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Proposal: Terms of Reference for the Ottawa Gambling Harm Prevention Network

Mission

To work collaboratively and build capacity with key stakeholders to increase awareness of the harms related to gambling, to improve informed decision making about gambling and to implement interventions to prevent gambling harms across the continuum of use in Ottawa.

Goals

- Foster collaboration between the key stakeholders addressing health impacts of gambling, promoting responsible gambling and treating problem gambling in order to improve communication, facilitate the exchange of information and optimize best practices in Ottawa.
- Increase the capacity to address the needs of individuals at risk or experiencing problem gambling in Ottawa.
- Share best practices in harm prevention and treatment options for problem gambling across the continuum of use.

Objectives

- To share information about gambling and health with the general population, including targeted efforts with populations at greater risk of gambling harms
- To identify residents with harms due to gambling more quickly and efficiently
- To increase accessibility and uptake of gambling support and treatment services
- To increase communication and integration between Network members
- To collaborate with academics and experts for timely knowledge exchange on evidence-based actions to reduce the harms from gambling
- To support venue improvements as recommended by the responsible gambling accreditation reports

Membership

- Network members are responsible for replacing outgoing members and for ensuring their ongoing representation
- Network members could include:
 - Ottawa Public Health
 - OLG
 - Hard Rock Casino Ottawa
 - Credit counselors
 - Local researchers
 - Gambling treatment and prevention service providers

Operations

- The Network would meet 3-4 times a year, or more often if required
- Working sub-committees may be created to address specific needs; they may include, if necessary, external resources or former partners of the Network
- Decisions are made by majority vote
- The Network Executive Team consists of a Chair, who is elected by members and a Secretariat.