



February 8, 2021

Dear Friend,

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. provides resources, public awareness, and education on problem and pathological gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling. The WCPG has joined with the National Council on Problem Gambling during the month of March to celebrate Problem Gambling Awareness month. The focus is to increase public awareness, availability, and benefits of gambling disorder treatment. Our goal is to provide information to all individuals working with people who are at risk to become problem gamblers throughout the state of Wisconsin.

It is estimated that 5-7% of the adult population may experience some kind of problem with gambling activities. A study estimated that between 17 and 24 percent of problem gamblers attempt suicide. 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 how to find help.

"Research indicates the prevalence of disordered gambling is significantly higher in the homeless, comparable to the general population. Further research indicates that gambling is more commonly a factor contributing to homelessness." (Sharman, S. Gambling and Homelessness: Prevalence and Pathways. Curr Addict Rep 6, 57–64 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40429-019-00242-6>)

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 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.

As part of the enclosed information, we have attached the Lie-Bet: 2-Question Screening Tool that may be used as part of your admission screening process. The enclosed poster provides information about Problem Gambling Awareness Month and tools individuals can use as a self-screening tool. We are hoping you will display the poster throughout the month of March, 2021. We have included a brochure and a free wallet card for you to use as a resource. If you are interested in quantities of these items or obtaining free literature, posters, promo items, or specific brochures including high-risk populations, please contact the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling at (920) 437-8888, e-mail wcpbg@wi-problemgamblers.org, or fill out a request form at www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

For more information on events and programs sponsored by the WCPG, please visit our website at www.wi-problemgamblers.org and/or Facebook page. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to allow us to share this information with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Blozinski".

Rose Blozinski
Executive Director
Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling
1585 Allouez Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54311