

## KYCCG Fall Conference Offers Special Training Opportunity

Certified Compulsive Gambling Counselors; those seeking certification; clinicians, counselors and researchers interested in the subject; and gaming industry responsible gaming personnel are asked to mark their calendars for Thursday-Friday, Sept. 13-14, and plan to attend the Fourth Annual Fall Educational and Awareness Conference in Louisville.

The KYCCG (Kentucky Council on Compulsive Gambling) has confirmed that Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D., noted researcher and clinician on compulsive gambling issues from the University of Laval in Canada, will present all day on Thursday, Sept. 13. Dr. Ladouceur has asked that the attendance be limited to the first 35 "serious clinicians," but has agreed that attendance can be extended to additional participants. All attendees will receive Continuing Education Units from applicable governing and certification boards.

The balance of the program is structured to provide classroom and meeting attendance needed to meet American Compulsive Gambling Counseling Certification Board requirements. (When combined, the 22 hours and subject matter covered at the two annual KYCCG conferences meets the ACGCCB's 21-hour classroom requirement.) The schedule is:

### Thursday, Sept. 13, 2001

7:29 — Registration, light breakfast

8:29 — Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D.

9:59 — Break

10:14 — Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D.

11:44 — Lunch (with possible Kentucky gambling research update)

1:14 — Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D.

2:44 — Break

2:59 — Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D.

4:29 — Announcements/Wrap-up

7:01 — Gamblers Anonymous Open Meeting

### Friday, Sept. 14, 2001

7:29 — Networking breakfast (light)

8:29 — Eric Drogin, J.D., Ph.D., "Legal and Liability Issues"

9:59 — Break

10:14 — Deana Garner, J.D. (invited), Agent and Gambling Representative, NCAA, "Amateur Sports and Gambling"

11:14 — Legislative Update, Rep. Jack L. Coleman (invited)

11:44 — Lunch (speaker to be invited)

1:44 — KYCCG Board of Directors Open Meeting (dessert served)

**Advance registration information will be mailed in June.** The location in Louisville still is being negotiated as this newsletter is being written. Because of that, the registration fee has not been finalized, but it will be about \$115 for KYCCG members and \$140 for non-members.

KYCCG has invited neighboring councils on compulsive gambling to participate, which will serve as an additional network-

ing opportunity for attendees. KYCCG is pleased that it can offer this conference opportunity. KYCCG again asks that you mark your calendars and plan to attend. For more information, please contact KYCCG Executive Director Mike Stone at 502/223-1823, or by e-mail at kmstone@mis.net.

## Kentucky Legislative Update

On April 17, 2001, Rep. Jack L. Coleman (D-Burgin) prefiled *BR176*, a bill establishing a Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund, for the 2002 Kentucky General Assembly Session. Rep. Coleman currently is asking his colleagues in the Kentucky House of Representatives to become co-sponsors of the legislation. He also is seeking a Kentucky senator to introduce the same measure in the other chamber and obtain additional co-sponsors.

*BR176* is similar to *HB711* that passed the Kentucky House of Representatives but died in the Senate during the 2000 General Assembly Session. It establishes a trust and agency account — *the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund* — that will be administered by the director of the Division of Substance Abuse, which only can use a small part of the fund for administrative costs.

The balance of the money must be used exclusively for:

- Providing education, assistance and counseling to persons and families affected by compulsive gambling;
- Promoting awareness of gambling assistance programs; or
- Treating compulsive gamblers.

The funds will be awarded to service providers that best meet the requirements of grant proposal requests.

The money to support the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund will come from existing gaming revenues received by the state from Kentucky's three legal forms of gambling — 60 percent from the Kentucky Lottery, 20 percent from horse racing pari-mutuel wagering, and 20 percent from chartable gaming. Figures accompanying the legislation prepared by the Legislative Research Commission show Kentucky received about 10 percent of the more than \$1.7 billion gambled legally in the state last year.

*KYCCG believes that the Commonwealth of Kentucky has an obligation to address the existence of compulsive gambling in the state since it is both the sanctioning body and the recipient of revenues from an activity that leads some people to develop a harmful addiction. The effects of a compulsive gambler's actions on him or herself and his or her family, friends, employers and co-workers is a public-health issue. KYCCG requests that legislators be informed of the bill and asked for their support.*

Over a six-year period, *BR176* establishes a full Compulsive Gambling Assistance Program. The first two years authorize \$300,000 each year for education and awareness efforts. The second two years authorize \$900,000 each year for education, awareness and the placement of certified compulsive gambling counselors in the state's comprehensive care network. The third two years authorize \$1.8 million each year for education, awareness, counselors and residential treatment.

# Pathological Gambling: Addiction Without Substance

**(Editor's Note:** This is Part 3 of a paper coauthored by KYCCG Professional Adviser Curtis L. Barrett, Ph.D., ABPP, CCGC, with Eric Y. Drogin, J.D., Ph.D. The serialization will continue in this space.)

Under *DSM-IV*, the presence of any five of the following 10 criteria could result in a diagnosis of Pathological Gambling:

1. Is preoccupied with gambling (e.g., preoccupied with reliving past gambling experiences, handicapping or planning the next venture, or thinking of ways to get money with which to gamble)
2. Needs to gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve the desired excitement
3. Has repeated unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back or stop gambling
4. Is restless or irritable when attempting to cut down or stop gambling
5. Gambles as a way of escaping from problems or of relieving dysphoric mood (e.g., feelings of helplessness, guilt, anxiety, depression)
6. After losing money gambling, often returns another day to get even (chasing one's losses)
7. Lies to family members, therapists, or others to conceal the extent of involvement with gambling
8. Has committed illegal acts such as forgery, fraud, theft, or embezzlement to finance gambling
9. Has jeopardized or lost a significant relationship, job, or educational opportunity because of gambling
10. Relies on others to provide money to relieve a desperate financial situation caused by gambling (APA, 1994, p. 618)

It is worth noting that the *DSM-IV* places somewhat less

emphasis on criminal acts than did *DSM-III* or *DSM-III(R)*.

Recently, Howard Shaffer and his group at Harvard Medical School developed an important, alternative scheme for the detection and classification of clinically significant gambling behavior. Shaffer espoused the term "disordered gambling" and reinforced the notion that wagering was to be viewed on a continuum. Employing meta-analytic methods, he established four levels of gambling that were defined as follows:

- *Level 0* — Does not gamble
- *Level 1* — Gambles with little or no adverse consequences
- *Level 2* — Gambling pattern that is associated with a wide range of adverse reactions or consequences
- *Level 3* — Disordered gambling satisfied clinically meaningful diagnostic criteria (Shaffer et. al., 1977, p. 22)

*Level 3* clearly corresponds to *DSM-IV* criteria for "Pathological Gambling." *Level 2*, on the other hand, indicates that gambling can lead to many problems without necessarily amounting to a diagnosable mental disorder. *Level 2* gambling, in Shaffer's system, is very similar to the term "Problem Drinking" in the substance abuse field.

Significantly, Shaffer's system of categorization reflects the growing popularity and wide availability of gambling in the United States. By way of example, in 1996, the gambling industry realized an increase of 5.6 percent to a record \$47.623 billion in Gross Gambling Revenue (IGWB, 1997, p. 15). Casinos, including Indian gaming, took in almost half of this amount. Casinos have expanded from Nevada and Atlantic City, N.J., to dozens of communities. Mostly, they are found along rivers, and their advocates cite economic development as the rationale for establishing them.

*(Continued Next Issue)*

## Upcoming Events

July 25, Northern Kentucky University, Kentucky School on Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, "Pathological Gambling Treatment: Integrating Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Spiritual Approaches to Addictions Without Substance."

August 5-11, American Gaming Association-sponsored Responsible Gaming Week at participating casinos.

September 13-14, Louisville, Fourth Annual Fall Educational and Awareness Conference, Kentucky Council on Compulsive Gambling, featuring Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D., University of Laval.

October 1-3, Louisville, Hurstbourne Hotel, 12th Mental Health Institute.

## Gamblers Anonymous Meetings

The following is a list of the current G.A. (Gamblers Anonymous) meetings in or serving Kentucky. For exact times, locations and a phone number for contact persons, **please call 1-800-GAMBLER.**

### Monday

- Southeast Christian Church, 7 p.m., Louisville (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)
- United Way Building, 7 p.m., Bowling Green
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, 8 p.m., Huntington, WV
- Steppingstone Counseling, 7 p.m., Evansville, IN

### Tuesday

- CARE Center, 9 p.m., Louisville
- First Presbyterian Church, 6:30 p.m., Lexington
- Pikeville Regional Technology Center, 6:30 p.m., Pikeville (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)
- Florence Christian Church, 8 p.m., Florence

### Wednesday

- Pigeon Roost 12-step Club, 7:30 p.m., Louisville

### Thursday

- St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6:30 p.m., Lexington
- Southland Christian Church, 6:30 p.m., Lexington
- Caritas Hospital B Cafeteria, 7:30 p.m., Louisville

- St. Mary's Church, 6 p.m., Evansville (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)

### Friday

- Generations Center, 6 p.m., Hazard
- Southeast Church of Christ, 7:30 p.m., Louisville (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)

### Saturday

- Pigeon Roost 12-step Club, 8:30 a.m., Louisville

- Token Club III, 6 p.m., Louisville

### Sunday

- Iroquois Pizza (2nd&4th), 1 p.m., Louisville (Open Meeting, family welcome)
- KET Building, 4:30 p.m., Lexington (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)