

## Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Ambassador Project

The AAPI Ambassador Project is a collaborative project between DMHAS PGS, the former Commission on Equity and Opportunity, the North Central Regional Mental Health Board, and the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling.

A pilot program to address problem gambling concerns specific to Asian American and Pacific Islander populations based in DMHAS Region 4 was begun in 2016. As a minority population in the dominant mainstream US culture, the AAPI face unique challenges and risk factors related to gambling. Goals of the project include: (1) the identification and training of representatives of the AAPI communities in Connecticut (AAPI “Ambassadors”) in gambling awareness and an evidenced-based community conversation model; (2) technical assistance and support of the Ambassadors as they develop, plan and deliver a series of “community conversations” engaging their community members; and (3) evaluation of the community conversations and Pilot.

Long term goals of the AAPI Ambassador Project include (1) development of an action plan for the replication of the AAPI in other Regions of Connecticut; and (2) replication of this Ambassador model with other underserved populations in the state.