

# STATE OF COLORADO



**Colorado Department of Human Services**

*people who help people*

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Reggie Bicha  
Executive Director

February 22, 2013

The Honorable Irene Aguilar  
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80203

The Honorable Beth McCann  
Chair, House Health, Insurance & Environment Committee  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80203

The Honorable Dianne Primavera  
Chair, House Public Health Care & Human Services Committee  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Senator Aguilar, Representative McCann, and Representative Primavera:

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health submits the enclosed report concerning the Problem Gambling/Gambling Addiction Grant program established by House Bill 08-1314. We apologize for the delay of this report as we encountered some internal tracking issues that delayed the process for finalizing of this report. The tracking issues have been resolved thereby preventing this from occurring in the future.

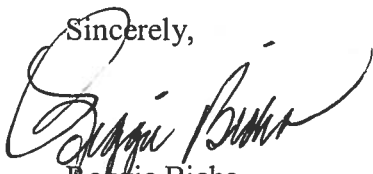
House Bill 08-1314 was created by the General Assembly concerning the use of moneys in the Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Fund to provide gambling addiction counseling to Colorado residents.

The Honorable Irene Aguilar, the Honorable Beth McCann and the Honorable Dianne Primavera  
February 22, 2013  
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House Bill 08-1314 requires the Department of Human Services to submit a report to the Health and Human Services Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, or their successor committees, regarding the Problem Gambling/Gambling Addiction Grant Program. The Office of Behavioral Health is responsible for administering this program for the Department.

If you have specific questions regarding the Department's activities related to this report please feel free to contact Dr. Lisa Clements, the Director of the Office of Behavioral Health at (303) 866-7655 or by email at [Lisa.Clements@state.co.us](mailto:Lisa.Clements@state.co.us).

Sincerely,



Reggie Bicha  
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: **Senate Health & Human Services  
Committee**

Senator Irene Aguilar, Chair  
Senator Linda Newell, Vice-Chair  
Senator Larry Crowder  
Senator Kevin Lundberg  
Senator Ellen Roberts  
Senator John Kefalas  
Senator Jeanne Nicholson

**House Health, Insurance &  
Environment Committee**

Representative Beth McCann, Chair,  
Representative Sue Schafer, Vice-Chair,  
Representative Kathleen Conti  
Representative Steve Humphrey  
Representative Dianne Primavera  
Representative Rhonda Fields  
Representative Janak Joshi  
Representative Amy Stephens

Representative Joann Ginal  
Representative Lois Landgraf  
Representative Dave Young

**House Public Health Care & Human  
Services Committee**

Representative Dianne Primavera, Chair  
Representative Dave Young, Vice-Chair  
Representative Kathleen Conti  
Representative Beth McCann  
Representative Spencer Swalm  
Representative Justin Everett  
Representative Sue Schafer  
Representative Max Tyler  
Representative Janak Joshi  
Representative Jonathan Singer  
Representative Jim Wilson  
Representative Jenise May  
Representative Amy Stephens



# Colorado Department of Human Services Office of Behavioral Health

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

**January 2013**



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**This report was prepared by:**

Chris Habgood, Director of Public Policy and Planning, Office of Behavioral Health

## **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 Office of Behavioral Health is responsible for administering this program for the Department.

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

## **Implementation**

The intent of House Bill 08-1314 is to address the issue of problem gambling and gambling addiction in Colorado. House Bill 08-1314 creates a program to train counselors, and make prevention/education and treatment services available 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 the 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 Proposal" to create a community-based Center of Excellence, through which counselors receive free training and supervision in problem gambling counseling. Once trained, counselors can apply for grant dollars to be reimbursed for delivered treatment services.

## **Reporting requirements of House Bill 08-1314 (Section 12-47.1-1601 (II) C.R.S.)**

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

FY 2011-12: The amount of moneys allocated to the gambling addiction account was \$72,016.

FY 2012-13: The estimated amount to be allocated is \$66,296.

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

FY 2011-12: One grant, in the amount of \$68,416, 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 required the Center to provide: 1) 30 hours of no cost (free) training to meet the content required for trainees to become approved gambling counselors; 2) a statewide annual, no cost (free) conference that focuses on topics relevant to problem gambling in Colorado to meet the continuing education requirement for counselors; 3) supervision of counselors in training by providing twice monthly supervision sessions; 4) gambling counseling services through reimbursement to problem gambling service providers; and 5) a database that tracks all program requirements.

In 2011-12 training was provided to ten (10) counselors, down from seventy-five (75) counselors the previous year, and direct counseling services were provided to twenty-nine (29) clients down from forty (40) clients the previous year. The Department identified the contractor had included students in its educational program who were also included in the counts for training and client services in 2010. The Department discontinued allowing the students to be counted since they were paying tuition to the contractor for this training.

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

FY 2011-12: The total amount awarded to the Center of Excellence at the University of Denver was \$68,416.

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

FY 2011-12: One grant in the amount of \$68,416 was contracted to the Center of Excellence at the University of Denver.

**Prevention** – House Bill 08-1314 included the provision of prevention efforts concerning problem gambling/gambling addiction. 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 worked with the Colorado Lottery to provide resources and information statewide to the public on problem gambling.

**Next Steps/Recommendation** - The Department believes that gambling addiction issues are congruent with all addiction services within the Department's authority and oversight. The Department has made a concerted effort to bring together multiple stakeholders and their respective perspectives on problem gambling to construct a statewide strategic plan for problem gambling. The Department is committed to its ongoing work with stakeholders to further develop the comprehensive strategic plan to address the service needs of consumers with problem gambling/gambling addiction in order to ensure the best outcomes.