.

Remote gambling does not include face-to-face encounters. It is solitary and unmonitored. Awareness of this problem needs to be a family matter – the people most likely to discover the gambling problem are family, friends and those closest to the gambler.

What to do if you think you or someone you know has a problem with Remote Gambling

Call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Hotline at 1-800-426-2535.

10th Annual Statewide Conference

March 13-14, 2008

Green Bay, WI

KI Convention Center/Regency Suites

Call early for hotel reservations

Regency Suites Reservation line 800-236-3330

Ask for Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling room block.

Scholarships Available

Watch for Brochure!!!



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WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

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Education
Prevention
Awareness

We're on the web
wi-problemgamblers.org

THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING PROMOTES 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.

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.

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.

**"I am Not Afraid of Tomorrow
For
I have seen Yesterday
And
I Love Today"
William Allen White**



Take a moment to enjoy Mother Nature's beauty!