

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING



GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR
AND THE LEGISLATURE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014**

Gamblers Assistance Program

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

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GAP OVERVIEW

In 2004, Nebraska voters approved an amendment to Article III of the state Constitution that gives the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund permanent status. A share of lottery profits is transferred into the Fund based upon a fixed formula. This fund is the primary revenue source for the Gamblers Assistance Program. In 2013, with enactment of LB6, the Legislature placed management of the Gamblers Assistance Program and the Gamblers Assistance Fund under the direction and control of an independent Commission, with nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature. These two changes to Nebraska's Gamblers Assistance Program demonstrate the intent of Nebraska citizens and policy makers, to guarantee that our citizens facing the effects of gambling disorder will have a place to go for help. It is the view of the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling that a share of the money that government collects from government-sponsored gambling activities must be devoted to this cause. The Commission has the responsibility to ensure that 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 for Nebraska residents and their families.

The disorder that is commonly referred to as “problem gambling” or “gambling addiction” was redefined by the American Psychiatric Association in the 2013 publication of the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. It is now known as “gambling disorder” and is classified as a non-substance related addictive disorder for which treatment is given by behavioral health specialists. The Nebraska Gamblers Assistance Program was an early pioneer in the recognition of and treatment for this disorder. Treatment is provided by a network of trained counselors, working under contract with the Commission and paid from the Gamblers Assistance Fund. The Commission’s goal is to make treatment available to all Nebraskans who seek it.

LB6 makes the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling responsible for:

- A.) Developing guidelines and standards for the operation of the Gamblers Assistance Program, and directing distribution and disbursement of money in the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund.
- B.) Developing standards to: (a) train and certify problem gambling counselors; (b) evaluate and approve service provider applications; (c) review/advise the governor’s office and the legislature regarding evaluation data; and (d) oversee and authorize

- the use of funds for treatment, education and prevention regarding problem gambling.
- C.) Promoting public awareness of the existence of problem gambling and the availability of treatment services, and evaluate the existence and scope of problem gambling in Nebraska and its consequences.
 - D.) Engaging in other activities it finds necessary to carry out the duties defined by the Nebraska Legislature with the passage of LB6 in 2013.

The Commission met five times in this first year, focusing their efforts on providing continuity of service to the public and enhancing the service delivery around the state. In early March, the interim director was replaced with the permanent director. The program office was moved to Ferguson House in Lincoln, allowing better access to agencies with which the program interacts, and providing a convenient location for Commission meetings and provider workshops. This report summarizes the activities of the Commission during its first full year of existence, and gives a look into the future of the Nebraska Gamblers Assistance Program.

GAP AT-A-GLANCE: FY 2014

IN ITS FIRST FULL YEAR OF OPERATION, THE COMMISSION SAW MATERIAL INCREASES IN THE SCOPE OF THIS 22-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM'S ACTIVITIES.

- A.) Total number of new admissions to treatment increased by 20% over FY13.
- B.) 9,444 treatment hours provided to consumers in FY14, a 29% increase over FY12.
- C.) 284 callers to the program helpline were referred to local counselors, over three times the number referred in FY13.
- D.) Total funds expended for GAP counseling services to Nebraska citizens in FY14 were \$884,602, a 36% increase over FY12.
- E.) Underwriting assistance to the Nebraska Council on Problem Gambling led development of a first-of-its-kind online training program, presented by Nebraska-based Bellevue University.

GAP KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: FY14

- A.) Created and implemented contracts with problem gambling providers in the state of Nebraska.
- B.) Provided underwriting for five presentations of advanced training to keep certified counselors up-to-date on the most current knowledge in the field of disordered gambling treatment.
- C.) Substantially reduced the cost to train new candidates for certification. Under previous management, classroom trainings at a budgeted cost of approximately \$156,000 over two years failed to produce any candidates for certification. The Commission's contract provided underwriting for development of an online training program. Startup underwriting cost has been approximately \$70,000, and the program will be presented for four years beginning October 1, 2014, at an annual cost of approximately \$5,700. The classes, presented by Bellevue University, will provide training to Nebraska residents at a reduced tuition rate. This program offers quality education through the auspices of a nationally-accredited university, with program content accredited by national bodies including the National Council on Compulsive Gambling and the National Association of Drug and Alcohol Counselors.
- D.) Offered treatment services for previously excluded adolescents under the age of 19 and their families.
- E.) Implemented a mandatory state certification program for treatment providers to ensure access to qualified counselors who work with Nebraska problem gamblers and their families.
- F.) Began early stage development of a remote treatment model to allow problem gamblers throughout the state to have access to certified problem gambling counselors, as a bridge,

until providers can be trained and certified in areas currently without local service options.

- G.) Implemented a consumer oriented website outlining prevention, intervention and service availability for problem gambling, which can be found online at playitsafenebraska.org.
- H.) Promoted public education and information about the dangers of gambling disorder through the activities of contracted treatment providers.
- I.) Continued to provide financial support for the annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse. Nebraska was a founding member of the Midwest Conference, and has given financial support for over eleven years.

FISCAL INFORMATION: FY 2014

Program Appropriations:

Appropriations in LB6A:	\$ 1,504,770
Deficit appropriation in LB905:	\$ 110,198
Health Care Cash Fund appropriation in LB464A:	<u>\$ 250,000</u>
Total all appropriated program funding:	\$ 1,864,968

Program Expenditures:

Problem Gambling counselor contracts:	\$ 1,034,224
Counselor training programs:	\$ 79,017
Telephone Helpline:	\$ 79,708
Data analysis and reports:	\$ 29,232
Website enhancement:	\$ 49,000
Staff salaries and benefits:	\$ 85,761
Other operating expenses:	<u>\$ 12,496</u>
Total Program expenditures:	\$ 1,369,438

Gamblers Assistance Fund Performance FY 14

Transfers In:

Nebraska Lottery, share of lottery proceeds:	\$ 875,001
Nebraska Lottery, 5% of advertising budget:	\$ 244,572
Charitable Gaming (KENO):	\$ 50,000
Investment income:	<u>\$ 34,899</u>
Total Transfers In To Gamblers Assistance Fund:	\$ 1,204,472
Minus Program Expenditures Out of Fund:	<u>\$ 1,144,438</u>
Net Addition to Fund FY14:	\$ 60,034

Note: \$225,000 of Program expenditures were paid out of the Health Care Cash Fund appropriation.

Gamblers Assistance Fund Undesignated Equity: \$ 1,728,975

PROBLEM GAMBLING SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

In this first full year of its existence, the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling sought primarily to continue Nebraska's history of providing treatment services through contracts with qualified counselors. The Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling is currently seeking additional providers in underserved areas.

Problem gambling treatment services vary in type, intensity and education format. These 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 a face-to-face interview with the client and the gathering of collateral information, if available. Assessment is based on application of the diagnostic standards developed by the American Psychiatric Association in the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5).
Crisis Services:	Prior to admission, a client often presents 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 in outpatient treatment or an intensive outpatient treatment setting.

Services are provided to Nebraska problem gamblers, the “concerned person” and the affected family. 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.

EXPANSION OF NEBRASKA'S PROBLEM GAMBLING SERVICES

One of the priorities of the Commission is to reduce the gap in service delivery systems by expanding problem gambling treatment options throughout the state to make them more easily accessible to all Nebraskans. At this time services from certified counselors continue to be unavailable in large areas of the state. With improved access to training through the Bellevue University online program, increased interest among mental health professionals, and expanded funding, the Commission expects to fill the gaps in available provider services.

One technique currently used by providers in other disciplines is distance treatment. Through computers and other electronic equipment, treatment providers can be connected to clients in areas where services are remote or non-existent. By using this distance treatment format, in conjunction with traditional face-to-face treatment modalities, counselors are encouraged to reduce travel times and failure rates without compromising effective services, and expand problem gambling services throughout this state. The Commission encourages counselors to implement distance treatment.

Increasing populations, expanded access to gambling activities, and steadily increasing amounts of money spent on gambling activities, all indicate an increasing need to recognize and provide assistance to those dealing with the effects of gambling disorder.

PROBLEM GAMBLING PREVENTION & EDUCATION SERVICES

The Commission's contracts with certified counselors include a component that encourages them to engage in public information, outreach and education activities. The Commission has reimbursed counselors for the cost of newspaper and radio advertising, print materials and other informative materials that carry the message about the risk of disordered gambling. Counselors visited local offices, health care providers, businesses, courts, churches, and other contacts in most counties in the state to spread the word about the nature of gambling disorders and the availability of help through the Gamblers Assistance Program.

DATA COLLECTION/EVALUATION

The Commission contracted with Dr. Juan Paulo Ramirez (JPR Maps Inc.) to analyze data collected by providers. The Commission established a user friendly database that includes all the information necessary to evaluate program activities without burdening users with the need to input unnecessary data. In the future, this database will enable the Commission to more accurately assess nature of the gambling disorder in Nebraska, fulfilling the statutory obligation to evaluate the scope and existence of the problem and its consequences.

Funding Sources

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 Nebraska
13-14/14-15 Biennial Budget)*

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

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING



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Appendix A

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

2014-2015 MEMBERS

Name	Affiliation	City
Janelle Holt	Children's Hospital	Omaha
Mark Canada	Five Points Bank	Hastings
Edward Hoffman	Cada, Cada, Hoffman & Jewson	Lincoln
Paul Leckband	Lutheran High Northeast	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

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING



GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPENDIX B
SERVICE PROVIDERS

Choices Treatment Center, Inc.:

127 S. 37th St., Suite B

Lincoln NE 68510

(24/7 helpline) 402-476-2300

Email: choices934@windstream.net

Website: www.choicestreatmentcenter.com

Changes- Wanda Swanson, CDGC:

4535 Valley Rd.

Lincoln NE 68510

402-432-6207

E-mail: wandaswanson@ymail.com

First Step Recovery Center:

300 South 68th Street Place Suite 500

Lincoln, NE 68510

402-434-2730

Website: www.firststeprecovery.com

Heartland Family Services:

2101 S. 42nd St.

Omaha NE 68105-2909

402-553-3000

Website: www.heartlandfamilyservice.org

Catholic Charities:

3300 North 60th St.

Omaha, NE 68104

402-554-0520

Email: catholiccharities@comaha.org

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

Becky Green, LADC, CCGC:

1604 Road E

Bradshaw, NE 68319

402-736-4713

Email: animalhouse1@windstream.net

Hampton Behavioral Health and Family Services:

116 West Douglas St.Suite B

O'Neill NE 68763

402-336-3200

Email: betty.hampton1@gmail.com

Website: www.kbrx.com/HamptonBehavioralHealth.html

Cross Roads Resources:

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 St.

South Sioux City NE 68776

402-494-0040

Email: tchase_97@msn.com

Ron Felton Counseling:

319 East B Street

North Platte, NE 69101

402-984-1839

Email: Ron.Felton@yahoo.com

Mike Sullivan, LCSW, CCGC:

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