

KYCCG Holds Fall Conference

As with all life in America, the effects of the Sept. 11 tragedy impacted KYCCG (the Kentucky Council on Compulsive Gambling). The Fourth Fall Conference on Compulsive Gambling Issues was held in Louisville Sept. 13-14, but attendance was down. Worse, keynote presenter Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D., University of Laval, could not overcome cancelled flights to arrive in time for the conference.

Thanks are extended to the 40 individuals who did attend, as well as the sponsors and presenters. KYCCG Professional Adviser Curtis Barrett, Ph.D., substituted for Dr. Ladouceur, and the attendees rated his efforts highly. Also praised for their presentations were Eric Drogin, Ph.D., J.D., who presented on the liability issues confronting compulsive gambling counselors, and the *Amateur Sports and Gambling* panel of KYCCG Board Member C.M. Newton, retired University of Kentucky Athletic Director; current University of Kentucky Athletic Director Larry Ivy and University of Louisville Athletic Director Tom Jurich.

Ladouceur Reschedules Training for Annual Conference; Winter to Address Adolescent Issues

Dr. Ladouceur, who has spent 20 years researching gambling behavior, agreed to reschedule his presentation on treatment alternatives for the KYCCG Sixth Annual Educational and Awareness Conference, which will be held at the Holiday Inn-South, Lexington, Feb. 21-22, 2002. ***Due to the circumstances, KYCCG will waive the Annual Conference registration fee for all those who attended the 2001 Fall Conference.*** Dr. Ladouceur is one of the most widely recognized experts in the field with lengthy publications on the issue. KYCCG offers this opportunity for the state's treatment and counseling community to train with one of the world's noted academics and researchers.

KYCCG also confirmed Ken Winter, Ph.D., University of Minnesota, as a presenter at the Annual Meeting. Winter has been studying the effects of gambling behavior on adolescents for more than 10 years, and he contributed research to the National Gaming Impact Study Commission. This is another opportunity for Kentucky to hear one of the leading academics and researchers in the world. To build on Winter's presentation, KYCCG will ask representatives from its special corporate members to review how they address the issue of underage gambling.

Registration and housing information will be available in December.

KYCCG Board to Develop Strategic Plan to Guide Action

Under the leadership of KYCCG Board member Tangerine-Ann Holt, Ph.D., University of Louisville, the KYCCG

Board of Directors will hold a strategic planning retreat along with its customary Board Meeting at Natural Bridge State Park on Tuesday, Nov. 13. The Board will assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats it faces in developing long-range goals for the next three-five years. ***Anyone wishing to contribute ideas or suggestions for consideration at the strategic planning retreat*** may contact Dr. Holt by e-mail at taholt@louisville.edu. They also may contact KYCCG Executive Director Mike Stone at 502/223-1823 or by e-mail at kmstone@mis.net.

Cooley Presents Testimony Before Joint Committee

KYCCG President Caleb Cooley, a Pikeville accountant, presented testimony before the Kentucky General Assembly Joint Interim Committee on Licensing and Occupations on Oct. 12. The testimony asked for passage of *B.R. 466*, a bill authored by Rep. Jack Coleman to establish a *Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund*. The bill creates a three-phase approach over the next three state government biennial budgets to establish:

- Educational and awareness activities in the first biennium at a cost of \$300,000 each year;
- Adds placement of a certified compulsive gambling counselor in each of the state's comp care centers in the second biennium at a cost of \$900,000 each year; and
- Adds a residential treatment program in the third biennium at a cost of \$1.8 million each year.

The testimony appeared to be well received by the legislators. Senators Charlie Borders and David Boswell commented during testimony on charitable gaming issues preceding Cooley's presentation that the state needs to consider the costs of compulsive gambling and its affects on the state's citizens. After the hearing, Committee Chair Sen. Brett Guthrie thanked Cooley for his testimony. Senate support is important, because the Senate did not consider similar legislation in 2000 that passed the House 89-4.

Cooley and Executive Director Stone also met with a representative of Gov. Paul Patton to suggest the funding for the bill be included in the Governor's budget proposal for the 2002-2004 biennium. Without a budget appropriation, a bill could be passed without the money to fund the programs.

"With education and awareness, perhaps Kentucky can lower its number of compulsive gamblers," Cooley suggested in the testimony. "As noted, there are an estimated 25,000 compulsive gamblers in the state. Each compulsive gambler costs society \$13,585 each year (based on Murray State University study). Reducing that number by just 1 percent, 250 people, saves almost \$3.4 million each year. In the first phase, *B.R. 466* costs \$300,000 per year. The Council believes this is an investment that can pay significant dividends in a healthier, more stable population."

Cooley also called *B.R. 466* a reasoned approach to addressing the problem by phasing in the steps, especially during a General Assembly session dominated by budget concerns.

Copies of the testimony are available by contacting KYCCG Executive Director Mike Stone at 502/223-1823 or by e-mail at kmstone@mis.net.

Pathological Gambling: Addiction Without Substance

(Editor's Note: This is Part 5 of a paper coauthored by KYCCG Professional Adviser Curtis L. Barrett, Ph.D., ABPP, CCGC, with Eric Y. Drogin, J.D., Ph.D.

(Previously, as serialized in this space, Drs. Barrett and Drogin briefly reviewed the history of how some human behaviors came to be called addictions. They also summarized the definitions and criteria for diagnosing compulsive or pathological gambling as originally authored by Dr. Robert Custer and then contained in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the Mental Disorders, Third and Fourth Editions. They also covered the levels of disordered gambling presented by Dr. Howard Shaffer of the Harvard Medical School Division on Addictions.

(Finally, Drs. Barrett and Drogin highlighted some of the antisocial behaviors that typically are associated with addictions in general and with compulsive gambling in particular. This serialization of Problem Gambling: Addiction Without Substance concludes with this issue.)

Having established that addictions at least as intractable as those associated with alcohol or heroin can develop without the ingestion or injection of a psychoactive substance, it is clear that science faces new challenges. Important as research on brain chemistry may be, knowing how the brain works does not seem likely to explain fully how gambling, sex, or work are able to "enslave" a human being. Meeting that challenge is likely to require also that the venerable fields of human learning and cognition be at the forefront of research efforts. Studying the nature of games or gaming machines to determine the reinforcement schedules they use or their manner of manipulating expectancies may solve the puzzle. Or, it may be that human decision processes, under conditions of risk, hold the key. It even may be that science will have to revisit

largely abandoned topics, such as faith and belief, as Oates' (1995) work suggested. Whatever is required, there is no doubting the need to understand the baffling behavior of those who exhibit the "addictions without substance."

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Upcoming Events

Feb. 21-22, 2002, KYCCG Sixth Annual Educational and Awareness Conference, Lexington, Holiday Inn-South, featuring Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D., University of Laval (rescheduled from 2001 Fall Conference, registration fee waived for all who attended Fall Conference), and Ken Winter, Ph.D., University of Minnesota. Dr. Ladouceur will present on treatment methods, and Dr. Winter will present on adolescents and gambling.

June 13-15, 2002, Dallas, TX, National Conference on Problem Gambling.

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 person, **please call 1-800-GAMBLER.**

Monday

- Southeast Christian Church, 7 p.m., Louisville (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting at 6 p.m.)
- 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
- First Baptist Church, 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 (downtown), 6:30 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)