

Certification Exam Offered Oct. 26 at No Cost to Kentucky Counselors; Prep Program 24-25

Kentucky-area individuals seeking Certified Compulsive Gambling Counselor (CCGC) status recognized by the American Compulsive Gambling Counseling Certification Board (ACGCCB) have an opportunity to prepare for and take the required examination Oct. 24-26, 2002, at the Executive Inn, Louisville.

The KYCPG (Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling) Board of Directors decided to work in partnership with the ACGCCB and Castle World Wide testing service to offer the examination on Saturday morning, Oct. 26, at the Executive Inn in Louisville, which is located at the Watterson Expressway and the Fairgrounds/Airport exit. **The examination fees will be waived for participants and absorbed by KYCPG and its sponsors for all Kentucky-area participants.** The Kentucky-area is defined as Kentucky and border areas in which counselors provide services to Kentucky residents with gambling problems (such as New Albany or Evansville, IN).

“With expanded gambling opportunities in and around Kentucky, we are finding more individuals are surfacing with gambling problems and seeking help,” KYCPG Executive Director Mike Stone explained. “And as Kentucky’s government considers sanctioning more expanded gambling, it is critical to be able to address the current counseling needs as well as what may develop. KYCPG and its sponsors and members believe training counselors statewide who can provide counseling services to problem gamblers is a high priority. The Board believes this is an appropriate expenditure that will address this priority and need.”

Special Preparation Workshop

An **Counselor Examination Workshop** being developed by KYCPG Professional Adviser Dr. Curtis Barrett and KYCPG Board member Dr. Tangerine Holt, assistant professor, Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville, will be offered beginning at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24 and continuing on Friday, Oct. 25. The workshop will review the domains that will be covered on the exam. The cost for the workshop is \$75 for Kentucky-area attendees, which includes all materials, breaks, a Friday luncheon, and all examination fees.

The Certified Gambling Counselor Examination can be taken without attending the Counselor Examination Workshop, but is not recommended. There is no sequence for meeting the requirements of ACGCCB certification. The exam may be taken at any time in the process.

Non-Kentucky-area attendees may attend. Their fee is \$225, inclusive of all materials, breaks, Friday luncheon and exam fees. A special \$79 single/double room rate is available from the Executive Inn (800/626-2706). The Executive Inn is located directly across the Watterson Expressway from the Louisville airport.

For more information or to request a registration brochure,

Public Forum to Discuss Need for Awareness, Treatment Items in Expanded Gambling Laws

A Public Forum will be held on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2002, at 7 p.m. at the Executive Inn, Louisville, to discuss the need to authorize and fund awareness, prevention and treatment programs in any legislation to expand gambling opportunities in Kentucky.

KYCPG has received commitments from Al Smith, Kentucky Educational Television, to moderate the public forum; Charles Anderer, vice president and group publisher, GEM Communications, and editor, *International Gaming and Wagering Business* magazine, to deliver keynote remarks; and John Gaines, Lexington-area horseman and breeder, to represent the horse-racing industry. Additional invitations have been issued to Arch Gleason, president, the Kentucky Lottery; the Rev. Nancy Jo Kemper, executive director, Kentucky Council of Churches who represents Citizens Against Gambling Expansion; and Vince Senior, executive director, Catholic Conference of Kentucky.

KYCPG is requesting that the public forum be televised or recorded for later broadcast.

First Reports Indicate Success for Responsible Gaming Week

August 5-10 was Responsible Gaming Education Week. It was the first time a Kentucky coalition organized activities for the week. The goal was to raise awareness around the state that compulsive gambling is a public-health issue. One measure of success is an increase in calls to the 1-800-GAMBLER helpline from people who believe they or someone they know may have a gambling problem. In August, calls to 1-800-GAMBLER rose by 54 percent above the previous monthly average for the year.

In 2001, the 1-800-GAMBLER helpline, which is answered by the staff at the River Valley Behavioral Health crisis line in Owensboro, averaged 145 calls per month, with some measurable service provided to an average of 50.8 callers per month. Through July 2002, total calls averaged 160.7 per month (an increase of 10.8 percent over 2001), with some measurable service provided to an average of 63.1 per month (an increase of 24.2 percent over 2001).

In August 2002, there were 245 total calls to the helpline, with 85 of those provided some type of measurable service (referral to counseling, referral to a Gamblers Anonymous meeting, or provided with informational material). In addition, 26 calls regarding gambling problems were received on the regular crisis line, and all of them were provided some form of service. Thus the total calls received jumped to 271, with some form of service provided to 111 callers. Both are record numbers for the helpline.

Compulsive Gambling's Real Faces, Real People

(Editor's Note: August 5-10, 2002, was Responsible Gaming Education Week in Kentucky. A Kickoff Event was held in the Capitol Rotunda, Frankfort, with Gov. Paul Patton signing a proclamation declaring the objectives for the week to increase public awareness that compulsive gambling is a treatable mental disorder. KYCPG Professional Adviser, Curtis L. Barrett, Ph.D., ABPP, CCGC, set the stage for the proclamation signing with the following remarks.)

Governor Patton, distinguished guests, members of the Responsible Gaming Education Week coalition, and friends of the Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling: this is, of course, a very special occasion. It has been brought about under the vision and leadership of Nichelle Lee. Her organization, the Kentucky Lottery, closely followed the pioneering efforts made by Churchill Downs in the early 1990s in recognizing that gambling has many faces, not all of which are pretty. Today, we are part of a helping effort that has caught on and has widespread support from the gambling industry and public agencies.

Gambling today has many faces. Gambling is a remarkably successful and expanding entertainment business. Gambling is a source of revenue for government, making possible many worthwhile public projects. Gambling, now often called gaming, is a safe form of entertainment for the vast majority of Kentucky's citizens. More than 95 percent of the Commonwealth's citizens who play the lottery, wager on horse races or enjoy casino-style gambling do so without significant negative consequences.

Gaming has another face, however. Some 40,000 Kentuckians, about 1 percent of us, suffer from a recognized medical disorder called Pathological Gambling. For them, gambling

is not safe. Indeed, this hidden disease is devastating. As a clinical psychologist and therapist for the casualties of gambling, you will understand that real people with real faces come to mind.

I think of a father and husband who gambled away his paycheck every week and drove his family to the depths of despair. I see the face of a mother and wife who ran her 10 credit cards to the maximum while trying to hide her every-increasing losses. I think of a 12-year-old selling his CD player and logo clothing to satisfy the bookmaker in his middle school. I recall the faces of professionals, caught in the grip of gambling addiction, who violated codes of ethics and embezzled to support their gambling activity. These are real people with real faces who must not be ignored when we consider the positives of expanded gambling in the Commonwealth and elsewhere.

Education and prevention, of course, are the best bets we can have. When education and prevention fail, however, we must have effective treatment that is conducted by competent professionals. Responsible Gaming Education Week is a wonderful step toward achieving those goals.

KYCPG acknowledges with thanks the members of the Responsible Gaming Education Week Coalition: The Kentucky Lottery Corp., Churchill Downs, Inc., Keeneland Race Course, Turfway Park, Argosy Casino and Hotel, Caesars Riverboat Casino, the Kentucky Division on Substance Abuse, and Kentucky's certified compulsive gambling counselors.

Upcoming Events

- October 23-25, Kentucky Counselor Association convention, The Galt House, Louisville.
- October 24-26, KYCPG Counselor Examination Workshop and ACGCCB Examination, Executive Inn, Louisville. (See other side for details.)
- 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.)
- Lakeside Christian Church, 7:30 p.m., Florence
- 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
- Lincoln Trail Behavioral Center, 7:30 p.m., Radcliff

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)

Friday

- Generations Center (downtown), 6:30 p.m., Hazard
- Living Stone, 7:30 p.m., Louisville (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)

Saturday

- St. Michael's Catholic Church, 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.)
- Unity Trinity Methodist Church, 7 p.m., New Albany, IN