



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

ANDREW JACKSON BUILDING, 6th FLOOR
500 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

MARIE WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

TO: The Honorable Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee
The Honorable Randy McNally, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate
The Honorable Cameron Sexton, Speaker of the House of Representatives

FROM: Marie Williams, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

DATE: December 31, 2023

RE: TDMHSAS Tennessee Sports Gaming Act SFY 2023 Annual Report

Pursuant to *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 4-51-319(c)(2), the Tennessee Sports Gaming Act directs the following:

The department [of mental health and substance abuse services] shall annually generate a report outlining the activities of the department with respect to funding received under this part for problem gambling and gambling disorders, including, but not limited to, descriptions of programs, therapies, grants, and other resources made available, the success and outcomes of utilizing such programs, therapies, grant programs, and resources, the number of persons treated, the number of persons who complete programs and therapies, and the rate of recidivism, if known. The department shall file the annual report with the governor, the speaker of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives, and shall publish the report on its website, no later than January 1 of each year. The annual report must include an itemization of the department's expenditures relating to administrative costs and professional services associated with its activities under this subsection (c).

Tennessee Sports Betting was launched on November 1, 2020, and § 4-51-304(e)(3) provides that:

Notwithstanding § 4-51-111, five percent (5%) of the privilege tax collected under this section must be distributed by the corporation to the state treasurer and allocated to the department of mental health and substance abuse services to use in the manner prescribed by § 4-51-319(c).

In consultation with the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, the distribution of funds referenced above to the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) occurred on **July 1, 2022**, to initiate the activities outlined in § 4-51-319(c)(2). The following report lists the activities for State Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023).

Description of Program

The Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Services Program is a multi-purpose program designed to increase knowledge about problem and/or pathological gambling for those persons at risk, their families, and the general community; to identify and assess those with problem and/or pathological gambling conditions and provide outpatient treatment services if needed; and to continually assess regional needs and coordinate outreach activities for potential service recipients. TDMHSAS partnered



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with the University of Memphis, Tennessee Institute for Gambling Education & Research (TIGER), to implement the Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Services Program. TIGER was founded over 20 years ago to advance knowledge on the assessment and treatment of gambling problems and to serve those experiencing gambling harms. Throughout its history, TIGER has operated The Gambling Clinic – a treatment center specifically focused on helping those experiencing gambling related problems. This clinic is the oldest gambling focused treatment center in the United States.

The goals for the Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Services Program include:

- To design and maintain a website that will convey specific, helpful information to service recipients.
- To establish regional gambling clinics that will increase community awareness of the risk of gambling and provide evidenced-based outpatient gambling treatment services for individuals with problem and/or pathological gambling disorders.

Outcomes

- The Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Services Program launched www.thegamblingclinic.com. This website is the primary portal for Tennesseans seeking help or treatment for problem gambling. For clients of The Gambling Clinic, a patient portal was developed to complete intake and progress assessments, access treatment homework assignments and readings, and gain access to helpful resources.
- Expanded the original clinic at the University of Memphis to include both in-person and telehealth options.
- Established a second clinic at East Tennessee State University, The Gambling Clinic East, to provide in-person and telehealth options for individuals in the East Tennessee region.
- The Gambling Clinics, their respective teams have been engaged in outreach to the media and to professional groups. Members of the leadership teams have been mentioned in 50 TN news articles, radio, podcasts, TV news, etc. This includes mentions in national media including highly valued and respected outlets such as: Katie Couric Media, Gray Media Network, The Conversation, and Newsweek. They have also traveled across the State of Tennessee to provide 31 talks to various health care professional groups including Frontier Health, ETSU Medical School, UT Health Science Center, and the Tennessee Psychological Association.
- The University of Memphis leadership team continue to engage in research to ensure that services delivered are current, empirically based, and cutting edge. They had six scientific papers accepted for publication and seven others submitted for review.



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- The Memphis and ETSU Gambling Clinics are fully functioning with an ongoing caseload of individuals either in treatment or in their first six months of recovery. In SFY 2023, approximately 85 Tennesseans received treatment services statewide. Data indicates that 45% of the clients were from West Tennessee and 55% equally split between Middle and East Tennessee. It is noteworthy that the clinics possess expertise on treatment services to both urban and rural communities, as well as minority and Appalachian populations.

TDMHSAS looks forward to continuing to leverage funding from the Tennessee Sports Gaming Act to support prevention, awareness, and treatment of problem gambling. TDMHSAS is thankful for both the Lee Administration and the Tennessee General Assembly for allocating these funds to the department, as well as our partners at The University of Memphis and East Tennessee State University for creating and expanding evidence-based programming that helps Tennesseans living with gambling use disorder. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you need additional information regarding these vital services.