

2-3-09

**SENATE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC &  
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**GOOD AFTERNOON TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ALLOW THE COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING OF PENNSYLVANIA TO SPEAK BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE.**

**MY NAMES IS JAMS S. PAPPAS, AND I SERVE AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL, AND I WOULD LIKE GIVE YOU AN UPDATE OF WHAT THE COUNCIL HAS DONE SINCE 1985 UP TO TODAY.**

**THE COUNCIL, A NON FOR PROFIT 501-C-3, WAS INCORPORATED IN 1985. THE CO-FOUNDERS OF THE COUNCIL WERE: JACK WOLF, THE FOUNDER OF GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS IN PENNSYLVANIA, SOUTHERN NEW JERSY & DELAWARE, ANGELO SALVATORE, YVONNE KAYE, PhD, AND MY SELF.**

**OUR FIRST STATE FUNDING SOURCE WAS PROVIDED BY THEN STATE REPRESNTATIVE LEANA WASHINGTON IN THE EARLY 90'S, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 5,000.00 FROM THE WAM PROGRAM. IN 1997 WITH THE SUPPORT OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAUL CLYMER, THE COUNCIL OBTAINED AN INITIAL GRANT OF \$ 15,000.00 FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE LOTTERY, WITH THE HELP OF THEN DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ED TREE, ENABLING US TO BEGIN OPERATION OF A STATE WIDE HELP LINE.**

**THE COUNCIL PROVIDES SERVICES FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIAN'S AFFECTED BY COMPULSIVE GAMBLING RELATED ISSUES.**

**THE COUNCIL MAINTAINS A NEUTRAL STAND WITH REGARDS TO GAMBLING ACTIVITY WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA. OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION, TRAINING, HELP LINE SERVICES, AND REFERRALS TO THOSE IN NEED OF OUR SERVICES.**

**WE OPERATE A 24/7 LIVE CLINICAL RESPONSE CALL CENTER, (YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED COPIES OF OUR DATA COLLECTION FROM FEBRUARY 2007 THRU NOVEMBER 0F 2008, FOR YOUR REVIEW. (MY COLLEAGE, JOANNA FRANKLIN, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, TRAINING & HELP LINE SERVICES WILL SPEAK TO IN MORE DEPTH ABOUT OUR HELP LINE SERVICES, AS WELL AS UPDATING YOU ON OUR EDUCATION & TRAINING ACTIVITY SINCE JANUARY, 2006.**

**WE CURRENTLY PARTNER WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE LOTTERY, PHILADELPHIA RACETRACK, THE MEADOWS RACETRACK, AND PENN GAMING INC., AND HAVE DONE SO WITH ALL OF THE ABOVE SINCE 1997, IN ASSISTING THEM IN THEIR "RESPONSIBLE GAMLING PROGRAMS".**

**WE ALSO CURRENTLY PARTNER WITH ALL OF THE NOW OPEN CASINOS, AND HAVE LETTERS OF INTENT TO PARTNER FROM: FOXWOODS CASINO, AND SUGARHOUSE CASINO. WE ANTICIPATE THE RIVERS CASINO WILL PARTNER WITH US IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.**

**ALL OF THE GAMBLING VENUES IN THE COMMONWEALTH UTILIZE ONE OF THE (3) STATE WIDE HELP LINES THAT WE MANAGE: THOSE BEING: 1-800-848-1880, THE COUNCIL'S OFFICIAL STATE WIDE LINE NUMBER, 1-800-GAMBLER, AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING'S NATIONAL NUMBER OF 1-800-522-4700. ANY ONE THOSE HELP LINE CALLS GO DIRECTLY TO OUR CALL CENTER, WHEN DIALED FROM A PENNSYLVANIA AREA CODE.**

**I WOULD NOW LIKE FOR YOU TO HEAR FROM JOANNA FRANKLIN, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, TRAIING AND HELP LINE SERVICES, FOR THE COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING OF PENNSYLVANIA**