

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING



GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Mission of the Gamblers Assistance Program is:

To reduce the negative impact of problem gambling in Nebraska through implementation of effective, outcome driven education and treatment services to Nebraska citizens and their families.

FY 2014 First Quarter Report

Gamblers Assistance Program

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402-595-1974

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<http://www.revenue.ne.gov/gaming/gap.html>



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GAP FY 14 OVERVIEW

The Nebraska Gamblers Assistance Program is a publically funded system specifically designed to address problem gambling in Nebraska. In Nebraska there are no other funding mechanisms, including insurance, to cover the cost of problem gambling services such as counseling and prevention. The Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling has been changed with oversight of the Gamblers Assistance Program (GAP). The nine (9) member commission appointed by the Governor and including two (2) consumers [See Appendix-A list of Commission members], has the responsibility to ensure the mission of the GAP is enforced and implemented. The Mission of the GAP is: To reduce the negative impact of problem gambling in Nebraska through implementation of effective, outcome driven education and treatment services.

The Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling is responsible for:

- A.) Developing guidelines and standards for distribution and disbursement of funds.
- B.) Developing standards regarding: (a) the evaluation process for provider applications; (b) review/advise the Governor's office and the Legislature regarding evaluation data; (c) oversee and authorize the use of funds for treatment, education and prevention regarding problem gambling.
- C.) Engaging in other activities it finds necessary to carry out the duties defined by the Nebraska Legislature as a result of the passage of LB6 in 2013.

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GAP FY14 (FIRST QUARTER) AT-A-GLANCE

Quick statistics about first quarter FY14 GAP services:

- A.) Total number of client intakes increased by 67% over first quarter FY 13.
- B.) Total number of treatment hours provided to consumers in first quarter of FY 14 – 2391.
- C.) Total number of “valid” calls to the Nebraska statewide problem gambling helpline increased 119% over first quarter FY 13.
- D.) Total number of hours of public prevention and education in the first quarter of FY 13 – 290.
- E.) Total funds expended for all GAP direct services – \$379,800.24.

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GAP FY14 (FIRST QUARTER) KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- A.) Creation and implementation of contracts with gambling specific providers throughout the state of Nebraska.
- B.) Creation of a work force development plan and a provider training program that will include online training.
- C.) Inclusion of adolescents under the age of 19 (and their families) in treatment where previously excluded.
- D.) Development of a mandatory state certification program for providers to ensure access to qualified counselors who will work with Nebraska problem gamblers and their families (ongoing).
- E.) Development of a distance treatment model that allows problem gamblers throughout the state to have access to certified problem gambling counselors as a bridge until providers can be educated in areas currently without service access (ongoing).
- F.) Development of a consumer oriented website outlining prevention, intervention and service availability for problem gambling (ongoing).
- G.) Development of a prevention plan designed to educate adolescents and their parents on the inherent dangers of underage gambling (ongoing).

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GAP FY14 FISCAL INFORMATION

| Use of Direct Funds: | FY14 first quarter expenses: | % of total allocated funds: |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Treatment services. | \$379,800.24 | 33% |
| Prevention Services. | \$15,963.00 | 9% |
| Workforce Development . | \$14,331.92 | 13% |
| Helpline Services. | \$17,488.35 | 18% |
| Evaluation/Data. | \$17,182.97 | 11% |

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FY14 PROBLEM GAMBLING SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

In FY14 (first quarter) problem gambling treatment services were provided through contracts with 14 treatment providers to date. The Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling is currently seeking additional providers in underserved areas (See Appendix B – map of service providers). Problem gambling treatment services vary in type, intensity and education format. Said services include:

| Treatment Service: | Description: |
|---|--|
| Assessment/Evaluation. | Before admitting a client into care, a counselor must determine the nature and intensity of the problem gambling issues. This service occurs via face to face interview with the client and by gathering collateral information as available. |
| Crisis Services. | Prior to a client admission, clients often present with gambling specific crises issues. Counselors will meet with individuals and families to alleviate the initial crisis and engage clients prior to admission. This stabilization period is used to encourage entry into treatment and recovery. |
| Outpatient Therapy: Individual, family and group sessions. | Therapy sessions are facilitated by a trained and certified counselor with an individual, family or group of individuals experiencing problems related to gambling. (Services occur within Outpatient Treatment or an Intensive Outpatient Treatment setting.) |

Services are available to Nebraska problem gamblers, the “concerned person” and the affected family member(s). A 2013 change from the previous practice, includes treatment of clients under the age of 19 who are eligible for treatment with their family members. Research data indicates adolescents have gambling issues at twice the rate of adults. To date almost 2400 hours of services to adults and adolescents with gambling issues have been provided in the first quarter of FY14.

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HELPLINE RESULTS

In the first quarter of FY14 the number of “valid” calls to the Nebraska Helpline service increased 119% in the first quarter of FY14 over the FY13 figures. Final data is unavailable as it remains the property of DHHS. In FY14 the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling moved the helpline provider from Chicago, IL to a new provider located in Bellevue, Nebraska. It is important to note not all “valid” callers will choose treatment as their answer. The percentage of helpline referrals selecting a treatment provider is being tracked in FY14 and will be reported in next year’s FY14 annual report. One additional note, all calls are now being referred and transferred to certified Nebraska problem gambling treatment providers (See Appendix B).

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EXPANSION OF PROBLEM GAMBLING SERVICES
THROUGHOUT NEBRASKA

One of the priorities of the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling is to reduce the gap in service delivery systems by expanding problem gambling services throughout the state of Nebraska thereby making services available to all Nebraskans. Unfortunately, services by a certified counselor at this time are unavailable to almost 220 thousand Nebraskans. The below map graphically depicts the areas currently receiving problem gambling services.

One technique that is being used by providers in other contexts is distance treatment. Using computers and other electronic equipment current providers will be connected to clients from areas where services are distant or non-existent. By utilizing this distance treatment format (in conjunction with traditional face to face treatment modalities) we hope to reduce travel times and failure rates for clients and counselors and by expanding problem gambling services throughout the state of Nebraska thereby making services available to all Nebraskans.

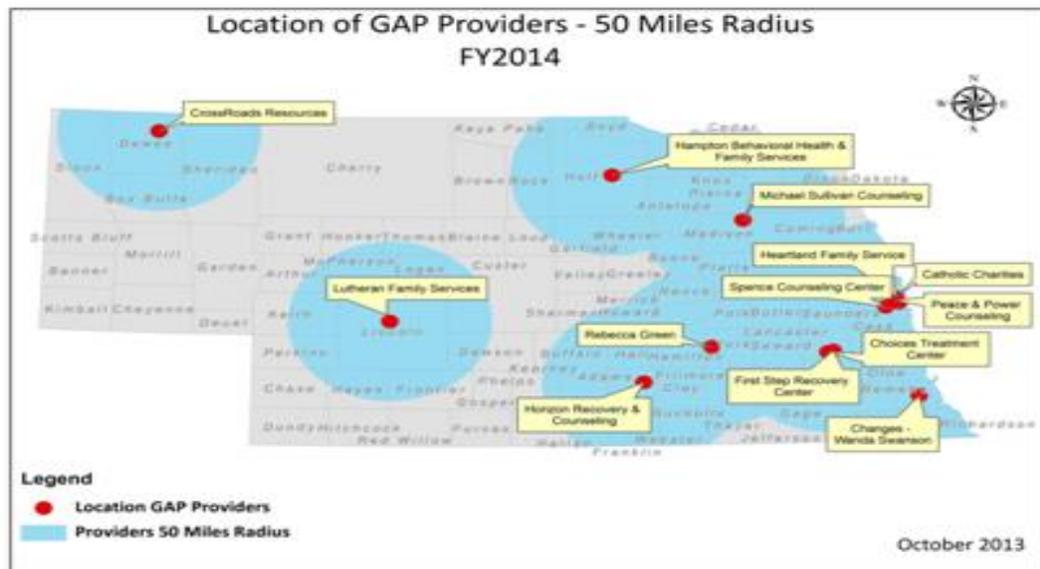
Additionally, the Commission is moving toward seeking and developing certified providers in underserved areas of the state. The Commission has authorized online training courses which will include the problem gambling “core” curriculum courses to help increase the number of certified problem gambling counselors in underserved areas.

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Below you can see the current underserved areas of the state.



SUMMARY OF MAP

Nearly 220,000 rural Nebraskans do not have access to certified professional gambling services. There are a total of 28 rural counties without any certified professional gambling services within a radius of 50 miles.

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FY14 SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

In FY14 the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling entered into a contract with the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling (NCCG) to provide workforce development. This contract is unique in that the Nebraska Commission and the Nebraska Council will be developing online “core” training for certification of problem gambling counselors in Nebraska.

When completed in July 2014, the online training workforce development tool will be available to all parts of the state. Counselors wanting to learn more about Disordered Gambling (previously termed pathological or compulsive gambling) or seeking a contract with the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling will be able to complete the Nebraska certification requirements online. This will reduce the cost of training for both the state and the individual while ensuring that qualified counselors are available in all areas of Nebraska. In addition, over 40 hours of advanced training will be provided to existing certified problem gambling counselors in FY14.

PROBLEM GAMBLING PREVENTION & EDUCATION SERVICES

In the first quarter of FY14, 290.5 hours of prevention and education services have been completed by certified counselors. Projected prevention & education hours for FY14 are 1162, this represents over three (3) times the prevention presentations that were provided in FY12. Translated this means more individuals, families, groups and communities will be educated on responsible gambling choices and on problem gambling.

DATA COLLECTION/EVALUATION

Currently the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling has contracted with Dr. Juan Paulo Ramirez (JPR Maps INC) to analyze data collected by providers. The NCPG is currently seeking a data collection software contract to collect and warehouse all treatment service data.



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GAP FY 14 Funding

Sources of Funding

Charitable Gaming Operations Fund:
Neb.Rev.Stat. (Sec. 9-1,101)

Nebraska Lottery Profits Revenue:
Neb.Rev.Stat. (Sec. 9-812)

Health Care Cash Fund:
*(State of NE 09-10/10-11 Biennial
Budget)*

Nebraska Lottery Advertising Budget
for Prevention, Education and
Awareness:
Neb.Rev.Stat. (Sec. 9-831)

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Appendix A: 2013-2014

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING MEMBERS

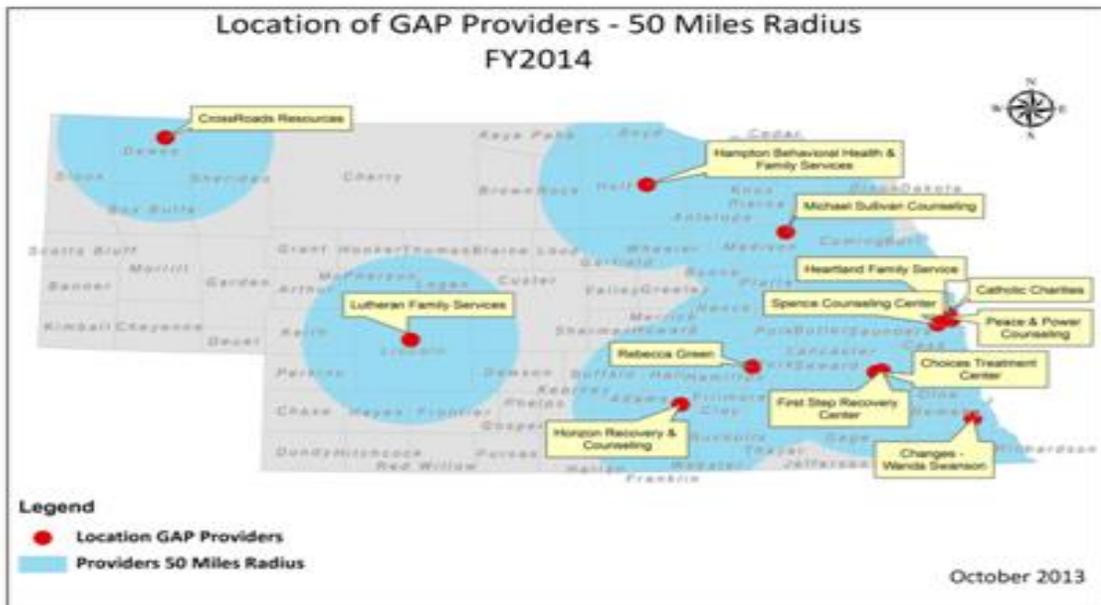
| Member: | Business: | City: |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Janell Holt | Childrens Hospital | Omaha |
| Mark Canada | Five Points Bank | Hastings |
| Edward Hoffman | Cada, Cada, Hoffman & Jewson | Lincoln |
| Paul Leckband | Lutheran High N/E | Norfolk |
| Mathew Anselmo | Edwards Auto Group | Bellevue |
| Marla Bruder | Integrated Life Choice | Denton |
| Susan Lutz | SEL Inc. | Norfolk |
| Terry Scoville | Retired | North Platte |
| Teresa Teutsch | Medibadge Inc. | Omaha |

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APPENDIX B SERVICE PROVIDERS



Choices Treatment Center, Inc.:

127 S. 37th St., Suite B

(24/7 helpline) 402-476-2300

Email: choices934@windstream.net

Website: www.choicestreatmentcenter.com

Changes- Wanda Swanson, CCGC:

4535 Valley Rd

Lincoln, NE 68510

402-432-6207

E-mail: wandaswanson@ymail.com

Becky Green, LADC, CCGC:

1604 Road E

Bradshaw, NE 68319

402-736-4713

Email: animalhouse@windstream.net

Heartland Family Services:

2101 S. 42nd St

Omaha, Ne 68105-2909

402-553-3000

Website: www.heartlandfamilyservice.org

Hampton Behavioral Health and Family Services:

316 East Douglas St

O'Neill, NE 68763

402-336-3200

Email: betty.hampton1@gmail.com

Website: www.kbrx.com/HamptonBehavioralHealth.html

Cross Roads:

651 W. 4th St

PO Box 1299

Chadron, NE 69337

308-432-3920

After hours: 308-430-4610
308-432-3920

Email: joyekel@hotmail.com

Prairie Psychological Services:

625 East 39th Street

South Sioux City, NE 68776

402-494-0040

Email: TwilaPreston@prairiepsyc.com

Catholic Charities:

3300 North 60th Street

Omaha, NE 68104

402-554-0520

Email: catholiccharities@ccomaha.org

Website: www.ccomaha.org

First Step Recovery Center:

Gateway Greentree Ct, Suite 342

Lincoln, NE 68505

402-434-2748

Website: www.FirstStepRecovery.com

Lutheran Family Services:

120 East 12th St

North Platte, NE 69101

308-532-0587

After hours: 308-530-1372

Peace and Power Counseling:

6901 Dodge St, Suite 101

Omaha, NE 68132

24 hr crisis number: 402-515-7412

Email: ginafricke@peaceandpowercounseling.com

Website: www.peaceandpowercounseling.com

Spence Counseling:

12035 Q St

Omaha, NE 68137

24 hr Hotline: 402-660-1895

Email: Charles@spence.omhcoxmail.com

Website: www.spencecounselingcenter.com

Mike Sullivan Counseling:

PO Box 1815 McMill Building

125 S. 4th St

Norfolk, NE 68702

402-750-7923

Email: mdscounselor@gmail.com

Helpline Services:

Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling

2218 Wayne

Bellevue, NE 68005

800-522-4700 Nebraska Helpline

