



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: 3/12/2025

Department: Health & Human Services

Title: March is National Problem Gambling Awareness Month

Management Update/Work Session Date: 2/18/2025 Audio/Visual aids

Time Required: 10 Contact: Samantha Andress Phone: 503-585-4903

Requested Action:
Having the Board of Commissioners support and issue a Proclamation which aligns with national and state efforts and increases credibility of County programs. It also brings the issue of problem gambling to public focus, increases community awareness of risks, generates support for prevention and treatment efforts and connection to free effective local resources in our community.

Issue, Description & Background:
The National Council on Problem Gambling and the State of Oregon have declared March 2025 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. In Marion County, problem gambling is often overlooked and not widely recognized as a public health issue. However, an estimated 8.0% of Oregon adults exhibit problem gambling behaviors to varying degrees. This issue significantly affects local residents of all ages and backgrounds, leading to serious personal, social, health, and financial consequences.
In past years Marion County has supported and issued a Proclamation for Problem Gambling Awareness Month, which aligns with national and state efforts and increased credibility of County Programs.

Financial Impacts:

Impacts to Department & External Agencies:

List of attachments: PowerPoint Presentation; Proclamation Draft

Presenter: Heidi Johnson, HE2 Problem Gambling Prevention Program

Department Head Signature: Ryan Matthews Digitally signed by Ryan Matthews Date: 2025.02.18 12:17:18 -08'00'

Problem Gambling Prevention in Marion County

Heidi Johnson, Problem Gambling Health Educator
Marion County Health Promotion & Prevention



Marion County
OREGON

Health & Human Services

Marion County Problem Gambling Prevention Program

Goals:

1. Prevent Problem Gambling
2. Increase Awareness
3. Reduce Youth Gambling
4. Encourage Responsible Gambling

Problem Gambling

Problem Gambling:

Continuation of gambling activities despite negative personal, social, or financial consequences.



► Importance of Increasing Awareness:

- Lower stigma and shame around seeking help
- Promote responsible gambling
- Decrease negative individual and social impacts
 - Higher rates of bankruptcy
 - Loss of relationships
 - Criminal activity
 - Mental health and addiction problems

Awareness Initiatives and Accomplishments

- ▶ Middle School Art Search
- ▶ ILEAD Youth Summit
- ▶ High School Video Contest and Workshops
- ▶ School Presentations and Tabling Events
- ▶ The Power of Social Connection Presentations
- ▶ Prevention Team Newsletter
- ▶ Social Media

Middle School Problem Gambling Art Search

- ▶ Hosted local Marion County Middle School Art Search with 175 submissions from various schools throughout the county
- ▶ Created a calendar in Spanish and English. Distributed calendars to middle and high schools in Marion County
- ▶ Hosting again this year!



ILEAD Youth Summit

- ▶ One-day youth event for high school-aged youth where youth have an opportunity to take free workshops where they learn:
 - Leadership Development
 - Personal Growth
 - Health and Well-Being, including substance use and problem gambling prevention
 - Life Readiness (College & Career, Workforce Readiness, Personal Finance and Adulting)



Healthy Choices High School Video Contest

- ▶ Is a protective factor by giving youth a healthy skill and an opportunity to use their voice to educate the community and their peers



Healthy Choices High School Video Contest

- ▶ Winning video from Silverton High School



Older Adult Outreach and Education

- ▶ Outreach events for older adults focusing on the power of social connection. Bringing local resources and problem gambling education.



THE POWER OF SOCIAL CONNECTION

Free Event!

Resource Fair **9-10am**
Followed by social connection presentation where you will learn:

- The importance of social connection
- Health benefits
- Ways to connect with others

To register use the link below or scan the QR Code:
<https://forms.gle/mKVrFr8g8S7LEkjh6>



Presenter:

NIRMALA DHAR

LCSW, ACSW

OHA Older Adult Behavioral Health
Lead Strategist



**Thursday,
March 20th**



9am-Noon



**Silverton 50+
115 Westfield St,
Silverton, OR
97381**



Youth Outreach and Education

- ▶ Classroom presentations
- ▶ Stress-management and coping tools tabling events
- ▶ Collaborating with mental health promotion for outreach to athletes, coaches, and parents
- ▶ Creating resources for sports gambling awareness



Marion County Problem Gambling Prevention Program

2025 Objectives:

- ▶ Youth: Build resiliency among youth
- ▶ 18-24: Sports gambling awareness
- ▶ Community: Conduct Community Readiness Assessment
 - ▶ Increase public awareness through the BOC Proclamation
- ▶ Older Adults: Continue outreach events and promote responsible gambling

Thank you for your consideration for Problem Gambling Awareness Month!

▶ Heidi Johnson

Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse Health Educator

Marion County Health Promotion & Prevention

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR MARION COUNTY, OREGON**

In the matter of proclaiming the month of March 2025 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in Marion County.

PROCLAMATION

This matter came before the Marion County Board of Commissioners at its regularly scheduled public meeting on March 12, 2025.

WHEREAS, the National Council on Problem Gambling and the State of Oregon have designated March 2025 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the health of Marion County residents is of utmost importance to the well-being of Marion County as a whole; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling is a public health concern impacting Marion County residents of all ages and backgrounds in all communities, and has significant personal, social, health, and financial repercussions; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling is treatable, and treatment is effective in minimizing this harm to both individuals and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Marion County is dedicated to reducing the negative effects of gambling for all Marion County residents through balanced policies and effective systems of problem gambling services such as targeted prevention programs and treatment services; now, therefore

IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that the month of March 2025 is Problem Gambling Awareness Month in Marion County.

DATED at Salem, Oregon, this 12th day of March 2025.

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson _____

Commissioner _____

Commissioner _____