

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE COUNCIL

### MAY 2009

In the month of May the Council did a number of trainings and presentations. A six hour training was provided to Organization for Recovery in Stratford, New Jersey. A presentation was done at the New Jersey Social Work Annual Conference on Gambling and the Family. The Council also maintained a booth at that conference for three days. The Council was represented at seven (7) high schools and three (3) senior citizen groups. Presentations were made at two colleges: Brookdale Community College and The College of New Jersey. The Council also appeared at three (3) health fairs and had a booth at NJAMHA's annual conference. An in-service training was provided at Seashore Family Services. A total audience of 2,095 people heard the various lectures.

The Council maintained involvement in a number of committees and organizations in an effort to disseminate information about gambling. These included the American Correction Association- New Jersey Chapter, Co-occurring Taskforce, New Jersey League of Municipalities, The Coalition for Recovery Mentors and the Recovery Center at Eva's Village in Paterson.

The Council's fiscal year ends June 30, 2009. DAS conducted a contract audit for 2007/2008; there were no material findings. A lot of time was spent brainstorming as we sought to develop our 2009/2010 budget. A discussion of public awareness and new forms of advertising and new messages took place.

The Council continued to work on its 2009 Statewide Conference on Compulsive Gambling to be held on September 25, 2009 in Princeton, New Jersey. A conference page was created on Facebook. Presenters were finalized and an agenda was prepared.

The Council handled 160 help-line intakes in May, 2009. A few of the more interesting calls were as follows:

Caller and husband were evicted from apartment due to gambling away rent money and are presently living in a comped room at a casino.

Caller identified himself as a 20 year old "professional gambler" using his brother's ID to get into casino.

Caller's dad passed away two years ago and he just discovered his mother, who is 64, is \$80,000 in debt and her home is in foreclosure.

Stock market gambler called and was referred to a GA room with 2 stock broker members. He now regularly attends this meeting (we often need to match caller with room).

Several people identified themselves as playing cards at home parties rather than at casino. One caller identified darts as his principal form of gambling. It is clear that gambling comes in various forms and guises; the traditional depiction of the gambler may be outdated.