

## PRE-CONFERENCE PREVENTION LEARNING COMMUNITY—INTRODUCTION

### NCPG PREVENTION COMMITTEE - SPECIAL POPULATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Special Populations Subcommittee of the NCPG Prevention Committee was established at the 2017 NCPG Conference during the Learning Community Meeting. The Special Populations Subcommittee was a merging of two previous subcommittees from the 2016-2017 term: the Youth Committee and the Curriculum/Program Repository Committee. Although each of these committees were successful in their own right, it was felt that the future goals of these two committees could be better served by joining forces as one new committee for 2017-2018.

The newly formed committee developed a survey instrument to be used to find out more about the successes and failures that our experts in the field of problem gambling prevention have had with reaching three selected populations. The three Special Populations that were investigated in 2017-2018 were: Youth, College Age and Asian American populations. The reports on those populations were published by the Special Populations Subcommittee for distribution to the general Prevention Committee at the 2018 NCPG Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

The same survey instrument was used in 2018-2019 to investigate three newly selected Special Populations affected by problem gambling: African Americans, Older Adults, and Individuals with Co-Occurring Conditions: Substance Use and/or Mental Health Issues. The reports on each of these populations will be made available to NCPG Prevention Committee members and other interested parties at the 2019 NCPG Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Gambling Prevention continues to be challenged every day by government and local decision makers, who may seek to understand - or chose to ignore - the impact of gambling on all citizens and all populations. We seek to educate the best we can with all who will listen.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the gambling disorder professionals that took the time to provide their insights about working with the selected Special Populations for 2018-2019. Without their input these documents would be but empty shells. The passion and effort they put into reaching the difficult-to-reach is self-evident in their commentary.

We hope that this document provided by the Special Populations Subcommittee will provide some helpful knowledge and recognition that we are all on this journey together.

**Mike Buzzelli and Judy McCormick,**

**Special Populations Subcommittee Co-Chairs**



#### **2018-2019 SPECIAL POPULA- TION FOCUS:**

**AFRICAN AMERICANS**

**OLDER ADULTS**

**INDIVIDUALS WITH CO-  
OCCURRING CONDITIONS:  
SUBSTANCE USE DISOR-  
DERS AND/OR MENTAL  
HEALTH ISSUES**