



Training Summary Report

Event: An Institute on Prevention & Treatment of Gambling Addiction
Part I: The Fundamentals, May 16, 2008
Part II: An In-depth Look, May 30, 2008

Description/Overview

Per LOD Senate Bill 611 Section 26.27 Compulsive Gambling Funds and the New Mexico Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative, ValueOptions New Mexico developed specific training activities to establish a foundational understanding of assessing and treating gambling-related disorders. The activities promoted the concepts that inform and shape prevention and treatment strategies and interventions when working with individuals who have gambling addiction issues. The information presented discussed the current research and practices that specify and support the identification and evidence of positive outcomes in the treatment of gambling-related disorders.

The target audience was mental health and substance abuse therapists/counselors, case managers, prevention specialists, school-based health staff and educators, all prevention program managers, city and county managers of senior programs, state epidemiology staff, Aging and Long Term staff, AARP, criminal justice, home healthcare and senior center staff, consumers, psychologists, psychiatrists, primary care staff, members of the Collaborative and any other interested community members.

Part I: The Fundamentals

May 16, 2008

Presentations

1. Gambling: The Hidden Addiction
2. Assessment & Treatment Protocol for Pathological Gamblers with Dual Addictions
3. Gambling based on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
4. Best/Promising Practices in the Treatment of Problem Gambling
5. Money: Therapeutic Strategies for Gambling Treatment

Program Effectiveness

135 evaluations from 162 attendees (83%) were returned. Six evaluations indicated a Doctoral level of education; eighty indicated a Masters level of education; thirty-one indicated a Bachelors level of education; eighteen indicated no degree or other.

Each attendee was asked to rate the training and overall effectiveness from 1 (low) to 5 (high). The average overall effectiveness rating was 4.1

All evaluations but two indicated either no change in medium to high existing knowledge or an increase in knowledge from attending Part I: The Fundamentals of the Institute on Prevention & Treatment of Gambling Addiction. One evaluation reported no ratings but commented of the training: “organized, expert presenters and materials and place...excellent training”. The second evaluation indicated a loss of knowledge with an overall effectiveness of “1” commenting of the training: “dreary, dragged out, only one presentation that was useful”.

Those attending were asked to choose two reasons for taking the opportunity to attend the Institute. The top four reasons for attending were: advance my knowledge, learn new concepts, learn new approaches, increase my self-awareness. The least chosen reason for attending was to learn about evidence based practices. Other reasons given were free CEU’s.

The attendees were also asked to choose the presentation most interesting or valuable for them. *Money: Therapeutic Strategies for Gambling Treatment* presented by Brian Farr was rated as first with 66 ratings. Second was *Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment Protocol for the Integrated Treatment of Clients Diagnosed as Pathological Gamblers* presented by Harlan Vogel with 51 ratings. Third was *Gambling: The Hidden Addiction* presented by Keith Whyte with 35 ratings. Fourth was *Best/Promising Practices in the Treatment of Problem Gambling* presented by Keith Whyte with 33. Fifth was *Brief Overview of Gambling in New Mexico based on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)* presented by Wayne Honey with 13 ratings.

Comments included qualified speakers, good variety of information, excellent training. providing psychology CEU’s should be considered at future trainings.

Part II: A More In-depth View

May 30, 2008

Presentations:

1. 2006 Study of Gambling & Problem Gambling in New Mexico
2. Cultural Considerations and a Cognitive Model of Addictions: Identifying Rumination in Pathological Gamblers
3. Gambling Among Older Adults
4. Adolescence, the Developing Brain, and Gambling
5. Environmental Strategies on Prevention of Problem Gambling

Program Effectiveness

113 evaluations from 146 attendees (77%) were returned. Five evaluations indicated a Doctoral level of education; sixty-six indicated a Masters level of education; seventeen indicated a Bachelors level of education; eighteen indicated associates, no degree or other. Seven evaluations did not indicate level of education.

Each attendee was asked to rate the training and overall effectiveness from 1 (low) to 5 (high). The average overall effectiveness rating was 4.5.

All evaluations but three indicated either no change in medium to high existing knowledge or an increase in knowledge from attending Part II: A More In-depth View. One evaluation reported a loss of knowledge and made no other comment. Two evaluations reported only pre-conference knowledge with no rating of post-conference knowledge with one of those commenting that the attendee liked having the Institute on two separate days several weeks apart.

Those attending were asked to choose two reasons for taking the opportunity to attend the Institute. The top four reasons for attending were: advance my knowledge & skills, learn new concepts, learn new approaches, and increase self-awareness. The least chosen reason for attending was to learn about evidence based practices.

The attendees were also asked to choose the presentation most interesting or valuable for them. *Cultural Considerations and a Cognitive Model of Addictions: Identifying Ruminations in Pathological Gamblers* presented by Beau Washington was rated as first with 46 ratings. Second was *Gambling Among Older Adults* presented by Dennis McNeilly with 21 ratings. Third was *Adolescence, The Developing Brain, and Gambling* presented by Ken Winters with 7 ratings. Fourth was *2006 Study of Gambling & Problem Gambling in New Mexico* presented by Rachel Volberg. Fifth was *Environmental Strategies on Prevention of Problem Gambling* presented by Jean Holthaus with 1 rating. Thirty-five evaluations were returned with no indication of choice.

Recommendations

- 1) Ongoing training of professional and support staff working in the area of compulsive gambling is needed in the New Mexico system of care network. Institutes on the treatment and prevention of gambling addictions must continue in an effort to develop the workforce capacity and meet the increased need. It is therefore recommended that an annual institute be sponsored by the Purchasing Collaborative.**
- 2) We support standardized training of all employees of gaming establishments throughout New Mexico as this segment of the population by percentage is the group displaying the highest number of persons with compulsive gambling issues.**
- 3) Treatment standardized competencies for the delivery of treatment services to individuals with gambling addictions is highly recommended.**
- 4) Statewide prevention strategies must be implemented to reduce the incidents of gambling addictions. These strategies may be implemented to target communities at large, youth and the school communities, as well as the elderly population.**