Dear Helping Professionals

In the wake of casino gambling in Pennsylvania the state and human service providers are preparing to address the adverse social impacts that will accompany the arrival of video gaming in our state and region. Human service agencies, treatment centers, and private practitioners from a range of professional clinical field are seeking to qualify for gambling counseling certification in order to receive available state reimbursement for treating problem and pathological gamblers, a issue that will certainly increase as a social impact of casino gaming. Many of these practitioners are already experienced and licensed clinical professionals who are seeking to apply their skills with this anticipated, emerging problem population.

As one of the leading programs of professional clinical preparation in the country, the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work is launching a new, nationally certified (NCGC) Gambling Counseling Program and will continue to offer a 4-day (30 hours) Gambling Counseling Training Institute to prepare clinical practitioners to meet NCGC-1 examination. In addition, the School will offer NCGC Case Consultation to assist practitioners in meeting the 100 hours of counseling with gamblers and/or their families to qualify as a Nationally Certified Gambling Counselor. We hope you will find an opportunity to join us for our upcoming training institute in 2009.

Tracy M. Soska, Continuing Education Director, and Jody Bechtold, Training Coordinator and Instructor
For Information: 412-624-6572 or jrb127@pitt.edu
TRAINING INSTITUTE SCHEDULE & FEES FOR 2009

Winter Training Institute:

Dates: January 23-24; February 20-21, 2009
Time: 8:30 - 4:30
CE: 30 hours (L/CSW, LPC, LMFT, CAC, NBCC, NCGC)
Faculty: Jody Bechtold, LCSW, NCGC-1
+Case Consultation: Dr. Lori Rugle, PhD, BACC
In person: Saturday, April 4, 2009 (2 hour sessions)
Phone Consultation: 2 hour sessions 9am – 11am April 11, 18 or May 2 – pick one
Fee: $500 (must attend both training and case consultation)
Place: 2017 Cathedral of Learning,
University of Pittsburgh campus in the Oakland area of Pittsburgh

ABOUT THE FACULTY

Jody Bechtold, LCSW, NCGC-1, will serve as Gambling Counseling Training coordinator and lead instructor for the training institutes. Jody is instructor and field education liaison at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and a private practice therapist with over 8 years clinical experience, including work with gamblers.

ABOUT CASE CONSULTATION

In collaboration with Dr Lori Rugle, PhD, BACC, the School will offer case consultation (minimum 4 hours– see above) to complement training and support externships. As feasible the school will assist with gambling counseling externships toward acquiring the 100 hours of counseling with gamblers and/or their families.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The National Council on Problem Gambling has reviewed this program and finds that it is consistent with its established standards for gambling counselor education & training. Approval # 06/256 Trainings also provide continuing education for LSW/LCSW, LPC, LMFT, Psychologists, and NBCC, as noted above.

*The noted program is co-sponsored by Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC) and the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. WPIC is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for Psychologists. WPIC maintains responsibility for these programs and their content. Each of the noted programs is being offered for the designated number of continuing education credits.

FOR INFORMATION:
Contact Jody Bechtold at: 412-624-6572 or jrb127@pitt.edu