



MCPG

Maryland Council on Problem Gambling

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Annual Report

2020 - 2021

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WHO WE ARE

Maryland Council on Problem Gambling

The Maryland Council on Problem Gambling (MCPG) is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation. Its mission focuses on 3 A's: Advocacy, Awareness, and Assistance. The primary mission of MCPG is one of advocacy for those affected by gambling problems, working to increase public awareness about problem gambling, and advocate for assistance in the areas of treatment, education, prevention, and research for those adversely affected by gambling and for the community at large. MCPG maintains a neutral stance on gambling; we are not for or against gambling and our primary mission is to raise public awareness and advocate for supportive resources for persons/communities affected by problem gambling. MCPG “meets persons where they are and uses a social justice, inclusion, and cultural competency model for advocacy, awareness, and assistance.

Our Board Members are:

Deborah G. Haskins, Ph.D., LCPC, MAC, ICGC-II, CCGSO, BACC
President

Tineka Rice, LCSW-C, CCGSO
Vice President (through 12/31/2020)

Shandra Parks, MSW, Ph.D., CCGSO
Vice President (beginning 01/01/2021)
Secretary (through 12/31/2020)

Tamala Law, MBA
Treasurer

TO THE PUBLIC

Strategic Highlights

The Maryland Council on Problem Gambling (501-c-3 nonprofit) continued its mission of providing gambling and disordered gambling advocacy, awareness, and assistance. The Behavioral Health Administration and the Maryland Center of Excellence (The “Center”) renewed the Faith-Based Initiative Contract for 2020-2021, and we are excited to collaborate on our mission to expand advocacy, awareness, and assistance.

Dr. Deborah G. Haskins was awarded the **2021 Monsignor Joseph Dunne Lifetime Award for Advocacy** by the National Council on Problem Gambling for her over 20 years of leadership and advocacy in problem and disordered gambling with special recognition of her work in grief/loss, homicidal advocacy, trauma and childhood adversity, and cultural communities, including social justice. Dr. Haskins stated, “I am very humbled and proud but more than anything else I thank the countless gamblers, affected others, and communities who teach me every day how I can help their hearts continue to beat in a world that is painful and that there is radical hope that helps us survive it all (*Awards Ceremony remarks*).



MCPG achieved the following highlights during the 2020-2021 fiscal year:

One hundred seventy-seven (177) active participants attended the Fall 2020 and Spring International Gambling Counselor Certification Board (IGCCB) Trainings. MCPG has continued success with virtual ZOOM live webinars and this virtual format reached Western Maryland for the first time with 1 participant. Due to the pandemic stressors, interested participants find the virtual trainings more convenient and supports their ability to provide virtual problem gambling spiritual outreach. MCPG will evaluate whether we will return to live trainings post-COVID-19 pandemic since many faith care supporters are already working and engaged in ministry and virtual formats are economical and accessible.

Two (2) of our IGCCB training participants completed 2 amazing spiritual outreach projects: Judy Sherwood (our first Intern from Purdue Global University) completed her certification project as part of her internship and expanded outreach to a total of sixteen (16) community stakeholders in Cecil County/Ocean Downs/Allegany County with phone and email contacts; she also provided MCPG and MCOE public awareness materials. Rev. Dr. L.A. McCrae of Project Liberation based in Baltimore City, a Recovery-Chaplain, Community-based Research Activist and pastor, provided an outstanding health equity/social justice community wellness titled “Emotional CPR.” This problem gambling spiritual outreach project involved **fifty-one (51)** participants. These new community stakeholder relationships are now included on our community outreach distribution lists and receive ongoing resources/information. We are excited about the expanded grassroots advocacy these new partnerships further MCPG’s mission.

Hosted a webinar during Problem Gambling Awareness Month, “**Wild World of Sports Betting**” on Facebook with **60 viewers** by Preventionist Mr. Dan Trolaro (Asst. Dir.) from the New Jersey Council on Problem Gambling with 83% of respondents rated the webinar as 4.1/5.0 points, 100% rated the presenter as knowledgeable in content area, 94% rated the seminar exceeding their expectations, and 94% knew the 1-800-GAMBLER Helpline as a resource.

Problem Gambling Spiritual Outreach Small Grants:

- The Maryland Council on Problem Gambling awarded 5 small grants totaling an amount of \$12,000. Recipients of the small grant awards included: **Deacon Stanton**, Root of Jesse Ministry; **Rev. Dr. L.A. McCrae** (Amistad United Church of Christ and UNMC Recovery Chaplain Baltimore City), **Michelle Jackson, LCSW-C** (Reasons to Hope Foundation, PG County), **Reverend William Brown** (Fort Washington, PG County MD) and **Dr. Shawn Ashworth** (Food4Thought, Brooklyn Park, Anne Arundel County). Grant recipients provided gambling wellness training utilizing Zoom and Facebook platforms. Additionally, gambling awareness outreach took place during a community food drive. The following is a brief description of each grant project:
- **Rev. Dr. L.A. McCrae** (Amistad United Church of Christ and UNMC Recovery Chaplain Baltimore City) provided a Project Liberation problem gambling spiritual outreach on 5/28/2021 and 5/29/2021, and 5/30/2021 with a total of **Fifty-one (51)** participants

using virtual training; Awarded \$3,000. An outstanding project was completed, and Dr. McCrae will continue gambling advocacy.

- **Michelle Jackson, LCSW-C** (Reasons to Hope Foundation, PG County) held Crucial Conversations About Mental Health and Gambling during three (3) virtual trainings for **Eighteen (18)** participants on 5/17/2021, 5/25/2021, and 5/29/2021; Awarded \$1500. This was an outstanding effort and Dr. Mary Robinson, CCGSO and one of MCPG IGCCB trainees and volunteers presented at one of the 2 virtual trainings (Queens Baptist Church, Prince Georges County).
- **Reverend William Brown** (Fort Washington, PG County MD); Awarded \$3000; Eight (8) In-person/Virtual Trainings on Faith-based Problem Gambling Awareness were offered on 5/5/2021, 5/8/2021, 5/12/2021, 5/15/2021, 5/19/2021, 5/22/2021, 5/26/2021, 5/29/2021, to **125 participants** during 8 weekly informal discussions were held where the congregation could attend virtually or in person at the church. Topics included problem gambling as a public health concern, gambling on college campuses, etc.
- **Dr. Shawn Ashworth** (Food4Thought, Brooklyn Park, Anne Arundel County): \$1500. Dr. Ashworth provided gambling public awareness materials from MCPG and MCOE at 4 food insecurity programs in Anne Arundel (twice)/Baltimore City/Howard County and reached 482 persons who experience food insecurity and now have information on problem gambling and where to get help.
- **Deacon Stanton** (Root of Jesse Ministry, PG County): \$3000 was awarded. There will be a delay in the project implementation due to the unexpected death of Deacon Stanton and will be implemented in FY-2022.

Expanded IGCCB Trainers Capacity. MCPG's goal of expanding our capacity is to integrate our IGCCB Certification trained participants and engaged faith/spiritual community leaders/advocates as part of our IGCCB training team. We welcomed Rev. Richard Davis, Jr., LCADC, CCGSO, to our training team. Rev. Davis is a pastor supporting Prince George's County/Southern Maryland and has expanded our capacity in those areas by recruiting prospective IGCCB participants and small grant applicants. Rev. Davis developed a WBGQ live-

streaming (Facebook Live/YouTube) community mental health advocacy show. Dr. Deborah G. Haskins (Pres.) presented on “Gambling Addiction” on January 21, 2021.

Community Public Awareness Events:

Small Grants Outreach. Over 700 persons attended the Small Grants Outreach implemented by 5 Awardees (described above) were served in the State of Maryland including Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County, Prince George’s County, and Baltimore County. Most of these events were held virtually and accessible by attendees throughout the State of Maryland including casino jurisdictions.

Other Outreach Events: More than **90 persons** in the state of Maryland attended virtual outreach events during the fiscal year, including:

- Dr. Deborah G. Haskins (Pres.) provided a 30-min. public tv community outreach presentation on gambling addiction on the University of the District of Columbia’s Public TV Show “A Healthy Mind,” hosted by Dr. Katherine Marshall Woods in August 2020, with **117 views**.
- Dr. Deborah G. Haskins (Pres.) provided a Facebook Live event on “Problem Gambling” hosted by Financial Advisor “Teddy the Taxman” in November 2020; this session had **331 views** as a Facebook Live event.
- Dr. Paula Langford, LCSW-C, CCGSO from The Healing Institute presented “Treating Anxiety During the Pandemic for Problem Gamblers” on November 10, 2020 and had **27 views**.



- Mrs. Tineka Rice, LCSW-C, ICGC-I, CCGSO (former VP) and Dr. Shandra Parks (VP) presented on “Older Adults and Problem Gambling” as a ZOOM community event for North Arundel County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in January 2021.
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- **MCPG Facebook/Linked In/Instagram.** Brina Olunkwa (Administrative Assistant) provides weekly gambling awareness and disordered gambling research, information, and resources year-round. MCPG promotes all information from our alliance with the NAACD, the Center, BHA, NCPG, MD Alliance of Responsible Gambling and State Affiliates.
 - Dr. Deborah G. Haskins (Pres.) provided a keynote titled “Culture, The Soul (Psyche) Behind the High, and Praying to Win?!!: Cultural Diversity in Addiction and Engaging Cultural Communities including Faith-Based Communities,” to approximately 900 attendees at an outstanding first virtual conference hosted by MCOE in June 2021. The Conference featured sessions on sports gambling and gaming and MCPG participated in the Exhibitors Room.
 - In-person community public awareness events/outreach typically do not yield large participation rates; therefore, MCPG plans to expand its Facebook Live community outreach as community members may feel less stigmatized with virtual attendance and these events are accessible and convenient.

 <p>Reasons To Hope Foundation Sponsored · 🌐</p> <p>Join us in a Crucial Conversation about the relationship between Problem Gambling, Addiction and Mental Health Dis... See More</p> <p>BETTER DAYS PRESENTS <i>Coffee, Tea, & Me!</i> SATURDAY MAY 29, 2021 11AM LIVE ON FACEBOOK @VERONICAABURNETT WITH SPECIAL GUESTS MICHELLE JACKSON REV. RICHARD DAVIS, JR.</p>	 <p>Metropolitan Outreach Host a Faith-Based Problem Gambling Awareness Project Covid-19 County Regulated Meetings Each Saturday in May, 10-11 am At: Metropolitan Outreach Worship Center 9300 Livingston Rd. Fort Washington, Maryland 20744</p> <p>Zoom Meeting each Wednesday in May at 7:30pm - 8:30pm Meeting# 825 5696 4992 code Metro-PGC</p> <p>Call Headen Up Inc. 240-601-3075 or 240-396-3585 Attendance form</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____</p>	 <p>Ready to stop rolling the dice?</p> <p>HEALING 2021</p> <p>Tuesday and Thursdays 11am - 12 pm Zoom - Open for All hosted by project: liberation Healing-centered spaces focused on integrative behavioral health and problem gambling</p> <p>MORE INFORMATION: WWW.MARYLANDPROBLEMGAMBLING.ORG</p>
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- MCPG and the Maryland Center of Excellence Research division developed the *IGCCB Longitudinal Assessment* continues to assess learning outcomes after participants complete the IGCCB trainings and impact on their spiritual outreach and linking faith community and communities to statewide resources (Center peer recovery staff, GA/GAM-Anon, 1-800 GAMBLER, state funded treatment, etc.). Participants are assessed at 3, 6, 12 and 24 months post-IGCCB trainings.
- BHA instituted Benchmark outcome data reporting in the Fall, 2020 and collaborated with MCOE and MCPG to identify benchmarks for the Faith-Initiative deliverables. Outcomes are evaluated and reported each quarter to BHA with an 80% target as meeting successful outcomes.

Benchmark A: IGCCB Program will recruit adequate clergy and lay ministers for enrollment. One-hundred seventy-seven (177) participants enrolled (**Met**)

Benchmark B: IGCCB Program will maintain retention rate of ministers who have enrolled in the training certification program. The retention rate in Quarters 1-2 and 4 was 80% (**Met**) but we only reached 70% retention in Quarter 3 (**Unmet**). It appears that life stressors and other responsibilities prevented re-enrollment. Several participants preferred in-person trainings and reported that they would register when MCPG returns to in-person trainings. Learning styles/preferences as well as lack of technology support may influence registrations and MCPG will evaluate different training options for post-COVID trainings.

Benchmark C: IGCCB Clergy and Lay minister Trainees are competent and effective in providing support for those impacted by problem gambling (**Met**). The Training Evaluation Pre and Post Training Scores from the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 cohorts reported 100% attendees' self-assessed ratings of competency with problem gambling knowledge.

Benchmark D: IGCCB Clergy and Lay minister Trainees are knowledgeable of available treatment services in Maryland (Met). The Training Evaluation Pre and Post Training Scores from the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 cohorts reported 100% attendees' self-assessed ratings of knowledgeable about available treatment services in Maryland.

Benchmark E: IGCCB Clergy and Lay minister Trainees can effectively refer clients to other treatment services in Maryland (Met). The Training Evaluation Pre and Post Training Scores from the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 cohorts reported 100% attendees' self-assessed ratings of competency with the ability to refer clients and community members to other treatment services in Maryland.

MCPG is very proud that we have met all the benchmark outcomes except in one quarter in our first year of benchmark evaluation targets highlighting that the IGCCB trainings result in faith and spiritual community leaders and care supporters linking persons to the 1-800-GAMBLER helpline, state-funded treatment, and peer recovery supports.

Financial Highlights

MCPG is financially sound for fiscal year 2020-2021 and are in the black. If interested, please email our Ms. Tamala Law, MBA, Treasurer, at MarylandCouncilPG@yahoo.com for more information.

Operating Highlights

MCPG is a 100% volunteer Board, has 1 part-time administrative assistance (Brina Olunkwa), and all Board members and friends of the Board (trained participants and other committed problem gambling advocates) collaborate to implement MCPG's mission as a grassroots community advocacy organization. Our Board members promote and implement all trainings, the BHA/Center *Faith-Initiative Contract*, and community wellness and outreach. MCPG continues to deliver public awareness, advocacy, and assistance despite having a small operating budget and no full-time paid staff. Our work is grassroots, and we

continue to expand our outreach in the community and are excited with our expansion in areas of the state that has been harder to reach such as Cecil County, Ocean Downs, and Western Maryland. We established the Joanna Franklin Robertson Friends of MCPG Circle to engage community members who are committed to gambling wellness and are active in their communities. Establishment of the Friends Circle supports our mission even more and we look forward to engaging more gamblers and affected others on the Board of Directors and our Friends Circle.

Mrs. Tineka Rice, LCSW-C, CCGSO, Vice President, and an amazing/tireless problem gambling advocate transitioned from the Board, and Dr. Shandra Parks moved from Secretary to the Vice President position. We are very grateful for their leadership, and excited that Mrs. Rice is now a friend of MCPG and continuing to support our mission. We are very grateful for the hard work of Ms. Tamala Law, MBA, and a Compliance Officer at one of the casinos who continues to provide our financial and treasurer leadership. We are recruiting new Board members and committed to racial, ethnic, occupational, social-economic, and other diversity, including geographical representation across Maryland.

We have trained approximately 297 faith and spiritual community Stakeholders in problem gambling and spiritual outreach since 2017, including 177 participants during 2020-2021.

Looking Ahead

No one would predict that a year later we are still breathing through the COVID-19 Pandemic. An increase in behavioral health challenges among youth and adults, health equity challenges, and racial and social justice pandemics increased the stress factors among individuals, families, and communities and many gamble not only for a financial strategy but to escape mental and life distress. MCPG is guided by the value of *“Using a social justice, inclusion, and cultural competency model for advocacy, awareness, and assistance; recognizing structural barriers, cultural contexts, and the intersectionality of cultural worldviews and identities that are important to honor and consider in problem gambling advocacy, awareness, and assistance.”* We are proud that we continue to work hard to improve the lives of our communities across the State and

plan to lead the way for more primary prevention and creative advocacy to “meet people where they really are.”

MCPG is seeking expanded funding and plans to implement a new primary prevention, community wellness programming/resources to provide mental health, health, and life wellness skills/resources for individuals, families and communities *before* they develop high-risk gambling behaviors. Our goal is equipping community members with skills and tools and including more health equity and social justice supports also. Additionally, we want to collaborate effectively with community stakeholders in Cecil County, Ocean Downs, and Western Maryland and other “opportunities to reach” and conduct needs assessments before developing advocacy, awareness, and assistance. MCPG will also spend the next fiscal year seeking donations and grant opportunities.

Dr. Deborah G. Haskins, LCPC, ACS, MAC, ICGC-II, CCGSO, BACC
President, Maryland Council on Problem Gambling