



February 4, 2020

Dear Friend,

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling has joined with the National Council on Problem Gambling in their efforts to increase public awareness of the availability and benefits of gambling disorder treatment. One of our goals this year is to provide information to all professionals working with people who are at risk to become problem gamblers throughout the state of Wisconsin. An estimated 5-7% of the adult population may experience some kind of problem with gambling activities. We want to provide information about gambling disorder, how it impacts loved ones, how to have a conversation with someone about gambling disorder, where to find resources, and where to find help. We have enclosed a poster with information regarding Problem Gambling Awareness Month. We would appreciate it if you would make copies of it and distribute in prominent areas. A study estimated that between 17 and 24 percent of problem gamblers attempt suicide.

During the month of March, 2020, communities nationwide will be working to raise awareness of the consequences of gambling disorders and the resources available for individuals whose gambling is causing disruption in their lives. Treatment for problem gambling is not only available, but is also effective in improving the lives of problem gamblers and their families. This initiative is also a celebration of the men and women who are overcoming problems associated with their gambling behavior.

The efforts of this month are geared toward creating a society where those affected by problem gambling are able to identify the problem and access professional services that help minimize the consequences of problem gambling. It envisions an environment in which treatment of gambling problems is recognized as a specialized field of expertise and professionals trained to assist problem gamblers are recognized for their unique knowledge, skills and abilities.

We would like to offer you free wallet cards for you to use as a resource and hand out. If you are interested in quantities of these free wallet cards please contact us using the contact information listed below.

The enclosed poster provides information on encouraging people to play responsibly. We are hoping you will display the poster throughout the month of March, 2020. For more information or to obtain free literature, posters, promo items, or specific brochures including high-risk populations, please contact the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling at (920) 437-8888, or e-mail wcpg@wi-problemgamblers.org. We also conduct trainings and presentations for professionals who are interested in learning more about problem gambling. We also have a "Just the Basics" free online training available on our website at www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

Our 21st Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference will be held on **March 19-20, 2020**, at the **KI Center/Hyatt Regency in Green Bay, Wisconsin**. This event will bring together national and Wisconsin experts in the compulsive gambling addiction field. Please consider attending. For more information or a brochure, contact the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling at 920-437-8888 or visit our website at www.wi-problemgamblers.org. Scholarships are available.

Sincerely,

Rose Blozinski

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