

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week is Upon Us!

Hamilton, NJ – March 5, 2010 – Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ, Inc. today announced National Problem Gambling Awareness Week (NPGAW) is March 7, 2010 through March 13, 2010. This is the 8th year of the event, which is a national grassroots effort run by the National Council on Problem Gambling and its 35 State affiliate councils. The goal of the week is to increase awareness about problem gambling among individuals, families, communities and health care professionals.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. (CCGNJ) is an active participant in National Problem Gambling Awareness Week. Jeffrey M. Beck, LPC, CCGC, JD, Clinical Coordinator of the Council, is Chairman of NPGAW. In New Jersey activities will occur throughout March, which has been designated as **Problem Gambling Awareness Month**. Gambling treatment professionals across the state will be involved in outreach activities, including literature distribution, school lectures, jail lectures, and walk in screenings.

The general theme for 2010 is “Gambling-The Invisible Addiction”. Since gambling cannot be detected through blood, urine, breath or hair testing, signs of this addiction often do not become apparent until an individual has approached “bottom”, the desperation phase of compulsive gambling. An estimated 350,000 NJ residents are considered to be pathological, problem or at-risk gamblers.

A specific focus of this year’s campaign is on sports gambling. There have been many recent headlines in the newspapers concerning gambling on sports, both from the perspective of states seeking additional tax revenue and the tragic effects of gambling. It is appropriate that NPGAW coincides with the beginning of March Madness; office sports pools and brackets may appear harmless but can be a stepping stone to increased gambling activity.

The Council has partnered with many individuals, organizations and governmental agencies to utilize the month to help promote awareness about compulsive gambling. A listing of collaborating organizations can be viewed at our website, www.800gambler.org. This includes a listing of local communities where information on gambling will be distributed. Additional activities will be added throughout the month.

There are several exciting new features in this year’s campaign. A special Facebook page can be accessed through CCGNJ’s web site at www.800Gambler.org/GAW. There is a wealth of material at www.NPGAW.org. A blog will be instituted on the National Council on Problem Gambling’s [website](#) as National Problem Gambling Awareness week begins.

About the Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ, Inc.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. provides information, education and referral services to people affected by a gambling problem. The Council’s mission is to educate the public to the fact that compulsive gambling is a treatable disease. The Council’s 1-800-GAMBLER Helpline and website have been resources for thousands of people and families who suffer from gambling problems.

For further information contact:

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