



The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc.

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The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc.

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NJ Council and State Partners Committed to Addressing Problem Gambling Year-round

Hamilton, NJ – April 24, 2014 – March Madness is behind us but the Kentucky Derby is just ahead, and major sporting events usually lead to more calls for the state’s problem gambling hotline, according to Donald Weinbaum, Executive Director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey.

The Council has partnered with the NJ Division of Gaming Enforcement and the NJ Casino Control Commission to help maintain a year-round focus on reducing problem gambling issues in New Jersey.

“It is important to try to raise public awareness by designating every March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month,” Weinbaum said. “But it’s just as important to remember that gambling addiction is a year-round problem,” he added. The Council and its partners, including a number of other state agencies, engaged in an aggressive program this year to educate and inform people about problem gambling and about the services that are available to help gamblers and their families.

“Whether it’s the Final Four, the Triple Crown or the Super Bowl, a casino, a racetrack or even bingo or the lottery, for a compulsive gambler there is always an opportunity to stay in action – at least, until the money runs out and the debts become overwhelming,” Weinbaum said.

New Jersey runs self-exclusion programs for people who gamble on-line, at casinos or at race tracks to help them deal with any gambling problem. In addition, the Council’s **1-800-GAMBLER** helpline number is included in all casino gaming advertising, on lottery tickets, and at racing locations. The Council also has a new on-line chat feature on its www.800gambler.org web-site to respond in real-time to people with a gambling problem. All authorized on-line gambling sites are required to include a direct link to the Council’s web-site, which recently has experienced a doubling of traffic.

“The Division of Gaming Enforcement is extremely sensitive to the issues of responsible gaming. We understand that while gambling is fun and a form of entertainment for most people, for some it can result in serious addiction. As with all gaming regulations, and most recently in the drafting of the regulations for Internet gaming, we are confident that proper technical solutions are in place to allow patrons to engage in gaming responsibly,” DGE director David Rebeck said.

“The Casino Control Commission supports problem gambling awareness initiatives all year around,” said Matthew Levinson, Chairman of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission. “No one wants to see lives and families ruined by a gambling addiction. Millions of people gamble responsibly in New Jersey every year, but for those who can’t, there is help and hope” he added. “New Jersey gets a lot of benefits from gambling, but it is also committed to helping problem gamblers.”

The three agencies are all active participants in the “Responsible Gaming Forum”, established in 2013 to bring together key gambling stakeholders to help devise a five year plan for responsible gaming in New Jersey. The Council is expanding its programs to deal with the additional need for compulsive gambling help and prevention services across NJ.

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About The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. is a private non-profit organization that provides information, education and referral services for people affected by a gambling problem. The Council's mission is to educate the public to the fact that compulsive gambling is a treatable illness. The Council's 1-800-GAMBLER® Helpline and website www.800gambler.org have been resources for thousands of people who are compulsive gamblers and recovering from compulsive gambling, as well as their friends and families. The 1-800-GAMBLER® helpline is free and confidential, and it is available 24 hours a day throughout much of the U.S.

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