

## NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING



## GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Mission of the Gamblers Assistance Program is:

*To reduce the negative impact of problem gambling in Nebraska through implementation of effective, outcome driven education and treatment services for Nebraska residents and their families.*

### FY 2014 First Quarter Report

Gamblers Assistance Program

1313 Farnam Omaha, Ne 68102

402-595-1974

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<http://www.revenue.ne.gov/gaming/gap.html>

**NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING**



**GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

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## NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING



## GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### GAP OVERVIEW

The Nebraska Gamblers Assistance Program is a Constitutionally mandated and publicly funded system specifically designed to address problem gambling in Nebraska. In Nebraska there are no other funding mechanisms, including insurance, to cover the cost of problem gambling services such as counseling and prevention. The Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling (Commission) has been charged with oversight of the Gamblers Assistance Program (GAP). The nine (9) member commission, appointed by the governor and including two (2) consumers of problem gambling services [See Appendix-A for Commission members], has the responsibility to ensure the mission of the GAP is enforced and implemented. The Mission of the GAP is:

*To reduce the negative impact of problem gambling in Nebraska through implementation of effective, outcome driven education and treatment services for Nebraska residents and their families.*

The Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling is responsible for:

- A.) Developing guidelines and standards for the operation of the GAP, and directing distribution and disbursement of money in the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund (CGAF).
- B.) Developing standards to: (a) train and certify problem gambling counselors; (b) evaluate and approve service provider applications; (c) review/advise the governor's office and the legislature regarding evaluation data; and (d) oversee and authorize the use of funds for treatment, education and prevention regarding problem gambling.
- C.) Engaging in other activities it finds necessary to carry out the duties defined by the Nebraska Legislature with the passage of LB6 in 2013.

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**GAP AT-A-GLANCE: FY14 - FIRST QUARTER**

Quick Statistics for FY14 First Quarter GAP Services:

- A.) Total number of client intakes increased by 67% over the first quarter of FY13.
- B.) Total number of treatment hours provided to consumers in the first quarter of FY14 was 2391.
- C.) Total number of “valid” calls to the Nebraska statewide problem gambling helpline increased 119% over the first quarter of FY13.
- D.) Total number of hours of public prevention and education provided in the first quarter of FY14 was 290.
- E.) Total funds expended for GAP’s direct services the First Quarter of FY 14 are \$379,800.24.

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## GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### **GAP KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: FY14 - FIRST QUARTER**

- A.) Created and implemented contracts with problem gambling providers throughout the state of Nebraska.
- B.) Created a work force development plan and provider training program to include online training.
- C.) Created treatment services for previously excluded adolescents under the age of 19 and their families.
- D.) Developed a mandatory state certification program for treatment providers to ensure access to qualified counselors who work with Nebraska problem gamblers and their families (ongoing).
- E.) Developed a remote treatment model to allow problem gamblers throughout the state to have access to certified problem gambling counselors, as a bridge, until providers can be trained and certified in areas currently without local service options (ongoing).
- F.) Developed a consumer oriented website outlining prevention, intervention and service availability for problem gambling (ongoing).
- G.) Developed a prevention plan designed to educate adolescents and their parents about the inherent dangers of underage gambling (ongoing).

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**GAP FISCAL INFORMATION: FY14 – FIRST QUARTER**

<b>Categories of Funding</b>	<b>FY14 - First Quarter Expenditures</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Funds Appropriated</b>
Treatment Services	\$379,800.24	33%
Prevention Services	\$15,963.00	9%
Workforce Development	\$14,331.92	13%
Helpline Services	\$17,488.35	18%
Evaluation/Data	\$17,182.97	11%

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# PROBLEM GAMBLING SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

## FY14 – First Quarter

In the first quarter of FY14 problem gambling treatment services were provided through contracts with 14 treatment providers. The Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling is currently seeking additional providers in underserved areas. (See Appendix B – map of service providers.) Problem gambling treatment services vary in type, intensity and education format. These services include:

<b>Treatment Service:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Assessment/Evaluation:	Before admitting a client into care, a counselor must determine the nature and intensity of the problem gambling issues. This service occurs via a face-to-face interview with the client and the gathering of collateral information, if available.
Crisis Services:	Prior to admission, a client often presents with gambling specific crises issues. Counselors will meet with individuals and families to alleviate the initial crisis and engage clients prior to admission. This stabilization period is used to encourage entry into treatment and recovery.
Outpatient Therapy: Individual, family and group sessions	Therapy sessions are facilitated by a trained and certified counselor with an individual, family or group of individuals experiencing problems related to gambling. (Services occur in outpatient treatment or an intensive outpatient treatment setting.)

Services are available to Nebraska problem gamblers, the “concerned person” and the affected family member(s). A 2013 change from the previous practice includes treatment of clients under the age of 19, who are eligible for treatment with their family members. Research data indicates adolescents have gambling issues at twice the rate of adults. **Almost 2400 hours of services were provided to adults and adolescents with gambling issues in the first quarter of FY14.**

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**HELPLINE RESULTS: FY14 – FIRST QUARTER**

The number of “valid” calls to the Nebraska Helpline service increased 119% in the first quarter of FY14 when compared to data from the same period in FY13. Final data for FY13 is unavailable, as it remains the property of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In FY14 the Commission moved the Nebraska Helpline service from a Chicago, Illinois provider to a former GAP provider in Bellevue, Nebraska. It is important to note not all “valid” callers choose to seek problem gambling treatment. The percentage of Helpline referrals selecting a treatment provider is being tracked in FY14 and will be reported in next year’s annual report. One additional note - all calls are now being referred and transferred to certified Nebraska problem gambling treatment providers. (See Appendix B.)

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## **EXPANSION OF NEBRASKA’S PROBLEM GAMBLING SERVICES**

One of the priorities of the Commission is to reduce the gap in service delivery systems by expanding problem gambling treatment options throughout the state to make them more easily accessible to all Nebraskans. At this time services from certified counselors are unavailable to almost 220,000 Nebraskans. The map on Page 11 graphically depicts the areas currently receiving problem gambling services.

One technique currently used by providers in other disciplines is distance treatment. Through computers and other electronic equipment, treatment providers can be connected to clients in areas where services are remote or non-existent. By using this distance treatment format, in conjunction with traditional face-to-face treatment modalities, we hope to reduce travel times and failure rates for clients and counselors, and expand problem gambling services throughout this state thereby making services available to all Nebraskans.

Additionally, the Commission is moving toward seeking and developing certified providers in underserved areas of the state. The Commission has authorized online training courses which will include the problem gambling “core” curriculum courses to help increase the number of certified problem gambling counselors in underserved areas.

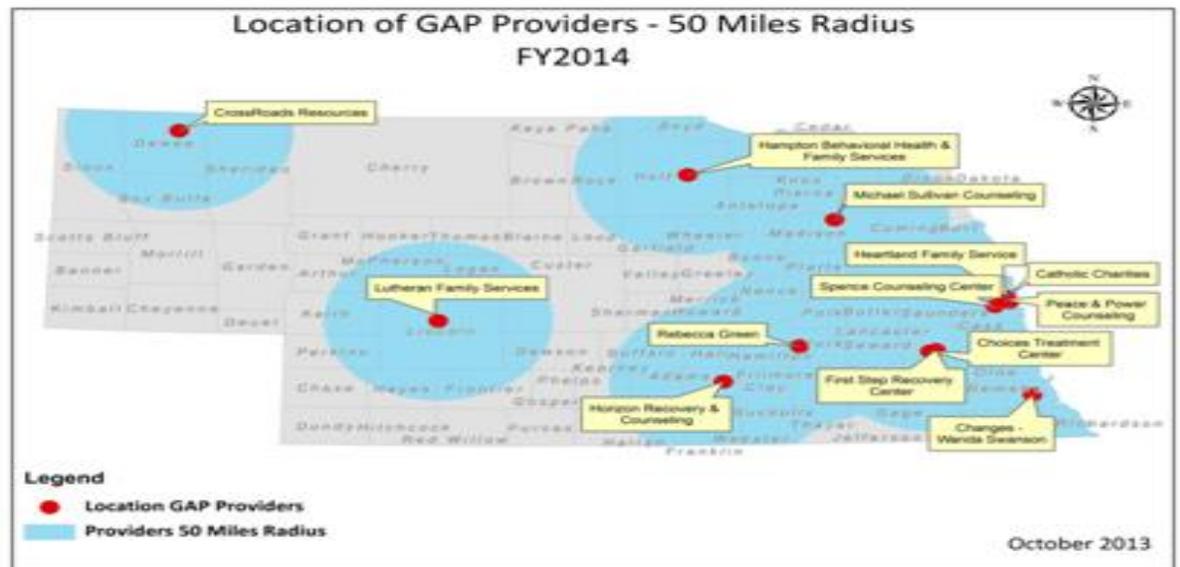
## NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING



### GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## CURRENT SERVICE AREAS &

## UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE



## SUMMARY OF MAP

Nearly 220,000 Nebraskans do not have access to certified professional gambling services. There are 28 rural counties without any certified professional gambling services within a radius of 50 miles.

## **NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING**



## **GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

### **SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS: FY14 – FIRST QUARTER**

In FY14 the Commission entered into a contract with the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling (NCCG) to provide workforce development. This contract is unique in that the Commission and the NCCG will develop online “core” training for certification of problem gambling counselors in Nebraska.

When completed in July 2014, the online training workforce development tool will be available to all parts of the state. Counselors wanting to learn more about Disordered Gambling (previously termed pathological or compulsive gambling) or seeking a contract with the Commission will be able to complete the Nebraska certification requirements online. This will reduce the cost of training for both the state and the individual, while ensuring that qualified counselors are available in all areas of Nebraska. In addition, over 40 hours of advanced training will be provided to existing certified problem gambling counselors in FY14.

### **PROBLEM GAMBLING PREVENTION & EDUCATION SERVICES**

In the first quarter of FY14, 290.5 hours of prevention and education services have been delivered by certified counselors. Projected prevention & education hours for FY14 are 1162. This represents over three (3) times the prevention presentations that were provided in FY12. This means more individuals, families, groups and communities will be educated about responsible gambling choices and problem gambling.

### **DATA COLLECTION/EVALUATION**

Currently the Commission has contracted with Dr. Juan Paulo Ramirez (JPR Maps Inc.) to analyze data collected by providers. The NCPG is currently seeking a data collection software contract to collect and warehouse all treatment service data.

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**GAP Funding Sources: FY14 – FIRST QUARTER**

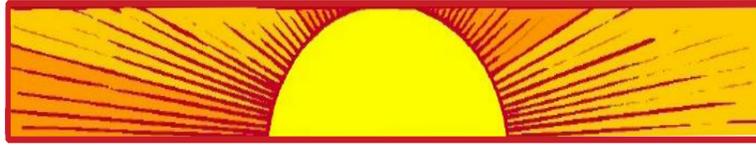
Charitable Gaming Operations Fund:  
*(Neb.Rev.Stat. Sec. 9-1,101)*

Nebraska Lottery Profits Revenue:  
*(Neb.Rev.Stat. Sec. 9-812)*

Health Care Cash Fund:  
*(State of Nebraska  
13-14/14-15 Biennial Budget)*

Nebraska Lottery Advertising Budget for Prevention,  
Education and Awareness:  
*(Neb.Rev.Stat. Sec. 9-831)*

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**Appendix A**

**NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING**

**2013-2014 MEMBERS**

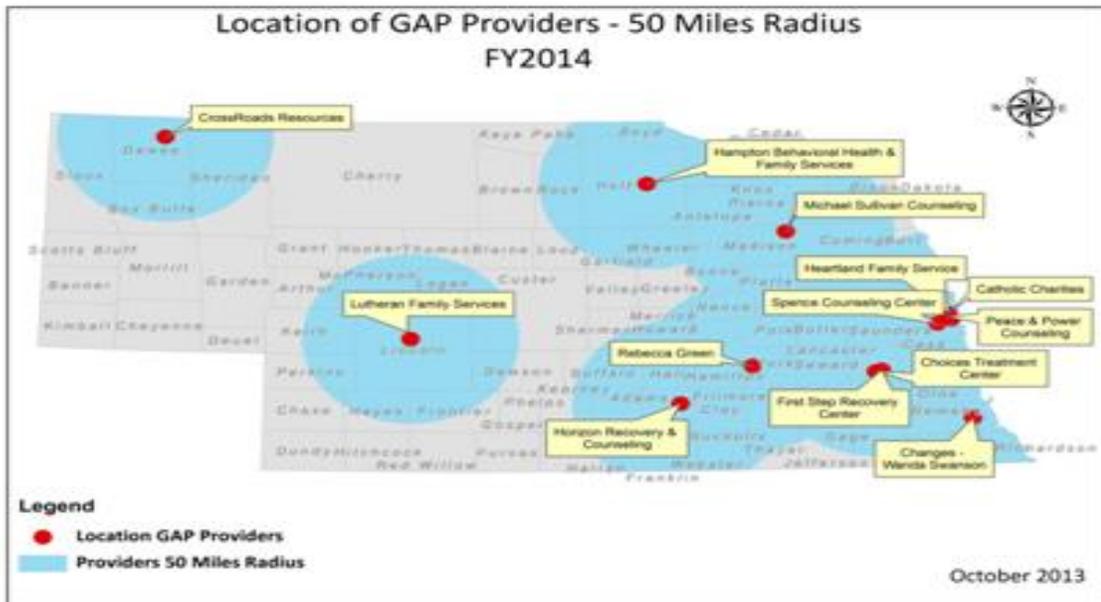
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>City</b>
Janelle Holt	Children's Hospital	Omaha
Mark Canada	Five Points Bank	Hastings
Edward Hoffman	Cada, Cada, Hoffman & Jewson	Lincoln
Paul Leckband	Lutheran High Northeast	Norfolk
Mathew Anselmo	Edwards Auto Group	Bellevue
Marla Bruder	Integrated Life Choice	Denton
Susan Lutz	SEL, Inc.	Norfolk
Terry Scoville	Retired	North Platte
Teresa Teutsch	MediBadge, Inc.	Omaha

# NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING



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### APPENDIX B SERVICE PROVIDERS



**Choices Treatment Center, Inc.:**

127 S. 37<sup>th</sup> St., Suite B

(24/7 helpline) 402-476-2300

Email: [choices934@windstream.net](mailto:choices934@windstream.net)

Website: [www.choicestreatmentcenter.com](http://www.choicestreatmentcenter.com)

**Changes- Wanda Swanson, CCGC:**

4535 Valley Rd.

Lincoln, NE 68510

402-432-6207

E-mail: [wandaswanson@ymail.com](mailto:wandaswanson@ymail.com)

**Becky Green, LADC, CCGC:**

1604 Road E

Bradshaw, NE 68319

402-736-4713

Email: [animalhouse@windstream.net](mailto:animalhouse@windstream.net)

**Heartland Family Services:**

2101 S. 42nd St.

Omaha, Ne 68105-2909

402-553-3000

Website: [www.heartlandfamilyservice.org](http://www.heartlandfamilyservice.org)

**Hampton Behavioral Health and Family Services:**

116 West Douglas St.Suite B

O'Neill, NE 68763

402-336-3200

Email: [betty.hampton1@gmail.com](mailto:betty.hampton1@gmail.com)

Website: [www.kbrx.com/HamptonBehavioralHealth.html](http://www.kbrx.com/HamptonBehavioralHealth.html)

**Cross Roads:**

651 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

PO Box 1299

Chadron, NE 69337

308-432-3920

After hours: 308-430-4610  
308-432-3920

Email: [joyekel@hotmail.com](mailto:joyekel@hotmail.com)

**Prairie Psychological Services:**

625 East 39<sup>th</sup> St.

South Sioux City, NE 68776

402-494-0040

Email: [TwilaPreston@prairiepsyc.com](mailto:TwilaPreston@prairiepsyc.com)

**Catholic Charities:**

3300 North 60<sup>th</sup> St.

Omaha, NE 68104

402-554-0520

Email: [catholiccharities@ccomaha.org](mailto:catholiccharities@ccomaha.org)

Website: [www.ccomaha.org](http://www.ccomaha.org)

**First Step Recovery Center:**

300 South 68<sup>th</sup> street Place Suite 500

Lincoln, NE 68510

402-434-2730

Website: [www.FirstStepRecovery.com](http://www.FirstStepRecovery.com)

### **Lutheran Family Services:**

120 East 12th St.

North Platte, NE 69101

308-532-0587

After hours: 308-530-1372

### **Peace and Power Counseling:**

6901 Dodge St, Suite 101

Omaha, NE 68132

24 hr crisis number: 402-515-7412

Email: [ginafricke@peaceandpowercounseling.com](mailto:ginafricke@peaceandpowercounseling.com)

Website: [www.peaceandpowercounseling.com](http://www.peaceandpowercounseling.com)

### **Spence Counseling:**

12035 Q St.

Omaha, NE 68137

24 hr Hotline: 402-660-1895

Email: [Charles@spence.omhcoxmail.com](mailto:Charles@spence.omhcoxmail.com)

Website: [www.spencecounselingcenter.com](http://www.spencecounselingcenter.com)

### **Mike Sullivan, LCSW, CCGC:**

PO Box 1815 McMill Building

125 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

Norfolk, NE 68702

402-750-7923

Email: [mdscounseling@gmail.com](mailto:mdscounseling@gmail.com)

### **Helpline Services:**

#### **Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling**

2218 Wayne

Bellevue, NE 68005

800-522-4700 Nebraska Helpline