Problem gambling treatment

Overview

The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) supports efforts to treat problem gambling by:

- Contracting with 20 problem gambling treatment providers statewide.
- Coordinating prevention and outreach activities and providing awareness materials within the Health Care Authority and other state agencies.
- Contracting for problem and pathological gambling prevention efforts. Activities include elder awareness, educational events and materials, and problem gambling prevention activities targeting young adults.
- Helping ensure high-quality services, by funding problem gambling treatment training for substance use disorder professionals, licensed mental health counselors, psychologists, and agency affiliated counselors. Training is specific to problem and pathological gambling and includes provider certification in problem gambling treatment.
- Referral to a 24-hour helpline for problem and pathological gambling. The helpline assists people with referrals to treatment providers and crisis stabilization.

Authority

Revised Code of Washington 43.20A.890, and Washington Administrative Codes 246-341. Problem gambling program established by RCW 41.05.750, problem gambling account established by RCW 41.05.751.

Budget

Per RCW 67.70.340, DBHR receives 0.013% of a business and occupations (B&O) tax on the net receipts from card rooms, pull tabs, and other games of chance, lottery, and the Washington Horse Racing Commission. Funds are directed to the problem gambling account.

Additional voluntary contributions may be directed to the problem gambling account, per RCW 43.20A.890.

Rates

Provider contracts have a fee-for-service rate of $160 per assessment, $80 per hour per individual. Costs and numbers served.

In SFY 2018, 343 distinct adult clients received treatment services for problem gambling at an average cost of $1,267 per client (includes treatment and assessment services received). A total of 897 clients received an assessment only for problem and pathological gambling during SFY 2018, at an average cost of $163. Of these clients, 100 of them were assessed by a provider agency certified to deliver problem gambling treatment services.

Eligibility requirements

Adults who are in crisis and need treatment for themselves, or are seeking help for a family member with a gambling problem. Services are provided to those who are assessed as needing them, and who can’t afford it. Clients do not need to be Medicaid-eligible.
Partners
The following partnerships are key to program success:

- Washington State Gambling Commission
- Washington Indian Gaming Association
- Washington’s Lottery, tax revenue support
- Recreational Gaming Association, tax revenue support
- Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling, support with counselor certification, prevention and outreach opportunities, training supports, conference planning and participation
- National Council on Problem Gambling,
- National Council affiliation and membership
- Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators

Oversight
Quality oversight includes:

- Monthly paper monitoring for utilization and fiscal reports
- Clinical consultant services for counselors who are not yet certified as problem gambling counselors
- Tracking participation and client outcomes
- Contract monitoring site visits each biennium
- Convener of Problem Gambling Advisory Group
- Bill analysis for gambling and gaming-related legislation

For more information
Roxane Waldron
roxane.waldron@hca.wa.gov
360-725-1456

Online: www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-and-supports/behavioral-health-recovery/problem-gambling