



**Colorado Department of Human Services
Division of Behavioral Health**

**House Bill 08-1314
Problem Gambling/Gambling Addiction
Grant Report**

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Introduction

House Bill 08-1314 was created by the General Assembly concerning the use of moneys in the Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Fund to provide gambling addiction counseling to Colorado residents. House Bill 08-1314 requires the Department of Human Services (Department) to submit a report to the Health and Human Services Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, or their successor committees, regarding the Gambling Addiction Grant Program. The Division of Behavioral Health (Division) is responsible for administering this program for the Department.

The Department believes that Problem Gambling/Gambling Addictions issue fits within the mission and goals of the Department as the federally designated single state authority for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. Many other states have also structurally located Problem Gambling/Gambling Addictions within the state behavioral health authority.

Implementation

The intent of House Bill 08-1314 is to address the issue of problem gambling and gambling addictions in our state. House Bill 08-1314 creates a program to train counselors and make available prevention/education and treatment services to problem gamblers. House Bill 08-1314 outlined a grants administration program similar to that housed in the Department of Local Affairs; however, during the 2008 legislative session the program was moved from Department of Local Affairs to the Department of Human Services.

The Department determined that the most efficient and effective method to achieve the legislative intent was to subcontract the administration of the program. The Department issued a Request For Proposals to create a community-based Center of Excellence, through which counselors receive free advanced training and supervision in problem gambling counseling. Once trained, counselors could apply for grant dollars to be reimbursed for delivered treatment services.

Reporting requirements of HB 08-1314 (Section 12-47.1-1601 (II) C.R.S.)

(A) The amount of moneys allocated to the gambling addictions account.

The amount of moneys allocated to the gambling addiction account in FY 2009-10 was \$110,865.

(B) The number of grant applications received and the total amount of grant moneys requested by grant applicants.

One grant in the amount of \$99,033 was awarded to the Center of Excellence at the University of Denver after a competitive bid process. The Department's contract with the Center of Excellence requires the Center to provide: 1) 30 hours of training to meet the content required for trainees to become approved gambling counselors at no cost; 2) a statewide annual conference that focuses on topics relevant to problem gambling in Colorado to meet the continuing education requirement for counselors, also at no cost; 3) supervision of counselors in training by providing twice monthly supervision; 4) gambling counseling services through reimbursement to problem gambling service providers; and 5) a database that tracks all program requirements.

(C) The total amount of moneys in the gambling addiction account that was awarded as grants to applicants.

The total amount awarded to the Center of Excellence at the University of Denver was \$99,033 [see below for specific accomplishments of the Center of Excellence].

(D) The entities or programs that received grants and the amount of moneys each grant recipient received.

One grant in the amount of \$99,033 was contracted to the Center of Excellence at the University of Denver. The Center of Excellence provides services such as education and treatment of problem gamblers, training of problem gambling counselors, supervision of counselors in training, as well as gathering, analyzing, and publishing research regarding the effectiveness of the programs.

Center of Excellence - The University of Denver was the only applicant to the State's bid process and was awarded the contract for the Center of Excellence. The following is from the University's report on their activities:

Community Education and Outreach:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Center of Excellence offered a full day conference on problem gambling on October 30, 2009, to 100 registered participants. The conference focused on youth and college-age gambling problems.• The Division of Behavioral Health sponsored a Research Forum at no charge on problem gambling in July 2009 attended by over 82 participants statewide.• On October 16, 2009, Dr. Karin Dettrick-Nathan, a member of the National Center on Responsible Gaming Task Force on College Gambling Policies, hosted a nationally attended informational breakfast reporting on the importance of addressing gambling as part of a comprehensive university wellness plan.
Training & Supervision:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24 hours of problem gambling specific supervision to 16 trainees has been provided and supervision is available at no charge to participants.• 4 hours of gambling specific classroom training was provided to 30 individuals.• 30 hours of core training will be presented in spring 2010 and made available throughout Colorado via Webinar at no charge to participants.
Client Contacts:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 initial client phone screening contacts.• 30 problem gambling clients and family members have met with counselors.• Counselors have met for 126 client contact hours.• Number of sessions has ranged from 1 to 15.• The current number of sessions would translate to 461 contact hours <u>annually</u> if the trend toward increasing contacts continues.• All problem gambling clients evaluate the quality of their therapy session following each session.• In 2010, clients who have terminated treatment will be contacted for follow-up review of treatment satisfaction and current gambling patterns.
Research:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research on problem gambling is being conducted by the Center of Excellence for possible presentation at the 2010 American Psychological Association conference to be held in August 2010. The research includes stages of change, treatment preference, and gender preference of gambling modalities.

Prevention – House Bill 08-1314 included the provision of prevention efforts concerning problem gambling/gambling addictions. The Department currently has a network of prevention providers equipped to facilitate problem gambling prevention efforts. The Department employs ‘Best Practice’ Prevention Strategies such as Information Dissemination and Education. The Department achieved the following:

- Participation in monthly statewide problem gambling stakeholder meetings;
- Researched and documented national trends in problem gambling prevention;
- Presented at the Department’s Research forum in July 2009 on problem gambling prevention;
- Disseminated information statewide to Prevention Coalitions on significant changes in Colorado Casino laws; and,
- Offered resources to statewide Prevention Coalitions for information on problem gambling.

Challenges - House Bill 08-1314 sets aside approximately \$5,500 dollars (5% of the available funds) for the administration of the program. This amount has proven inadequate to administer the program, write rules, and monitor program accountability. The amount of staff time and resources expended in the first three months surpassed the \$5,543 administrative cost. The Department used other federal and state resources that are designated for other purposes to supplement the administrative costs; however this is not a long-term solution. The Department would typically request a budget supplemental for additional resources when they are not sufficient; however due to the economic condition of the Colorado State budget, the Department will not make a request this year.

Next Steps - The Department believes that gambling addiction issues are the appropriate fit within the role of the Department and the Division of Behavioral Health and the issue is congruent with all addiction services within the Department’s authority and oversight.

Despite the constraints of inadequate resources, the Department has made a concerted effort to bring together multiple stakeholders and their respective perspectives on problem gambling to craft a state strategic plan for problem gambling/gambling. The Department is committed to working with stakeholders to further develop a strategic plan; to determine the next steps for addressing the service needs of consumers with problem gambling/gambling addiction in order to ensure the best outcomes; and; to sustain the program over the long-term.