

WHEREAS, the goal of this week is to educate the general public and health care professionals about the warning signs of problem gambling, as well as the help that is available both locally and throughout Kansas; and

WHEREAS, a 1999 study revealed that .9 percent of the adult population, or approximately 18,614 Kansans, are pathological gamblers; and

WHEREAS, some of the indicators of problem gambling are an increase in gambling time and places; increase in size of bets; frequent absences from school, work and home; withdrawal from family; personality changes; and use of funds that should go to other purposes; and

WHEREAS, pathological gamblers are five times more likely to be alcohol dependent, four times more likely to abuse drugs, three times more likely to be depressed, and eight times more likely to have a bi-polar disorder. Suicide attempt rates also are higher than for any other addictive disorder, and spouses of problem gamblers are three times more likely to attempt suicide; and

WHEREAS, currently there are 66 Kansas Certified Gambling Counselors in the state and COMCARE's Addiction Treatment Services employs four in Sedgwick County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Tim Norton, chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March 4 - 10 as

“PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS WEEK”

in Sedgwick County, and encourage residents struggling with a gambling problem to call the Kansas Problem Gambling Helpline at 800-522-4700 or COMCARE at 660-7540. Getting help is your best bet!

February 29, 2012