

Kentucky's Responsible Gaming Education Week Set for Aug. 5-9

"When Gambling Is No Longer Fun, There Is Help" is the theme for Kentucky's first Responsible Gaming Education Week, Aug. 5-9. Statewide events are scheduled, and more may be added.

The purpose of Responsible Gaming Education Week is to create awareness of compulsive and problem gambling, educate the public how to identify warning signs of problem or compulsive gambling behavior, and publicize where people can go for help. KYCPG asks all members and supporters to help in the awareness effort. Two easy ways are:

- Display posters developed by the Responsible Gaming Education Week Committee (available by contacting KYCPG at 502/223-1823 or e-mailing kmstone@mis.net), and
- Promote screening clients for gambling problems by using well-known instruments like the South Oaks Gambling Screen.

Responsible Gaming Education Week is being promoted and funded by a coalition consisting of The Kentucky Lottery Corporation, Churchill Downs, Inc., Keeneland Race Course, Turfway Park, Argosy Casino & Hotel, Caesars Riverboat Casino, the state Division of Substance Abuse, State Rep. Jack Coleman, Kentucky's certified compulsive gambling counselors, and KYCPG. The coalition is chaired by Nichelle Lee, of the Kentucky Lottery's minority and community affairs program. She can be reached at 502/560-1768, or by e-mailing Nichelle.Lee@kylottery.com.

Events and Resources

The awareness effort began with a media advisory faxed statewide on July 15. A second advisory was distributed July 22. A media kit will be mailed on July 29, and a final advisory containing a report of the Proclamation Signing Ceremony and Gov. Paul Patton's remarks will be distributed on Aug. 6.

Posters containing the theme, *"When Gambling Is No Longer Fun, There Is Help,"* and the 1-800-GAMBLER helpline number were distributed to more than 160 agencies, libraries and senior centers across the state.

Specific events include:

Proclamation Signing Ceremony — Gov. Paul Patton will sign a proclamation declaring Aug. 5-9 Responsible Gaming Education Week at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 5, in the Capitol Rotunda. The coalition will provide a continental breakfast for those attending the Ceremony. Coalition members have requested full media coverage of the event. The governor will offer remarks following the signing, and there will be short presentations from KYCPG and Coalition chair Lee. Coalition representatives will attend and lend their visible support to the effort.

The KYCPG exhibit at the Kentucky School on Alcohol and Other Drug Studies will be set up, and attendees can pick up copies of KYCPG's resource material:

- *When It's No Longer a Game* brochure
- The newly revised *It's a Great Game* booklet

- *Financial Strategies for the Loved Ones of Problem Gamblers* booklet
- Posters and flyers for display
- A Gamblers Anonymous Kentucky meeting list
- An invitation to the 2003 National Conference on Problem Gambling to be held at the Hyatt Regency, Louisville, June 19-21

Pikeville Rotary and Kiwanis Meetings — KYCPG Professional Adviser Dr. Curtis L. Barrett and KYCPG President Caleb Cooley will present programs on problem gambling on Wednesday-Thursday, Aug. 7-8.

Basic Gambling Counselor Skills — A free training program developed by RonSonLyn Colston and Dr. Steven Alexander, both certified compulsive gambling counselors, will be held at the River Valley Behavioral Health Training Room on Friday, Aug. 9, beginning at 8:30 a.m. (CDT). Attendees will receive five CADC CEUs. Topics to be covered are: basic counseling skills and the core functions, theories and practice, a view from within (by a gambler in recovery), and a panel discussion of coalition and gaming industry representatives.

The registration deadline is Aug. 7. To register, send or fax your name, employer, address, and phone number to Melissa Scrivner, Division of Substance Abuse, 100 Fair Oaks Lane 4E-D, Frankfort, KY 40621-0001; 502/564-7152(fax).

Television Advertisements — The coalition, in cooperation with the Ohio and West Virginia responsible gaming programs, will sponsor a series of prime time advertisements on WVAH Fox 11 in Huntington. The station's reach includes 120,000 households in Eastern Kentucky.

Horse Racing Industry Employee Awareness — Coalition member Trish Candler, Churchill Downs, Inc., created an employee awareness brochure that will be distributed to all thoroughbred and standardbred racetracks in Kentucky. Employees will be educated about problem gambling and that patrons can be directed to 1-800-GAMBLER for help if they or someone they know may have a gambling problem.

Television and Radio Appearances — Coalition members will appear on news/public affairs television programs across the state during the week, beginning with the morning news programs on Louisville's television stations.

Anti-Youth Gambling Message — The Kentucky Lottery will debut its new public service announcement, "Not 18? No Way! No Play!" during the week. It also will reinforce the display of posters and signs carrying a responsible gaming message. All future Kentucky Lottery scratch-off tickets will carry the 1-800-GAMBLER helpline number.

The Responsible Gaming Education Week coalition urges all persons concerned about problem gambling in Kentucky to get involved in an event and take some action to promote awareness.

Revised Booklet Available

A newly revised version of the 20-page *It's A Great Game* awareness/informational booklet is available from KYCPG. It is written for easy comprehension and provides detail on problem gambling. To order, call 502/223-1823, or e-mail kmstone@mis.net.

"The Gambler" — A Natural Resource

(Editor's Note: *This is Part 2 of a paper authored by KYCCG Professional Adviser Curtis L. Barrett, Ph.D., ABPP, CCGC, Professor Emeritus, University of Louisville.*)

Second, how should income from the gambling resource be used? Some argue that gambling should be allowed in failing businesses in order to save them. Today, for example, some racetracks are sustained by income from gambling on Video Lottery Terminals or slot machines. Without these "alternative forms of gambling," the racetracks, and their supporting businesses, would have to close. One even can imagine placing gambling devices at a failing K-Mart or auto plant to save it and the jobs it represents.

Third, for fiscal planning, one may ask whether gambling should be regarded as an infinite resource or as a limited one? Will social gamblers become used up and stop gambling? Will gamblers move on if they realize that winning is impossible over the long haul? Can non-gamblers be converted to gamblers, replenishing the resource? Will payouts have to increase to sustain gambling behavior, thereby markedly reducing government income from gambling?

Fourth, who should decide how gambling as a resource will be used, if it is to be used at all? One option is to establish a commission to explore all possible and practical alternatives and allow such findings to guide lawmakers. Another option, mostly in place today, is to leave decisions to business interests that can produce effective lobbyists who, in turn, can sell legislators on some options and defeat efforts to exercise other options.

Finally, who pays the social costs of using the gambling resource? One model has the businesses that seem to produce the problem paying for its solution. Other models have government, as

a beneficiary of gambling income, paying the social costs. What social costs? At least one of them will be gambling addiction, with all of its manifestations. Recognizing that gambling addiction is more of a threat to the gambling industry than "the Myth of Mobocracy," a recent editorial in *International Gaming and Wagering Business* called for businesses to "go the extra mile" in dealing with gambling addiction.

Summary

For the foreseeable future, legal gambling seems almost certain to be a major source of revenues for many state governments. Gambling revenues are becoming available at a time when taxes are being rejected as proper ways to accomplish accepted responsibilities of government. Whether gambling revenues will be sustained remains to be seen. Possibly, social gamblers will not continue to accept the low payouts that now produce high levels of government revenues. Whatever the case, crucial decisions need to be made. Among these decisions are:

- who should decide gambling issues,
- what forms of gambling should be utilized,
- how should revenues from gambling businesses be used, and, finally,
- who should pay the social costs of utilizing the gambling resource that is available?

One thing is certain. All of these decisions will be made, somehow, in Kentucky and elsewhere. KYCPG will be advocating that the problem gambler's interests be considered no matter what the final decisions may be. That is our unique duty as a Council.

Upcoming Events

- August 5-9, Responsible Gaming Education Week
- August 5, 10 a.m., Proclamation Signing Ceremony, Capitol Rotunda, Frankfort
- August 9, Basic Gambling Counselor Skills (no fee, 5 CEUs), River Valley B.H., Owensboro
- October 24-25, KYCPG Fall Conference (ACGCCB Certification Exam Preparation and Testing tentatively scheduled)
- June 19-21, 2003, National Conference on Problem Gambling, Louisville

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

- 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, IN (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)
- Lourdes Hospital Classroom #4, 7 p.m., Paducah

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

- Hazelwood United Methodist Church, 1 p.m., Louisville (Open meeting, family welcome)
- KET Building, 4:30 p.m., Lexington (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)
- Methodist Temple, 5 p.m. Evansville, IN (Also separate Gam-Anon meet.)