

# 2011 Annual Report

BETS OFF BETS OFF BETS OFF

## Alliance Chairperson Letter

### '2012 Will be Bigger and Better than Ever'

It was with great honor and excitement that I accepted the leadership role of chairperson of the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling last September. The Alliance is comprised of many key players, which serve an important part in educating Missourians, and I am thrilled to be part of this collaboration of professionals dedicated to raising awareness about problem gambling.

I am eager to help further the Alliance's mission by continuing to build bridges, so individuals and families impacted by gambling can access the services they desperately need.

It's been a busy year already. In addition to my role as chairperson of the Alliance and gambling certification and treatment coordinator for the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse at the Missouri Department of Mental Health, I've been serving on the board of directors with the Association of Problem Gambling State Administrators (APGSA) and with the Midwest Consortium on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse (MCPGSA) helping to plan their ninth annual conference. I'm proud of the work being done by all of these organizations, and I'm delighted to be part of so many exceptional teams of individuals working towards the shared goals of raising awareness and providing resources for those in need.

I'm especially looking forward to this year's annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, which will be held in Kansas City in early June. I've made it a personal goal to help make this event bigger and better than ever by serving on the MCPGSA program committee and committee-at-large. The program committee is hard at work finalizing details with keynote speakers and breakout presenters that will offer practical and valuable information for professionals working in the field and for anyone impacted by an addictive disorder.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to helping problem gamblers and their families. Together, we can truly make a difference.

To learn more about the Alliance or the Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, visit [888betsoff.org](http://888betsoff.org) or [MCPGSA.org](http://MCPGSA.org).

I hope to see everyone at the 2012 Midwest Conference in June!

Mark Rembecki  
Alliance Chairperson



## Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Overview

The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, which was created in 1997, is a partnership between the Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns Inc., the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Missouri Gaming Association, the Missouri Gaming Commission, the Missouri Lottery, the Port Authority of Kansas City and a recovery community representative.

The purpose of the Alliance is to educate Missourians on the potential characteristics and dangers of problem and compulsive gambling, to refer compulsive gamblers and their family and friends to free treatment through a toll-free help line, to prevent underage play and to promote responsible gaming.

# Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Service Highlights

## Problem Gambling Help Line: 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633)

Life Crisis Services (LCS) operates a 24-hour help line service for callers seeking help for a gambling problem. The Missouri Gaming Association provides the funding for the help line. LCS received a total of 2,093 calls during calendar year 2011.

## Bets Off Website: 888betsoff.org

The Bets Off website features a list of Missouri certified compulsive gambling counselors and information about problem gambling, the Voluntary Exclusion Program, the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, the *Bets Off Bulletin* and more. During calendar year 2011, the website had 444,062 hits.

## Voluntary Exclusion Program

The Missouri Gaming Commission administers a statewide self-exclusion program for problem and pathological gamblers. The voluntary exclusion program is also known as the List of Disassociated Persons (DAP). A total of 790 individuals have been approved for DAP placement during calendar year 2011.

Effective in March 2012, individuals now have the option of choosing to be placed on DAP for a lifetime or temporary exclusion. Additional details can be found at [Mgc.dps.mo.gov](http://Mgc.dps.mo.gov).

## Free Compulsive Gambling Treatment Services

The Missouri Department of Mental Health Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse contracts with certified compulsive gambling counselors to provide free treatment services to compulsive gamblers and their family members. Family members can access services regardless of whether the problem gambler enters treatment. During calendar year 2011, 231 clients accessed the free treatment services. Individuals seeking referral to a counselor in a specific area can call the help line at 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633).

## Statistics

| Calendar Year | Bets Off Help Line | Web Site Hits | Voluntary Exclusion | Free Treatment |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1998          | 871                | N/A           | 356                 | 54             |
| 1999          | 1,034              | N/A           | 596                 | 113            |
| 2000          | 1,738              | 18,171        | 1,093               | 186            |
| 2001          | 2,846              | 46,617        | 1,403               | 335            |
| 2002          | 2,889              | 31,522        | 1,290               | 373            |
| 2003          | 3,339              | 46,456        | 1,367               | 344            |
| 2004          | 3,527              | 75,264        | 1,506               | 377            |
| 2005          | 2,593              | 139,423       | 1,696               | 360            |
| 2006          | 1,834              | 118,920       | 1,553               | 370            |
| 2007          | 1,682              | 623,214       | 1,412               | 358            |
| 2008          | 1,915              | 508,746       | 1,279               | 332            |
| 2009          | 2,263              | 514,940       | 896                 | 343            |
| 2010          | 2,740              | 435,369       | 797                 | 368            |
| 2011          | 2,093              | 444,062       | 790                 | 231            |

## Upcoming Alliance Events

### June 6 - June 8

Ninth Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, Kansas City, Mo., [MCPGSA.org](http://MCPGSA.org)

### July 13 - July 14

26th National Conference on Problem Gambling, Milwaukee, Wis., [Ncpgambling.org](http://Ncpgambling.org)

### August

Missouri's Responsible Gaming Education Month

## Free Presentations Available

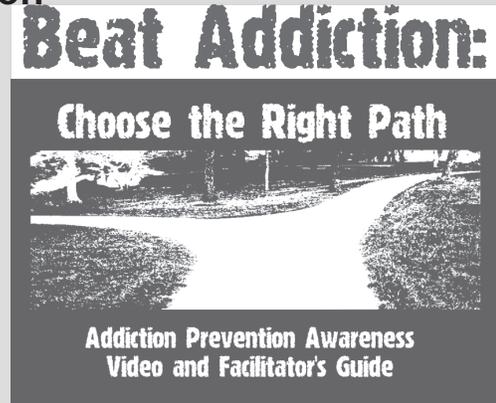
The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling provides speakers for groups and organizations throughout the state on topics ranging from the prevention of youth gambling to the warning signs of problem gambling. For more information about the speakers' bureau or to arrange a free presentation, call (573) 526-7467 or email [koofeh@molottery.com](mailto:koofeh@molottery.com).

## Free Program Teaches Youth to 'Beat Addiction'

Have you already ordered the new "Beat Addiction: Choose the Right Path" youth addiction prevention program? If not, request your free copy today by calling (573) 526-7467 or emailing [koofeh@molottery.com](mailto:koofeh@molottery.com).

The updated program, which is recommended for grades 6 through 12, includes a 30-minute DVD featuring four personal stories from a diverse cast of youth in recovery from various addictions, a facilitator's guide and poster. The DVD also includes a closed-caption and Spanish version, as well as the original video released in 2003.

To view a sample of the program, visit [888betsoff.org](http://888betsoff.org).



## Alliance Honors Wells and Rembecki with Annual Awards

Congratulations to the 2011 Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Outstanding Contributor and Service Award winners!

John Wells, digital media producer for the Missouri Lottery, won the Outstanding Contributor Award for his superior efforts in promoting responsible gaming during the past year.

"John plays a vital role in the Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse," said Susan Goedde, communications manager for the Missouri Lottery. "He'll travel to the conference site for the ninth time this June to provide assistance with audio and video. He also spends hours pre-and post-conference reviewing proposals, editing footage and creating DVDs of coverage for attendees per their request."

In addition to Wells' efforts at the Midwest Conference, Goedde noted that he uses social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and the Missouri Lottery blog to feature information about National Problem Gambling Awareness Week and Missouri's Responsible Gaming Education Month.

"All of Wells' hard work is greatly valued and appreciated," added Goedde.

Mark Rembecki, gambling treatment and certification coordinator for the Missouri Department of Mental Health and current Alliance chairperson, received the Service Award for his exceptional contributions to the Alliance and the problem gambling field.

"Since Mark began working with the Alliance more than four years ago, he's gone above and beyond in his efforts to promote responsible gaming," began Holly Koofer-Thompson, secretary of the Alliance and conference coordinator for the Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse.

"For example, he singlehandedly secured thousands of dollars' worth of sponsorships for the 2012 Midwest Conference. Mark continuously finds new and innovative ways to promote the Midwest Conference and problem gambling awareness in general. Thanks to Mark's superior leadership, the Midwest Conference and the Alliance are thriving."

Hats off to Wells and Rembecki for two jobs well done!



John Wells



Mark Rembecki

## Stay in the Loop – Keep us Informed of Address Changes

If you received this edition via email, you're already on the *Bets Off Bulletin* distribution list. If your email address changes, please let us know by calling (573) 526-7467 or emailing [koofeh@molottery.com](mailto:koofeh@molottery.com).

Thank you for your interest in the *Bulletin*.

## Book Soon and Save Big on Midwest Conference

The Midwest Consortium on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse (MCPGSA) is pleased to announce that the ninth annual Midwest Conference will be held June 6-8 at the InterContinental Hotel in Kansas City, a true destination location nestled in the heart of the city. The four-star hotel, which was ranked as one of the best hotels in the Midwest by Global Travelers magazine, is steps from the Country Club Plaza entertainment district, which showcases a 15-block outdoor museum, more than 150 shops, restaurants and entertainment.



The theme this year is “Utilizing Evidence-Based Practices.” Like previous years, the conference will feature informative and entertaining keynote speakers and breakout presentations; continuing education certification; delicious food (breakfasts, snacks, lunches and a welcome reception); and networking opportunities. In addition to the regular conference programming, two post-conference training opportunities will be offered on the last day of the event – an ethics training session and a dialectical behavior therapy training session.

You won’t want to miss this unique opportunity to expand your knowledge about the mental health profession during this three-day summit with peers, colleagues and industry experts. If you’re an “early bird,” you’ll definitely reap the benefits this year, as early registration and hotel booking rates are available for a limited time.

The first 100 attendees, who book a room at the InterContinental on both June 6 and June 7, will get their rooms for only \$129 per night (a savings of more than \$70 off the regular hotel rate). This is an outstanding value for this hotel, which provides free parking for conference attendees. Consider booking early and take advantage of the reduced rate!

For more information, visit [MCPGSA.org](http://MCPGSA.org). If you have any questions, call (573) 526-7467, or email [koofeh@molottery.com](mailto:koofeh@molottery.com).

# 1-888-BETSOFF

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If you would like to be added to our mailing list,  
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**MISSOURI ALLIANCE**  
TO CURB PROBLEM GAMBLING

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.

