

# **Voluntary Self Exclusion in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

***How Did We Get Here?***

***Where Are We?***

***Where Are We Going?***

**Nebraska Spring Training**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Conference on Problem Gambling**

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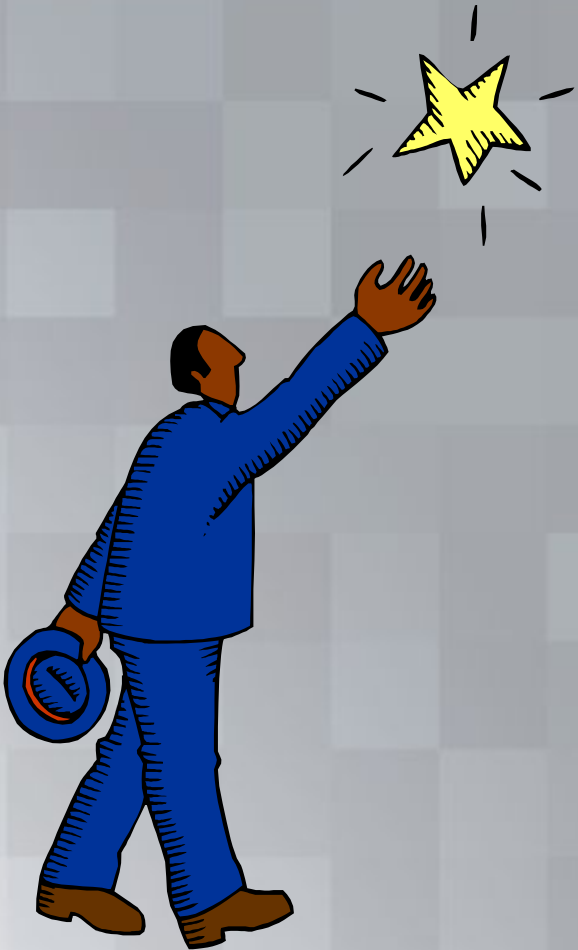
# Missouri Model

- **First comprehensive, state-sponsored self-banning program (in the U.S.)**
- **1996**
- **Original concept**
  - *Industry objections*
  - *Treatment community input*
- **Formal names: “Voluntary Exclusion Program” or “List of Disassociated Persons”**
- **Currently more than 8100 individuals on the List**
  - *More than 250 applications in 2005 already*

*Missouri's SE Program*

# **Initial Program**

# Goals of the Missouri Program



- Create a platform for the problem gambler to acknowledge problem and accept personal responsibility for it.
- Block from direct marketing by casinos.
- Establish pipeline to treatment.
- Provide effective deterrent to gambling.
- Formalize and document procedures to limit liability and establish an audit trail to monitor performance.

# What It Is...

- A forum for the problem gambler to accept personal responsibility for their problem.
- A method to provide the gambler with some isolation from the temptations of gambling.
- A deterrent to destructive behavior.
  - *A “wake up call” during a lapse in recovery.*
  - *A reminder of the importance of treatment.*

# What It Is Not...

- A panacea
- A substitute for treatment
- A promise to keep the gambler out of the casino
- A program for someone who occasionally gambles irresponsibly but is not:
  - *a chronic problem gambler; or*
  - *a pathological gambler.*

# Application Process

- Right to private interview
- Instructions, rule & promotion of free counseling & GA
- Interview & Questionnaire
  - *Sobriety, coherence, coercion*
- Application and demographics
- Waiver/Release
- Power of attorney
- Application verification
  - *Interpreter (if necessary)*
- Photograph
- Provide treatment information and resource packet



# Follow-up Issues



- **Letter assigning PIN**
  - *Handling third party interests*
- **Providing resources**
  - *Treatment*
  - *Support groups*
  - *Hotline & web sites.*
- **Trespass**
  - *Jackpots*
  - *Check cashing*
  - *Players club*
- **Database administration**

## *Missouri's SE Program*

# **Past Revisions**

# 11 CSR 45-17.015

**This rule allows DAPs to access gaming facilities for the sole purpose of carrying out legitimate duties of employment.**

**~ It became effective 30 May 2001.**

**At no time may the DAP engage in gaming activities – if this is violated, the DAP can be arrested for Trespassing in the First Degree.**

**DAPs should call the MGC office prior to arrival and notify the agent of the date, time and reason they will be entering the property.**

# Database Enhancements

**Now available in real-time format**

**Approved applications are available for verification and download immediately;**

- *Class A Licensees can view only Approved and Deceased (approved) applications*
- *Cashiers and other relevant personnel can execute a query against the database at any time to verify whether an individual is a DAP (i.e. cashing checks, issuing a players card)*

# Downloading DAP Records

Policy guidelines stipulate a minimum of one download per 7 calendar days

Each download includes all new records and all records updated since last download

MGCIS automatically confirms successful download of each individual record, and logs the date & time each record was downloaded (by each casino)

Records are provided in a “comma separated file” so they can easily be imported into the Licensee’s other systems

*NCPG Task Force on Self Exclusion*

# **Enforcement**

# Enforcement

Although the terms “self-exclusion” and “enforcement” seem contradictory, certain mechanisms should be in place.

- Jurisdictions must analyze/seek statutory authority to allow forfeiture of jackpots
- Regulators should require gaming operators to check against SE list anytime it is practical, and when patrons required to provide positive ID
- Self-excluders should report violations of their exclusion

# Enforcement

- **Removal from all mailing lists and players clubs**
- **Committee supports arrest as an effective deterrent for many gamblers**
  - ~ **Jurisdictions should develop methods to direct repeat offenders into mandatory counseling**
- **Should be clear to the self-excluder that it is NOT the responsibility of the casino or the regulatory agency to prevent them from entering a gambling venue.**

*Recent Self Exclusion Research*

**Missouri Data**

# Characteristics and Gender Differences Among Self Excluded Problem Gamblers: Missouri Data

- Pending publication
- Authors:
  - *Lia Nower, J.D., Ph.D.*
    - Assistant Professor of Social Work
    - University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri, USA
  - *Professor Alex Blaszczynski, Ph.D.*
    - Head, Department of Medical Psychology
    - University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
- **N=2670**
  - *participants in Missouri's DAP Program between 2001 and 2003*
  - *Female = 48.4 %*
  - *Male = 51.1 %*
  - *Age Range: 21 to 84 years*

# Disordered Gambling in Missouri: Regional Differences in the Need for Treatment

- Phase I Report prepared for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
- Released August 26, 2004
- Authors:
  - *Howard J. Shaffer, Principal Investigator*
  - *Richard A. LaBrie*
  - *Gabriel Caro*
  - *Debi A. LaPlante*
  - *Sarah E. Nelson*

*The Division on Addictions, Harvard Medical School*
- **Objective:** determine the relative prevalence of gambling disorders in Missouri's counties and the greater Kansas City area through analysis of the Commission's DAP database

# Disordered Gambling in Missouri

- Sample: participants in Missouri's DAP program between 1997 and 2003
- Missouri disassociated persons (DAPs) are younger than the state's adult population
  - 83% of the DAPs are between 24 and 54 years of age,
  - 57% of Missouri's adult population is in that age range.
- Males and females are equally represented among Missouri DAPs.
- Missouri's statewide rate of problem gambling mirrors the national estimates of approximately one-percent (1%) of the adult population demonstrates that the rate of self-excluders is a valid indicator of the prevalence of people experiencing gambling-related problems.

# **Disordered Gambling in Missouri**

- **92% of all Missouri DAPs were from the Western Planning Region (Kansas City area) or the Eastern Planning Region (St. Louis area).**
- **Phenomenon of Adaptation and Exposure**  
**During Phase II, information will be obtained directly from a representative sample of the self-excluders about their experiences in the program.**

*Missouri's SE Program*

# **Re-envisioning SE in Missouri**

# Where Are We Going?



- Importance of research.
- Do we need property level exclusion lists?
- Need to examine liability issues.
- Can there be an exclusion program without free or subsidized treatment?

# Pending Initiatives

- **Proposed revisions to Voluntary Exclusion Program – “Menu of options”**
- **Legislative initiatives**
  - *Forfeit of DAP jackpots to Compulsive Gamblers Fund*
  - *Increase funding from state’s portion of the admission fee to the Compulsive Gamblers Fund*
- **Internal modifications to enhance DAP procedures**

# MISSOURI ALLIANCE TO CURB PROBLEM GAMBLING

Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling

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