



Franklin County Families Coping with Gambling Addiction to Receive Free Financial Guidance

Counselors from Apprisen to help get finances back on track, thanks to Maryhaven and the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County

Columbus, Ohio -- As many as 23 million Americans fall into debt because of gambling with the average loss estimated at \$55,000, according to debt.org. For gambling addicts and their family members, coping with financial losses and debt while battling the disease of addiction is simply overwhelming.

“Some of our clients have lost literally hundreds of thousands of dollars and sometimes it’s a family member’s funds, not even their own,” explained Shawn Holt, CEO of Maryhaven. “Further, even when it’s shared income, we constantly hear from family members that they didn’t even know their loved one was gambling until crises like foreclosure or bankruptcy loom. Thanks to the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County, we’re now one of the first in the state to offer free services so gamblers and families get one more chance emotionally, mentally and financially.”

A national nonprofit based in Columbus, Apprisen has helped more than half a million individuals and families learn to rebuild their financial stability since 1955. “Apprisen assists clients by establishing a manageable budget and working with creditors to repay debts through our Debt Management Program,” said Rick Sullivan, Apprisen’s Director of Client Relations.

All interested clients and families in the One More Chance program fill out a consent form and then are contacted by Apprisen to set up a meeting and next steps. Franklin County residents participating in the Debt Management Program will have their program fees paid by Maryhaven and the ADAMH Board of Franklin County.

“It’s about giving our clients more options,” said Bruce Jones, administrative coordinator for One More Chance. “This is something that both our problem gambler clients and our affected family member clients will be able to utilize to get peace of mind while they go through treatment and address the consequences of problem gambling, such as job loss, depression and even suicidal thoughts.”

In addition to supporting the new agreement with Apprisen, ADAMH provides funding to treat loved ones in the One More Chance program, even if the addicted gambler is not in the program.

“The support from ADAMH, first to expand free treatment options last year to family members struggling with a loved one’s gambling addiction, and now to help in offering additional needed resources, like financial counseling, to addicted gamblers and their families, is really cutting-edge in the clinical world,” Jones said. “We’re the only facility in the state to offer these things at no cost to the client.”

“We know that for every one problem gambler, up to 10 others are affected, and that money problems are the biggest thing these families face in the wake of a gambling addiction,” said ADAMH CEO David A. Royer. “In light of these facts, it only makes sense for Maryhaven to expand the crucial services they are able to provide to families.”

To learn more about Maryhaven’s One More Chance program, visit maryhaven.com/onemorechance or call 614-324-5425.

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