

## PROBLEM GAMBLING CONFERENCE DRAWS 200

*Conference held as stand-alone event for the first time*



*Dr. Henry Lesieur during his keynote address.*

A formal resolution from Gov. John R. Kasich and the 2014 Problem Gambling Conference: Ohio's Response to a Changing Landscape were among many events that took place throughout the state in March as part of Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Approximately 200 behavioral health professionals attended the day-and-a-half-long event in Columbus.

Conference highlights included internationally known keynote speakers Drs. Henry Lesieur and Mark Griffiths. As a follow-up, Dr. Lesieur, who created the South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS) tool, wrote, "Thank you for inviting me to a wonderful conference ... The state is on to bigger and better things as there was much enthusiasm in the room." Dr. Griffiths packed three informational and entertaining sessions into the second day, as demonstrated by the need to bring in extra chairs to accommodate all attendees to his sessions. Additionally, state leaders including Director Tracey Plouck of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Chair Jo Ann Davidson of the Ohio Casino Control Commission and Commissioner John Lewis of the Ohio Lottery Commission were on hand to address those in attendance.

Overall, participants benefitted from both international and home-grown experts in problem gambling prevention and treatment. Conference sessions covered topics such as community needs, responsible gambling, the diagnosis and treatment of gambling disorders and the latest resources available to help both providers and communities address problem gambling.

Anyone interested in joining the Planning Committee for the 2015 conference should contact Stacey Frohnafel-Hasson from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services at [stacey.frohnafel@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:stacey.frohnafel@mha.ohio.gov).

### Problem Gambling Helpline

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014 Statistics  
(Jan. 1 - March 30)

Total Calls to Helpline  
2,222

Month  
January: 794  
February: 692  
March: 736

Gender  
Men: 823  
Women: 916  
Unknown: 483

Age of Person In Need  
1-17: 7  
18-24: 95  
25-34: 168  
35-44: 244  
45-54: 346  
55 and older: 746  
unknown: 616

How People Heard About the Helpline  
Casino: 184  
Casino Advertising: 141  
Lottery Games/Tickets: 123  
Cards: 82  
Tickets: 69  
Internet: 47  
Family and/or Friends: 38  
Other: 1538

## Community Prevention Efforts

Beginning in SFY 2013 and continuing through SFY 2014, Ohio is working to establish a problem gambling prevention service system designed to:

- Delay participation until legal age;
- Prevent the onset of problem gambling by reducing associated risk factors; and
- Minimize the negative consequences by improving access to intervention and treatment services.

The assessment and planning stages of this process are following the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) in most Ohio counties. This means a five-step plan guided by the principles of cultural competence and sustainability: Assess Needs; Build Capacity; Plan; Implement; Evaluation.

Several County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards and their contract agencies are well on their way through this process. Below are highlights of how some local agencies are addressing problem gambling in their communities.

### LICKING/KNOX COUNTIES and PATHWAYS

When Pathways presents a problem gambling workshop, presentation or activity for youth (middle/high school and/or college-age students), the agency consults with members of the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) – a youth-led prevention project comprised of 28 high school students. The students often take an active role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the presentation. If they are unable to participate at that level, they are utilized as a focus group to get their valuable input and point of view. All YLC members are trained in evidence-based curricula as well as youth-led prevention practices. Pathways believes that problem gambling is no different than alcohol abuse, tobacco use or drug addiction, and because high school and college-age students are one of the fastest growing sub-sets of the population affected by problem gambling, utilizing members of the youth-led prevention project is not only a logical option to address concerns, it's the most effective method with which to address the issue with youth and young adults. To see one result of this collaboration, visit

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

### TRUMBULL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY BOARD

The Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board contracted with a marketing consultant to develop a media campaign to provide knowledge and awareness of available resources for problem gamblers. Advertisements were run in two local newspapers a total of 10 times, in a one-month period. Ten billboards displayed the same graphic during the same time period. High traffic and low- to high-income areas were all targeted as gambling addiction can affect any sector of the population at any time. Problem gambling prevention materials were also purchased to be distributed at community events.



### **College Gambling Awareness Campaign Launched**

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) recently launched new tools to help educate college students about the dangers associated with problem gambling.

The new resources include an online survey students can take to see how their gambling behavior compares to other students as well as videos and other downloadable materials on college gambling that can be customized by health professionals and administrators.

While the school year is winding down across many college campuses, many of these resources can be adapted for use during orientation for incoming students or into existing education programs.

These new tools - along with other information - can be found at [www.CollegeGambling.org](http://www.CollegeGambling.org).



# Problem Gambling Network of Ohio

The Problem Gambling Network of Ohio (PNGO) was founded in 2010 and is comprised of Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment professionals from across the state. The PGNO is the Ohio affiliate to the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG).

The Problem Gambling Network of Ohio aims to provide a network of support to problem gamblers, their families and the professionals who assist them while bringing awareness to this issue of problem gambling.

The PGNO is sustained through individual and corporate/non-profit memberships. Individuals are invited to join the PGNO for an annual membership fee of \$50. For an additional \$35, members will also obtain membership to the National Council on Problem Gambling - a \$40 savings over purchasing the two memberships separately. Members receive newsletters, updates and other information from both the PGNO and the NCPG. For more information, email [problemgamblingoh@yahoo.com](mailto:problemgamblingoh@yahoo.com). Those interested in serving on the Board, either as voting or Advisory Board members, should contact Board President Reggie Robinson directly at [rrobinson@hrs.org](mailto:rrobinson@hrs.org). Look for a re-launch of the PGNO website in the near future.



*Dr. Rory Reid, Ph.D., LCSW, speaks during an Advanced Disordered Gambling Training seminar held in Columbus.*

## Training Opportunities

Problem gambling trainings are offered throughout the year at locations throughout Ohio. Social workers, counselors and other mental health professionals are encouraged to attend.

Information on dates and locations for prevention trainings can be found at: [www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/upcoming-events](http://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/upcoming-events)

Dates and locations for treatment training can be found at: [www.recres.org/TrainingandEducation/GamblingTrainings.aspx](http://www.recres.org/TrainingandEducation/GamblingTrainings.aspx)

## I Lost A Bet Update

In January, the "I Lost A Bet" campaign launched a statewide effort to highlight the dangers of problem gambling. The campaign targets young adults and combines humorous messages with warning signs and other information to convey how problem gambling can disrupt lives. TV ads, billboard messages, social media posts and online banner ads are all being used to help drive traffic to [www.ilostabet.org](http://www.ilostabet.org).

Here are some statistics on the "I Lost A Bet" website from January through March 31:

105,015: Unique visitors to the website

193: Anonymous emails sent by individuals to a friend or family member about the signs of problem gambling  
*\*117 of these emails were opened by the recipient*

3,652: T-Shirts distributed

*Figures courtesy of the Ohio Lottery Commission*



**I LOST A BET**

When is it more than a harmless little bet?

**FIND OUT**

*Responsible Gambling Quarterly* is produced by Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG). ORG is a collaborative effort among four state agencies to promote responsible gambling in Ohio and provide resources to those seeking help with a gambling problem.



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