

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Due to circumstances beyond our control related to the coronavirus pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the **14th Annual Nevada State Conference on Problem Gambling**, which was scheduled for June 4-5, 2020 at the South Point Hotel. Email and social media notifications are being sent to update colleagues, presenters, participants, and the public of the cancellation of this year's event. All registration fees will be fully refunded to individuals who had already registered for the event. The Council will focus on planning for a conference again in 2021, assuming the current health crisis has abated.

PREVENTION

From February through the first ten days of March our efforts were focused on Problem Gambling Awareness Month and promoting the Council's *Problem Gambling Awareness: A Community Engaged* event scheduled for March 14, 2020. However, due to the concerns of the unprecedented coronavirus, the Council made the decision to cancel the event on March 11th. Efforts continued to promote Problem Gambling Awareness Month via social media, posting messages relating to problem gambling, video gaming and increased stress levels due to our current situation and promoting treatment and support resources that are now available via phone or videoconference.

In response to the Governor's directive to "Stay Home for Nevada" on March 17, the Council office was closed to the public and staff began working remotely. Program planning and staff meetings are being conducted via email, telephone and video conferencing. As information changes regarding treatment and support resources, Council staff are updating online and printed materials, and notifying community partners and the HelpLine call center as needed. Our community liaisons, Ted Hartwell and Bea Aikens are working with community partners to reschedule their onsite IOP and group presentations with video conference sessions.

The Council has responded to various media requests on the subject of problem gambling in the face of COVID-19, addressing concerns of possible increase in online gambling and gaming, and availability of resources to continue treatment and recovery support during this time. Responses to media have included links to ProjectWorthNV.org, WhenTheFunStops.org as well as the 24 hr. Problem Gamblers HelpLine to provide resources for the public.