

October 1, 2007

Dear

Kansas lawmakers recently 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 those in the community and across the state with the knowledge and experience regarding the consequences of problem gambling, SRS and Addiction and Prevention Services is hosting a "Forum to Address Problem Gambling". Information gathered during the Forum will be used to form a series of recommendations that SRS will use to develop a comprehensive plan to address problem gambling. Please note that while the bill does identify *other addictions* as a part of this fund, this forum will only focus on the needs to address Problem Gambling.

This forum represents an early 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 and your thoughts about what is needed to best address this issue. To help in this effort, you are cordially invited to participate in this Forum to discuss the various components of problem gambling services, as outlined in the attached document. SRS is committed to a forum that includes a diverse representation of individuals from across the state. If you are unable to attend this event, please pass this information to someone who could speak from a similar perspective.

The forum has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 2007 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Rock Springs 4-H Center, 1168 Hwy. K157, located just outside of Junction City, KS, 66441. Please complete the attached registration form by **October 12, 2007**.

Thank you for your interest and time commitment to this important event. SRS looks forward to your insight and input as efforts are made to plan for the future. Should you have any questions, please contact Debbie Woolaway at dwoolaway@kansasfamily.com or 785-266-6161.

Sincerely,

David Dickinson
Director
Addiction and Prevention Services