



WISCONSINCOUNCIL
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

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WCPG Conference Tackles Top Issues Facing Problem Gamblers *Impressive line-up in place for statewide conference*

For Immediate Release

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(Green Bay, WI) – More than 14,600 calls were placed to Wisconsin’s Problem Gambling Helpline in 2009. Those calls came from people in all walks of life and all ages from problem gamblers to people concerned about a relative or a close friend.

With a line-up of notable speakers and presenters, the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling (WCPG) will hold its **Twelfth Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference** to focus on problem and compulsive gambling. The conference will take place on **March 18-19, 2010** at the **Blue Harbor Resort**, 725 Blue Harbor Drive, Sheboygan.

“Gambling has certainly become an accepted part of our society,” said Rose Gruber, WCPG Executive Director. “In Wisconsin, the vast majority of people can gamble without it becoming a problem situation. But for five to seven percent of the population, it can be a devastating addiction for the individual, family members, and friends. Our conference speakers will focus on helping those who have a gambling problem or are affected by it.”

The theme for this year’s conference is “Anchors Away to Awareness, Education and Prevention.” The line-up of keynote speakers include:

- **Linda Graves**, Problem Gambling Program Manager, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse for the State of Washington will discuss “Senior Gambling: Fantasizing About Magical Solutions”
- **Dr. Henry Lesieur**, Staff Psychologist at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence and Clinical Psychologist in the Rhode Island Gambling Treatment Program will discuss “Hypnosis and Mindfulness with Pathological Gamblers”
- **Priscilla Murphy**, National Board Certified Counselor, Registered Nurse and National Secretary of Chi Eta Phi Sorority Inc. will discuss “What’s Grief Got To Do With Problem Gambling?”
- **Daniel Smith**, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Board Approved Clinical Consultant for the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board will discuss “Does Post Acute Withdrawal (Common in Ingestive Addictions) Really Exist with Gambling Clients (Process Addictions)?”

Other speakers during the two-day event include: Don Feeney, Michael Goldman, Benton Granville, Patricia Jirovetz, Cheryl Kirking, Dr. Dennis Lorenz and Dr. James Walsh.

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“The annual conference is a great way for us to share information and increase public awareness of the problems associated with problem and compulsive gambling,” Gruber said. “We’ve been able to bring in a number of speakers with impressive credentials who are excited to share their expertise.”

The conference is designed for those involved in problem gambling research, treatment or prevention, including counselors, social workers, clergy, human resource professionals, tribal, state and municipal officials, compulsive gamblers and family members.

More information on the conference, including a downloadable conference brochure, is available on the WCPG Web site at www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

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The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling is funded by a public awareness grant from the State of Wisconsin and additional funding from donors, including Wisconsin Native American Tribes. The Council operates a 24-hour Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, distributes informational brochures, organizes an annual statewide conference, makes presentations on problem gambling and conducts training sessions for treatment providers interested in the special requirements for working with compulsive gamblers and their families. For more information, visit www.wi-problemgamblers.org. Become a fan of WCPG’s Facebook Fan Page, search for “Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling” when logged into Facebook.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 for confidential help.

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