



ARIZONA OFFICE OF
**PROBLEM
GAMBLING**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONALLY RENOWNED PROBLEM GAMBLING EXPERT LEADS LOCAL THERAPISTS
THROUGH UNIQUE WORKSHOP IN RURAL ARIZONA**

*Office of Problem Gambling Seeks to Inspire More Counselors into Serving Individuals
in Traditionally Underserved Areas*

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. – Aug. 7, 2007– The Arizona Office of Problem Gambling (OPG) in partnership with the Flagstaff Medical Center, is offering a unique, day-long workshop on Aug. 30 focused on the prevalence and assessment of problem gambling and traditional healing methods. This distinctive educational workshop will be led by Joanna Franklin, a 27-year veteran and expert in multicultural gambling addiction.

“Problem gambling is ever-evolving; therefore, it’s critical to dissect the issues of the condition as it lives in today’s society and discover the best methods for healing,” said Rick Pyper, director for Arizona Office of Problem Gambling. “Joanna Franklin is North America’s most sought after trainer and we are proud to offer her expertise during this powerful workshop designed to equip participants with the necessary assessment and treatment tools.”

With a shortage of counselors in rural Arizona, the OPG sought to bring Ms. Franklin to teach this seminar to those professionals within the industry who can benefit and ideally inspire others to work in these underserved areas. Franklin’s in-depth knowledge of pathological gambling derives from more than 27 years of extensive experience working with state governments, casino and racing industries, state lotteries, and federal agencies.

Workshop participants will benefit from this fascinating training as Franklin discusses the rapid expansion of gambling opportunities and its impact on today’s society, in addition to problem gambling as it relates to cultural populations. Franklin will also share her knowledge of multicultural gambling treatment issues which comes from her experience training and consulting with more than 15 Native American nations and 30 tribal nations across the globe.

“The prevalence of gambling addiction far surpasses the number of counselors in rural Arizona. This training opportunity is a great way to encourage more professionals in health-related fields to obtain skills to treat problem gambling,” added Pyper.

This special workshop on problem gambling assessment and traditional healing is open to the public. All participants will receive a certificate of completion for six hours. Participation is especially recommended for professionals and students working or studying in health, social or human service fields.

WHAT: Nationally Renowned Problem Gambling Expert Leads Local Therapists through Unique Workshop in Rural Arizona

Office of Problem Gambling seeks to inspire more counselors into serving individuals in traditionally underserved areas

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 30, 2007
8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Flagstaff Medical Center
1200 N. Beaver in Flagstaff, Arizona

REGISTRATION: \$30 (Includes certificate of completion for six hours)
Please call (602) 569-4328 to register
or visit www.problemgambling.az.gov for more information.

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Aug. 7, 2007

About Arizona Office of Problem Gambling

The Arizona Office of problem Gambling (OPG) supports a sustainable continuum of services that reduces the impact of problem gambling in Arizona by providing effective prevention, treatment, and education programs throughout Arizona. The OPG is committed to a public health approach to addressing problem gambling issues, taking into consideration the biological, behavioral, economic, cultural, policy, and environmental factors influencing gambling and health. The OPG maintains a 24/7 problem gambling help line--1-800-NEXT STEP.

Visit www.problemgambling.az.gov or call 602-266-8299 for more information.

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