Dear Friends,

2019 saw the Council continue to build upon its partnerships with diverse stakeholders to further the Council’s mission of raising awareness and preventing problem gambling. Working with state agencies, regional action councils, prevention agencies, clinicians, industry members, community-serving organizations, and the public, we highlighted emerging trends in prevention and treatment, as well as resources available for help in Connecticut.

CCPG was front and center at our State Capitol in Hartford, testifying any expansion of legalized gambling should include responsible gaming provisions and additional funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery. Ultimately, time ran out before any new gambling legislation could be enacted, but we continued to engage legislators and other policymakers to ensure Connecticut’s safety net is among the strongest in the nation.

Our 16th Annual Conference was our most highly rated conference yet, providing attendees with a host of diverse speakers and presentations. It is always our goal to share new approaches and information, while building capacity among our community partners to integrate problem gambling into their work. To that end, we were proud to feature sessions on gaming disorder, gambling treatment diversion court, culturally sensitive outreach, workplace fraud, and cannabis use and problem gambling, among other topics.

We worked closely with the five Regional Gambling Awareness Teams to host community awareness and informational events on emerging issues in the problem gambling field, such as sports betting, and the intersection of videogaming and gambling. We also collaborated with the Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont Councils to share ideas and work on regional initiatives. Through our work with the Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative (CHCI), we disseminated information and resources to campus leaders from institutions of higher education across the state. Our partnership with the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) has enabled us to provide support to the recovery community statewide. These are a few of the many reciprocal relationships that have taken shape over the past few years, and they are important in enabling us to sustain our work in a culturally relevant manner in the many and varied communities around our state.

With gambling expansion in Connecticut on the horizon, it is more important than ever to further this work to ensure future generations are protected from problem gambling issues. From the staff and Board, we look forward to another great year and offer our sincere gratitude for your ongoing support and partnership.

Willie Coleman
Board President
About CCPG

The Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) is a non-profit organization focused on preventing problem gambling and helping those who may be impacted by this issue.

CCPG does not advocate for or against gambling but is committed to working with all stakeholders to help individuals and families dealing with this issue.

We provide Connecticut’s only 24-hour Problem Gambling Helpline, offering support via phone, live online chat, and text. We also implement prevention and education programs serving schools, veterans, and at-risk populations.

The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) was founded in 1972 by concerned individuals to advocate for the creation of treatment services for individuals suffering from disordered gambling as well as their families. The Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) was founded in 1980 and became the first state affiliate of the NCPG. In 1981, CCPG collaborated with legislators in Connecticut in the successful effort to pass legislation to create, in 1982, the first state-operated treatment program in the United States.

PROBLEM GAMBLING DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE - IT IS FAR-REACHING, TOUCHING PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE
Statewide Partnerships

CCPG relies on our community partners to help us to increase our reach and effectiveness. We participate in regional and statewide community coalitions and task forces, collaborating to further integrate problem gambling curriculum into existing programs and services with our community partners throughout the State of Connecticut.

- Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
- Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
- Connecticut Partnership on Responsible Gambling
- Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board (CTSAB)
- Gambling Awareness for All CT (G-FACT)
- Northeast Consortium on Problem Gambling
- Statewide Regional Gambling Awareness Teams
- Women’s Services Practice Improvement Collaborative (WSPIC)
- Communities 4 Action
- The Connection Inc.
- Supporting and Engaging Resources for Action and Change (SERAC)
- Amplify
- Midwestern Connecticut Council on Alcoholism (MCCA)
- CT Healthy Campus Initiative
- Advocacy Unlimited
- Connecticut Clearinghouse/Wheeler Clinic
- Connecticut Women’s Consortium
- Connecticut Association of Prevention Professionals (CAPP)
- Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs
- The Hub
- Connecticut Department of Correction
- Connecticut Re-Entry Committees
- Southern Connecticut State University
- Gateway Community College
- University of Connecticut
- Fairfield University
- BH Care/Alliance for Prevention & Wellness
- Positive Directions
- Connecticut Renaissance
- Regional Network of Programs
- Wheeler Clinic
- United Community and Family Services (UCFS)
- Western Connecticut Coalition
- Western Connecticut State University
CCPG hosted over 150 attendees at its 16th Annual Conference at the Hilton Garden Inn in Wallingford. Titled "The Future of Problem Gambling is TODAY," the event highlighted emerging trends in problem gambling prevention and treatment, as well as the ramifications of expanded legalized gambling in Connecticut.

"With a massive proposed expansion of legalized gambling--new casinos, sports betting, online gambling--in our state, we wanted to ensure that people came away from this conference with an awareness of these new forms of gambling and the tools to mitigate any potential harm" said Executive Director Diana Goode.

The conference brought together a variety of mental and public health professionals as well as educators, students, people in recovery, community advocates, policymakers and industry representatives. With such a diverse range of attendees, there were sessions focused on advocacy, prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Presentations & Presenters:
Legislative Panel (Sen. Catherine Osten, Rep. Joe Verrengia)
Stories of Recovery
Gambling Treatment Diversion Court (Judge Cheryl Moss)
Cannabis & Gambling: What’s Lying in the Weeds? (Dr. Timothy Fong)
Leveraging Digital Recovery Tools to Aid Treatment (Melissa Etherington)
Internet Gaming Disorder - A Virtual Addiction (Dr. Paul Weigle)
GameSense: Revolutionizing Responsible Gambling (Amy Gabrila, Julie Hynes, Greg Smith)
The Use of EMDR for the Treatment of Gambling Disorders (Katie Kirch, Veronica Sirur-Flores)
Real Strategies to Increase Knowledge & Promote Responsible Gambling: Tools You Can Use (Ingrid Gillespie, Kathy Hanley)
Problem Gambler Workplace Fraud - What Can Be Done? (Dr. Patrick Kelly)
Innovative Prevention Strategies to Engage Priority Populations: The Massachusetts Ambassador Project (Victor Ortiz)

Educational Impact

A diverse range of attendees--mental/public health professionals, educators, students, people in recovery, community advocates, policymakers, and industry representatives--heard about a wide variety of problem gambling topics including emerging trends and best practices. A total of 7 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) were provided.
In 2019 CCPG offered a total of 19 trainings, covering topics including: Interpersonal Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (I-CBT); Intro to Disordered Gambling; Treatment & Assessment; Current Trends in Problem Gambling; Adapting a Prevention Curriculum for use in an Adult Gambling Treatment Program; Sports Betting; Video Game Addiction for Parents; Problem Gambling Awareness; the Relationship Between Gambling & Gaming; Youth & Risky Behaviors; Youth Gambling Awareness Peer Leadership & Media; and Gambling & College Students.

645 people were trained and were able to demonstrate an increase in knowledge and awareness of problem gambling, as well as ways to integrate these concepts into their work.

Problem Gambling Helpline: Provides free, immediate, and culturally and linguistically relevant support and referral assistance, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to anyone experiencing issues relating to gambling (available via phone, text & chat).

Training: CCPG provides timely and relevant professional training to enhance the problem gambling service network in Connecticut.

Prevention: We work to increase community awareness about the impacts of problem and disordered gambling as well as statewide options for treatment and recovery services.

Advocacy: We offer testimony and position statements regarding any gambling-related legislation or regulations. We work with the legislature to craft responsible gaming policy and protect vulnerable populations. We also work to build the capacity of our statewide partners to advocate on behalf of themselves and the problem gambling and responsible gaming network.

Approximately 70,000 Connecticut residents meet the clinical criteria for disordered gambling.

An additional 280,000 residents are at risk of developing a gambling problem in their lifetime.

HOW WE HELPED

In 2019, 624 individuals reached out via the Problem Gambling Helpline for support relating to problems with gambling.

The CCPG Problem Gambling Helpline is the only statewide resource offering help via phone, text, and live online chat 24/7/365. The Helpline is an entry point for individuals with gambling problems, as well as those affected, to receive immediate services while in crisis.
Statewide Outreach

In 2019 we offered a variety of training and educational events throughout the state for the public, problem gambling service providers, and industry professionals. We shared information and resources at health fairs, wellness events, and community forums. We were honored to also do so at military and veterans events such as the Vets Stand Down in Rocky Hill and Vets Rock. We disseminated resources to students and colleges through the CT Healthy Campus Initiative and youth leadership groups.
When legislative session convened in January 2019, Connecticut was facing the largest expansion of legalized gambling in its history. There were dozens of proposed gambling-related bills addressing everything from new casinos in Bridgeport and East Windsor, to sports betting, online gambling and I-lottery. There were also bills that increased funding for the prevention and treatment of disordered gambling, as well as mandating a study and creating a gaming commission to regulate gambling in the state. CCPG was front and center at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, testifying on proposed bills before the Public Safety & Security Committee, which has cognizance over all gambling-related legislation.

When session concluded on June 5, no major gambling legislation had been passed. What we were left with was pre-existing approval for a casino in East Windsor (Federal approval was granted in March), and a feasibility study for I-lottery that was included in the state budget.

CCPG will continue to work with our legislature to inform and ensure that any expansion of legalized gambling will include important responsible gambling provisions and funding to strengthen the safety net of prevention, treatment, and recovery for our residents.
Outcomes

During Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM) in March, the Council launched a new initiative focused on increasing statewide awareness of problem gambling. We collaborated with the five regional Gambling Awareness Teams, Better Choice treatment programs, and people in recovery to offer 6 community impact events throughout the state. These events included sharing stories of lived experience, education, and resources, and engaged over 200 people in the conversation of problem gambling as a public health issue in their communities.

CCPG also hosted a legislative breakfast at the State Capitol to educate policymakers about the importance of prevention and treatment for people experiencing gambling problems. This event included stories of recovery, youth-created gambling awareness PSAs and resources.

We also collaborated with the CT Lottery, Mohegan Sun, Foxwoods, and Sportech (OTB) to host 17 events which included educational resource tables on how to spot the signs of problem gambling for employees.

An additional 6 industry awareness events were held during the month of September to commemorate Responsible Gaming Education Week, focusing on responsible gambling practices for patrons, and including information on how to decrease the risk of problem gambling.

Through our outreach programs CCPG reached over 6,000 people at events such as Vets Rock, the Department of Veterans Affairs Stand Down, CCAR Recovery Walk, as well as at recovery centers, senior centers, the Connecticut Department of Correction, Gamblers Anonymous, health and wellness fairs, and presentations designed for youth and college students.

Our Impact

CCPG’s Helpline assisted over 600 people struggling with problems related to gambling and provided referrals to treatment, Gam-anon/Gamblers Anonymous meetings, peer support & other resources.

Over 1,500 incarcerated individuals were given problem gambling education and resources. Prisoners have the highest rates of gambling disorder compared to any other known population.
# Statement of Financials
For year ended December 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Property &amp; Equipment</strong></td>
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<td>Office equipment</td>
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<td>Less: accumulated depreciation</td>
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<td><strong>Total property &amp; equipment, net</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Other Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Security deposit</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total other assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$272,543</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts payable</td>
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<td>Accrued expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Without donor restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$272,543</td>
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Summary of Revenue & Expenses
For year ended December 31, 2019

Total $724,785.00

Total $695,090.00
Our Team

Staff:
Diana Goode, Executive Director
Kaitlin Brown, Director of Programs & Services
Art Mongillo, Manager of Policy & Communications

Board of Directors:
Willie Coleman, President
David Fleming, Vice President
Virginia Hilton, Treasurer
Greg Adams
Declan Barry
Alex Clausen
Valerie Tebbetts
Sandra Violette

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Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling
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