

# 2015 Annual Report

## 2016 Chair Envisions a Greater Alliance in the Coming Years

**'2016 Will Be the Groundwork to Expand Our Impact'**

For 19 years, the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling has served as a vital resource to the state of Missouri and its citizens to combat compulsive and problem gambling, and our efforts are only going to improve in the years to come.

As the gambling treatment coordinator for the Department of Mental Health's Division of Behavioral Health and the Missouri Alliance's current chair, I've seen firsthand how our endeavors make an impact to those in need of assistance and the professionals who provide help. Programs like Bets Off, the Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, and our support of National Problem Gambling Awareness Month and Missouri's Responsible Gaming Education Month have created a lasting influence on how problem gambling is viewed and treated in Missouri.

The past 19 years have proved to be influential in raising awareness about problem gambling and providing help for those who suffer from a gambling problem. In 2016, we will lay the groundwork to expand our impact in the future. In looking ahead this year, I see multiple initiatives that will improve the public's awareness of our services and our understanding of gambling:

- By participating in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey through the Department of Health and Senior Services, we will gain access to updated research on how problem gambling is affecting Missouri citizens.
- The 2016 Midwest Conference, "Crossroads for Change," is shaping up as another successful education opportunity for service providers not only in Missouri, but across the Midwest region.
- Access to free help through the Bets Off program will continue to be publicized via billboards, publications, news releases and a series of newly created television and radio public service announcements.

Next year marks 20 years since the Alliance was founded. We've come a long way from where we started, and I can't wait to see what we accomplish. On behalf of myself and the entire Missouri Alliance, thank you for your support and dedication to the citizens of Missouri. I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2016 Midwest Conference this June.

Mark Rembecki  
Alliance Chairperson



## An Overview of the Alliance

Created in 1997, the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling is a partnership between the Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns Inc., the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Missouri Gaming Association, the Missouri Gaming Commission, the Missouri Lottery, the Port Authority of Kansas City and a recovery community representative.

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The purpose of the Alliance is to educate Missourians on the potential characteristics and dangers of problem and compulsive gambling, to refer compulsive gamblers and their family and friends to free treatment through a toll-free help line, to prevent underage play and to promote responsible gaming.

To learn more about the Alliance, visit [888betsoff.org](http://888betsoff.org).

## Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Service Highlights

### Problem Gambling Help Line: 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633)

Life Crisis Services (LCS) operates a 24-hour help line service for callers seeking help for a gambling problem. The Missouri Gaming Association provides the funding for the help line. LCS received a total of **1,954** calls during calendar year 2015.

### Free Compulsive Gambling Treatment Services

The Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse contracts with certified compulsive gambling counselors to provide free treatment services to compulsive gamblers and their family members. Family members can access services regardless of whether the problem gambler enters treatment. During calendar year 2015, **419** clients accessed the free treatment services. Individuals seeking referral to a counselor in a specific area can call the help line at 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633).

### Bets Off Website: [888betsoff.org](http://888betsoff.org)

The Bets Off website features a list of Missouri certified compulsive gambling counselors and information about problem gambling, the Voluntary Exclusion Program, the Self-Exclusion Program, the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, the *Bets Off Bulletin* and more.

### Voluntary Exclusion Program

The Missouri Gaming Commission administers a statewide self-exclusion program for casino patrons who identify as problem and pathological gamblers. The voluntary exclusion program is also known as the List of Disassociated Persons (DAP). A total of **663** individuals were approved for DAP placement during calendar year 2015.

Individuals have the option of choosing to be placed on DAP for a lifetime or temporary exclusion. Additional details can be found at [mgc.dps.mo.gov](http://mgc.dps.mo.gov).

### Missouri Lottery Self-Exclusion Program

Launched on Aug. 1, 2013, the Missouri Lottery's voluntary Self-Exclusion Program (SEP) is a responsible gaming resource for players who classify themselves as problem or pathological gamblers to reduce the incentive to play Lottery games. SEP allows players to enter into voluntary lifetime self-ban agreements with the Lottery, prohibiting those individuals from claiming prizes of more than \$600 and accessing the *My Lottery*® Players Club.

SEP agreements can be downloaded at [MOLottery.com](http://MOLottery.com), obtained at any Lottery office or sent through the mail. Forms must be completed entirely and notarized. Since the inception of SEP, **three** individuals have signed up for the program.

### Statistics

Calendar Year	Bets Off Help Line	Voluntary Exclusion (DAP)	Free Treatment	SEP
1998	871	356	54	N/A
1999	1,034	596	113	N/A
2000	1,738	1,093	186	N/A
2001	2,846	1,403	335	N/A
2002	2,889	1,290	373	N/A
2003	3,339	1,367	344	N/A
2004	3,527	1,506	377	N/A
2005	2,593	1,696	360	N/A
2006	1,834	1,553	370	N/A
2007	1,682	1,412	358	N/A
2008	1,915	1,279	332	N/A
2009	2,263	896	343	N/A
2010	2,740	797	368	N/A
2011	2,093	790	231	N/A
2012	2,454	1,023	168	N/A
2013	2,057	961	154	1
2014	2,073	778	537	2
<b>2015</b>	<b>1,954</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>3</b>

## Applications Being Accepted for Annual Alliance Awards

Do you know someone making strides in the problem gambling field within or outside of the Alliance? Consider nominating them for one of the two awards offered by the Alliance. Applications are accepted until May 1.

### 2016 Outstanding Contributor Award

Awarded to an individual, group, organization or company outside of the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's voting membership, who has demonstrated superior achievement in addressing issues of problem and pathological gambling.

### 2016 Service Award

Awarded to an individual or representative of a member organization – voting or participating – who has contributed to the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling in an extraordinary manner.

Nominations are due by May 1. Visit [888betsoff.org](http://888betsoff.org) to download a nomination form.

## Iowa Service Provider Honored by the Alliance

Nicolas Foss, a supervising counselor with ADDS Gambling Treatment Services in Burlington, Iowa, was recognized with the Alliance's 2015 Outstanding Contributor Award during the 2015 Midwest Conference to Curb Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse. Foss was selected for the award for his role as program committee chair for the Midwest Conference over the past several years. With his role as program committee chair, Foss has worked tirelessly to bring quality presentations to the Midwest Conference, thus playing a vital role in educating and training service providers in Missouri and across the five-state region.



*Carol Spiker, Midwest Consortium president, Nicolas Foss and Keith Spare, Missouri Alliance member*

## 2015 CALENDAR

### May 1

Missouri Alliance Award nominations due

### June 22-24

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, Kansas City, Mo., [mcpgsa.org](http://mcpgsa.org)

### July 13-16

30<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Problem Gambling, Tarrytown, N.Y., [ncpgambling.org](http://ncpgambling.org)

### August

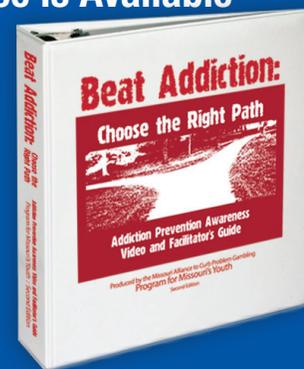
Missouri's Responsible Gaming Education Month

## The Missouri Alliance is Available to Exhibit

The Missouri Alliance has exhibited at multiple conferences across Missouri in past years, including the Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, the Missouri School Counselor Association Conference and the Substance Abuse Prevention Conference, among others.

Exhibiting at these events is a great opportunity to promote the accessibility of the Bets Off program, the free resources available like the "Beat Addiction: Choose the Right Path" youth prevention program, the Missouri Alliance and problem gambling as a whole.

Do you regularly attend or help plan conferences around the state concerning addiction, abuse or prevention? Please let Connor Stieferman know so the Alliance can exhibit at these events and promote the resources available. Connor can be reached at (573) 526-7467 or at [connor.stieferman@molottery.com](mailto:connor.stieferman@molottery.com).



# MARCH IS PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

HAVE THE CONVERSATION



## 'Have the Conversation' During Problem Gambling Awareness Month

Every March, the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling participates in the National Council on Problem Gambling's Problem Gambling Awareness Month. The goal of the awareness month is to increase the public's awareness about problem gambling, the access to free help through the 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633) help line, as well as encourage loved ones to "Have the Conversation" with someone who may be suffering.

"Problem gambling is often labeled as the 'silent' or 'hidden' addiction, and we want anyone who is suffering to know that they aren't alone and that help is available," said Mark Rembecki, Department of Mental Health and chair of the Alliance.

True to its "silent addiction" characterization, those who have a problem with gambling typically show no outward signs of addiction. Furthermore, the loved ones of a problem gambler can experience similar effects of the gambler's addiction, including mental stress and financial strain. On behalf of the Alliance, the Missouri Lottery has arranged for a series of public service announcements to air across the state throughout the month to address the issue.

"This series of television and radio public service announcements focuses on the people closest to a problem gambler – the family – who know all too well the impacts of compulsive gambling," said May Scheve Reardon, executive director of the Missouri Lottery. "We want people to know that there is help for the loved ones of a problem gambler, too."

On a national level, the NCPG provides free problem gambling screening tools on their website, Ncp.org., for healthcare professionals in all fields. Additionally, free publicity materials such as a press release, fact sheets, public service announcements, a sample proclamation, media tips and an infographic can be found on the website.

# 1-888-BETSOFF

BETSOFF BULLETIN is produced by the Missouri Lottery for the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling.  
Designer: Sonja Bechel, multimedia designer for the Missouri Lottery  
Editor: Connor Stiefeman, responsible gaming coordinator for the Missouri Lottery

**MISSOURI ALLIANCE**  
TO CURB PROBLEM GAMBLING

The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's mission is to heighten public awareness for the dangers of problem gambling; develop prevention and education programs for gamblers of all ages; and direct problem gamblers and their families to the 1-888-BETSOFF help line and treatment.