

DMHAS Problem Gambling Services
Announces New Initiative for FY2013-FY2015

Mission: Moving towards Gambling Informed Prevention, Intervention and Treatment across the Continuum of Care and across the Lifespan in the five Mental Health and Addiction Services Human Service Regions in Connecticut

In response to the collective recommendations of our Strategic Planning meeting in December 2012, Problem Gambling Services (PGS) has developed a plan to address the need for increased networking and collaboration in our Prevention work. At this meeting, representatives from the Bettor Choice Treatment Programs, the Disordered Gambling Integration Project (DIGIN), Regional Action Councils (RACs), the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) and the DMHAS Prevention Unit, joined PGS to explore ways to expand, improve, and build upon the body of prevention of problem gambling work developed over the past 15 years.

For the upcoming contract cycle of FY2013-FY2015, PGS Prevention will focus on three objectives: (1) To strategically gather statewide community awareness and readiness data; (2) To review and assess the efficacy of select current programs; and (3) To build and strengthen a gambling awareness infrastructure within each Region through the establishment of Regional Gambling Prevention Teams.

The Regional Gambling Prevention Teams meet quarterly to share and discuss problem gambling and gambling awareness related activities, information, events and efforts, and serve as an informal “advisory group” that will eventually inform regional strategic planning and gambling awareness integration.

The five Regional Gambling Prevention Teams and their Coordinators are:

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| Region 1 | Lower Fairfield County Regional Action Council (LFCRAC)
Ingrid Gillespie, Executive Director
203-391-7914 rac@liberationprograms.org |
| Region 2 | South Central Ct Substance Abuse Council (SCCSAC)
Marlene McGann, Executive Director
203-303-3391 MAWSAC@aol.com |
| Region 3 | Southeastern Regional Action Council (SERAC)
Michele Devine, Executive Director
860-848-2800 serac.ed@sbcglobal.net |
| Region 4 | East of the River Action for Substance Abuse Elimination (ERASE)
Bonnie Smith, Executive Director
860-568-4442 bonnie.smith@eraset.org |

Region 5 Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Action Council (CNVRAC)
Jennifer Dewitt, Executive Director
203-578-4044 cnvrac1@familyintervention.com

Your role as a Provider, Stakeholder, Consumer or Concerned Citizen:

Contact your Regional Coordinator to discuss this initiative and your potential participation as a member of the Regional Team or a contributor to the assessment and awareness efforts. It is our hope that through a vibrant cross-section of providers, stakeholders, consumers and concerned citizens, we will realize our objectives and move towards a more well-informed public, making good choices for themselves, their families and their communities around gambling behaviors.