

Gambling Activities for Fund Raising

Reviewed Date		Number	<i>HR0104</i>
Revised Date		Approved Date	<i>October 23, 1996</i>

Introduction

For the purposes of this policy, gambling is defined as the playing of a game of chance for a stake or the playing of a game for money or property.

The health effects of gambling have been well documented. While not everyone who gambles will develop an addiction to the activity, studies have shown that pathological problem gamblers have more social, marital, financial and psychological problems than non-gamblers. Legalization of gambling, including lotteries, has resulted in an increase in compulsive gambling (Lorenz, 1990) with adolescent gambling increasing two-fold (Jacobs and Kuley, 1991). In addition, the poor and minorities who gamble are the most likely to suffer from participating in gambling related activities, the least likely to seek treatment and show preference for easily accessible gambling activities such as lotteries or number games. (*)

The health unit mission statement supports the right to choice. If a community group chooses an action that the health unit considers to be an unhealthy choice, the health unit would not withdraw its services, any more than we would refuse services to someone who continues to smoke, despite evidence that this is an unhealthy behaviour. In summary, although we do not support gambling, we do support the groups' right to make that choice.

Further, this policy is in no way intended to interfere with a health unit employee's right to make personal decisions related to gambling activities or to interfere with any activity undertaken as part of the employee's personal life. It is intended to increase awareness of the potential health consequences of gambling related activities and to provide direction to health unit staff concerning their actions on behalf of the health unit.

Purpose

Health unit employees, when representing the health unit in a community undertaking, will not support fund raising involving gambling activities.

Legislative Authority

N/A

Policy Definitions and Interpretation

N/A

Policy

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit delivers a range of publicly funded services. Staff are reimbursed fairly and equitably for services provided on behalf of the Health Unit and should not solicit personal benefits in addition to salary. From time to time service recipients may choose to express appreciation through gifts/donations or honoraria which staff may in some instances accept.

- Staff will not solicit personal gifts.
- Expensive gifts (over \$30.00) and any honoraria (gift of money - any amount) must be reported and discussed with the manager.

Guiding Principles:

- a. Personal gifts or honoraria deemed inappropriate or potentially compromising to the employee or Health Unit will be returned. Where a judgement call is required, acceptance of the gift should be discussed with the manager.
- b. Honoraria may be kept by the individual employee when actual time and preparation were done on own time unless deemed inappropriate or potentially compromising (see a).
- c. Honoraria will be transferred to the agency when time and preparation were done on work time to be used at the discretion of the Service Area Director.
- d. Unusual circumstances will be discussed with the Service Area Director and Medical Officer of Health, if necessary.

Gifts of money given to the Health Unit or to a specific office or program must be directed to Accounts Payable-Administrative Services for deposit. These funds will be used at the discretion of the Director(s) of the Service Area(s) involved, consistent with the intent of the gift.

Procedures

1. If gambling is proposed for fund raising, health unit representatives will speak to the potential health consequences of gambling activities and indicate that the health unit therefore does not support this method of fund raising.
2. If a vote is taken, health unit representatives will vote against gambling activities as fund raisers.
3. If the group decision is to support gambling activities, health unit representatives will not participate in the gambling activity or its promotion and the health unit logo and/or name will not appear on any material associated with that activity.
4. The health unit will continue to work with the community group to achieve its goals as long as health unit participation and support is appropriate.

(*) See Addiction Research Foundation selected bibliography on gambling. This reference is available on loan from the Addiction Research Foundation office in Barrie.

Related Policies

N/A

Related Forms

N/A

Final Approval Signature: _____

Review/Revision History:

September 2010 Policy Number Change – previous number A1.070