

DATE: April 18, 2013

TO: The Human Services Sub Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Karen Wheeler, MA, Administrator, Addictions & Mental Health Division

RE: Responses to questions from April 11, 2013 Ways and Means Subcommittee Hearing on House Bill 2355

It was my pleasure to provide your committee with an overview of the programs and services made possible through the 1% dedicated lottery funding for Oregon's problem gambling prevention and treatment, and how the funding changes in HB 2355 would impact those services. Please accept the following responses to questions that were asked by committee members during April 11, 2013 hearing.

Question: Representative Freeman – What would be the cost to serve all Oregonians affected by problem gambling who would be expected to seek services?

Response: We would ideally expect that 3%, or 2,430, of problem gamblers or family members would seek treatment in any given year. The direct cost for providing treatment to these clients would be approximately \$3 million dollars per year, or \$6 million per biennium. Funding is also used to support data management, analytics, workforce development, advisory activities, and administration of the program. This provides the support and infrastructure required to make effective treatment available to all Oregonians in need.

Question: Representative Freeman – How many people are on the waiting list for residential treatment, and how long is the wait?

Response: At this time, there are 16 people on the waiting list for enrollment into residential treatment. The average wait time over the past year has been 28 days. There is only one provider of residential treatment for problem gambling in Oregon.

Question: Senator Winters – Do people with gambling problems also have serious medical conditions?

Response: We do not have local data specifically about the correlation of serious medical conditions and problem gambling. We do know that approximately 58% of Oregonians coming into treatment smoke or use other tobacco products; higher than the general population. There is a very strong correlation between smoking and serious medical problems. Research shows that major depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorders and mood and personality disorders are highly correlated with gambling addiction, as are stress-related medical problems.

Question: Senator Bates - How much would a better outreach program designed to encourage people to seek treatment for problem gambling cost?

Response: The Center for Disease Control's best practices suggest that funding equal to 15% to 20% of a program budget be spent on health communications and outreach. For problem gambling services, this would equate to approximately \$1.5 to \$2 million per biennium. This would include multiple media methods, an evaluation component, targeted outreach, promotional materials, advertising, and staffing.