



## Save the Date

# 25TH ANNIVERSARY BREAKFAST GALA & AWARDS CELEBRATION

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

THE MASSACHUSETTS  
COUNCIL ON  
COMPULSIVE GAMBLING



Celebrating 25 years of  
compassion, understanding  
and solutions

1983 - 2008



David D'Alessandro, Former Chairman and CEO of John Hancock Financial Services



Susan Wornick, Co-Ancor of WCVB-TV's Midday Newscast

Founded in 1983, the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling has been instrumental in bringing the issue of problem gambling to the attention of the public and policymakers, offering resources to problem gamblers, their loved ones and concerned members of the community for 25 years. Previously there were no funded problem gambling services available in Massachusetts. Today, due largely to the efforts of the Council, awareness of problem gambling has increased significantly, along with sources of help for those who need it.

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a Breakfast Gala &

*"The addiction has no heart or conscience. It does not care about mortgages, child support, food, clothing, utility bills or any obligation or promise. Like a shark, it only cares about being fed."*

– David D'Alessandro,  
*The Boston Globe,*  
August 16, 2007

Awards Celebration to be held on Monday September 22, 2008 at the Boston Harbor Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The Council is pleased to announce that **David D'Alessandro**, former Chairman and CEO of John Hancock Financial Services, will be the keynote speaker. He holds a strong interest in the issues facing problem gamblers and their families. With eloquence and dignity, Mr. D'Alessandro shares personal experience that encourages people from all walks of life to consider the human side of the issue.

In addition, **Susan Wornick**, co-anchor of WCVB-TV's Midday newscast, will moderate the festivities, as well as present awards to the "25 Who Have Made a Difference for Problem Gamblers and Their Families" at the event.

The cost to attend the elegant plated breakfast event is \$75 per ticket, or \$750 for a table of ten. Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are also available. For more information about the Gala, please contact Council Special Projects Director, Diane Crowley at [diane@masscompulsivegambling.org](mailto:diane@masscompulsivegambling.org) / 617-426-4554. Updates will also be available on the Council website: [www.masscompulsivegambling.org/news/news.php](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org/news/news.php)

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# 2008 CONFERENCE *Focuses on* PREVENTION, TREATMENT and TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

On Friday, May 9, 2008, the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling held the 2008 Conference on Gambling Problems entitled, "Gambling Disorders in the Commonwealth: Honoring Past Achievements, Recognizing Present Accomplishments, and Looking to the Future" at the University of Massachusetts, Boston Campus.



*Presenter, Jeffrey L. Derevensky, PhD, Co-Director, International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec pictured with Mass. Council Executive Director, Kathleen M. Scanlan.*

The Conference highlighted some of the latest problem gambling research, and its application to service delivery. Jeffrey L. Derevensky, PhD, Co-Director, International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk

Behaviors at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, presented the latest research into the risk and protective factors for youth problem gambling, as well as shared insights from his work with young adults struggling with the disorder.

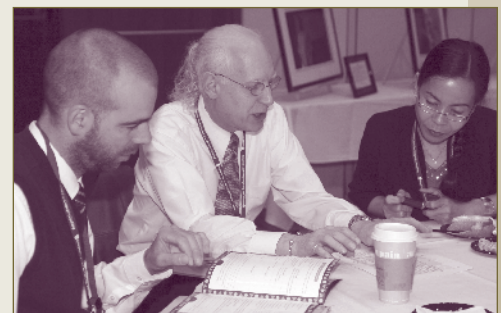
In addition, some of the Council's latest Asian Outreach Initiatives were featured. Chien-Chi Huang, MS, Asian Community Program Specialist for the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling and Christine Reilly, Executive Director at the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at Harvard Medical School, Division on Addictions presented "Utilizing Your First Step to Change Self-Directed Treatment Guidebook." The self-directed guidebook was created to help people struggling with gambling problems to determine their own appropriate steps to change. This document has been validated as a helpful treatment alternative through a federally funded grant in its English version, and it has now been translated into three Asian languages. Participants were guided in the use of this tool.



*Tanela Thu Ngo, Central Mass Area Health Education Center, Program Manager of Translation Services and Chien-Chi Huang, Asian Community Program Specialist from the Mass. Council on Compulsive Gambling share conversation at the Conference.*

Ms. Huang also joined John Doucet, Producer and Director of John Doucet Film & Video Inc. in Cambridge, and Richard Earle, Senior Associate at the Regis Group in VA, to present "Creative Outreach

to Asian Casino Bus Riders: Reaching Gamblers Where They're At." Participants learned about the short, educational video explaining the risks involved with gambling that will soon be shown to people riding the buses from Chinatown and Quincy to the Mohegan Sun Casino. Workshop attendees learned about the strategy behind the process, and enjoyed a sneak preview of the film.



*Conference participants share ideas during a workshop session*

Throughout the day participants had a choice of three workshop tracks:

*Advancing the Prevention of Problem*

*Gambling Agenda, Extending Our View of Problem Gambling Treatment, or Utilizing Technological*

*Advancements to Help Problem Gamblers.* Additionally, the Council began its celebration of 25 years of providing services to problem gamblers and their loved ones during a special luncheon event.

The conference garnered positive feedback with 89 percent of attendees stating that it was above average or excellent.

# Clinicians Participate in COUNCIL'S SPRING TRAININGS

This spring the Council, together with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, and AdCare Educational Institute, Inc. offered two regional problem gambling training opportunities for clinicians, as well as two online trainings. The goal was to equip helping professionals with the tools they need to understand, assess and treat gambling, while earning Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

*Facilitating Problem Gambling Clinical Treatment Groups* was held on Monday, March 10, 2008 at Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR), Fall River. The one-day workshop, which was facilitated by Mary Lou Costanzo, LCSW, NCGC, Clinical Director for the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Problem Gambling Services, and David Spalding, LCSW, NCGC-CC, a clinical social worker for the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Problem Gambling Services, guided clinicians through the process of establishing clinical treatment groups for people with gambling problems.

*The Next Steps in Treating Gambling Disorders: Identifying Comorbidity & Countertransference Issues and Understanding Family Therapy and Self-Help Resources* was held on Thursday, March 27, 2008. The one-day workshop, which was facilitated by Marilyn Feinberg, MA, LMHC, CAS, a therapist with extensive clinical practice in treating problem gambling and other addictions, and Rob Whitman-Raymond, LICSW, CAS, a therapist, consultant and supervisor with a private practice in Pawtucket, RI, explored the treatment of problem gamblers with co-morbid disorders and their family members, as well as addressed countertransference and self-help resources.

The Council also offered two online courses: *Recognizing and Managing Countertransference in Problem Gambling Clinical Work*, facilitated by Geoffrey W. Locke, MA, MSW, ABD, CAS, a clinician in private practice in Amherst, Massachusetts, and *The Gambling Brain: How It Works & How to Treat It*, which was facilitated by Jon Grant, JD, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

For more information about the Council's online training opportunities, please contact Council Program Assistant, Peggie Milisci at [peggie@masscompulsivegambling.org](mailto:peggie@masscompulsivegambling.org) / 617-426-4554.



*Jeffrey Beck, LPC, CPGC, JD, CART, MCTC, Managerial Assistant at the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey*

Jeffrey Beck, LPC, CPGC, JD, CART, MCTC, Managerial Assistant at the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey has participated in two of the Council's online training courses. Following is an interview with Jeff, conducted by Mass. Council Communications Specialist, Margot Cahoon.

## **Q. Which Courses have you taken with the Council?**

**A.** Last year I took the Countertransference course offered by the Council. I enjoyed it very much. I'm currently taking your "Gambling Brain" course.

## **Q. Have you taken other online courses, offered by other institutions?**

**A.** I have taken many online courses. I was an attorney for 20 years and I have an insatiable appetite for knowledge. Online courses provide me with the opportunity to learn at my own speed, in my own time.

## **Q. What do you like about the Council's online courses?**

**A.** The materials provided were very good. The articles and questions posed by the instructor were extremely thought provoking. The courses made me think hard and reflect upon my experience with the issues. I also really like the interaction via the computer. I enjoy reading other people's posts and the interchange of ideas, without the limits of face to face communication. It is so interesting to be able to communicate with different people from different environments, interests and backgrounds in the problem gambling field who bring a myriad of experiences to the table.

## **Q. What differentiates the Council's online course from other online courses you've taken?**

**A.** The instructor did an excellent job. He was professional and well prepared. He was good at summarizing and bringing up valid points other participants had made. I've taken other online courses with no guidance and no direction.

# PREVENTION

## Older Adult

## PEER-TO-PEER

## TRAINING PROGRAM

Recently, the Prevention Department developed an older adult peer-to-peer training program. As part of the Council's initiative to prevent problem gambling among older adults, the peer to peer training provides population-specific information about problem gambling, as well as suggests ways to facilitate discussions with older adults about the issue.

The training, developed by Prevention Assistant, Katie Warner with assistance from Prevention Director, Jim Wuelfing, is designed to provide information and resources regarding problem gambling in an interactive, informal, and non-clinical format. Participants at the training learn what gambling is, strategies for effectively managing and lowering one's risk while gambling, signs that can indicate a potential problem, and how problem gambling affects the gambler and those around him or her, all with a focus on issues specific to older adults. In addition to the basic information on problem gambling, the Council suggests ways to initiate a conversation or intervention with the problem gambler.

The first training of the six-hour program was conducted during two Friday afternoon sessions, April 25 and May 2nd at the Monson Senior Center. Jim Wuelfing and Katie Warner presented the trainings, which were well-received. Participants were eager to learn about the issues through activities and discussion.

The Council's next steps include re-evaluation and improvement of training materials, and providing participants with the ability to use the information in both personal and professional settings. The Council will provide ongoing technical assistance to individuals and organizations involved in the program.

People interested in the Older Adult Peer-to-Peer Training are encouraged to contact Council Prevention Assistant, Katie Warner at [katie@masscompulsivegambling.org](mailto:katie@masscompulsivegambling.org) / 617-426-4554.

## Prevention Resource LIBRARY

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is pleased to announce the launch of our new Prevention Resource Library. The Council has compiled problem gambling prevention materials from across the country, and developed a resource library of materials for public use. Please visit [www.masscompulsivegambling.org/services/prevention.php](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org/services/prevention.php)

The library search engine allows anyone interested in problem gambling prevention materials to search by audience and by products. An example of one of the materials included is "Wanna Bet?" *An Educator's Guide to Preventing Adolescent Compulsive Gambling*. This curriculum was developed by the North American Training Institute in Duluth, Minnesota. Another example of a product included in the library is "Are You Gambling Away Your Retirement?" The pamphlet was developed by the California Office of Problem Gambling.

It is the Council's hope that the library will serve as a tool for other groups interested in the prevention of problem gambling. According to Jerry Bauerkemper, Executive Director of the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling, "WOW, I love your new resource directory. Thank you to the Mass. Council for putting this together. I put it in my e-mail favorites and plan on sending the address to all of my providers in Nebraska."

Mark VanderLinden, Coordinator of the Iowa Gambling Treatment Program at the Iowa Department of Public Health echoed similar sentiments. He said, "I just took a look at the prevention resource guide – very impressive. I've forwarded it on to our providers in Iowa. Great job!!!!"

The Council has not made an attempt to rate or review the resources listed. In some cases, the resources are available for purchase or one copy is available for you to use as you develop your own resource. Resources that cannot be shared at all have not been included.

If you have any questions, please contact Council Prevention Director, Jim Wuelfing at [jim@masscompulsivegambling.org](mailto:jim@masscompulsivegambling.org) / 617-426-4554. **Please note:** while there are several hundred items included in the library, it is not a comprehensive list. If you have a prevention item that you would like to see added, please e-mail a PDF picture of the item, along with a one paragraph description and contact information to Prevention Director, Jim Wuelfing for consideration.

***"I just took a look at the prevention resource guide – very impressive. I've forwarded it on to our providers in Iowa. Great job!!!!"***

# council unveils

## PREVENTION PLAN

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling recently unveiled its prevention of problem gambling plan designed to guide the work of the Council, its partners and other interested parties in developing strategies and programs to prevent and reduce the incidence of problem gambling across the Commonwealth.

Gambling is not a risk free activity. Although some people make the choice to never gamble, which needs to be acknowledged as a legitimate choice, most will gamble and would benefit from knowing how best to manage and lower their risk of ever having any negative consequences associated with gambling.

It has been said that *no progress has ever been made against any epidemic by treating only the casualties* (anonymous). They are simply replaced by additional casualties. What is needed is a comprehensive continuum of services across prevention, intervention, treatment and relapse prevention. The Massachusetts Council Prevention Plan outlines the prevention part of the needed full array of services. Prevention is an active process that encompasses fostering personal attributes as well creating a supportive environment which is conducive to healthy choices and living.

### There are several principles that will guide the work of the plan:

- Programs and efforts will use multiple strategies (information dissemination, prevention education, alternative activities, community processes, environmental approaches and problem identification and referral) across several domains (individual, peer, family, school/work, community and environment/society). The more strategies woven among as many domains as possible create the most successful prevention net.
- As much of the work as possible will be done at the local/community level. Community empowerment is a mainstay of good prevention efforts.
- There is no need to create a new service infrastructure. Every effort will be made to develop the capacity of existing service structures, community organizations and interested parties to add prevention of problem gambling to their own capacity to help others in healthy choices and living.
- Finding and developing new partnerships as well as cultivating existing ones is a critical component which will be placed as a high priority.
- Best practices in prevention, including but not limited to: proven conceptual framework, research and data driven strategies, needs assessment, measurable goals and objectives, outcome and process evaluation, long-term commitment and replicability, will guide all of the work.
- Cultural and linguistic competency will be the expectation and the rule.
- Prevention programs should enhance protective factors and reverse or reduce risk factors and shall be aimed at general populations at key transition points.
- Individuals and communities at high risk will be a priority.

**In this plan, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) strategies are used in the absence of evidence-based programs or practices in problem gambling prevention at present.**

### The six strategies and goals are:

#### 1. Prevention Strategy: Information Dissemination

**GOAL:** To provide access to information regarding gambling and prevention of problem gambling to all residents of Massachusetts.

#### 2. Prevention Strategy: Prevention Education

**GOAL:** To provide training to multiple agencies, groups and communities with the primary task of raising the capacity of others to address the prevention of problem gambling.

#### 3. Prevention Strategy: Alternative Activities

**GOAL:** To advocate for and provide suggestions for activities other than gambling.

#### 4. Prevention Strategy: Community-Based Processes

**GOAL:** To involve, empower and support all appropriate communities and collaboratives to address the prevention of problem gambling.

#### 5. Prevention Strategy: Environmental Approaches

**GOAL:** To develop and advocate for policies that support the prevention of problem gambling by enhancing protective factors and deterring risk factors in the environment.

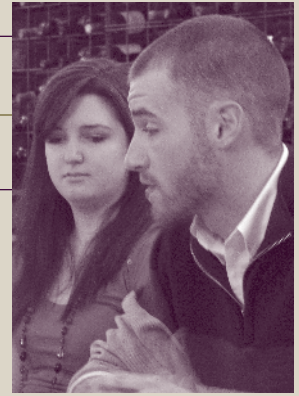
#### 6. Prevention Strategy: Problem Identification and Referral

**GOAL:** To work specifically with groups identified as high risk for gambling problems and advocate for a full array of intervention and treatment services.

*The Council is currently implementing different aspects of the strategies among our target populations. To learn more about the Council's prevention work, please visit [www.masscompulsivegambling.org](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org) and view the prevention pages under "Council Services," or contact Council Prevention Director, Jim Wuelfing at [jim@masscompulsivegambling.org](mailto:jim@masscompulsivegambling.org) / 617-426-4554.*

# PROBLEM GAMBLING

## Awareness Week



Chris G., pictured with his sister Jen, shared his personal experience with problem gambling at the Council's Media Briefing during Problem Gambling Awareness Week

Governor Deval Patrick joined the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling to proclaim March 9-15, 2008, "Problem Gambling Awareness Week." The goal of the campaign was to increase public awareness about the disorder, and promote the availability of problem gambling treatment services for people in the Commonwealth experiencing problems with their own or a loved one's gambling.

The Council held a Media Briefing at Mooro Restaurant in Boston entitled, "The Casino Debate: Impact upon Families – A Problem Gambling Perspective." Topics included the points of view of family members of people with gambling problems, and the Council's challenge to the Commonwealth to invest in minimizing the harm that will occur if casino gambling is introduced.

Volunteers in recovery shared their personal stories. Chris G. was joined by his sister Jen, and Joanne M., was joined by her husband Joe and their 10-year old son, Keith. All of the

speakers shared heartfelt and powerful stories about how the disorder impacted their lives. Ten-year old Keith said that when his mom was gambling at the casino, he would call her on her cell phone and plead with her to leave. "I would sit at the door all night waiting for my mom to come home," he said.

Media representatives in attendance included: *The Boston Herald*, *Cape Cod Times*, *Statehouse News*, *Lowell Sun*, *Worcester Telegram*, *Epoch Times* and *WRBB 104.9 FM*.

In addition, during Problem Gambling Awareness Week, the Council launched a college public service advertising campaign. College radio advertisements were distributed to college radio stations, and print advertisements were sent to college newspapers.

## COUNCIL SPONSORS Radio Program



Alicen J. McGowan and Council Board Member, Ed Talbot pictured at the WBSM studio.

For the second consecutive year, the Council has partnered with AdCare Hospital to sponsor Alicen J. McGowan, PhD's "Addiction" program on New Bedford news/talk radio station WBSM (AM 1420).

The bi-weekly program on alcohol, drug, and problem gambling disorders is broadcast live. The topic and guest are introduced, followed by discussion and call-ins. Call volume has been strong, particularly on the problem gambling shows.

The show is a labor of love for McGowan. "I want people to know that help is available and treatment is possible. There's a lot of stigma about addictions, and I want to help build understanding and awareness through education," she said.

In early May, Council Board Member, Ed Talbot and Council Communications Specialist, Margot Cahoon were featured as guests on the program. "We used the opportunity to promote our annual conference, as well as listen to caller experiences and concerns and respond with empathy and information," said Cahoon.

## TEAM COORDINATING AGENCY, *Haverhill*



*Peggy Cesati, Deb Colucci, and Susan Grady of Team Coordinating Agency*

Situated just up the hill from the Merrimack River in the center of Haverhill, the Team Coordinating Agency is a human services agency located at 76 Winter St., on the bus route and across from the city's YMCA.

Team Coordinating Agency, or TCA as they are commonly called, is comprised of both outpatient and residential treatment. They offer programs directed to youth and adults in the areas of substance abuse, HIV, and family support and stabilization services. To enhance their current work, the ambulatory care services division recently added the treatment of problem gambling to its repertoire.

Susan Grady, director of ambulatory services at the agency, initiated the problem gambling treatment program and responded to the statewide RFR. Deb Colucci and Peggy Cesati provide intake services and treatment for people experiencing a problem with gambling respectively. Together they believed that they could build a program that would serve the needs of people struggling with this disorder in Northeastern Massachusetts. Grady indicated that TCA's clinicians were often looking for someone or somewhere to refer their current clients with gambling problems, but they didn't have any close or viable options.

TCA opened their problem gambling center five months ago, and the group is eager to build community awareness and let people know that help is available. They have plans to advertise in local media using newspapers and public service announcements, as well as to develop and distribute brochures. They are also in the process of building a website that will include a section on problem gambling treatment services available at the agency.

The agency currently can bill a few of the major insurance providers, and can also bill the state when insurance won't cover problem gambling treatment. They offer intake services in Spanish and psycho-ed groups in American Sign Language, and can secure translators for treatment sessions.

For more information on TCA's problem gambling treatment program, please contact the agency at 978-373-1181.

## NEW MEMBERS — join board

In order to improve its effectiveness and ability to fulfill the Council's mission, a goal of the Mass. Council Board of Directors for this fiscal year has been to increase Board membership. The Council is pleased to announce that the following new members have joined the Board:

- Cheryl Dale, MBA, Principal, DaleBurnham, Brookline
- Pierre Gabriel, Director International Marketing, Foxwoods Casino
- Kevin Grant, M.P.P., Vice President, The Karol Group, Boston
- Steve Janssen, Mansfield
- Jo-Anne Kane, Worcester
- Bruce Tassone, Boston
- Rory Winters, MPA, former budget director for Representative Daniel E. Bosley, North Adams

The Council welcomes these new members and the experience, expertise and new energy they bring to the Board! We are grateful for their commitment to the mission of the Mass. Council and their interest in contributing through participation on the Council's Board of Directors.

# COUNCIL DEVELOPS NEW PRODUCTS

## *to Support Asian Outreach Initiative*

### Self-Help **GUIDEBOOK**



*"Your First Step to Change" was translated into Chinese, as pictured here*

Chinese/English, 3,180 copies in English/Vietnamese, and 3,180 copies in English/Khmer. The Council distributed the guidebooks to 23 health agencies and community centers serving the targeted Asian populations.

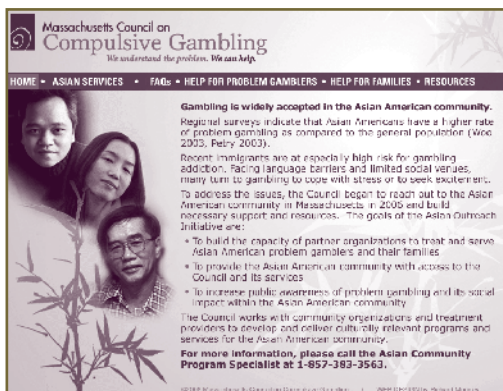
The Council contracted with the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at the Division on Addictions, Cambridge Health Alliance, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School, to develop and disseminate culturally and linguistically accurate translations of *Your First Step to Change* into Chinese, Vietnamese and Khmer. As a result, a total of 5,180 copies of self-help guidebooks were produced in

### Bus **VIDEO**

Very soon people taking the Sunshine Travel buses, from locations in Dorchester, Allston, Boston, Quincy, Methuen, Lawrence, Lowell, Worcester, Lynn and Malden to the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut, will view a short informational video about problem gambling. The program has been produced in Cantonese, and dubbed in Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Khmer with English subtitles. Its objectives are to inform viewers about the warning signs of compulsive gambling and resources available for help in the Asian community. A rough cut of the video was presented at the Council's annual conference, and it received much positive feedback. Future plans include using the video at various community outreach events, sharing it with Asian media outlets, and airing it in the waiting rooms of health agencies serving Asian populations. A portion of the funding for developing the video was provided

through a partnership with Mohegan Sun Casino.

*A short educational video about problem gambling will now air on Sunshine Travel buses heading to the Mohegan Sun casino in Connecticut*



*The Council's new Chinese-language Website*

and clinicians about problem gambling, as well as links to popular new articles and other resources specifically for the Chinese population. Please visit: [www.asiangambling.org](http://www.asiangambling.org) later this summer.

For more information about any of the Council's Asian Initiatives, please contact Council Asian Community Program Specialist, Chien-Chi Huang at [chienchi@masscompulsivegambling.org](mailto:chienchi@masscompulsivegambling.org) / 617-426-4554 (or direct line: 857-383-3563).



**COMING SOON!**

Chinese **WEBSITE**  
[www.asiangambling.org](http://www.asiangambling.org)

Our new Chinese-language problem gambling website will soon be up and running! The comprehensive site offers visitors information about their own or a loved one's gambling problem, as well as the Council's Asian initiatives and information related to problem gambling in Massachusetts' Chinese communities. The site includes curriculum developed for training community organizations

# LISTENING SESSIONS

## to Help Guide Problem Gambling Services in Mass.



*Tim Christensen, Administrator, Office of Problem Gambling, Arizona Department of Gambling, presents at the Treatment Listening Session*

Hosted in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (DPH/BSAS), the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling (the Council) has launched a series of Listening Sessions. Representatives from the problem gambling field have begun meeting to gather feedback and data on best practices in regards to the Massachusetts' problem gambling system of care. Areas that have been discussed include problem gambling treatment, prevention, and systems of care. A session will be held in the future focusing on responsible gambling practices within the gambling industry.

### treatment

The first session, *A Massachusetts Listening Session with Gambling Treatment Practitioners: Exploring a Continuum of Treatment Services* was held on February 15, 2008. Participants included treatment professionals from Massachusetts, Arizona, Connecticut, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Canada and representatives of DPH/BSAS. The group gathered at the Omni Parker House Hotel in Boston to gather information and data on the continuum of care that exists for gambling disorder treatment. The session explored best practices and gaps in treatment services to inform new directions recommended for Massachusetts.

### prevention

The second session, *A Massachusetts Listening Session with Prevention Professionals: Exploring a Continuum of Prevention Services* was held on April 11, 2008 at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The purpose of this session was to hear from a cadre of international, national, and state experts on best practices, as the Council builds a comprehensive statewide prevention of problem gambling initiative. Prevention practitioners from Massachusetts, and representatives of DPH/BSAS, joined experts from Canada, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, Oregon and Vermont for an interesting and informative discussion of the existing prevention models and how these can inform problem gambling prevention initiatives in Massachusetts.

### cross systems

The third session, *Problem Gambling in Massachusetts: Cross Systems Services and Workforce Development* was held on June 19, 2008 at the Massachusetts Transportation Building in Boston. It included a presentation to leaders of Massachusetts' state agencies on problem gambling in Massachusetts and its impact upon state systems. A focus group discussion explored strategies to diminish the impact of problem gambling on multiple state systems through assessing policies, procedures, and screening and identification tools.

### responsible gambling

A fourth listening session is planned for the fall. *Industry Policies and Programs for Responsible Gambling Promotion* promises to include discussion with representatives from the gambling industry, nationally and in Canada, who will explore policies and procedures within the gambling industry to promote responsible gambling.

For more information about the Listening Sessions, please contact Council Special Projects Director, Diane Crowley at [diane@masscompulsivegambling.org](mailto:diane@masscompulsivegambling.org) / 617-426-4554.

# PROBLEM GAMBLING SERVICES and the 2009 STATE BUDGET

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is advocating with the Legislature for an increase in the FY09 Budget in line item 4512-0225 to match the average national expenditure of \$0.27 per capita of public spending on problem gambling services including

Massachusetts has one of the most successful lotteries in the nation and regularly ranks #1 in per capita lottery expenditures by its citizens, yet in a 2005-2006 national survey of publicly funded problem gambling services in the United States, Massachusetts ranked #19 in per capita expenditures to address problem gambling.

prevention, intervention, and treatment. This equates to \$1.7 million and seems reasonable and achievable for a state whose lottery is recognized as the most successful in the nation.

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling believes that it is the responsibility of a state which sponsors, endorses, and promotes gambling (through the

State Lottery and four race tracks), to address the unintended negative consequences of that gambling. A recent public opinion survey conducted by the Council found that 78% of Massachusetts residents agree that "as long as the State derives revenue from legal gambling, it should continue to fund problem gambling programs."

Problem gambling services in the Commonwealth are not funded by taxpayer dollars, but through Lottery unclaimed winnings. The

State Treasurer and Lottery officials, as well as the Massachusetts Racing Commission recognize that providing problem gambling services is a necessary component of operating a gaming enterprise and are fully supportive of funding problem gambling services.

Gambling has been increasing in popularity and availability, and Lottery sales have continued to grow and break sales each year. Recent increases

in Keno availability and access to \$20 scratch tickets have not been met with increases to meet the significant unmet prevention, intervention and treatment needs in the Commonwealth. Reaching out to adolescents and to college-aged students in an effort to prevent problems with gambling, and providing information and resources for older adults are among these unmet needs.

For more information, or to get involved with Council advocacy efforts, please contact Council Executive Director, Kathy Scanlan at [kathy@masscompulsivegambling.org](mailto:kathy@masscompulsivegambling.org) / 617-426-4554.

The Massachusetts per capita expenditure of 12 cents compares poorly to the 27 cent average spent nationally and even worse to the \$1.90 per capita committed by the state ranked #1 (Delaware). Massachusetts needs to maintain its standing as a leader in providing responsible public policy related to gambling by committing funds to close the gap between these two rankings.

## check out our **website!**

The Council has recently updated its website to include a modernized homepage, as well as inclusive prevention resources (under Council services) and a new media component, which features streaming media. Please visit [www.masscompulsivegambling.org](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org). While you're there, be sure to sign up for our e-newsletters at [www.masscompulsivegambling.org/news/newsletters.php](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org/news/newsletters.php) so you don't miss out on any of the Council's exciting happenings!



The Council's homepage has a new look. Visit [www.masscompulsivegambling.org](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org)

[www.masscompulsivegambling.org](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org)

# Your Opinion Matters

## Council Seeks Feedback on Newsletter & Website

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### website ([www.masscompulsivegambling.org](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org))

1. What are your general thoughts on the Council website? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How often do you visit the Council website? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What pages do you visit most often? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What type of information are you looking for and do you find it? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What can the Council do to improve the website? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is your favorite aspect of the Council website? \_\_\_\_\_

### newsletter

7. What are your general thoughts on the Council newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Would you like to receive it more or less often (or the same amount)? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you prefer to receive our 4-page, 8-page or 12-page newsletters? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Which stories (or types of stories) do you feel are the most interesting / strongest? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Which stories (or types of stories) do you feel are the least interesting / weakest? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What type of stories would you like to see more of? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you find it visually appealing / reader-friendly? \_\_\_\_\_

### e-news

14. Do you currently receive the Council e-newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

15. If yes, what is your opinion of the e-newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

### **The summer blockbusters are coming soon! Would you like to go to the movies for free?**

If so, mail your survey to the Council today! The first 20 people to respond will receive a pair of movie tickets courtesy of ScreenVision Direct.

**Surveys must be mailed to:** The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling, 190 High Street, Suite 5, Boston, MA 02110

190 High Street, Suite 5  
Boston, MA 02110-3031

Helpline: 800.426.1234 | Business: 617.426.4554  
TTY: 617.426.1855 | Fax: 617.426.4555  
e-mail: [gambling@aol.com](mailto:gambling@aol.com)  
web: [www.masscompulsivegambling.org](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org)

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is a private, non-profit health agency dedicated to reducing the social, financial and emotional costs of problem gambling. The Council provides prevention, information, education, advocacy, and referral services for problem gamblers, their loved ones, and the greater community.

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## Massachusetts Problem Gambling Treatment Centers

Boston ASAP, Boston: 617.482.5292

Henry Lee Willis Community Center, Worcester: 508.799.2934

Lowell House, Inc., Lowell: 978.459.8656

Mt. Auburn Hospital Prevention & Recovery Center, Cambridge: 617.499.5051

Stanley Street Treatment & Resources, Inc., Fall River: 508.679.5222

Steppingstone, Inc., Fall River: 508.674.2788 ext. 110

Team Coordinating Agency, Inc., Haverhill: 978.373.1181 ext. 42

## Resources

Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling Helpline: 800.426.1234

Gamblers Anonymous: 213.386.8789 or Western MA: 800.266.1908

Bettors Anonymous: 978.988.1777 or 781.662.5199

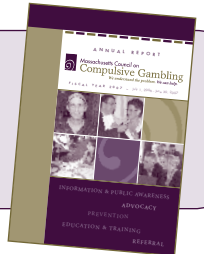
Gam-Anon (family/friends): 617.338.6020

National Council on Problem Gambling Helpline: 800.522.4700

The Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at Harvard Medical School, Division on Addictions: 781.306.8600

## ANNUAL REPORT Available

The Council's Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report is available to the public. For your free report, please contact the Council or download a copy at <http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org/services/awareness.php>



## Volunteers Needed

The Council is seeking volunteer support. We are looking for a few special people who can help with administrative projects, as well as individuals who are interested in becoming trained to answer the Helpline. In addition, we are always interested in meeting people who are willing to share their personal story about problem gambling with individuals, groups, and/or the media. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Council Helpline and Volunteer Specialist, Kyle Marshall, at [kyle@masscompulsivegambling.org](mailto:kyle@masscompulsivegambling.org) / 617-426-4554



## new addition - Cormac Paul Warner-Streff

Council Program Director, Marlene Warner, and husband, Jon Streff, welcomed their second son, Cormac Paul Warner-Streff. He was born at 9:40 a.m. on February 29, 2008 at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Leap Year Baby Warner-Streff weighed 8 pounds 10 ounces and was 21 inches long. Congratulations and best wishes to Marlene and her family.

## Don't miss a thing!

To sign up for the Council's e-newsletter, simply visit [www.masscompulsivegambling.org/news/newsletters.php](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org/news/newsletters.php) and enter your name and e-mail address.