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PROBLEM GAMBLING REPORT RELEASED
Biennial funding sought to continue work

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden has announced that the Revolving Account to Support Programs for the Prevention of Problem Gambling Annual Report has been released and is now available to the 2007 Legislature and the public. The report can be accessed at <http://www.hr.state.nv.us/GMU/Problem%20Gambling/2007%20Annual%20Report.pdf>.

The report was one of the responsibilities assigned to the Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG) by Senate Bill 357 during the 2005 legislative session and codified in Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 458A. The report was to detail and list promising programs and review data collected by the ACPG over the previous biennium.

Created to address problem gambling in Nevada and comprised of people from the gaming industry, problem gambling service providers, the University of Nevada, Reno, DHHS staff, and others, the ACPG was formed following the 2005 session and tasked with reviewing and recommending various programs throughout the state for grant funding. In all, the ACPG allocated nearly \$2.5 million during the 2006-07 Biennium. Funding to support the Revolving Account to Support Programs for the Prevention and Treatment of Problem Gambling came from slot machine fees (\$1 per machine in FY06 and \$2 per machine in FY07) that would have been collected by the state for use in the general fund account, but that source is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2007. The DHHS Grants Management Unit within the Director's Office is seeking the continued funding at the FY07 level for the 2008-09 Biennium from the Legislature.

"The ACPG has done an excellent job of detailing what needs to be done in Nevada to help those people who find themselves addicted to gambling," Willden said. "With gaming being such a critical industry for our state, it is vital that Nevada lead the way in assisting residents and visitors alike in correcting behavior that can have dire results on the individual and his or her family."

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ACPG Chairman Glen Christenson said, "Our Committee is pleased with its first year results and we are hopeful that the Legislature will continue to fund our efforts to address the challenges of problem gaming in our State."

Several programs have been implemented in Nevada to address problem gambling, including increased access to treatment through direct service funding and support for workforce expansion, as well as development of a range of prevention tools and media.

Two promising collaborative projects have resulted as well: The International Gaming Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the Harvard Medical School Division on Addictions are developing and researching a Nevada-specific problem gambling prevention and intervention strategy; and the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies, University of Nevada, Reno, and the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling are partnering to develop an enhanced website for use in the treatment and prevention of problem gambling.

For more information on the ACPG and Nevada's efforts to curtail problem gambling, go to <http://www.hr.state.nv.us/directors/grantsmanage.htm>.

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