Colorado Division of Behavioral Health

Program Profile

HB1314 Problem Gambling Treatment, Education, Prevention and Problem Gambling Counselor Training

Program Description
2008 Colorado legislation provides monies for problem gambling education, prevention, training and treatment to residents of Colorado.

Authorizing Legislation/Grant
C.R.S. 12-47.1-1601 (House Bill 08-1314)
Sponsors Primavera/Spence
Established to provide gambling addiction counseling to Colorado residents. Funds are used to contract for problem gambling education, prevention and treatment to Colorado residents as well as to provide funds for training counselors to provide problem gambling specific treatment. The Division of Behavioral Health was selected to implement this legislation in August 2008.

Population Served
Residents of Colorado with either self-reported problem gambling issues and those affected by someone's problem gambling.

Program Services
- Treatment for clients and those affected by problem gambling
- Education and prevention efforts using the existing DBH community prevention coalitions throughout the state
- Thirty hours of problem gambling-specific core training to existing interested addiction counselors in Colorado
- Supervision provided by a nationally certified problem gambling supervisor
- Development of presentation proposals for national and regional conferences
- Host one regional conference on problem gambling yearly
- Data collection on problem gamblers seeking treatment in Colorado

Amount Allocated
Provides approximately $100,000 General Fund per year.

Program Outcomes
- Created a mission statement
- Adopted a definition of problem gambling for Colorado
- Developed guidelines for training counselors in problem gambling and providing supervision
- Established an advisory council
- Awarded contract to a Center of Excellence for providing core training for problem gambling counselors as well as treatment
- Provided education and prevention materials statewide

Grantees/Participating Agencies
A Center of Excellence for problem gambling received the entire grant for 2009-2010 to provide education and training statewide. This is the Problem Gambling Treatment and Research Center at the University of Denver. ★

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