

May 5, 2008

Dear

In 2007, Kansas lawmakers passed Senate Bill 66 which created and appropriated funds for the Problem Gambling and Addiction Grant Fund to address problem gambling and other addictions. The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) is responsible for the administration of this new fund. In order to gather valuable input from individuals across the state with the knowledge and expertise in the area of prevention, SRS and Addiction and Prevention Services are hosting a "Stakeholder Workgroup to Address Problems Related to Gambling." (Please note that while the bill does identify *other addictions* as a part of this fund, this workgroup will focus specifically on the needs to address problems related to gambling). For background information, please refer to the SRS website: [www.srskansas.org/problemgambling](http://www.srskansas.org/problemgambling). Under the headline "Report: Planning for Problem Gambling in Kansas" you will find a comprehensive document which outlines the stakeholder input gathered in two previous stakeholder meetings. I encourage you to review this document prior to the workgroup.

To help in this effort, you are cordially invited to participate in this workgroup to discuss Preventing Problems Related to Gambling, as outlined in the attachment. This stakeholder workgroup represents an important step in the SRS planning process. The issue of problem gambling is one that affects multiple service areas, diverse populations, and the community at-large. Therefore, SRS and Addiction and Prevention Services need to better understand how problem gambling impacts the population you serve or represent. Prior to the breakout sessions, two facilitators from other states, with a wealth of experience with problem gambling funds, will provide an overview of problem gambling prevention.

This workgroup will be held **Thursday, June 5**, from 8:30 AM to Noon at the Top of the Tower, 534 S Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS (16<sup>th</sup> Floor). Please complete the attached registration form and return by May 23, 2008. A certificate of attendance for 3.5 hours will be offered. An agenda, including a map to the meeting location, will be forwarded to you in the coming weeks.

Thank you in advance for your time and interest in assisting us with this effort. Should you have any questions, please contact Jean Holthaus at [Jean.Holthaus@srs.ks.gov](mailto:Jean.Holthaus@srs.ks.gov) or 785-296-6012.

Sincerely,

David Dickinson, Director  
Addiction and Prevention Services