



National Council *on* Problem Gambling

Media Advisory

November 7, 2007

Contact: Keith Whyte
(202) 547-9204

Stop Destruction of Worlds Oldest, Largest Clinical Archive on Problem Gambling

Washington, DC—The National Council on Problem Gambling and the Ohio Council on Problem Gambling are calling on the Brecksville Veterans Administration to immediately halt the plans to destroy 35 years worth of data from their problem gambling treatment program. We understand that 7 filing cabinets worth of information is scheduled to be destroyed tomorrow. This is the oldest and largest clinical archive in the world and the data therein are literally irreplaceable. We are only asking for an additional 30 days time to work with the VA to consider how to preserve this information for future researchers and the benefit of the public.

Once the information is gone it is lost forever. These files hold detailed clinical information on thousands of veterans who suffered from gambling problems and potentially contain the keys to unlock the secrets of the causes of problem gambling. Please help us protect over three decades of hard work at the public expense from arbitrary destruction.

The Brecksville program is unique in the problem gambling field. It has operated continuously since 1972 and was the first gambling treatment program established in the United States. It remains an internationally recognize leader in the field of problem gambling treatment and research and is still the only program of its kind in the entire nation for military personnel.

The National Council on Problem Gambling is the national advocate for programs and services to assist problem gamblers and their families. NCPG was founded in 1972 and is a non-profit, non-partisan charitable foundation that is neither for nor against legalized gambling. NCPG and its 35 state affiliate chapters, including the Ohio Council on Problem Gambling, work together to provide the majority of services for problem gamblers and their families.

-###-