

## **Issues Brief on Problem Gambling and the SSA's**

### **SCOPE- 2007**

- In 32 States, SSAs have responsibility for treatment of problem gambling
- In 28 States, substance abuse treatment providers receiving funding through the SSA offer problem/pathological gambling treatment services
  - In 23 States, treatment providers routinely screen for problem gambling
  - In 13 States, treatment providers routinely assess problem gambling
  - In 11 States, treatment providers routinely treat problem gamblers
- In 26 States, the SSA manages, contracts or directly operates a hotline for problem/pathological gamblers and family members which provides referral to services.

### **Involvement to Date**

- TIP 42 contains information on Problem Gambling as a co-occurring condition.
- The new TIP on Supervision will include information on Problem Gambling
- CSAT has disseminated the Problem Gambling Toolkit to all SSAs and provider organizations through SAAS to increase awareness of the issue.
- CSAT/DSCA has supported State requested technical assistance on developing guidance for States who acquire the issue and on State to State technical assistance on setting up the programs.
- CSAT/DSCA has supported a regional meeting in the Midwest with 7 States to share licensure, funding, workforce and training issues and successes.
- CSAT/DSCA has supported the development of 2 white papers on organizational strategies and clinical strategies for SSA's who are responsible for problem gambling.
- CSAT/DSCA is supporting a meeting at the request of several states to bring together the data staff of the SSA, the Association of Problem Gambling Administrators and the National Council on Problem Gambling to develop guidance on core data elements to allow some assessment of the outcomes of problem gambling treatment across the country.

### **Issues to be addressed**

- Problem and Pathological Gambling is being treated as a co-occurring disorder by those states that have combined services in the addiction treatment programs – the States want to know if this is problematic and whether they can rely on CSAT to be the Federal lead in this area..
- Some State counselor boards are ruling that treatment for problem and pathological gambling is outside of the scope of practice for Addiction Counselors and so are functionally limiting the access to services. This has been raised with Cathy Nugent in her role as CSAT Workforce Lead.
- There is limited national data on the effectiveness of problem gambling services and any difference in outcomes dependent on the location of the services (stand alone program, combined addiction program). CSAT is working with APGA and NCPG to address this.