

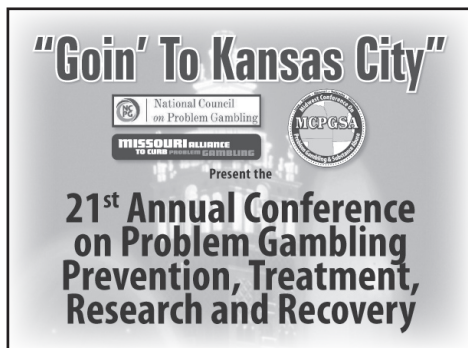
It's Not Too Late To Register For National Conference

You can still register for the National Council on Problem Gambling's 21st Annual Conference on Problem Gambling Prevention, Treatment, Research and Recovery in Kansas City, June 8-10, at the Kansas City Downtown Marriott.

Check out the conference Web site at www.888betsoff.org/links/midwest_conference.shtm for the 2007 conference program and schedule.

Also don't forget to register to attend this year's optional event on June 8, which will feature Kansas City barbecue at the American Jazz Museum and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

We'll see you in Kansas City!



Port Authority Of Kansas City Awards \$75,000 In Grants

In a continuing effort to prevent youth gaming and increase awareness of problem gaming, the Port Authority of Kansas City, Mo., recently awarded grants totaling more than \$75,000 to two organizations.

According to the National Gaming Impact Study Commission, 70 percent of teens have gambled, with an estimated 6 percent possibly addicted.

In August 2006, the Port Authority issued a request for grant proposals in conjunction with the Midwest Conference on Problem Gaming and Substance Abuse. For the second consecutive year, two organizations were awarded continued funding to support awareness programs and research to prevent youth gaming:

- \$23,028: Second Chance Foundation of Jefferson City; and
- \$52,104: University of Missouri-Columbia Wellness Resource Center.

"The increase in gambling among our youth is unsettling," said Joanne Collins, Port Authority of Kansas City, Mo., commissioner. "Providing continuing funding to these fine institutions will assist the community in achieving our goals of education and prevention."

Administered by the Port Authority of Kansas City, Mo., and the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, the Problem Gaming Fund receives money from the Ameristar Casino and Isle of Capri Casino as part of their agreements to locate within the city.



University Recognizes Alliance With Wellness Award

The University of Missouri-Columbia's Wellness Resource Center (WRC) recently awarded the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling with a Wellness Award. The award is presented to businesses, individuals and groups who assist the WRC in promoting positive, healthy messages and helping to make Columbia and Missouri a better place to live.

"This year, we have selected The Alliance as a Wellness Award Winner," said Kim Dude, director of the WRC. "We so appreciate your individual support, as well as the support of the Alliance, in our work related to problem gambling. We selected you for this award because we are very grateful to have each of you as our partners in success."



Melissa Stephens, Annette Turner, Shelly Perez and Stan Landon represent the Alliance at the award ceremony.

Awareness Materials Available Through Web Site

A variety of problem gambling awareness materials are available for free through the Missouri Alliance, including posters and brochures from the latest Alliance awareness campaign, "Hope for You and Yours."



Visit the Alliance's Web site for more information about items available to order for your business, school or office. All items available through the Alliance are free to Missouri residents and businesses.

Conference Provides Professional, Personal Renewal

Spring has been interesting and challenging. The late frost was a setback for gardeners throughout the area. However, we just had four inches of rain that came very gradually over several days and will do much to revive all that is green. Speaking of revival – and no, I am not thinking of a tent meeting – the June National Conference on Problem Gambling is right around the corner. Registrations are coming in fast, and all of the last-minute planning activities are in motion. The Conference Committee has set up a stellar group of speakers and presentations; all of this in a great hotel in the heart of downtown Kansas City. There is a social event for everyone that includes barbecue and lots of ribs!

However, the heart of the conference, for me, is the energy and commitment of the participants and the people who have carried the concerns of problem gamblers to this zenith of interest. From Joanna Franklin to our fearless leader, Keith Whyte, and all of the dedicated individuals I have encountered in the 10 plus years I have been blessed to be involved, my energy is renewed when we get together. Not just my interest and concern for problem gamblers, but for all the other areas of my personal and professional life. Some of my dearest friends I have met through these conferences. I keep coming back and staying in the field, in part, because it is an important field and must be moved

forward for the betterment of all of us. But like a good therapeutic relationship, I come back because I have a deep connection with the people who are there.

I invite each and every one of you to join this informative and meaningful opportunity. Go to the sessions, listen to the speakers. But also talk from the heart with people and get connected. Come learn, eat and play, and get renewed professionally and personally.

June 8 through the 10th is the time. The Kansas City Downtown Marriott is the place. And the heart of what we do is the connection.

Our regional conference was born out of the experience of the National Conference, and this year we have combined the events, so that it is here in the Midwest and accessible. The members of the Midwest Consortium and the Missouri Alliance have worked tirelessly to make this an event you will not forget and do not want to miss. Come help make it the best conference yet, greet everyone with a warm handshake or, better yet, a hug, and come prepared to get the same.



Keith Spare

*Chair, Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling
Chair, Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns
Co-Chair, 21st Annual Conference on Problem Gambling
Prevention, Treatment, Research and Recovery*

Membership Is Key To A Strong Alliance

Keep informed about what's happening with problem gambling in Missouri and help develop Alliance programs by becoming a participating member of the Alliance.

Any individual or organization interested in promoting and furthering the Alliance's mission to educate Missouri residents on the potential characteristics and dangers of problem and compulsive gambling and promoting the availability of treatment can join the Missouri Alliance as a participating member.

Participating members are encouraged to:

- Participate in Alliance meetings and events;
- Aid in the planning of awareness events; and
- Provide input to further expand the Alliance's programs.

All memberships in the Alliance are free. For more information about becoming a participating member or to join, visit the Alliance's Web site at www.888BETSOFF.org or call (573) 526-4080.

Bock Promoted To Manager At DMH

Nora Bock of the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Department of Mental Health (DMH), was recently promoted to the position of mental health manager, assuming responsibility for the Clinical Utilization Review and Compulsive Gambling units. This promotion was one of several organizational changes made by the new division director, Mark Stringer. The aim of the changes, which required no new employees or additional funding, was to reallocate existing resources for improved efficiency, flexibility and responsiveness, according to DMH.

Bock will continue overseeing all aspects of the compulsive gambling program, including counselor

certification and service authorization. In addition, her duties related to clinical utilization review have been expanded to include the supervisory function, program and policy development and implementation of new initiatives.

The Clinical Utilization Review unit at the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse is responsible for promoting the delivery of alcohol and drug treatment and rehabilitation services that are necessary, appropriate, likely to benefit the client and provided in accordance with admission criteria and service definitions and functions. The unit provides utilization review to all contracted CSTAR and Primary Recovery Plus treatment programs.

Got A Story Idea?

Do you have a story idea for the next *Betsoff Bulletin*, or would you like to write a story for the next issue? There's a lot going on in Missouri concerning problem gambling, and we would like to include as much as possible in the *Bulletin* and on our Web site, so please be sure to pass on any ideas you may have.

To suggest story ideas for the *Bulletin* or the Web site, contact the editor, Shelly Perez, at betsoff@molottery.com, or call (573) 526-7467.

Upcoming Alliance Events

June 8-10

21st Annual National Council on Problem Gambling Conference in Kansas City

June 10-13

North American Gaming Regulators Association in Kansas City

August

Missouri's Responsible Gambling Education Month

Training Institute Features Renowned Gambling Experts

The Missouri Department of Mental Health's annual Spring Training Institute (STI) was held May 16-18, at the Tan-Tar-A Resort and Conference Center in Osage Beach. The conference again featured a compulsive gambling track, offering 8.5 hours of advanced training topics for certified compulsive gambling counselors.

Lia Nower, Ken Winters and Bo Bernhard each offered two sessions. Nower, J.D., Ph.D., is an associate professor and director of the Center for Gambling Studies at the Rutgers University School of Social Work. She presented the following sessions: "Ethical Issues in the Clinical Management of Problem Gamblers" and "Treating Older Adults: Strategies for Adapting Assessment and Treatment Practices to an Underserved Population."

Winters, Ph.D., is an associate professor and director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research at the University of Minnesota Department of Psychiatry. Winters presented the following sessions: "'Gating' Lucky: Using Instruments with Problem Gamblers for Problem Identification and Treatment Referral" and "Youth, Brain Development and Gambling Risk: Intersections on the Developmental Highway."

Finally, Bernhard, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of sociology and director of gambling research at the International Gaming Institute within the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Bernhard's presentation, "Pathological Gambling: From the Molecular to the Global – and Back Again" was covered in two sessions and offered specific insights on the biological, chemical, psychological and social aspects of problem gambling.

"This was a stellar event insofar as the gambling track was concerned," said Nora Bock, mental health manager at the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. "We were able to bring in nationally recognized and renowned presenters in the field of compulsive gambling. I know it was of benefit to the gambling counselors who attended, but I think the positives extended beyond that. Individuals not as familiar with issues related to compulsive gambling were 'wowed' by the comprehensive information and excellent presentation styles of Drs. Nower, Winters and Bernhard. It helps broaden awareness to other circles in mental health and substance abuse. We hope to continue bringing in the finest for the gambling track at this annual event."



Ken Winters, Ph.D.



Bo Bernhard, Ph.D.

New Problem Gambling Tool Kit to Be Introduced at 21st Annual Conference

Counselors, clinicians and other treatment providers will have more resources at their fingertips with the introduction of a Problem Gambling Tool Kit (PGKIT) at the 21st Annual National Conference on Problem Gambling Prevention, Treatment, Research and Recovery on June 8 in Kansas City at the Downtown Marriott. The PGKIT provides basic problem gambling facts, referral and treatment information for medical and mental healthcare professionals to help screen and assess for compulsive gambling as a potential co-occurring disorder with substance abuse, mood disorders and addictive behaviors.

"The kit was developed based on requests from substance abuse counselors, mental health therapists, primary-care physicians and social service workers who are increasingly confronted with consumers in need of services that address problem gambling issues," said Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG). "The rate of co-occurrence of problem or pathological gambling among people with substance abuse disorders has been reported as ranging from 9 to 16 percent. At a minimum, the rate of problem gambling among people with substance use disorders is four to five times that found in the general population."

Whyte said the kit was developed by the NCPG and the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators (APGSA) and is supported by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT).

The PGKIT includes the following materials:

- TIP 42: Substance Abuse Treatment for Persons With Co-Occurring Disorders. Excerpts from TIP 42 identify key elements of programming in substance abuse treatment agencies that address co-occurring disorders. The elements described have relevance for mental health agencies and other service systems that seek to coordinate mental health and substance abuse services for their clients who need both;
- *Problem Gamblers and Their Finances: A Guide for Treatment Professionals*. This guide is designed to provide treatment professionals with a basic understanding of the financial issues that confront the problem gambler and potential financial strategies; and
- *Personal Financial Strategies for the Loved Ones of Problem Gamblers*. This handbook is designed to help loved ones of the problem gambler. It will suggest ways to deal with personal financial issues due to gambling before they become a major financial problem...or it can help the loved one of a problem gambler recover financially if he/she already has serious money problems.

"It is important to note that this material does not mitigate the need for specific training when treating a problem gambler," Whyte said.

The PGKIT is available free of charge through CSAT's National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information. For more information about the conference or the conference schedule, visit www.ncpgambling.org.

1-888-BETSOFF

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Partners In Prevention Join Alliance

Partners in Prevention (PIP), a statewide coalition of the 12 state colleges and universities in Missouri, recently joined the Missouri Alliance as a participating member.

Through the past few years, PIP has worked to expand its educational outreach and programs to address gambling and problem gambling among Missouri's college students.

PIP was founded in 2002 to help create a campus, city and state environment that supports responsible decision-making in regards to alcohol by the college students who attend public higher education institutions in Missouri. Since 2002, PIP has expanded its outreach to include other risky behaviors, including gambling.

Need A Speaker?

The Alliance provides speakers for groups and organizations throughout the state. For more information about the speakers bureau or to arrange a presentation, please call (573) 526-7467 or (573) 526-4080.

All presentations are free of charge.

Want To Receive The *Bulletin*?

In an attempt to streamline costs, the *Betsoff Bulletin* is available through the Alliance's Web site, www.888betsoff.org. We have an e-mail list of individuals who are interested in receiving notification when a new issue is available at the Web site, so please forward your e-mail address to betsoff@molottery.com. If you would prefer to receive a free printed copy of the *Bulletin* through the regular mail service, please let us know by calling (573) 526-7467.

If you received notification by e-mail about this issue, you're already on our e-mail list, but remember to send us updates on any e-mail address changes. In addition, please feel free to forward the link for the newsletter to anyone else who may be interested in reading it.

Thank you for your interest in the *Bulletin*.

Alliance news and event schedules are available on the Web at:

www.888betsoff.org



The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's mission is to heighten public awareness for the dangers of problem gambling; develop prevention and education programs for gamblers of all ages; and direct problem gamblers and their families to the 1-888-BETSOFF help line and treatment.