

Recovery Support for “Special Populations”

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Objective



- Identify barriers to gambling support services in the JIP Community (jails, institutions & prisons) AND explore creative approaches to providing support for this population segment.

The “Unique Population” Connection

- At a glance these populations may seem unique and unrelated.... Yet here are a few commonalities.
- Both involve institutions with their own systems, norms, communication style/vocabulary, relationships, parameters.
- Often clergy/chaplains are the BEST way to connect with inmate populations.
- Some individuals will not seek help in the recovery community, but will reach out to their clergy. (45%)



Gambling Recovery Behind Bars

- GA – 36 **known** meetings in total in U.S. Prisons.
- This number varies as Institutions cancel meetings without notice, rules for outside support change, availability and/or qualification of volunteers change and requirements for outside support can often be quite stringent.
- GA Meetings are rare; whereas other 12-Step meetings are often more accessible.

Barriers to Prison Recovery

Stigma



- Social Stigma – even as compared to other 12-step programs
- Prevalence of Gambling Activity in Prisons
- Access to meetings limited or non-existent

Solutions & Opportunities

- **Chaplain & Social Services** –BEST way to access inmates and offer support
- **International Service Office** of Gamblers Anonymous sends literature to inmates:
isomain@gamblersanonymous.org
- CORE Correctional Practices “EPICS” training available through NV DOC grant

The EPICS Model

Effective Practices in Community Supervision

NV DOC Grant – offering “Effective Practices in Community Supervision” in **Las Vegas, NV August 10, 2017**

One-day training for mentors, sponsors, community supervisors working with re-entry, transitional and at risk-communities.

Contact Bea Aikens at bea@lanieshope.org.

Support of Inmates when no meetings are available

- **Pen Pals** –Recovery community offers “experience, strength and hope” to inmates
- 12-step mailings
- Contact ISO for GA materials
- Books, support materials – Know the rules. Soft cover. From publisher or distributor
- Emails - encouragement to inmates– one-way email is permitted and a printed email is delivered to inmate (In Nevada www.accesscorrections.com)
- Phone cards

Transitional Living Support

- 12 step meetings often mandated. Advocates offer Gambling Recovery meetings.
- Be culturally competent.
- Be consistent! Trust is not easily earned, but can be life changing!





Faith Community Support

- Some populations have innate/cultural barriers to seeking traditional treatment e.g. therapist or counselor.
- They may seek help from an MD or clergy.
- 45% of this population said they would seek help from there clergy.
- An under-utilized resource in our community.
- New program available to reach this community in Nevada –IGCCB Clergy/Lay Minister Certification.

- Celebrate Recovery is often an effective 12-step program for Christians seeking recovery from addiction in a faith-based setting.

Not right for everyone and not all faith-based recovery is “Christian”

Clergy/Lay Minister Certification International Gambling Counselor Certification Board

IGCCB

International Gambling Counselor
Certification Board



CLERGY/
LAY MINISTERS
CERTIFICATION

Gambling Addiction
Prevention
Education
Awareness
Spiritual Outreach Care

“....will equip clergy/lay ministers to serve as the best *First Responders* to those seeking help for problem gambling.”

“Certified clergy and lay ministers will be able to provide knowledgeable consultation, refer individuals to Certified Gambling Counselors and Support Groups and provide outreach and education.”

“They will be equipped to serve persons in a problem gambling-specific supportive way during the individuals’ processing through recovery.”

Training for Clergy & Lay Ministers leads to IGCCB Certification (Non-Clinical) includes

- Dynamics & psychology of addiction. Disordered gambling defined and described.
- Impact of problem gambling on families. Effective support for loved ones of gamblers.
- Financial issues that gamblers and their families face.
- Options for treatment.
- Spirituality and its significant role within the recovery process.

Coming soon – training in Nevada*

- Requirements
- \$200 Fee (May be waived through 2017.)
- 24 Hour course study
- Community project
- Proficiency Test

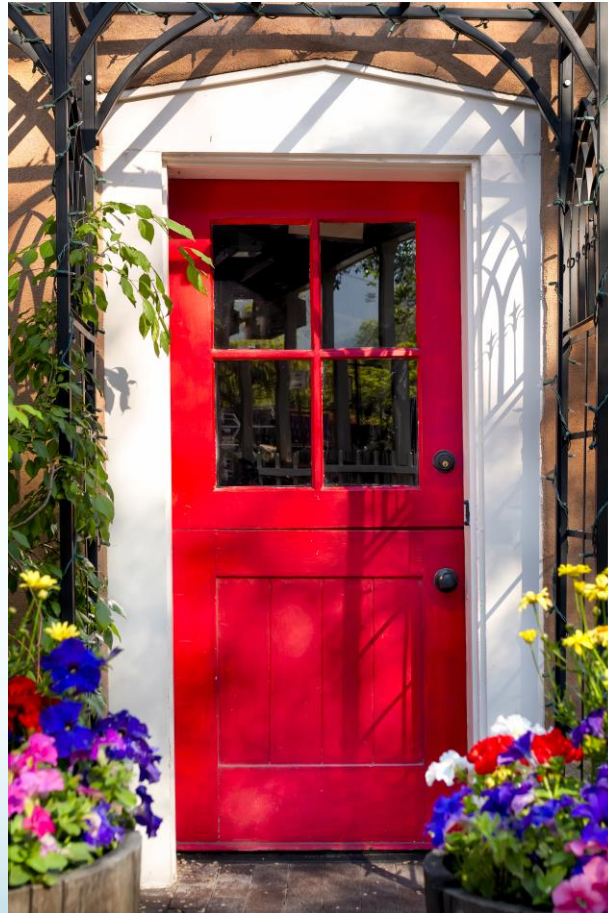
•Future IGCCB Clergy/Lay Minister Training may be offered by the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling and Lanie's Hope, based upon available resources and community interest.

Conclusion....

In the words of Carol O'Hare

...and Dr. Nora

“There’s no Wrong Door to Recovery”





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