

1. Program Evaluation of Nebraska's Gamblers Assistance Program **The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center**

2. About The Nebraska PPC

- Established 1998, with mission to link expertise at the University to address state policy needs
 - Five general focus areas
 - Access, Equity, and Fairness in Justice and Other Governmental Services
 - Behavioral Health
 - Health Information Technology
 - Law, Policy, and Water Science
 - Deliberation, Democracy, and Public Participation
- About The Nebraska PPC

3. About The Nebraska PPC

- History and expertise in conducting evaluations
- Engaging stakeholders in participatory research
- Collaborating with Nebraska policy makers to address critical public policy issues in behavioral health

4. About the Evaluation

- Build on the information currently collected
- Establish a model that identifies:
 - needs being addressed
 - assumptions about how to address those needs
 - strategies and interventions being implemented
 - costs of implementation
 - Expected outcomes expected

– Since a formal evaluation has not been conducted previously for GAP, we will build on the information currently collected through the program and the structures in place.

– Through a collaborative process, we will establish a logic model that explicitly identifies the needs being addressed, the assumptions regarding the most effective means for addressing those needs, the strategies and interventions being implemented, costs of implementation, and the outcomes expected.

– The evaluation will be structured to assess the components of the logic model.

5. About the Evaluation

The evaluation includes four main goals:

1. Conduct a formative evaluation of the Gamblers Assistance Program
2. Establish an ongoing participatory process for evaluation relevant to quality improvement for policy makers and service providers

3. Provide technical assistance for service providers, policy makers and stakeholders about collection, analysis, and use of evaluation information
4. In partnership with the state of Nebraska, pursue external funding to conduct an outcome evaluation of the Gamblers Assistance Program.

The evaluation is expected to produce information necessary to allow policy makers to enhance the quality of the Gamblers Assistance Program, leading to improvements in the lives of persons with gambling addictions.

6. About the Evaluation

- The overall goal is to produce information that will allow policy makers to enhance the quality of GAP, leading to improvements in the lives of persons with gambling addictions.

About the Evaluation

7. About the Evaluation

- The evaluation will be primarily *formative*
 - Designed to examine and improve current practices
- Rather than *summative*
 - Designed to determine program outcomes.
- Examples of specific questions...
 - What are the issues related to access to services?
 - What types of services are delivered?
 - How effectively is fidelity to service models assessed?
 - What are the per-client costs for GAP funded services?
 - How are client outcomes affected by client characteristics, types of service, and costs?

8. About the Evaluation

- Much of the quantitative data related to client and service information will be accessed through the Magellan data system.
- Surveys, telephone and personnel interviews, and focus group questions will be developed to obtain qualitative information

9. General Timeline

Summer

- Develop Evaluation Team
 - Establish an evaluation team to oversee program evaluation; develop a transparent, participatory evaluation process reflected in the evaluation plan
- Develop description of GAP including history
 - Review documents
 - Interview key stakeholders

- Develop descriptive report
- Conduct analysis of clients and access
 - Report regarding client characteristics, discrepancies with Nebraska population, access issues, and policy/ program implications

Fall/Winter

- Conduct focus groups regarding service access
 - Report summarizing barriers to access, policy implications and recommendations for improvements
- Conduct assessment of GAP components
 - Report assessing seven GAP components, policy and program implications and recommendations for improvements
- Conduct cost analysis
 - Report assessing program and per client costs with policy/program implications and recommendations for improvements
- Conduct outcome analysis of GAP
 - Develop predictive model of characteristics associated with successful outcomes with policy/program implications and recommendations for improvements

Spring

- Pursue external funding to conduct an outcome evaluation of GAP
 - Write successful grant applications to conduct outcome evaluation of GAP and publish results

10. About the Evaluation Staff

–Mark DeKraai, J.D., Ph.D. will serve as project director for the evaluation. Dr. DeKraai is with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, where he directs projects in strategic planning, system reform, and program evaluation.

–Denise Bulling, M.A., L.P.C. is a senior staff member with the Public Policy Center. She will assist Dr. DeKraai with the evaluation, bringing expertise in qualitative methods and traditions of inquiry.

–Dan Hoyt, Ph.D. will serve as the primary methodological consultant on the project. Dr. Hoyt is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Bureau of Sociological Research. He is on the faculty advisory board for the Gallup Research Center and serves on the Curriculum Committee for the Survey Research and Methodology program.

–Carmen McLean, M.A. is a graduate research assistant at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

10. Questions?

Feel free to contact me

PPC Website: www.ppc.unl.edu