We're excited to announce a new initiative in our efforts to help individuals and families affected by disordered gambling – Square One! Square One is a program that aims to place individuals that have been imprisoned or placed on probation for finance-related crimes, as a result of their gambling disorder, back in the workforce. Participants in the program will be able to start new and successful careers, while at the same time being supported by professionals who understand disordered gambling.

Workforce Development Manager, Scott Melissa, is working to build the Square One program. Scott assembled a Square One Advisory Board to review the framework of the program. The members come from diverse occupational backgrounds, and act as a springboard for ideas regarding the development of the program. Members include:

• Stephen T. Bocko, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Training, Massachusetts Probation Service
• Claire Kilawee-Corsini, Deputy Director, Reentry Program Services, Department of the Office of Corrections
• Lisa Dube, U.S. Probation Officer
• Dot Duda, Director of Outpatient Psychiatry & PARC, Mount Auburn Hospital
• Jeffrey Hayden, Vice President for Business and Community Services, Holyoke Community College
• Steve Kelley, Assistant Parole Supervisor, Region Nine Parole Office Framingham
• Ellen Mason, Sr. Program Manager at The Work Place, Boston
• John P. McGahan, President/CEO of the Gavin Foundation
• David Sullivan, Director Reentry and Reemployment, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development
• Kimberly Todd, Executive Director, Dress for Success Boston
• Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Problem Gambling, Mass. Gaming Commission

Scott asserts that employment plays a crucial role in helping individuals avoid criminal behavior after being convicted. He explains that, “Individuals who meet with a mentor or case manager are more than twice as likely to find jobs as members that do not, and are
more successful in retaining their jobs (BJS Ready4Reentry/Prisoner Reentry Toolkit, 1994).”

A prime example of someone who successfully made the transition from 27 months in Federal prison, for a crime related to her gambling addiction, to the workforce is Karen Sicher. In 2011, Karen became the Council’s Special Projects Assistant and was later promoted to Administrative Manager. Karen said, “I hope to use my experience and position at the Council to facilitate programs for women seeking help with gambling addiction.”

According to Scott, “Karen serves as a model for future participants of the program who are hoping to make the same transition back into the workforce. We look forward to being able to add Square One to the range of services provided by the Council.”

If you, or someone you know may benefit from the Square One program, please contact Scott at 617.426.4554 / scott@masscompulsivegambling.org.

#### The Square One 5 Steps to Re-Employment Include:

1) After the initial recruitment and intake process, a case manager will be assigned to each participating individual.

2) Case managers will develop personalized action plans that will give the associate the best chance of a successful transition, from being incarcerated to working in a professional environment.

3) From there, associates will go through orientation, which will include assessing their skills as well as job training and coaching.

4) After completing the orientation and training program, job placement will take place.

5) The Council will offer a mentoring program and weekly follow-up with associates and employers.

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**Celebrating RECOVERY**

September was recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as National Recovery Month. Organizations and governments across the United States endorse the month through proclamations, and recovery-focused events.

To celebrate, we participated in the 5th Annual Worcester Cares about Recovery Walk and Celebration on Saturday, September 14th, 2013. The event was sponsored by Everyday Miracles Peer Recovery Center and the Worcester Department of Public Health. There was live entertainment, children’s activities, a BBQ, and information about prevention, treatment, and recovery as it pertains to addictions.

Other National Recovery Month activities that our staff members took part included:

- Friday, September 20th, 2013: Springfield’s Recovery Month Celebration Day celebrations.

- Friday, September 20th: 5th Annual Substance Abuse Treatment Provider Fair. This fair is hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, New Bedford Area Office Substance Abuse Consultation Team in recognition of National Recovery Month.

- Thursday, September 26th: 23rd Annual Recovery Celebration Day at the State House. This Day is sponsored by the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR).

- On Friday, September 27th: MBTA employee health fair. The MBTA promoted this day as a chance to educate their employees about recovery and different levels of treatment available for various addictions.

Though National Recovery Month is just one month out of the year, taking steps towards your own recovery or learning to help with someone else’s is important, every day of the year. We recognize that recovery is an emotionally rigorous (and even more rewarding) challenge.

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**We Need Your EXPERTISE!**

If you would like to help influence recovery policy and events at the Council, you may want to consider joining our Recovery Advisory Board. Please contact Victor Ortiz, Senior Director of Programs and Services, at 617-426-4554 / victor@masscompulsivegambling.org for more information.
Survey results announced

At Legislative Briefing

Approximately 68% of Probable Pathological gamblers and 64% of Problem gamblers say an important reason why they gamble is that it is a distraction from everyday problems, compared to just 33% of Social gamblers. This is just one of the results gleaned from the Massachusetts Statewide Gambling Behavior, Opinions, and Needs Assessment, conducted through a representative online panel.

On Thursday, September 19, 2013, the Council, together with the Massachusetts Partnership on Responsible Gambling (MPRG) presented the survey results to Legislators and their staff representatives during a Legislative Briefing in the Member’s Lounge of the State House. The briefing was sponsored by House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Representative Elizabeth A. Malia (D-Jamaica Plain, Eleventh Suffolk) and Senator Joan B. Lovely (D-Salem, Second Essex).

Marlene Warner, Council Executive Director, and Phil Kopel, Mass. Council Research and Data Director, explained that in order to mitigate negative effects of the impending casinos that it is necessary to understand the current level of gambling behavior within the Commonwealth.

Information gleaned from the survey will be used to: identify needs, and help guide program development, education efforts, treatment, referral, family support, marketing, and advocacy. The Mass. Council will be increasing education and protective factors to different groups that the survey showed as more likely to have gambling problems such as:

- Men,
- People between 25-50,
- Of those Asian Americans who gamble, they are more likely to be pathological gamblers,
- Those who have problems with alcohol, drugs, sex, stealing and shoplifting,
- Those who have problems with depression,
- Those without a lot of hobbies, or social supports in their lives

Marlene stated, “The survey has demonstrated the need for comprehensive problem gambling services across the Commonwealth. With this data, we can work to ensure needs are met for those experiencing problems with gambling, their loved ones, and the professionals that serve them, during this era of expanded gambling.”

For more information or to download a complete report, please visit the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling’s website at www.masscompulsivegambling.org.

Massachusetts to help influence national agenda

National Council on Problem Gambling Appoints Marlene Warner to Board of Directors

Executive Director, Marlene Warner has been appointed to the National Council on Problem Gambling’s (NCPG) Board of Directors (BOD). When asked about how she feels about her new appointment, Marlene said, “As a newly elected member of the BOD, it is quite an honor to have the opportunity to serve with many long-time, distinguished, and compassionate advocates, clinicians and industry members who’ve chosen to do the difficult, but rewarding work of this field to improve the lives of people who struggle with gambling disorders and their family members. I look forward to applying some of my enthusiasm and knowledge from the work in the Commonwealth, and channeling it into the efforts of the NCPG to be the most effective and lead national organization to influence prevention, treatment, recovery and research of problem gambling across the United States.”

Marlene has worked for the Council for over 12 years, first as the Council’s Program Director, and subsequently as the Council’s Executive Director, beginning in 2011. Marlene has expressed her interest in helping with all facets of the NCPG’s agenda, and hopes to “be an effective member of the BOD that asks the right questions and encourages the NCPG to maintain its interest and influence in the cutting edge policies and decisions that dramatically impact the field, whether that be in the realm of prevention, treatment, or recovery support.”

She also stated, “Specifically, I have joined the BOD because I believe I can help to position the NCPG to act as a vital support to its affiliates as they attempt to access evidence-based data regarding models and practices that inform the most effective delivery of services and programs on the community, state, and regional levels—and share those results among their colleagues in a way that can be easily replicated or integrated while still being cost-effective. I also would like to encourage the NCPG to take from business and organizational development principles to further its influence and impact in the professional development of the advocates, clinicians and industry members in the field.”

President of the NCPG BOD, Maureen Greeley, praised Marlene in her new role by saying, “The NCPG is fortunate to have strong Board members like Marlene Warner in this important leadership role. Through her experience with the Massachusetts Council, and her efforts on behalf of NCPG committees, Marlene has proven her skills, dedication, and understanding of how board and staff work together to serve the mission and goals of NCPG.”
Thank You, KEVIN

After 20 years of service, board member, Kevin Donoghue has announced that he will be stepping down from his long-time position as the Clerk of the Council’s Board of Directors (BOD). Since 1993, Donoghue has been lending his business expertise to the Council.

Marlene Warner, Executive Director of the Council said, “When the Council lost funding through the budget process in 1990, Kevin owned the building where the Council’s offices were (and still are) located. During the six months when the Council had no income, Kevin allowed us to remain without paying rent. Being able to remain open and to continue to offer services during that time made all the difference in the Council being able to survive a tough stretch! At that point, Tom Cummings, the Council’s Founder and Executive Director, convinced Kevin to join the Board, and Kevin’s devotion and generosity to the Council have remained constant.”

The Council is grateful for Kevin’s hard work and ongoing dedication. Though he will be missed as a member of the Board, we are going to still count on his support and knowledge.

Dr. Friedman’s speech expressing the importance of community support resonated with those in attendance, “WE, the people in this room, are part of our community’s safety net. WE, can provide the help and support needed for individuals and families struggling with gambling addiction. WE, can continue to build a continuum of care, advocate for responsible gaming and work collaboratively to expand the resources available to problem gamblers and their families.”

Dr. William Dávila, Program Director, Gandara Center, spoke from his heart as he referenced his own community, “This is personal for us. We’ve seen the damage that disordered gambling does. We’re doing all we can to prepare our clinicians before casinos open. We are lockstep with the Council on getting the word out.”

To learn more about becoming involved in the 30th Anniversary House Parties, please contact Council Administrative Manager, Karen Sicher at karen@masscompulsivegambling.org / 617-426-4554.

Are you interested in hosting a small, informal gathering in your home to commemorate the Council’s 30th Anniversary?

If so, please contact Executive Director, Marlene Warner at marlene@masscompulsivegambling.org / 617-426-4554.

Can you HELP?

We’d love your help to spread the word about our 24/7 Helpline. If you are interested in making the rack cards available at your office, please contact Communications Specialist, Sasha C. Russell at 617-426-4554 / sasha@masscompulsivegambling.org.
Are you interested in earning your Massachusetts Problem Gambling Specialist (MA PGS) certificate? Have you always wondered how could you incorporate helping people experiencing problem gambling, and their loved ones, within your practice? Now is the time.

Between our Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling Training Institute, and other trainings being offered this year, there are plenty of opportunities to start earning your MA PGS certificate.

To read full descriptions of each training, please go to masscouncil.eventbrite.com.

For more information, please contact Council Intervention and Treatment Manager, Alicia Barron at 617-426-4554 / alicia@masscompulsivegambling.org.

REGISTER TODAY!

Upcoming Council Training Opportunities

Each week our blog is updated with information relevant to the field of problem gambling, as well as information about events. The following is an example of information you can find on our blog. This information is taken from “Gambling Disorder & the DSM-5.” To read the blog post in full, and other posts, please visit masscouncil.blogspot.com.

This past May, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) released the long-awaited Fifth Edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) manual, better known as DSM-5.

The DSM-5 categorizes a Gambling Disorder as the sole claimer of the “Non-Substance-Related Disorders” section under Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders and made some adjustments to the definition. Currently the DSM-5 outlines the diagnostic criteria for a gambling disorder as:

A. Persistent and recurrent problematic gambling behavior leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, as indicated by the individual exhibiting four (or more) of the following in a 12-month period:

1. Needs to gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve the desired excitement.
2. Is restless or irritable when attempting to cut down or stop gambling.
3. Is often preoccupied with gambling (e.g., having persistent thoughts of reliving past gambling experiences, handicapping or planning next venture, thinking of ways to get money with which to gamble).
4. Often gambles when feeling distress (e.g., helpless, guilty, anxious, depressed).
5. After losing money gambling, often returns another day to get even (“chasing” one’s losses).
6. Lies to conceal the extent of involvement with gambling.
7. Has jeopardized or lost a significant relationship, job, or educational career opportunity because of gambling.
8. Relies on others to provide money to relieve desperate financial situations caused by gambling.

B. The gambling behavior is not better explained by a manic episode.

The omitted criterion reads, “Has committed illegal acts such as forgery, fraud theft or embezzlement to finance gambling.” The DSM-5 Work Group felt that any illegal acts would fall under “Lies to conceal the extent of involvement with gambling.” The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) explains the reasoning behind this decision as, “no studies have found that assessing criminal behavior helps distinguish between people with a gambling disorder and those without one.”

The importance of these changes and this reclassification of the disorder is the hope that clinicians will have an easier time diagnosing and treating persons who are having problems with gambling. Classifying gambling disorder as a behavioral addiction will also be helpful in bringing the issue and surrounding elements to light in the public eyes – raising awareness and lowering stigma.

To read more about this, please visit masscouncil.blogspot.com.
COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW STAFF and NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome new members to our team, Martha T. Kane, PhD., Clinical Director of the Addiction Recovery Management Service (ARMS) at Massachusetts General Hospital and Bob Melia, MA, President of the MENTOR Network have joined our Board of Directors (BOD). And, Brianne Tolson (left) has joined the Council staff as Grassroots and Community Relations Manager, and Alicia Barron (right) as the Intervention and Treatment Support Manager. The new board and staff members bring years of experience to assist the Council in furthering its mission. Read more at http://masscouncil.blogspot.com/2013.