

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:
Rachel Lauria, NYCPG, 518.852.7107
Rlauria@NYProblemGambling.org

Recovery from Problem Gambling Starts with You

This September the New York Council on Problem Gambling (NYCPG) is excited to partner with Friends of Recovery New York, as well as regional and local groups, and organizations throughout New York State to make it known that recovery from problem gambling is possible.

Because problem gambling is often a “hidden addiction,” we’ve got to make it our high priority to talk about, give efforts to prevent, educate and screen for problem gambling.

If we think of recovery as a part of continuum of care model, then we must also recognize that prevention leads to and enhances recovery. At the state and regional levels, NYCPG is partnering with Friends of Recovery –New York to spread a message of prevention to recovery partners that the risk of problem gambling is real, especially for individuals in recovery from substance use disorder. Screening for problem gambling is an effective way to start discussions about gambling problems as well as reach individuals who may be in need of help before problems escalate further. Recovery from problem gambling is very possible and we are all here to help along the way!

THE FACTS:

- Nearly 668,000 adults in New York State are struggling with a gambling problem. (2006 OASAS Adult Problem Gambling Household Survey).
- Almost 75% of people diagnosed with gambling disorder also had an alcohol use disorder, and close to 40% had a drug use disorder. (Petry NM, Comorbidity of the DSM-IV pathological gambling and other psychiatric disorders)
- In NYS there is treatment and other pathways available to help people find and practice their own recovery. Some of the methods include private practitioners trained specifically in problem gambling, OASAS designated problem gambling treatment providers, Gamblers Anonymous, SMART Recovery, and more!

PARTNERSHIP:

FRIENDS OF RECOVERY-NEW YORK (FOR-NY) will be co-facilitating a webinar on problem gambling and recovery as well as sharing resources online.

“Friends of Recovery – New York (FOR-NY) is proud to collaborate with the New York Council on Problem Gambling during September for Recovery Month. FOR-NY believes in all pathways to recovery. Whether we are in recovery (or seeking a path to recovery) from alcohol use, substance use disorder or gambling addiction, we are all connected and make up a greater stronger recovery community by supporting one another on these challenging and rewarding journeys towards wellness.” -Dr. Angelia Smith-Wilson, FOR-NY Executive Director

SCREENING DAY: September 22

Screening for problem gambling is a great place for an agency or provider to insert the topic of problem gambling into their practice. Because so many individuals are impacted by one person's gambling problem, a person's mental and physical health could be impacted. Screening might reveal that they do not have a problem but allow the opportunity to talk about another person's problematic gambling and how it is impacting their life. To be able to better support the clients they serve, the local agencies and partners will be actively screening all clients, and others interested, on September 22nd.

The New York Council on Problem Gambling and its 2020 partners recognize that problem gambling is not a standalone condition. Partnering with stakeholders across the state enables all agencies involved to reach audiences with new information about problem gambling, mental illness and the associated stigma, to help those in need. We call on you to be part of the conversation!

NYCPG Executive Director Jim Maney stated, "The collaboration of systems is vital to ensuring recovery supports and services for individuals and families in recovery from problem gambling. Recovery networks create not only a safety net, but a community in which people can thrive in their recovery."

For more information about Recovery Month and Problem Gambling, visit:
nyproblemgambling.org/resources/recovery-month.org.

***If you or someone you love is struggling, please visit
NYProblemGamblingHELP.org to connect with resources in your community.***

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The New York Council on Problem Gambling (NYCPG) is a not-for-profit independent corporation dedicated to increasing public awareness about problem and compulsive gambling and advocating for support services and treatment for persons adversely affected by problem gambling. NYCPG maintains a neutral stance on gambling and is governed by a Board of Directors. Find out more at NYProblemGambling.org.