



Promoting wellness and recovery

John R. Kasich, Governor • Tracy J. Plouck, Director • 30 E. Broad St. • Columbus, OH 43215 • (614) 466-2596 • mha.ohio.gov

February 26, 2015

J. Thomas Clemons, Executive Director
Members of the Board of Directors
Wood County ADAMH Board
745 Haskins Road, Suite H
Bowling Green, OH 43402

Dear Mr. Clemons and Members of the Wood County ADAMH Board of Directors:

On behalf of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), I would like to commend you on the impressive work that you are doing in the area building a system of care for awareness and prevention of problem gambling and focusing on capacity-building for treatment of gambling disorder for those in need.

The expansion of destination-based gambling opportunities in Ohio, and specifically in your area of the state means that we will see a slow increase in people who are at-risk gamblers becoming people who are in need of behavioral healthcare to address their gambling disorder and other co-occurring health impacts. The serious effects of problem gambling have far-reaching consequences for individuals, families and communities. Your Board's thoughtful, proactive work in building awareness and reaching out to young adults at the highest level of risk is a model for the state.

As OhioMHAS has recently undergone a State System Review of its Problem Gambling Service System, we were pointedly asked if awareness and prevention activities were taking place among Ohio's colleges and universities. We were able to point to Wood County and the outreach with BGSU as a highlight of the work being done with our college-age young adults. The "Don't Let the Game Play You" campaign has been perfectly targeted for maximum reach and effectiveness.

We understand that the work underway throughout Ohio and in Wood County has been designed to stay ahead of the problem. We are fortunate to have funds available to make Board allocations for this issue so that your methodical assessment, capacity-building, planning, implementation, and evaluation will reach the preventive goals we all hope for.

Thank you for recognizing the inherent dangers of waiting until problem gambling becomes a devastating force that can cause financial ruin, family breakups, and lost jobs. The work you are doing is right on target for your community's needs and Ohio's benefit. As always, please contact me at 614-644-8456 or email Stacey.frohnafel@mha.ohio.gov anytime I can assist.

Sincerely,

Stacey Frohnafel-Hasson, MPA
Chief, Bureau of Problem Gambling Services