Washington State Problem Gambling Program

- Dept. of Health responsible for certifying agencies that provide treatment (agencies must already have substance use disorder certification)

- HCA delegated certification of problem gambling counselors to Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling
  - HCA also funds Problem Gambling Counselor Certification program (in addition to outreach and prevention activities)

- HCA contracts with certified treatment providers/organizations to provide problem gambling outpatient treatment services
Funding

Biennium 2017-2019 funding = approx. $1,449,000

Washington State Problem Gambling Program Budget

- State--Outpatient Tx Contracts (68.5%)
- ECPG--Training, Outreach, Prevention (14.5%)
- State -- Admin/other (17%)
Treatment

- Treatment provided to individuals and/or family members who are assessed as needing treatment and cannot afford to pay
  - Clients do not need to be Medicaid eligible
- Covered outpatient services include:
  - Assessments
  - Individual counseling
  - Group counseling
  - Family counseling
  - Case management
Treatment

- HCA contracts with 23 provider agencies/individuals
- 175 individuals in treatment (as of Nov. 2018)
  - Over 50% female
  - 72% age 40 or older
  - 93% of those served are in Western Washington
Strengths and needs

Strengths

- Regular funding stream (established by RCW)
- Dedicated partners, including Washington State Gambling Commission and Evergreen Council of Problem Gambling

Needs

- Gap in number of problem gambling treatment providers in Eastern Washington
- Better prevalence data on adolescents and adults
Questions?

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