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Subject: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE FOR PROBLEM GAMBLERS

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS AVAILABLE
ASSISTANCE FOR PROBLEM GAMBLERS

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week runs March 1-7

HARRISBURG – The Department of Health will highlight National Problem Gambling Awareness Week, March 1 – 7, by reminding citizens that counseling and treatment services are available to those affected by a gambling addiction.

“For most people, gambling is a fun and harmless form of entertainment. But for some, it can be a devastating addiction,” said Health Secretary Everette James. “We want to make sure people are aware of available resources and remind them this is not a battle they will have to fight alone.”

The Department of Health has approved 42 problem gambling treatment providers across the state to provide counseling services to those in need.

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Assistance is also available by calling the 24-hour Pennsylvania Gambling Addiction hotline at 1-877-565-2112. The call is confidential, anonymous and free.

Problem gambling is defined as an urge to gamble despite harmful negative consequences or gambling despite an urge to stop. Research has shown that roughly 1-3 percent of Americans will develop a gambling problem sometime in life.

For more information on problem gambling, visit www.health.state.pa.us

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a partial list of some of the programs and activities in the state during National Problem Gambling Awareness Week:

Harrisburg

March 2; 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Resources and information will be available in the Main Capitol Building, East Wing Rotunda in Harrisburg. The event is sponsored by the PGCB, Pennsylvania Lottery, Horse Racing Commission, Harness Racing Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania (CCGP).

March 3; 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Resources and information will be available in Strawberry Square located at 11 N. 3rd St. in Harrisburg. The event is sponsored by the PGCB, Pennsylvania Lottery, Horse Racing Commission, Harness Racing Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania (CCGP).

Philadelphia

March 4; 5:30 p.m.: A community information session will take place at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, at 19 South 22nd Street. The event is sponsored by PhillyHealthInfo.org and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. To register online, visit www.collegeofphysicians.org.

Pennsylvania Radio News Service

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