

## Second Midwest Conference To Explore Ways To Improve Services To Problem Gamblers

Improving practices and managing consequences are the focus of the second annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, Aug. 24-26, at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City. The three-day conference will feature nationally known addiction experts and provide a forum for



Dr. H. Westley Clark

practitioners, gaming industry personnel and the general public to exchange ideas and practices to better assist problem gamblers and their families.

The multi-state conference will be the featured event of Missouri's Responsible Gambling Awareness Month activities in August. This is the seventh year Missouri has designated time to raise statewide awareness about problem-gambling issues.

The keynote speakers include: Dr. H. Westley Clark of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Jeffrey Derevensky, an internationally renowned problem gambling expert and professor at McGill University in Montreal; and Joanna Franklin, a certified addictions counselor, a nationally certified compulsive gambling counselor and director of



Jeffrey Derevensky

Network Development and Training at Trimeridian Inc.

The conference is the result of a joint endeavor by organizations throughout the four-state region – Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

"We're very excited to be able to host this conference for the second year in

a row," said Kevin Mullally, chairman of the Alliance and executive director of the Missouri Gaming Commission. "Residents of Missouri will have easy access to the



Joanna Franklin

conference and will benefit from the knowledge provided by the speakers.

"It's a great opportunity for people to become better informed about the significance of problem gambling and its impact on the community," he continued.

The two annual Missouri Alliance awards for "Outstanding Contributor" and "Service" will be presented during the conference.

For more information about the Midwest Conference, visit the Alliance's Web site at: [www.888betsoff.org](http://www.888betsoff.org).

### Training Hours Available

The training provided by the Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling & Substance Abuse - Problem Gambling and Co-occurrence: Improving Practice and Managing Consequences has been approved for 15 contact hours by the Missouri Substance Abuse Counselors' Certification Board, and is recognized as "advanced training" for Certified Compulsive Gambling Counselors.

## Coalition Encourages College Students Not To 'Press Their Luck'

By Joan Masters, coordinator of Partners in Prevention

Problem gambling in the college years is a significant problem nationwide and on Missouri's college campuses. Each year, college students abandon their studies due to high gambling debt and/or failed academics. According to recent data collected at 12 Missouri publicly funded college campuses, 45 percent of Missouri's college students engaged in gambling at least once in the past year.

Missouri's Partners in Prevention (PIP) coalition, a consortium of the 12 publicly funded universities in Missouri, is committed to understanding the role problem gambling plays on a college campus, teaching college prevention and intervention personnel about working with students who are problem gamblers

and ultimately educating the more than 120,000 college students who are enrolled at Missouri's colleges and universities.

Missouri Partners in Prevention was originally created in 1999 with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to reduce high-risk drinking. In 2001, funding from the Missouri Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse continued to fund the coalition's important work. In 2005, the coalition is stronger than ever with continued funding from the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Missouri Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Division. The coalition continues to work on reducing high-risk drinking, but has expanded its focus to include underage drinking, impaired driving, safe driving, mental health

## Welcome To Missouri

Attendees of the 2005 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse: welcome to Missouri! We are honored to be hosting the second annual Midwest Conference, and we are fortunate to have you visiting our state.

The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, as well as the other members of the Midwest Consortium, are excited about the growth of this year's conference and hope you have the opportunity to expand your knowledge of problem gambling and substance abuse issues.

The unique collaboration between the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska that has gone into planning this extraordinary conference needs to be recognized. Representatives from each of the four states have given countless hours to planning and coordinating this conference, and many have even provided a great deal of money to help cover the expenses of providing a first-rate conference for a low attendance fee.

We hope you are able to leave this conference with new knowledge that will help you ultimately provide the best care possible for individuals dealing with addictions.

Also, we are very excited to announce that Kansas City will host the 2007 annual conference of the National Council on Problem Gambling. We hope to see you here again in June 2007.

Enjoy the conference, and welcome to Missouri!

### Number Of Calls To 1-888-BETSOFF

(1-888-238-7633)

	2004	2005
January	280	197
February	369	217
March	350	239
April	343	226
May	352	232
June	336	219

### Register Now To Attend Conference

Registration to attend the second annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, Aug. 24-26, is available at [www.888betsoff.org](http://www.888betsoff.org).

## Need A Speaker?

The Alliance provides speakers for groups and organizations throughout the state on topics ranging from the prevention of youth gambling to the warning signs of problem gambling. For more information about the speakers' bureau or to arrange a presentation, please call (573) 526-7467 or (573) 522-1373.

All presentations are free of charge.

## Upcoming Alliance Events

### August

Responsible Gaming Education Month

#### Aug. 4-7

NCADA Youth Leadership Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in St. Louis

#### Aug. 20-21

Missouri Black Expo at the America's Center in St. Louis

#### Aug. 24-26

Second Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling & Substance Abuse in Kansas City. For more details, visit:

[www.888betsoff.com/links/midwest\\_conference.shtm](http://www.888betsoff.com/links/midwest_conference.shtm)

## Training, Wristband Campaign Highlight Casinos' Awareness Week

Employees at Missouri's riverboat casinos will participate in training to help learn to direct problem gamblers to the help line during the eighth annual Responsible Gaming Education Week, Aug. 1-5. The training is a key element of the American Gaming Association's (AGA) Responsible Gaming Code of Conduct adopted last year by Missouri's casinos and other casino properties throughout the country.

Sue Self, director of Life Crisis Services, will conduct the training sessions at each of the casino properties. A major focus of Self's presentation will be how casino staff can recognize and guide problem gamblers to the help line and what happens on a typical call from a problem gambler.

Additionally, Missouri's casinos will be joining with other casino companies nationwide in Responsible Gaming Education Week activities. The centerpiece of the national campaign, organized by the American Gaming Association (AGA), will be the launch of a responsible gaming awareness wristband program. The orange wristbands will be worn by casino employees.

The theme of the week is "We're Banding Together to Keep it Fun," which links all gaming stakeholders



– operators,  
manufacturers,  
employees,  
gaming  
customers,  
regulators,

legislators, treatment professionals and others – in a common effort to promote responsible gaming, according to Mike Ryan, executive director of the Missouri Riverboat Gaming Association.

"Missouri's casino properties have actively developed and participated in a myriad of responsible gaming educational and outreach efforts over the years," Ryan said. "Incorporating the 'Keep it Fun' wristbands into our ongoing efforts gives us a year-round way to show our commitment to educating our employees, customers and the public about responsible gaming.

For a complete list of casino activities for Missouri's Responsible Gaming Education Month in August, please visit [www.888betsoff.org](http://www.888betsoff.org).

## Coalition Encourages College Students Not To 'Press Their Luck'

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issues and problem gambling.

Prevention and intervention professionals, along with law enforcement in the 12 college communities served by Partners in Prevention, are committed to addressing problem gambling among their students. With financial assistance in 2003 from the Port Authority Problem Gaming Fund of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, the coalition established a framework for addressing problem gambling in college. This framework includes:

- On-going evaluation of gambling and problem gambling behaviors: Using a survey instrument administered in the spring of each year, each of the 12 participating campuses in Partners in Prevention assess the gambling behaviors and problem gambling indicators of the college students they serve.
- Educational Materials and Services: Partners in Prevention has created a brochure and poster titled "Don't Press Your Luck," which provides college students information on recognizing and dealing with problem gambling behavior. More than 10,000 brochures and 3,000 posters have

been distributed at Missouri college campuses in residence halls, campus buildings, and fraternity and sorority houses.

- Training and technical assistance for campuses: With assistance from problem gambling experts throughout the state of Missouri, Partners in Prevention trains campus prevention and intervention personnel and students on recognizing and dealing with problem gambling, creating intervention programs for college students and designing peer-led education programs on problem gambling. Each year, sessions on problem gambling among college students are featured at PIP's Meeting of the Minds annual conference.

The Partners in Prevention campuses listed below are always looking for more partners to help address problem gambling behaviors of college students. For more information about how to get involved with Partners in Prevention in your local campus community, visit [www.missouri.edu/~mopip/](http://www.missouri.edu/~mopip/) or contact Joan Masters, coordinator of Partners in Prevention at (573) 884-7551.



Central Missouri State University  
Health Promotion and  
Wellness Services  
(660) 543-8338

Lincoln University  
Student Health Services  
Thompkins Center  
(573) 681-5476

Missouri Southern State University  
Student Support Center  
(417) 625-9324  
ssc@mssu.edu

Missouri Western State University  
(name change effective Aug. 28)  
Counseling Center  
(816) 271-4327

Northwest Missouri State University  
Center for Peer Education  
and Volunteerism  
(660) 562-1954  
[www.nwmissouri.edu/~peeredu/  
Care-web.htm](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/~peeredu/Care-web.htm)

Southeast Missouri State University  
Substance Abuse Prevention  
and Education  
Center for Health and Counseling  
(573) 651-2264  
chc@semo.edu  
[www6.semo.edu/SAPE/](http://www6.semo.edu/SAPE/)

Missouri State University  
(name change effective Aug. 28)  
Dean of Students' Office  
(417) 836-4000  
deanofstudents@smsu.edu

Truman State University  
University Counseling Services  
(660) 785-4014

University of Missouri-Columbia  
Wellness Resource Center  
(573) 882-4634  
<http://wellness.missouri.edu>

University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Counseling, Health and Testing  
(816) 235-5825

University of Missouri-Rolla  
Health Education Office  
Student Health Center  
(573) 341-4225  
healthed@umr.edu  
<http://campus.umr.edu/wellness/>

University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Wellness Resource Center  
(314) 516-5380  
Health\_services@umsl.edu  
[www.umsl.edu/services/health](http://www.umsl.edu/services/health)

## Counselors Set Up Intervention Team In Kansas City

Three Kansas City area certified compulsive gambling counselors have set up an intervention team for problem gamblers and their family members.

The members – Stan Bier, Loretta Jasper and Ernie Gauthier – have been working during the past year to research interventions and find the best approach that will help problem gamblers.

“We started with the premise that some gamblers and their families could get information before the gambler does more harm,” Bier said. During the past year, a member of Gamblers Anonymous (G.A.) and a member of Gam-Anon have joined us. We all agreed that having a team approach with GA and Gam-Anon would be best.”

Bier said the group has met with the Life Crisis staff, which operates 888-BETSOFF, and the members of St. Louis area G.A. chapters.

Intervention services provided by the team are free. For more information about the interventions or to schedule an intervention, call Stan Bier at (816) 361-7400, Ernie Gauthier at (816) 347-1991 or Loretta Jasper at (816) 645-5222.

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## 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 into the Alliance are free. For more information about becoming a participating member or to join, visit the Alliance's Web site at [www.888BETSOFF.com](http://www.888BETSOFF.com) or call (573) 522-1373.

## Want To Receive The Bulletin?

In an attempt to streamline costs, the *Betsoff Bulletin* will be available through the Alliance's Web site, [www.888betsoff.com](http://www.888betsoff.com). We are building 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: [perezs@molottery.com](mailto:perezs@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.com](http://www.888betsoff.com)**



Missouri Department of Mental Health



Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns



Missouri Gaming Commission



Missouri Lottery



Missouri Riverboat Gaming Association



Port Authority of Kansas City, MO

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 free treatment.