

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

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Problem gambling conference on May 3 in Bismarck to feature expert

BISMARCK, N.D. – One in three adults responding to a recent North Dakota Gambling Survey reported gambling during the past year, and about four percent of those individuals are likely to exhibit some form of problem gambling behavior.

The North Dakota Problem Gambling Advisory Council is hosting a conference Wednesday, May 3, in Bismarck that aims to provide treatment professionals and others with evidence-based information about gambling disorders, including screening tools and treatment methods to help people who are unable to control their gambling despite the toll it takes on their lives.

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Ramada Inn, and features Dr. Jon Grant, director of the Center of Excellence in Gambling Research at the University of Chicago, which is supported by the National Center for Responsible Gaming. Grant's research focuses on the neurobiology and treatment of impulse control disorders. He also supervises an outpatient clinic for addictive-impulsive-compulsive disorders and has written 12 books on impulsive and compulsive behaviors and over 300 peer-reviewed scientific articles.

Lisa Vig, director of the Gamblers Choice of Lutheran Social Services treatment program said, "This conference will share scientific research and the latest findings supporting the fact that it's really not about money, willpower, values, morals or personal character. We are very excited to have Dr. Grant join us to help us better understand the neurobiology and complexities of gambling addiction."

Vig said the conference also includes a panel discussion featuring members of the Gamblers Anonymous community who will share their personal experiences of addiction and recovery.

The cost to attend the conference is \$30 and includes lunch and snacks. Walk-up registration is available. Continuing education credit hours are pending from NDBACE, NDBCE, NDMFTLB, NDSBPE, and NDBSWE.

The North Dakota Problem Gambling Advisory Council is a collaboration formed by the North Dakota Lottery, North Dakota Gaming Division, Gamblers Choice of Lutheran Social Services of ND, FirstLink, treatment providers, community members, and the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division.

Learn more at <https://behavioralhealth.dhs.nd.gov/training/gambling-conference> or by contacting the Behavioral Health Division at 701-328-8920, TTY 1-800-366-6888.

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