

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

(DATE)

(YOUR TOWN, DATE, 2013) As Ohio moves forward with recreational gambling in various formats, including four new casinos and additional racinos that combine horse racing with video lottery terminals, the state and local communities have developed plans to prevent and treat problem gambling and gambling addiction. In _____, the _____ Board of

(city or county name)

(Board name)

_____ county(ies) has joined with _____
(county(ies) name(s)) (agency(ies) name(s))

and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) to ensure that community members understand what responsible gambling looks like and what to watch for when gambling stops being fun and starts to become a problem.

What are some signs of problem gambling?

- Bragging about winning, exaggerating wins and/or minimizing losses.
- Spending a lot of time gambling, thinking about or planning to gamble.
- Restless or irritable when not gambling.
- Borrowing for gambling.
- Hiding time spent gambling or hiding bills and unpaid debts.
- Lying about how much time or money is spent on gambling.

(INSERT QUOTE from Board director or agency exec/treatment professional re: how addiction takes over and crowds out whatever used to be important to the person affected. EXAMPLE: “We see people who have lost their families, their jobs, and any savings they had because gambling addiction has become the center of their lives. Life can be good again,” explained _____.

(speaker’s name & title)

_____ we offer outpatient counseling and ongoing care to help individuals
(agency name)

and their families to recover from gambling disorder and the devastation it can cause.”)

A number of resources are now available for people faced with problem gambling behavior in themselves or a family member. The Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-589-9966 can offer referrals for gambling treatment in a specific part of the state, as well as help with other concerns that can be impacted by gambling: housing, food, employment, financial counseling, etc. A partnership of state agencies called Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG) also has resources available at <http://www.org.ohio.gov/>. The ORG partners are OhioMHAS and the Commissions for Casino Control, Lottery and Racing.

To support prevention and treatment of problem gambling, the Problem Casino Gambling and Addictions fund was created in the Constitutional Amendment that allowed four casinos to be built in Ohio. The fund channels two percent of the tax on casino profits to OhioMHAS and then into local communities through the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) county boards to purchase services locally. For more information on problem gambling services, contact _____

(insert local contact name)

at _____ or visit [www._____](http://www._____.).
(insert phone number) (insert web address)

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