

Pennsylvania Department of Health

Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs

**May 5, 2005
Presentation**

Act 71, Section 1509(A)

ACT 71

THE PENNSYLVANIA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT

Section 1509(A)

Establishes the Compulsive and Problem Gambling Program

Requires the Department of Health to:

- 1) Develop program guidelines for public education, awareness, training and treatment regarding the compulsive and problem gambler and their families.**
- 2) Maintain a Compulsive and Problem gambling toll-free hotline to provide crisis counseling and referral services**



The Department will :

- **Develop a toll-free 24/7 Hotline to provide crisis counseling, screening and referral services.**

- **Provide information to the public about compulsive and problem gambling and the availability of help.**

- **Develop programs to assure quality services to those affected by compulsive and problem gambling.**

Develop a Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline to provide crisis counseling, screening and referral services

Will provide telephone coverage, 24 hour/7 days per week.

Will provide access to health care and allow for referrals to appropriate services.

Provide training in crisis intervention and suicide recognition to ensure appropriate referrals.

Staff will be trained in addictions and problem gambling recognition.

Will be able to gather statistical information and provide quarterly reports.

Provide information to the public about compulsive and problem gambling and the availability of help

Public education regarding compulsive and problem gambling has begun with the availability of written materials, pamphlets, posters, etc.

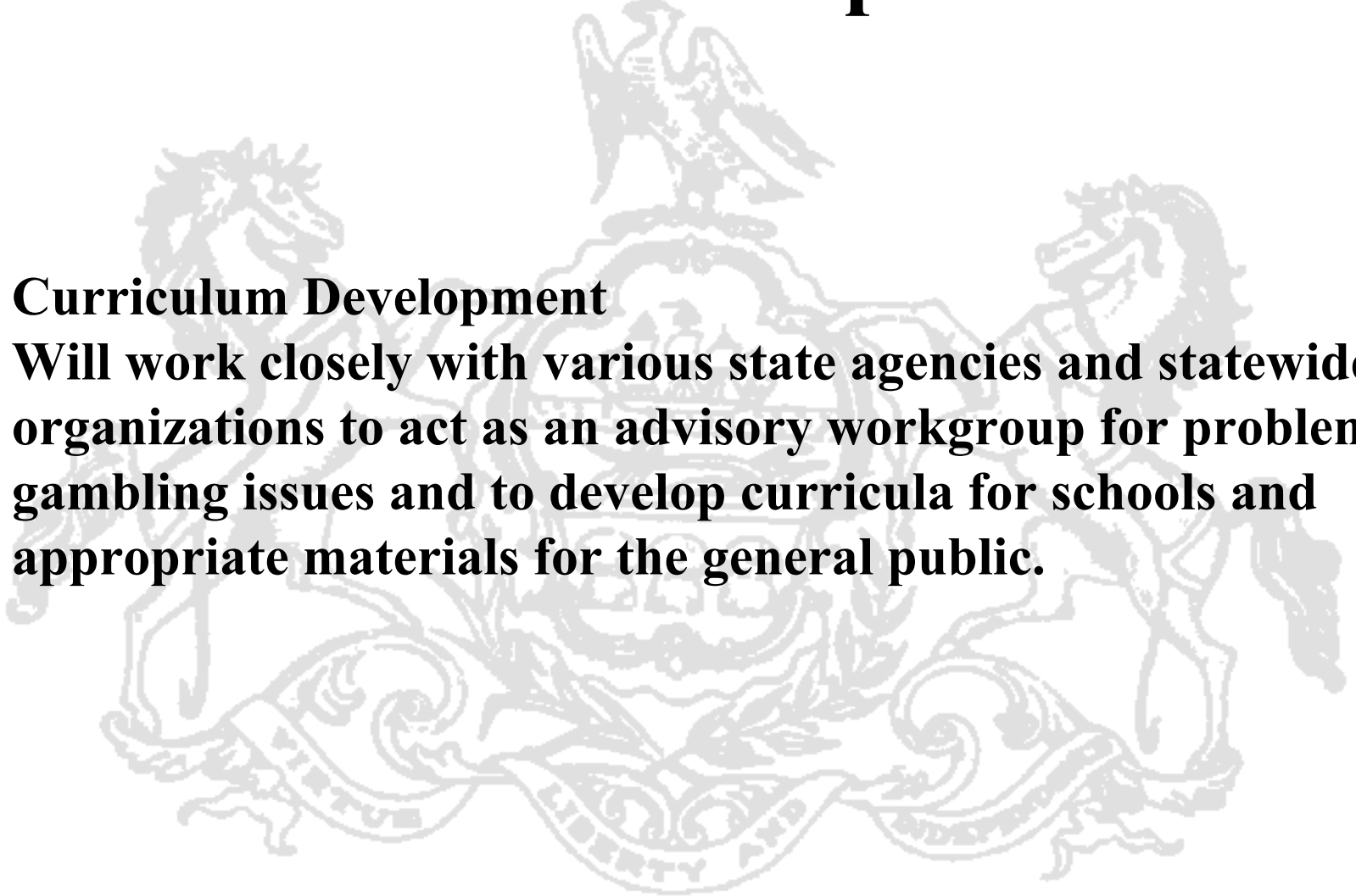
Initially these materials will be purchased commercially, but will then be developed by Commonwealth staff to be specific to the needs of Pennsylvania.

Educational information will be accessed by the public through the Hotline, by contacting BDAP, by accessing its Web page and by contacting the Pennsylvania Department of Health Information Clearinghouse.

Partnerships

Curriculum Development

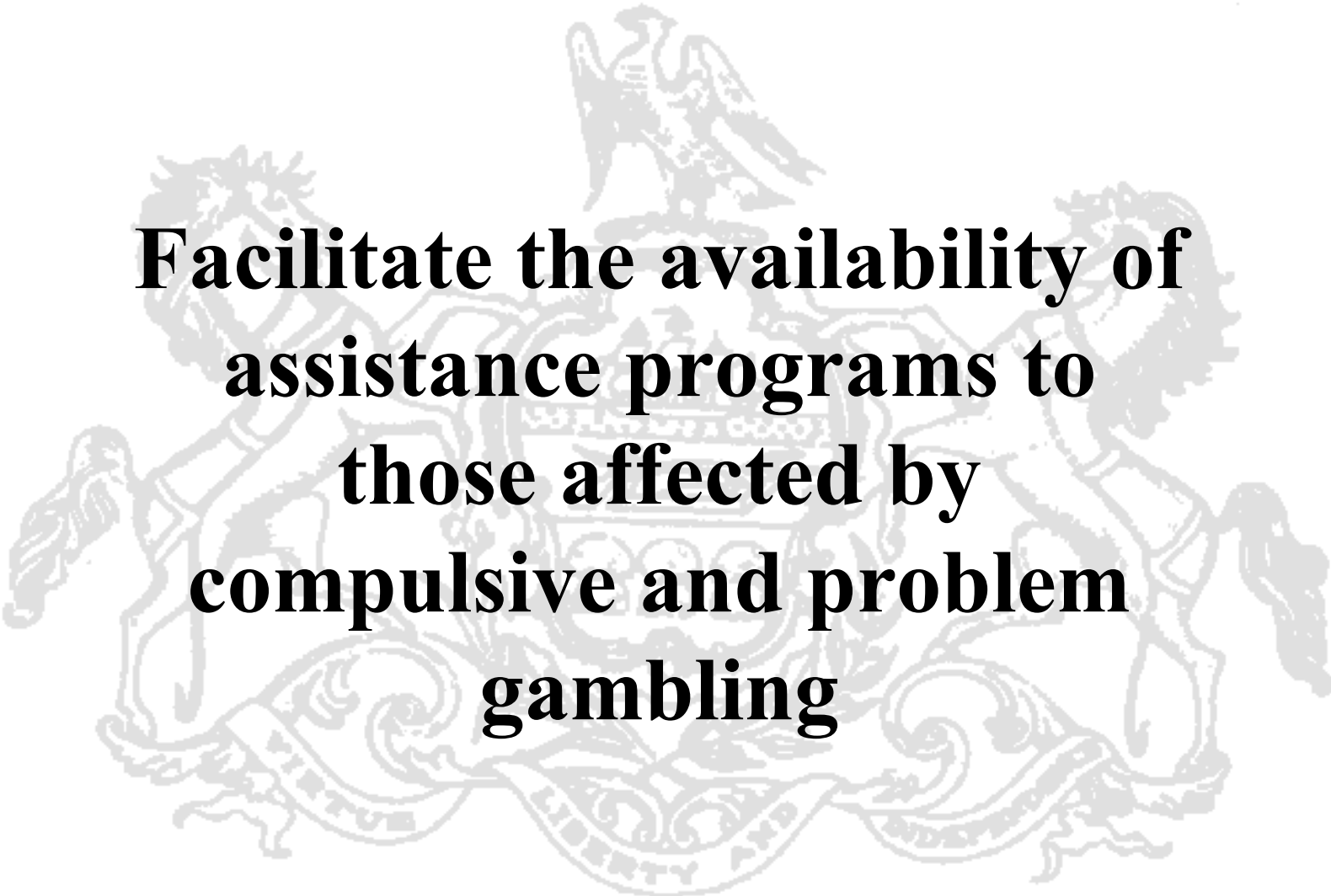
Will work closely with various state agencies and statewide organizations to act as an advisory workgroup for problem gambling issues and to develop curricula for schools and appropriate materials for the general public.



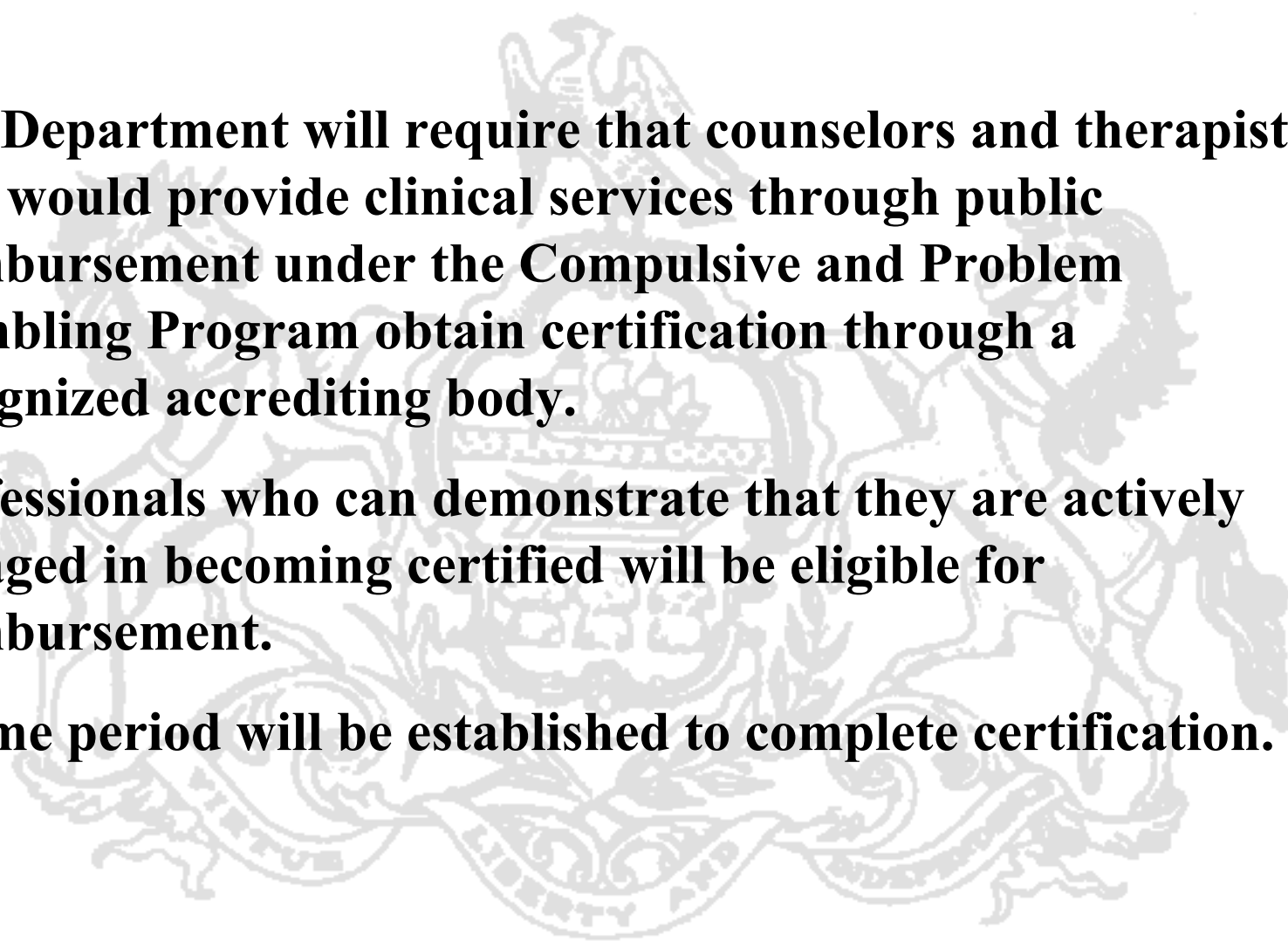


The Department will sponsor a Conference in order to provide the education required to meet certification standards.

Approximately 18 hours of education can be provided through the conference, satisfying most of the specialty education requirements for professional certification.



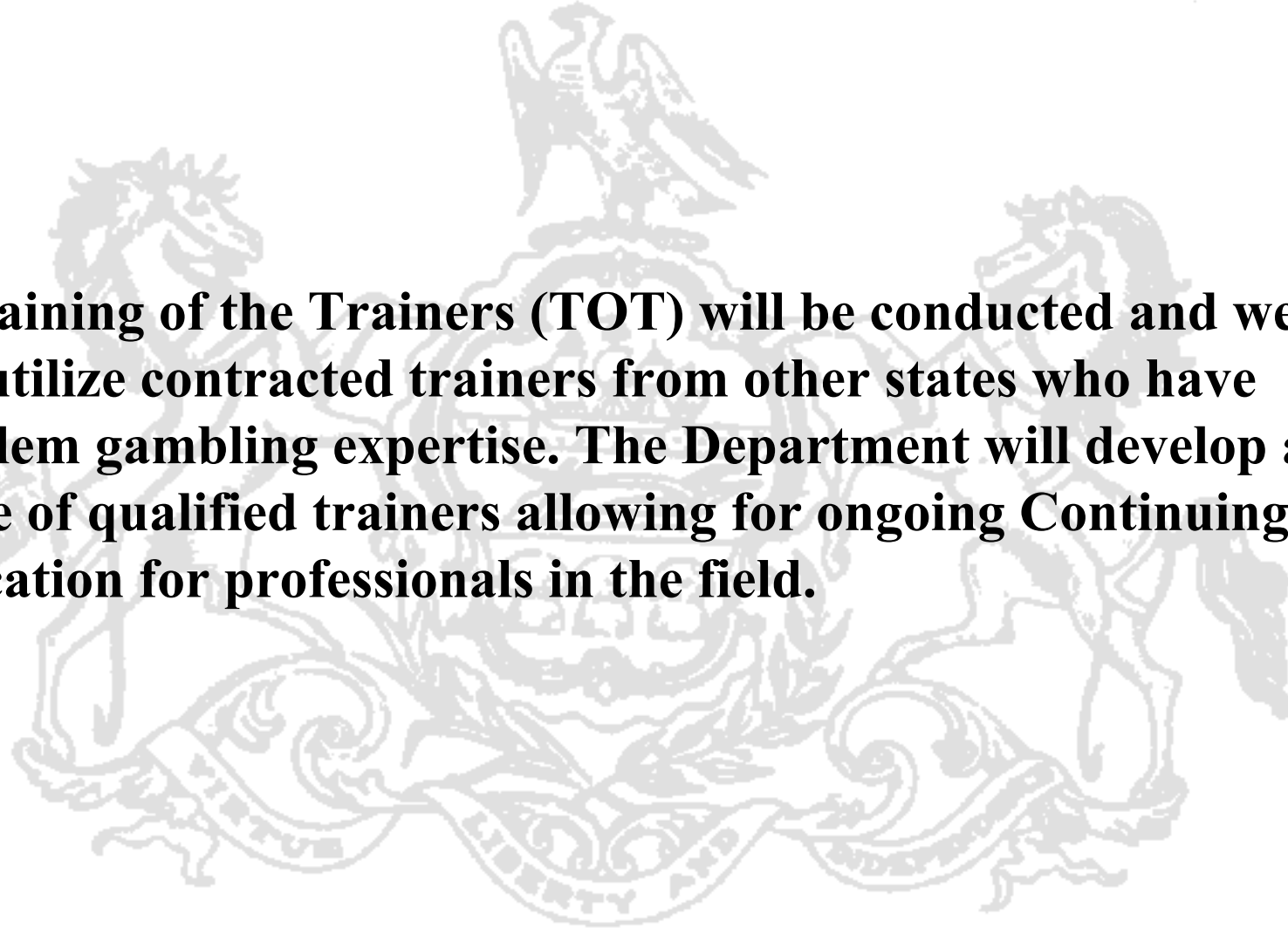
**Facilitate the availability of
assistance programs to
those affected by
compulsive and problem
gambling**



The Department will require that counselors and therapists who would provide clinical services through public reimbursement under the Compulsive and Problem Gambling Program obtain certification through a recognized accrediting body.

Professionals who can demonstrate that they are actively engaged in becoming certified will be eligible for reimbursement.

A time period will be established to complete certification.

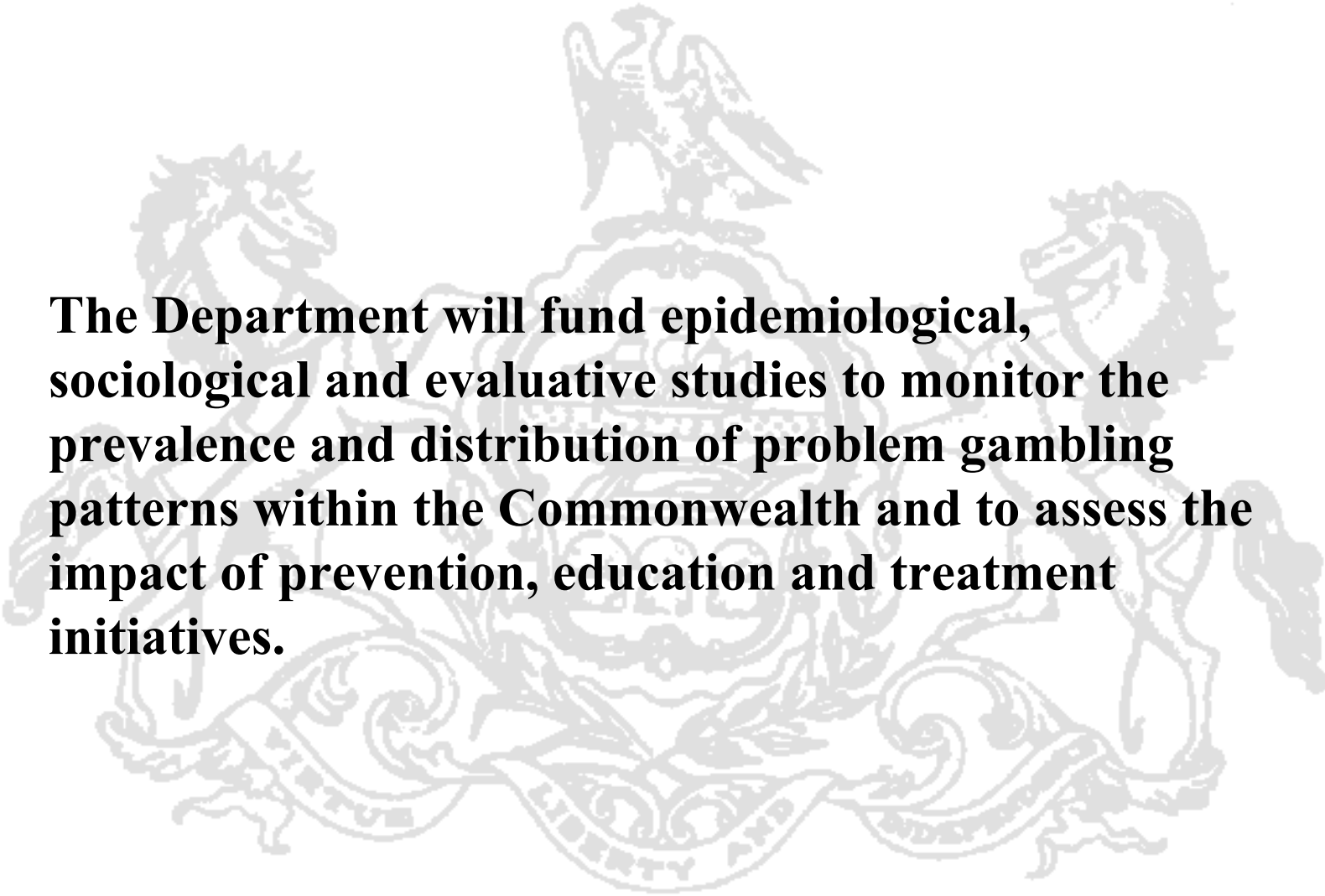


A Training of the Trainers (TOT) will be conducted and we will utilize contracted trainers from other states who have problem gambling expertise. The Department will develop a cadre of qualified trainers allowing for ongoing Continuing Education for professionals in the field.



The Department will maintain fiscal management responsibilities and oversee a management plan to monitor the delivery of treatment services as authorized under Act 71 of 2004.

A voucher system will be developed for the disbursement of funds to qualified problem gambling treatment providers who meet certification and maintain their credentials through the Department's network of certified providers.



The Department will fund epidemiological, sociological and evaluative studies to monitor the prevalence and distribution of problem gambling patterns within the Commonwealth and to assess the impact of prevention, education and treatment initiatives.