

fyi A Communication Memorandum to North Carolina Problem Gambling Providers

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fyi is meant to give you the latest and greatest news and information on problem gambling in North Carolina.

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SECTION 1 CURRENT NEWS

Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act Introduced in Congress - The First-Ever Federal Support for Programs to Prevent and Treat Problem Gambling - June 17, 2009 **Washington, D.C.** Today Congressmen Jim Moran (D-VA), Lee Terry (R-NE) and Frank Wolf (R-VA) introduced H.R. 2906, the Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. "We applaud the actions of Representatives Moran, Terry, and Wolf in introducing this legislation," said Keith Whyte, Executive Director of the National Council on Problem Gambling. "Problem gambling is a serious public health issue that has been overlooked by the federal government for far too long. We know that it is both preventable and treatable, and this bill will help ensure that all Americans will have access to these services." The bill authorizes the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to address problem gambling and appropriates \$71 million over five years for grants to state health agencies, tribes, universities and non-profits to support problem gambling prevention, treatment and research programs.

H.R. 2906 will boost existing efforts and alleviate pressure on state agencies and local nonprofits who daily deal with the devastating consequences of this disorder—from bankruptcy, divorce, job loss, incarceration, depression and despair to a high rate of suicidal behavior. More than six million adults will meet criteria for a gambling problem this year. "NCPG calls on every member of Congress to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation," said Whyte. "We ask all those concerned with gambling issues to contact their legislators to urge their support as well."

The NCPG is the national advocate for programs and services to assist problem gamblers and their families. Founded in 1972 as the advocate for problem gamblers, NCPG does not take a position for or against gambling and concentrates on the goal of helping those with gambling problems. NCPG members include 35 state affiliate chapters, organizations and individuals from across the country. NCPG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and does not accept any restrictions on contributions.

SECTION 2 UPCOMING NEWS

As many of you know budget constraints prevented us from fulfilling our **training** agenda during the Winter and Spring schedule; however, **MAHEC** is currently planning the Fall and Winter programs. Look for their emails and

website postings on your regional AHEC website.

Be sure to join us for our **monthly phone consultation** for North Carolina Problem Gambling Providers **only**. Each month *Joanna Franklin* leads us in a discussion that will advance your clinical skills and knowledge on problem gambling treatment. Our discussions will provide you with direction, as well as a high degree of support in your clinical practice. Remember that we have a new calling system so please use the number below: 800-371-9219 then when prompted enter 4467316. **Next consultation** will be held on **Tuesday, August 18, 2009 at 12 noon**.

SECTION 3 MORE NEWS 2 USE

NBC Dateline Episode “How Lucky Can You Get?” <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30550956/>

Financial First Steps: <http://www.financialfirststeps.org/>

Workbook <http://www.adp.ca.gov/OPG/pdf/sample%20workbook%20v3.pdf>

Facing the Odds: The Mathematics of Gambling http://www.divisiononaddictions.org/curr/facing_the_odds.htm

INFORMATION FOR THE FIELD

- 1) Be sure to fax all **Billing Forms** (page 4) to BDA before the 4th of the month. Billing pages received by BDA on or after the 4th will be applied to the following month's invoice to the State.
- 2) A Quick review of the **referral process**:
 - a) BDA Master level therapists who answer the Helpline will call you and see if you can take a new client. Please let them know ASAP if you can or cannot take the new case. If they don't hear back from you quickly, then they will offer the client to someone else.
 - b) If you agree to take this case, the BDA therapist will fax you ALL the documents related to this client (6 pages total).
 - c) Fax back the signed Statement of Understanding (page 2) and the Outpatient Registration Form (page 3) within 1 week of receiving the referral.
 - d) Fax back to BDA the Clinical Review Form (page 5) if you want more sessions.
 - e) When treatment is over, fax the Discharge Summary (page 6) so they can close the case.
- 3) **Outreach** is a billable service! It is a service specifically designed so you can educate the public, colleagues, churches, schools and your community about problem gambling issues and of the availability of problem gambling services in your community. Remember to contact BDA for pre-approval prior to your presentation in order to receive reimbursement. BDA will reimburse for direct face-to-face contact hours and will not reimburse for preparation or travel time. Billable rate is \$55.00 per event.