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CONTACT: Keith Whyte
Phone: 205-547-9204, ext. 23
keithw@ncpgambling.org

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month

Have the conversation and bring help and hope to problem gamblers

For the 13th year, The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) dedicates March to helping people “have the conversation” about problem gambling. “Problem Gambling is a disease that affects over seven million Americans, yet few talk about it,” said National Council on Problem Gambling Executive Director Keith Whyte, “and that’s why we created the ‘Have The Conversation’ campaign to raise awareness of prevention, treatment and recovery services available for those adversely affected by gambling.”

Problem National Gambling Awareness Month is a grassroots effort that brings together a wide range of stakeholders - public health organizations, advocacy groups and gambling operators – who work collaboratively to let people know that hope and help exist. “Across the country, groups hold conferences, host screening and training days, run media campaigns, and conduct outreach to people who can make a difference in ensuring that problem gambling services are widely available and accessible,” said Whyte.

NCPG President Wiley Harwell adds, “The impact of problem gambling extends beyond the gambler, affecting families, friends and entire communities. That makes it so important to have the conversation to raise awareness and create action.”

But the “Have The Conversation” campaign is more than just all talk. Over the past decade calls to the National Helpline Network jump an average of 30 percent during March. “It’s inspiring that a grassroots campaign can have a measurable and meaningful nationwide impact,” said Whyte, “and we are working for even greater results in 2017.”

To get help for a gambling problem for you or a loved one, call or text 1-800-522-4700 or chat www.ncpgambling.org/chat. The service is free and confidential and available 24/7. For more information about problem gambling and how to have the conversation, go to www.ncpgambling.org/pgam.

About the National Council on Problem Gambling

The NCPG is a non-profit advocate for programs to help problem gamblers and their families. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling and leads state and national stakeholders in the development of comprehensive policy and programs for all those affected by problem gambling. Our vision is to improve health and wellness by reducing the personal, social and economic costs of problem gambling.