



COLORADO

Office of Behavioral Health

Department of Human Services

Gambling Addiction Program Report (12-47.1-1601 (4) (a.5) C.R.S. 2015)

**Report to the General Assembly
Colorado House Public Health Care and Human
Services Committee and Senate Health and
Human Services Committee**

January 1, 2016

Statement on the role of the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health related to Affordable Care Act and Expanded Medicaid Coverage

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health funds behavioral health treatment services for individuals who are “medically indigent” and for whom services are not funded through another payment source. Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health defines “medically indigent” as those individuals that have mental health and/or substance use disorders and incomes below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.

The Affordable Care Act improved behavioral health system accessibility and affordability for Coloradans through expanded Medicaid eligibility, minimum benefit package requirements, and financial assistance through the Colorado health insurance marketplace. As a result of these health policy changes, many people who were formerly served through the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health service system can now be served by Medicaid or other health insurance. Consequently, Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health is projecting lower demand for behavioral health services from individuals who are uninsured and lower costs associated with clients who may be only briefly uninsured.

Due to the significant changes in behavioral health funding since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health continues to refine its approach to ensuring that essential services are available to individuals who have emergent service needs, lack insurance coverage, or where services are not covered by public or private health insurance. To date, Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health has determined that while most individuals may be eligible for health insurance, important service gaps remain in the areas of 1) prevention/early intervention; 2) specific types of treatment services such as residential substance abuse treatment; 3) recovery support services such as housing and employment assistance; and 4) essential complementary services such as cross system care coordination and transition supports. Further, Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health has identified emergent services such as crisis response and detoxification as areas where capacity must be available regardless of payer source in order to facilitate public and individual safety.

To ensure that Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health invests its resources wisely and does not duplicate services that are funded by other sources, it has reoriented contracting to strategically address the gaps in insurance coverage. The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health has focused attention on defining and supporting essential capacity while encouraging contractors to recover costs from insurance plans for covered services. These changes are intended to ensure a safety net of behavioral health services for all Coloradans while minimizing the duplication of payment for services.

In support of behavioral health treatment services for Coloradans the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health considers gambling addiction treatment as an important treatment service. The following is a report on the gambling addiction program.

Introduction

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health respectfully submits the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 report entitled, “Gambling Addiction Program Report” to the Colorado House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee and Senate Health and Human Services Committee in compliance with:

12-47.1-1601 (4) (a.5) C.R.S. 2014

(II) By January 1, 2009, and by each January 1 thereafter, the department of human services shall submit a report to the health and human services committees of the senate and house of representatives, or their successor committees, regarding the grant program. The report shall detail the following information for the fiscal year in which the report is submitted:

- (A) The amount of moneys allocated to the gambling addiction account pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section;
- (B) The number of grant applications received and the total amount of grant moneys requested by grant applicants;
- (C) The total amount of moneys in the gambling addiction account that was awarded as grants to applicants; and
- (D) The entities or programs that received grants and the amount of grant moneys each grant recipient received.

Gambling Addiction Grant Program

House Bill 2008-1314 was enacted by the Colorado General Assembly creating the Gambling Addiction Program within the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health. This established the use of moneys from the Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Fund to offer grants to state or local, public and private entities or individuals that provide gambling addiction counseling services (treatment grants) and to behavioral healthcare professionals pursuing national accreditation as gambling addiction counselors (training grants).

The Office of Behavioral Health implemented this program via the state procurement process to contract with an agency to administer the program pursuant to the statute and the funds appropriated. A documented quote was released in July 2014. An award was made to the Center for Governmental Training, establishing it as the fiscal agent for both the treatment grant and training grant award processes. Thus, the Center for Governmental Training awarded grants to behavioral health professionals who were pursuing national certification as gambling counselors and who had completed at least half of the counseling hours required for national accreditation (training grants). The Center for Governmental Training provided grants to state or local, public and private entities or individuals that provide gambling addiction counseling services (treatment grants). The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health established the gambling addiction program to be the payer of last resort to avoid duplicate payment for services. The Office of Behavioral Health required verification that another payer source was not available when counselors sought grants under this program.

Reporting requirements 12-47.1-1601 (4) (a.5) (II) C.R.S. 2013

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

FY 2014-2015:

Gambling Addiction Account Amount Allocated
\$100,000

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

FY 2014-2015:

Applicants	Grant Amounts Requested
8	\$8,590

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

FY 2014-2015:

Applicants	Grant Amounts Awarded
8	\$8,590

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

FY 2014-2015:

Grants to Training Organizations	Total Amount
The North American Training Institute/University of Minnesota - Duluth - Certificate in Gambling Addiction (On-line training of Colorado clinicians)	\$2,590
The Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling Certificate in Problem and Compulsive Gambling Training (On-line training of Colorado clinicians)	\$6,000

Grants to Certification Organizations	Total Amount
The American Compulsive Gambling Counselor Certification Board (ACGCCB)	\$2475
The International Gambling Counselor Certification Board - National Certified Gambling Counselor I	\$120

FY 2014-2015: The following table lists the grant awards by individual and the amount granted.

Grantees FY 2014 - 2015	Amount Granted
A. Johnson	\$1,295
M. Taylor	\$1,295
V. Shinbaum	\$1,000
T. Williams	\$1,000
D. Stephens	\$1,000
M. Paiz	\$1,000
N. Ortiz Moreno	\$1,000
R. Suarez	\$1,000
Total Grants	\$8,590

Three individuals received national certification and one individual renewed their national certification.

Gambling Addiction Program Audit

In August 2015, the Office of the State Auditor conducted a performance audit of the Gambling Addiction Program resulting in several important findings and nine recommendations. The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health is working diligently to implement the recommendations for the improvement of the program. The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health expects to have completed all audit recommendations by July 2016. The status of the audit implementation will be provided in the Audit Recommendation Status Report provided to the Legislative Audit Committee in 2016.