



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS: Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin and Potawatomi Hotel & Casino

Military Should Screen for Gambling Disorder, GAO Says

By BROCK VERGAKIS | The Virginian-Pilot (Tribune News Service)
Published: February 6, 2017

The military should screen its personnel for gambling disorder the same way it does for other addictive disorders, according to a government watchdog report.

The Government Accountability Office released a study last week showing that less than 0.03 percent of service members were diagnosed with gambling disorder or were seen for problem gambling through the Military Health System between 2011 and 2015.

While the report acknowledges those numbers are low, it notes that the Defense Department and Department of Homeland Security may not be able to identify and provide treatment to those who need it without specifically screening for it. Only 10 percent of people with gambling disorder seek treatment, according to the American Psychiatric Association.

“While gambling disorder is not a frequently diagnosed condition, the preoccupation with gambling, financial hardship, and increased risk of suicide can pose a risk to individual readiness,” the report says.

In a letter responding to the report, the Defense Department disputed the need for specific screening. Instead, it said it would update its policies to promote education and awareness activities intended to prevent or reduce problematic gambling.

“There is no evidence to suggest that gambling disorder is a high prevalence disorder in the DoD, and it is impractical to screen for every low prevalence disorder,” the Defense Department said in its response.

The Defense Department said bipolar disorder, psychotic disorders and obsessive compulsive disorder all are just as or more common, but also aren’t routinely screened for. The Defense Department said screening for other disorders would require additional time, resources and training that would burden the service member and health provider.

“The decision on whether to screen for a disorder is carefully scrutinized with the DoD, with the priority given to high risk, high volume, and problem-prone disorders with validated measures for assessment,” the Defense Department wrote.

Historically, the military has a unique relationship with gambling.

Slot machines were removed from U.S. military installations in 1951 due to a law passed by Congress, but the report notes that many bases are located in states that permit some form of gambling. Virginia, for example, allows off-track betting.

There also are overseas bases that allow slot machines in places like bowling alleys and officers’ clubs. The machines are most prevalent at U.S. bases in Japan and Germany, although the Navy also has them in Korea, Italy, Spain, Diego Garcia, Greece and Singapore.

Overseas slot machines throughout the Defense Department generated \$538.9 million between 2011 and 2015.

Find Us • Like Us • Follow Us



2017 Board of Directors:

Patricia Jirovetz -
President

Mark Wesenberg -
Vice President

Ed Ramsey -
Secretary

Diana Abelt -
Treasurer

Dan Cousins, Sr.
James Harrison III
Jessie Harvath

LeAnne Holden

James Lewis

Dr. Dennis Lorenz

Missy Tracy

Todd Zangl

2017 Administrative Staff:

Rose Blozinski -
Executive Director

Cheri Cuny -

Operations Manager

René Pringle -

Office Coordinator

WCPG Gambling Disorder Training Program is now being offered at Viterbo University— La Crosse, WI

DATE	TRAINING	LOCATION:	Registration Deadline
October 19-20, 2017	Phase 1	Viterbo University—FAC HS Meeting Room	October 11, 2017
November 9-10, 2017	Phase 2	Viterbo University—FAC HS Meeting Room	November 1, 2017
December 7-8, 2017	Phase 3	Viterbo University—FAC HS Meeting Room	November 29, 2017
January 25-26, 2018	Phase 4	Viterbo University—FAC HS Meeting Room	January 17, 2018

For more information about this training program call: 1-920-437-8888,
email: cheri@wi-problemgamblers.org or go to our website: wi-problemgamblers.org.

“The Stakes are High” Intro Training Madison, WI

The WCPG is pleased to be able to offer 6 hours of "The Stakes Are High," an introduction to gambling disorder training. Attendees will gain knowledge on the far-reaching effects of this devastating addiction.

Presenter: Patricia Jirovetz, ATRL, LPC, NCGCII

Date: October 13, 2017 **Time:** 8am - 3pm

Cost: \$10.00 **CEU Hours:** 6

Location: Comfort Inn & Suites Madison Airport
4822 E Washington Ave. Madison, WI 53704

Registration Deadline: October 3, 2017

More information available online:
www.wi-problemgamblers.org

Now accepting credit card payments

Online registration available

The WCPG receives Approved Education Provider Status with NAADAC

The WCPG has received authorization from NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, to grant continuing education credits for its training programs to its licensed drug abuse counselors.

The WCPG is proud to be a NAADAC Approved Education Provider. Approved provider status identifies our training programming as meeting nationally approved standards of education development for the alcoholism and drug abuse counseling field. Participants in our educational programs can be assured that their contact hours or CEU's will be accepted toward national credentialing by the NAADAC Certification Commission and by many of the individual state licensing and certification bodies. By opening our educational programs to examination by outside agencies we are able to ensure that all participants are provided a consistent, reliable and quality learning experience.

19th Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference

March 15th-16th, 2018

Milwaukee Marriott West, W231N1600 Corporate Ct., Waukesha, WI 53186

For more information call 920-437-8888, email wcp@wi-problemgamblers.org, or
visit our website at wi-problemgamblers.org

Mark Your Calendars!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Looking at the Past and Preparing for the Future....

I recently celebrated my 20th anniversary with the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling. The Council today is completely different from when I walked in the door 20 years ago. Our office then consisted of one room, two desks, a computer and me (with a few less gray hairs). Today we have several more computers and desks and have gone from one to four. It has been exciting to watch the changes and growth the Council has gone through and at times its trials and tribulations.

In 1997, the 24-hour Helpline received 3,865 calls from problem/compulsive gamblers and their families. In 2016, the Helpline received 13,081 calls. In the last few years we have started a chat line available through our website at wi-problemgamblers.org and most recently our text line at 920-888-Help.

Over the past twenty years the Council has grown in many other ways as well. We are currently in the 19th year of our statewide public awareness campaign, which receives funding from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Care and Treatment Services. Through the public awareness campaign we are able to reach thousands and thousands of Wisconsin residents. Posters, brochures, booklets and pamphlets have been developed and thousands of these are distributed each year. We do many interviews resulting in several hundred newspaper, television and radio stories each year. Our goal is always to let people know that gambling can become a problem, that help is available and how people can get help. Public speaking, trainings and exhibits are another way we provide public awareness throughout the state. Several casinos provide responsible gambling programs and our phone number is listed on many of the lottery tickets in the state.

Planning is underway for the WCPG's 19th Annual Conference to be held March 15 - 16, 2018, in Waukesha, Wisconsin. My dream goal for the 2018 Conference is "218 participants in 2018". Mark your calendars and tell your friends! 2018 also celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the WCPG. This year's conference was held in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin on March 23 & 24, 2017, with 125 attendees. Evaluations told us this was the best conference yet. The conference continues to be a great way to bring together state and national experts in the gambling addiction field to present workshops on treatment, high-risk groups, special populations and other topics.

Over the past few years we have implemented our outreach program which provides educational programming to many middle and high schools throughout the state. We are also in the process of updating the school curriculum. We look forward to working with all of you as we continue to provide services to people who are affected by gambling disorders.

Rose Blozinski
WCPG Executive Director
Rose Blozinski



Autumn Apple Salad

Recipe
Corner



Ingredients

- 4 tart green apples, cored and chopped
- 1/4 cup blanched slivered almonds, toasted
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup chopped dried cherries
- 1 (8 ounce) container vanilla yogurt

Serves: 4

Ready in 10 minutes

In a medium bowl, stir together the apples, almonds, cranberries, cherries and yogurt until evenly coated.

For help, call: 1-800-GAMBLE-5 or text 920-888-HELP

1585 Allouez Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54311
Phone: (920)437-8888
Fax: (920)437-8995

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Green Bay, WI
Permit No. 460

Newsletter now available via
email....
Please contact
The Wisconsin Council
on Problem Gambling
1-800-Gamble-5
or email:
wcp@wi-problemgamblers.org
View this newsletter on the web at:
www.wi-problemgamblers.org

Find Us • Like Us • Follow Us
    



- Inside this issue:**
- Military Should Screen for Gambling Disorder, GAO Says
 - Go Paperless Sign up
 - Intro Training Information
 - WCPG Now Approved Education Provider with NAADAC
 - Save the Date
 - From the Executive Director
 - Recipe Corner

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT: The WCPG is currently accepting volunteers. Anyone interested in donating their time and skills to the organization by helping with administrative projects is encouraged to contact us at (920)437-8888.

RESOURCE LIBRARY: The WCPG has both books and videos in our lending library. Materials can be loaned out on a two week basis. These materials can also be mailed to you. For more information, call René at (920) 437-8888 or e-mail her at: conference@wi-problemgamblers.org

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.

- Our goals are to:**
- Promote public education and awareness of gambling disorders.
 - Maintain a toll-free statewide Helpline where people with gambling disorders and their families can call for immediate and continuing assistance in dealing with the addiction.
 - Advocate quality assistance for all individuals affected by gambling disorders.
 - Identify "high risk" individuals and groups with gambling disorders and provide prevention activities and information.
 - Provide expert training to professional counselors in the treatment of gambling disorders.
 - Compile and maintain a database of statistical information concerning gambling disorders in Wisconsin.