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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Problem Gambling Training Partnership returns for second year

*Two-Day Conference Brings Leading Experts in the Field of Problem Gambling to Albany
June 20 - 21, 2017*

ALBANY, NY – Following last year’s successful launch, [the Problem Gambling Training Partnership](#), a multi-year collaboration of mental health associations, announces its 2017 training cycle. The first conference of the year will take place on June 20 and 21 at the Albany Capital Center in Albany, N.Y.

This two-day event will bring leading experts in the field of problem gambling to host a series of workshops and provide mental health professionals with the most up-to-date research and educational resources to help mitigate and address gambling disorder. Workshops and presentations will cover a wide range of subjects from introductory overview of the issue to advanced clinical trainings.

Through PGTP, NYS licensed professionals in the disciplines of social work, mental health counseling, marriage and family therapy, and psychoanalysis may opt to receive referrals from the NYS OASAS HOPEline. The HOPEline provides referrals for those seeking problem gambling treatment services statewide and is often the first point of contact for someone who is seeking help. Last year, over 500 mental health practitioners from various sectors of the mental health profession completed the two-day training.

The Albany event is the first of four conferences to be offered across the state. Upcoming training locations include Buffalo, Long Island, and New York City. Mental health professionals already working with clients experiencing gambling disorder to those wishing to gain a better understanding of problem gambling and how it impacts the lives of their clients will benefit from this training opportunity.

“The New York Council on Problem Gambling is pleased to be working with the Problem Gambling Training Partnership again this year. The successful 2016 collaboration resulted in increased awareness of problem gambling among mental health clinicians statewide. NYCPG looks forward to this continued success in 2017 and to furthering access to services for those struggling with problem gambling,” said James J. Maney, Executive Director of New York Council on Problem Gambling.

“The National Association of Social Workers – New York State Chapter is excited to once again partner with our mental health colleagues in bringing this one of a kind training to our membership. In this second year of the Partnership, NASW-NYS has taken an expanded role in providing continuing education to all of the collaborating professions, as well as focusing on building the NYS OASAS HOPELine’s membership and referral network. The network of providers is integral, in order to continue to address the issue of access to treatment of problem gambling. Our community of social workers will now be able to help those clients who may otherwise not have been able to find the resources they need,” said Ron Bunce, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers - New York State Chapter.

“Licensed mental health counselors are committed to providing evidence based problem gambling treatment to New Yorkers and are grateful for the continued opportunity to partner with the State and other professionals towards developing resources for those seeking treatment. We look forward to building off last year’s success of over 500 professionals participating in the training programs, by increasing the opportunity for New Yorkers seeking problem gambling treatment to have access to high quality licensed clinicians,” said Judith L. Ritterman, Executive Director of the New York Mental Health Counselors Association.

“We were pleased to help deliver quality education to so many mental health and addiction professionals in 2016 who serve the treatment needs of those who are affected by problem gambling in New York State,’ said Jennifer Harper, Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee at the National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis. “As news spreads about this important initiative, we expect to make greater strides for all participants in 2017.”

"The leadership of the New York Association for Marriage and Family Therapy is excited to kick off the second year of this valuable training program. Now the more than 1400 licensed marriage and family therapists in the state will be eligible to participate with the additional benefits of continuing education credit, and will be able to serve even more families in the state impacted by the scourge of problem gambling,” said Carol Podgorski, PhD, MPH, LMFT, Immediate Past President, New York Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

Funded by the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, the Problem Gambling Training Partnership is a joint collaboration formed by the New York Council on Problem Gambling, the National Association of Social Workers – New York State Chapter, the New York Mental Health Counselors Association, the New York Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and the National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis. The aforementioned associations represent nearly 11,000 counseling professionals across New York State. The goal of PGTP is to increase the foundation of private practice clinicians in the state that are prepared to support clients and families that are suffering from problem gambling.

The 2017 PGTP Conferences are free to attend; a \$5 administration fee applies to those seeking continuing education credit hours. The conferences are approved for 14 OASAS clock hours and New York State continuing education for licensed social workers, licensed marriage

and family therapists, licensed mental health counselors, and licensed psychoanalysts, as well as Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification Credits.

Registration for the Albany and Buffalo conferences is now open. To learn more and to register for the Problem Gambling Training Partnership conferences, visit www.nypgtp.org

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About the Problem Gambling Training Partnership

Funded by NYS OASAS, the Problem Gambling Training Partnership is an unprecedented statewide initiative to provide training on assessment and treatment of gambling disorder to social workers, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and psychoanalysts throughout the state. The PGTP is a joint initiative formed by the New York Council on Problem Gambling, the National Association of Social Workers – New York State Chapter, the New York Mental Health Counselors Association, the New York Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and the National Association for the Advancement for Psychoanalysis.