

# Gambling Disorder Prevention Project

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*STRATEGIC PLAN FY2022-2026*

*August, 2021*



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## **Project History and Background**

The Lakeshore Regional Entity, (LRE) received funding from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to apply the Strategic Planning Framework planning model to prevention of problem gambling.

The LRE region began by conducting a comprehensive needs assessment regarding the issue to better understand attitudes and behaviors related to gambling and to examine the treatment system for gambling disorders in the region. The information in the needs assessment assisted the development of this regional strategic plan to prevent and reduce problem gambling in the region.

The strategies in this plan were developed by local stakeholders based on the community's needs and level of priority unique to the LRE region. The strategies included will guide future efforts to reduce and prevent gambling disorders in the LRE region.

## **Planning Process**

On July 8, 2019 the LRE convened stakeholders throughout the region to garner input into the development of this plan. During this meeting, the attendees received an overview presentation by Lori Mello, HMSA, MI Gambling Treatment Program. This overview included information on gambling disorders, including identification and services available. Attendees then reviewed the findings from the region's needs assessment to better understand issues related to problem gambling in the LRE region.

Attendees were then broken into small groups to discuss the data findings and identify potential strategies for inclusion in the regional strategic plan. These strategies were compiled following the meeting and stakeholder input was collected via an on-line survey to prioritize and rank strategies for inclusion in the plan. The goals and strategies included in this report include those that received support from stakeholders participating in the on-line survey.

Development of this plan was facilitated by Kori Bissot of KWB Strategies.

On August 16, 2021, the LRE, along with KWB Strategies held a virtual regional meeting with treatment providers, stakeholders, project coordinators and the state coordinator to review the updated needs assessment, project updates and hold a facilitated discussion to update the strategic plan.

As a result of this meeting, 10 strategies were eliminated and one strategy updated. The following document contains the updated plan that resulted from this collaboration.

# Acknowledgements

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Preparation of this plan was a community effort with representation from numerous community organizations committed to supporting the Problem Gambling Prevention Projects in preventing Gambling Disorders in the LRE region. Special thanks to all those who contributed their time to this effort.

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# Gambling Disorder Prevention Project Prioritized Goal Areas

<b>GOAL:</b> Prevention and Reduction of Gambling Disorders in the LRE region.	
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>
<b>1.1:</b> Improve treatment availability for individuals with a gambling disorder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase gambling disorder training and qualifications among substance use disorder clinicians to address problem gambling including providing scholarships for time spent on training.</li> <li>• Advocate for integration of gambling disorder treatment with other behavioral health services to ensure coordination and integrated management of services.</li> <li>• Work to decrease stigma for problem gambling so individuals will seek help.</li> <li>• Assess reimbursement levels for provision of publicly funded gambling disorder treatment; advocate for parity with other behavioral health services.</li> <li>• Partner with substance use disorder treatment providers to identify problem gambling among the clients served and address within treatment plan.</li> <li>• Increase availability of self-help groups/support groups for individuals that have gambling disorder and their families. Explore possibility of online groups.</li> </ul>
<b>1.2</b> Promote advocacy for gambling related issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for warnings to be required for gambling materials and on-line pop-ups (like the Surgeon General’s Warning for tobacco.)</li> <li>• Advocate for policies/legislation that would delay youth exposure and reduce access to gambling.</li> </ul>
<b>1.3</b> Improve identification and referral to treatment for gambling disorders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase public knowledge of warning signs and how to identify when someone may be developing a gambling problem.</li> <li>• Provide tools, resources and training to assist lottery retailers in identifying and providing resources to individuals demonstrating warning signs of problem gambling.</li> </ul>
<b>1.4</b> Prevent problem gambling among adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate the community on potential risks for gambling and early signs of risk for development of a gambling problem. Support bystanders in identifying and supporting others.</li> <li>• Raise community awareness of the risks of gambling, strategies to reduce risk, and actual likelihood of ‘winning’.</li> <li>• Partner w/gambling venues (casinos and lottery retailers) to provide info to consumers on strategies to reduce risk and risk factors for gambling problem.</li> </ul>

<p><b>1.5</b> Prevent problem gambling among youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate parents about the risks of on on-line gambling, how to support their youth in avoiding risky behavior.</li> <li>• Educate youth on gambling risks and to off-set ‘magical thinking’; Incorporate into other programming and curricula.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1.6</b> Prevent problem gambling among the senior population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide info to raise awareness among seniors of risk factors for developing a problem with gambling and strategies to reduce risk.</li> <li>• Promote availability of ‘day-trips’ for seniors for outings other than gambling.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1.7</b> Support locally developed planning to identify culturally appropriate solutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower local communities and/or groups to develop and implement solutions specific to their culture and community; identify local informal leaders to engage the community.</li> <li>• Conduct research to understand deeply embedded beliefs surrounding gambling among specific cultural groups to guide development of effective messaging and strategies.</li> </ul>