

**Region 5 Gambling Awareness Team Meeting**  
**September 5, 2019**  
**At MCCA, 34 Murray Street, Waterbury**  
**12:30-2:00 p.m.**

In attendance:

Jennifer DeWitt, Jennifer Dillon, Kathy Hanley- Western CT Coalition (WCTC)  
Jeremy Wampler- DHMAS, Problem Gambling Services (PGS)  
Scott Nelson, Stephen Matos- MCCA  
Jeff McKenna- HERO Project, ASAP LPC  
Harry Gerowe- CNV Help, Inc  
Greg Simpson- Beacon Health Options  
Art Mongillo, Kaitlin Foshay- CT Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG)  
Eileen Russo  
Nicole Wiley- Naugatuck Youth Services

Jennifer DeWitt opened the meeting with a welcome. She had sent out an email with a flyer listing all our meeting dates for the fiscal year. We will rotate meeting locations this year between MCCA facilities in Waterbury, Torrington, and Danbury.

**Introductions and team/agency updates were shared:**

**WCTC:**

- We have a new office in Danbury- 7 Old Sherman Tpke, Suite 106
- The Annual Meeting is scheduled for 9/19 at the Leir Center in Ridgefield

**CCPG:**

- The state-wide conference is scheduled for 10/30 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Wallingford. A link to the event can be found on the CCPG web page- <http://www.ccpg.org/>. Early-bird registration (before 10/1) is \$85; after 10/2 registration fee is \$95. We encourage all Gambling Awareness Team members to attend and to help promote the event.
- In collaboration with Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun, CCPG will conduct education and outreach events in observance of Responsible Gaming Education Week, which takes place from September 15-21, 2019.
- They are working with the Department of Corrections
- State employee paychecks going forward will include problem gambling resources including the helpline. It was suggested that we try to do that with Police Departments as well.

**PGS:**

- An RFP (request for proposal) is out for Bettor Choice Services: <https://www.ct.gov/dmhas/cwp/view.asp?a=2915&q=335348>
- Jennifer shared a program in Waterbury called "Project Safe Neighborhood" to reduce community violence through a federal grant. Citizens are welcomed back to the community after prison time and connected to treatment supports, Narcan, employment and housing opportunities, etc. She thought it would be a good idea to add CCPG and PGS resources within this program. She will share the contact person's name.
- There are re-entry councils across the state doing this type of work. It is an opportunity for us to do education and awareness where we have a captive audience

## **Training Opportunities**

### **CAP:**

- We held 3 trainings in the region last year. Feedback was positive. Attendance ranged from 6 to 20
- It is not an evidence-based program. Should we consider offering Mental Health First Aid which is evidence-based and add the Problem Gambling piece?
- It was suggested that we focus on presentations this fiscal year in the Torrington area. Jennifer will talk to McCall
- Beacon Health could be used as a presentation site
- We will connect with Faith and Walnut Hill churches in the Danbury area

### **Education and awareness for Providers:**

- Providers can help assess and identify problem gambling.
- If screening questions are not asked, people don't talk about problem gambling
- Gambling is connected to suicide- the addiction with the highest suicide rates

## **PGAM Luncheon**

- Consider hosting in Torrington this year
- Stephen has a speaker list we can look at

## **Youth PSA**

- Nicole Wiley's Naugatuck youth group is working on the project
- They have chosen their topic
- It can be difficult to get the youth to be consistent with attendance for the project meeting dates- Incentives were suggested
- The PSA will be promoted through the legislators in an e-blast, local cable access, social media, and in schools

Next meeting of the Region 5 Gambling Awareness Team meeting is 12/5 12:30-2:00 at MCCA Danbury- 38 Old Ridgebury Road

Remaining dates for the fiscal year:

3/5 at MCCA Torrington

6/4 at MCCA Waterbury