

COMPLIANCE BULLETIN

SUPPORTING HIGH QUALITY SERVICES THROUGH HIGH QUALITY STANDARDS

Bulletin #20

March 10, 2008

Gambling in the Workplace

March 9 through March 15 is National Problem Gambling Awareness Week. This is an appropriate time to emphasize that gambling on County time is not only prohibited by the HHS Code of Conduct, but can also be a serious problem that affects Agency productivity and resources.

Effects on the workplace can include lost time; lost productivity; distraction due to financial issues; placing co-workers in uncomfortable positions by asking to borrow money; or stealing from the workplace in order to cover gambling losses.

Workplace signs of problem gambling include deteriorating work performance; missed work, coming in late; leaving early; use of computer/telephone to place bets; theft of County property; misuse of County P-Card or embezzling at work.

An estimated 2 million U.S. adults meet criteria for pathological gambling in a given year. An additional 4 to 8 million adults can be considered problem gamblers. More people seek help to stop or control their sports betting during March and April than during any other time of the year. If you have a problem with compulsive gambling or are concerned that someone close to you may have a gambling problem, contact the County's Employee Assistance Program at (866) 208-0436 or the California Council on Problem Gambling 24-Hour Confidential Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537).

For more information, please contact:

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***"An ethical workplace is your right.....
and your responsibility"***



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