

Kansas City, Aug. 11-13, 2004

Midwest Conference On Substance Abuse, Problem Gambling Set

Nationally renowned experts will highlight The Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse Aug. 11-13 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City. This conference is the first of its kind in the Midwest and is drawing speakers from throughout the country.

The three-day conference will open on Aug. 11 with a panel discussion involving several known experts in the problem gambling field. They will discuss the barriers to problem gambling treatment and possible solutions relative to substance abuse services. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provided a grant for the open forum.

Hosted by the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, the conference is also being sponsored by organizations throughout the four-state region – Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

“We’re very excited to be able to host this first conference,” said Keith Spare, president of the Alliance and a member of the conference planning committee. “Residents of Missouri will have easy access to the conference and will benefit from the state-of-the-art 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.

Spare said that the conference will enable decision- and policy-makers to discuss how each of our states is set up to help problem gamblers.

“What we would like to do is to move uniformly, so that all four states eventually will provide similar services, interventions and public information,” he said. “Currently each of us has strengths that the other states don’t have, and each of us has areas that need improvement and growth where other states have found successes.”

Deborah Haskins, an associate adjunct professor of psychology and the director of masters field education in psychology for Loyola College in Maryland, will present the keynote address “Problem Gambling and Co-Occurring Disorders” at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 12.



Deborah Haskins

Additional speakers include: **William Eadington**, professor of economics and the director of the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming at the University of Nevada-Reno;

Bo Bernhard, director of gambling research at the University of Las Vegas-Nevada;

Jeff Graber, director of surveillance for Harrah’s Casino in Council Bluffs, Iowa;

Jeff Marotta, program manager for the Oregon Department of Human Services Problem Gambling Services; and

Joanna Franklin, director of Network Development and Training for Trimeridian in Indianapolis, Ind.

“The people coming are nationally known experts in the field, and they’re bringing specialized information to help us make better decisions,” Spare said.

Topics of individual workshops will include: African-American Issues, Rural Issues, Adolescents – Substance Abuse and Problem Gambling, Problem

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Galliher Retires, Bock Assumes Duties At DMH

Jeanne Galliher, program manager of the Compulsive Gambling Counseling Program for the Missouri Department of Mental Health’s (DMH) Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, retired from the department at the end of April. Galliher oversaw the problem gambling treatment program administered through the department and worked closely with treatment providers.

Galliher now plans to spend more time with her grandchildren and travel. She had been with the division for nearly 12 years.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the gambling counseling program, watching it grow from a fledgling program to its current state,” she said prior to her retirement. “Missouri has set several precedents nationally with regard to treatment of gambling problems, and we

can all be very proud of our role as trend-setters.”

Nora Bock has been named the new program manager for the department’s compulsive gambling program. Bock assumed Galliher’s duties on May 3.



Nora Bock

Prior to her new position, Bock was a licensure and certification specialist for the Office of Quality Management at DMH. She’s been employed with DMH for three-and-a-half years.

“The field of compulsive gambling is brand new to me, so I’m learning more about my duties and the field of compulsive gambling,” Bock said. A native of Westphalia, Bock is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield and has

a master’s degree in clinical psychology. She also is a licensed professional counselor.

Kansas City, here we come!

Responsible Gaming Education Month is going to be bigger than ever this year with the first regional conference on problem gambling being held in Kansas City Aug. 11-13. Please mark your calendars and plan to support this very important and significant event through your participation. It is the culmination of awareness efforts in Missouri and our three sister states.

This will be the second year that Missouri has set aside an entire month to heighten the awareness of problem gambling issues, but the sixth annual awareness event. In 1999, Missouri became the first state to sponsor a Missouri Responsible Gaming Education Week, which was held in conjunction with the American Gaming Association's problem gambling awareness week.

Over the next four years, the number of events grew and it became very difficult to fit everything into the same week, so in August 2003, Missouri celebrated its first full month of problem gambling awareness.

August isn't the only month for problem gambling awareness in Missouri, but placing special emphasis on problem gambling for one month gives us the opportunity to bring the issues of problem gambling to the forefront with government officials and the news media.

Awareness activities, special programs, speaking engagements and educational exhibits are held throughout the state all year long. During 2003, representatives of the Alliance presented more than 65 programs or exhibits, potentially reaching more than 100,000 people.

It's pretty amazing when we go to events or visit schools and hear "you're the Bets-Off people." That's a great feeling to hear that all of our hard work in building awareness seems to be working and our toll-free help line number, 1-888-BETSOFF, is well known. We are also proud of and are continually improving our 888betsoff.com Web site.

But we also know what we've got a lot more work in front of us. We know that we have more people to educate on problem gambling. We know that we need to continue to encourage problem gamblers and their family members to seek treatment, and we know that we need to continue to provide training for treatment providers, so that they may offer the best care they can to Missouri residents.

The Midwest Conference this August will certainly help us further our goals, yet we will continue to take advantage of every opportunity throughout the year to educate Missourians about problem gambling and where to find help, if needed.

Come and meet us, the "Bets-Off people," as well as our regional and national friends, at the Midwest Conference. As always, feel free to share your ideas with us on ways we can continue to help problem gamblers. See you in Kansas City!

Your Ideas Welcomed

Do you have a story idea for the next "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 perezs@molottery.com or call (573) 526-7467.

Outstanding Contributor Award Nominations Being Accepted

Do you know of someone who goes above the call of duty to assist problem gamblers and their family members or is working hard to build awareness of problem gambling issues in Missouri? If so, then recommend that person or people for Missouri's Outstanding Contributor Award. This statewide award will be presented for the second time this summer to an individual who has demonstrated superior achievement in addressing issues of problem and pathological gambling in Missouri.

The award's first recipient was Dan Smith, a counselor with Missouri Valley ADP in St. Louis, who received the award for his outstanding work in recruiting and retaining a large problem gambling client-case load.

In addition to his case load, Smith is a writer, a speaker and one of the busiest compulsive gambling counselors in the state. He also facilitates dual diagnosis programs and works in relapse prevention.

"This award was created to provide much-deserved recognition for individuals who work hard to promote problem gambling prevention and treatment in Missouri," said Keith Spare, chairman of the Alliance.

"We know there are many individuals worthy of receiving this award," Spare continued. "This is a small way we can recognize some of the great work with problem gambling going on in Missouri."

The Outstanding Contributor Award will be presented to an individual, group, organization or company outside of the Missouri Alliance voting membership who/that has demonstrated superior achievement in addressing issues of problem and pathological gambling in Missouri.

The nomination form can be found at www.888betsoff.com. The deadline for award nominations is June 18, 2004. Nominations can be faxed or e-mailed to Shelly Perez, responsible gaming program coordinator for the Missouri Lottery, at perezs@molottery.com or by fax at (573) 751-5215.

The award recipient will be selected from all of the nominations received by the Alliance. All nominations will be confidential.

The recipient of the award will be announced at the Alliance's Responsible Gaming Education Month events. The time and date of the events will be announced at a later time.

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information to help us make better decisions," Spare said.

Topics of individual workshops will include: African-American Issues, Rural Issues, Adolescents – Substance Abuse and Problem Gambling, Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse Similarities/Differences, Public Health Approach to Problem Gambling and Addictions, Hispanic and Latino Issues and Older Adults and Gambling.

"I would like to encourage anyone - a family member of someone who has a substance abuse issue or a problem with gambling, a compulsive gambler in recovery, clergy member or any professional - to attend this conference," Spare said. "This is an opportunity for us to make Missourians more aware of problem gambling and committed to being part of the solution. We hope it will become an annual event."

By attending the conference, 12 credit hours can be earned by licensed professional counselors, social workers, substance abuse counselors and gambling treatment counselors.

Rooms are available at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center at a conference rate of \$88 per night. Room reservations must be made by July 30 to receive this rate. Reservations must be made directly with the hotel by calling 1-816-421-1234.

More information about the conference, along with registration information, can be found at www.888betsoff.com/links/midwest_conference.shtm or you can contact the Nebraska Council on Problem Gambling at (402) 292-0061; e-mail: exnccgjb@aol.com.

Member Activities

ALLIANCE WELCOMES NEW PARTICIPATING MEMBER

The Alliance recently welcomed a new member. BJC Employee Assistance Program in Kirkwood was recently named a participating member of the Alliance. Jamie Zacharias, manager, is serving as the organization's representative on the Alliance. Welcome, BJC!

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT IN PROPOSED CHANGES TO EXCLUSION PLAN

The Missouri Gaming Commission will soon be seeking your input concerning a possible revision to the state's Voluntary Exclusion Plan. A survey on the possible revised change to the exclusion program will soon be posted on the Gaming Commission's Web site at www.mgc.dps.mo.gov/frameset.html.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the Commission by e-mailing Melissa Stephens at mstephen@mail.state.mo.us or by calling (573) 526-4080.

BIER CREATES WEB SITE TO DIRECT PROBLEM GAMBLERS TO HELP

Stan Bier, a participating member of the Alliance and a certified compulsive gambling counselor, recently founded "Gambling Problem Kansas City" to serve as a clearinghouse of information to help compulsive gamblers, their family and friends.

Visit www.gamblingproblemkc.org for more information.

MISSOURI FEATURED IN CANADIAN PROBLEM GAMBLING NEWSLETTER

Missouri and the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling were featured in the winter issue of the *Newslink*, a quarterly publication by the Responsible Gambling Council of Ontario. A View from Missouri provided readers with a snapshot of the variety of problem gambling programs offered in the state. To read the article, visit the Responsible Gambling Council's Web site at: <http://www.responsiblegambling.org/articles/newslinkWinter20032004>.

ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE ON-LINE

The 2003 Missouri Alliance annual report is available at www.888betsoff.com. If you would like an original copy, please contact Shelly Perez at (573) 526-7467 or perezs@molottery.com.

Publication Available On-Line

To streamline production costs, the *Bulletin* is available through the Alliance's Web site, 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. 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*.



Upcoming Events

June 17-19 – National Council on Problem Gambling annual conference in Phoenix

August is Missouri Responsible Gaming Education Month.

Aug. 5-8 – Statewide Prevention Conference at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis

Aug. 11-13 – Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City

Aug. 20-22 – 2004 Missouri Black Expo at the Americas Center in St. Louis

Member Participation Is Key

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 or call (573) 522-1373.

Calls To 1-888-BETSOFF

| | 2003 | 2004 |
|----------|------|------|
| January | 269 | 280 |
| February | 305 | 369 |
| March | 270 | 350 |
| April | 268 | 343 |

1-888-BETSOFF

BETSOFF BULLETIN is produced by the Missouri Lottery for the Missouri Alliance to Curb Compulsive Gambling.

Editor: Shelly Perez, responsible gaming program coordinator for the Missouri Lottery

Designer: Paul Adams, art director for the Missouri Lottery

Printer: Missouri State Printing Services, Jefferson City, MO

Speakers Available

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.

Member Web Sites

Port Authority of Kansas City
www.kcportauthority.org

Missouri Riverboat
Gaming Association
www.mrga.org

Missouri Department of Mental Health
Div. of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
www.dmh.missouri.gov

Missouri Lottery
www.molottery.com

Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns, Inc.
www.ncpgambling.org

Alliance Goals

- To raise awareness of the dangers of problem gambling and direct compulsive gamblers and their families to free treatment.
- To develop and implement prevention and education programs for all ages; and
- To ensure access to and availability of quality assistance and treatment.



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