



March 7, 2011

Contact: Margot Cahoon

margot@masscompulsivegambling.org / 617-426-4554

KATHLEEN M. SCANLAN LEAVES MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING AFTER 24 YEARS

BOSTON, MA -- Rodney Hoffman Esq., President of the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling Board of Directors, has announced that Kathleen M. Scanlan will retire from her position as Executive Director of the organization with a target date of March 18, 2011.

Ms. Scanlan has agreed to continue on in a part-time role to advise on special projects. "It has been my observation that one of the signs of a strong leader is that he or she develops the other members of the organization so that, when the leader is out of the picture, the organization can still function well. By this standard, Kathy's leadership abilities have proved to be excellent. The staff functions well, takes the initiative and demonstrates a flexibility that gives me great confidence that Kathy's successor will be able to build upon, rather than tear down and rebuild, the current staff of the Council. For this and all of her other contributions to the Council and its mission, we can thank Kathy for a job well done," said Hoffman.

Under her leadership as Executive Director of the Council, Ms. Scanlan led the organization in achieving many milestones in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Harvard Medical School and other agencies. A sampling of those projects include the development of *Practice Guidelines for Treating Gambling Related Problems*, the first evidence-based guidelines for clinicians treating problem gambling; and the creation of *Your First Step to Change*, a self-directed guidebook for people with gambling problems who are not able to access traditional modes of treatment.

Ms. Scanlan has strengthened the Council's infrastructure through the development of policies and procedures, advocated for and secured state funding for problem gambling services in Massachusetts through the legislative budget process.

more

Page 2

Kathleen Scanlan Retires from Mass. Council on Compulsive Gambling

Contact: Margot Cahoon 617-426-4554 / margot@masscompulsivegambling.org

Kathleen has also been recognized as a leader in the field; honored by the New England Collaborative on Problem Gambling in 2002 and as the recipient of the National Council on Problem Gambling's Distinguished Program Award in 2001.

“When Thomas N. Cummings founded the Mass. Council on Compulsive Gambling in 1983, help for a gambling problem was difficult to find. Tom’s initiative assured that services would be available to help families and individuals who were struggling. When Tom died in January of 1998, I became concerned that his good work might come to an end, and decided to assure that the Council was as stable as possible before moving on. Today the Council is a mature organization on solid ground and poised to grow. I am happy to hand it over to a new leader who can continue to help people with gambling problems and take the Council into the future with new skills, new ideas, and a new vision,” said Scanlan.

“While looking forward to enjoying whatever the next phase might bring for me, I will miss seeing individuals and families regain their lives, their happiness, their health, and their productivity through overcoming a gambling problem. I will also miss the rewarding interactions with colleagues, partners, collaborators, and allies that I have enjoyed tremendously,” Kathleen concluded.

For an opportunity to wish Kathy well and congratulate her on her many years of leadership, the Council will host a special reception in her honor at the National Conference in Boston on the evening of June 30, 2011. For more information, please contact Marlene Warner, Program Director at the Council at 617-426-4554 / marlene@masscompulsivegambling.org.

###