

Gambling Activities for Fund Raising

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Revised Date	September 9, 2020	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.

According to a 2017 CAMH survey, about 1.2% of Ontario adults had moderate to high risk of gambling problems ([Ialomiteanu, A.R., Hamilton, H.A., Adlaf, E.M. & Mann, R.E., 2018](#)). While not everyone who gambles will develop an addiction to the activity, studies have shown that problem gambling can have a serious impact on the physical, emotional, and financial health of individuals who gamble, as well as their families ([CAMH, 2018](#)). Gambling harms can be intensified when an individual also suffers from substance use or mental health disorders, or inequities associated with the social determinants of health ([GREO, 2017](#)). Gambling is a public health concern and policies, programs and practices that prevent gambling related harm could produce individual and population level improvements to health and wellbeing ([GREO, 2017](#)).

The health unit 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. In summary, although we do not support gambling, we do support the group's right to make that choice.

This policy 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

This policy is put in place to inform Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) employees, Board of Health members and volunteers on fund raising activities involving gambling and to provide direction concerning actions on behalf of the health unit

Legislative Authority

N/A

Policy Definitions and Interpretation

N/A

Policy

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

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

Related Policies

N/A

Related Forms

N/A

References

1. Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. (2018). Effects of Problem Gambling on the Gambler. Retrieved from: <https://www.problemgambling.ca/gambling-help/gambling-information/effects-of-problem-gambling-on-gambler.aspx>
2. Gambling Research Exchange Ontario. (2017). Applying a public health perspective to gambling harm. Retrieved from: <https://www.greo.ca/en/programs-services/resources/Applying-a-public-health-perspective-to-gambling-harm---October-2017.pdf>
3. Ialomiteanu, A.R., Hamilton, H.A., Adlaf, E.M. & Mann, R.E. (2018). CAMH Monitor eReport 2017: Substance Use, Mental Health and Well-Being Among Ontario Adults. (CAMH Research Document Series No. 48). Retrieved from: <https://www.camh.ca/-/media/files/pdfs---camh-monitor/camh-monitor-2017-ereport-final-pdf.pdf?la=en&hash=A411E25BB4E8838EE41F89D46799C3E527352B21>.

Final Approval Signature: _____

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