



**Office of Alcoholism and
Substance Abuse Services**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ARLENE GONZÁLEZ-SÁNCHEZ, M.S., L.M.S.W.
Commissioner

June 4, 2019

Mr. Brian Reilly, Audit Director
Office of the State Comptroller
Division of State Government Accountability
110 State Street – 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12236-0001

Re: OSC Report 2018-S-39

Dear Mr. Reilly:

In compliance with Section 170 of the Executive Law Regarding the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) provides the following update on steps that have been taken to implement the audit recommendations contained in the Office of the State Comptroller's (OSC) audit report 2018-S-39 "Problem Gambling Treatment Program."

Recommendation 1: Conduct a comprehensive need assessment and social impact study for problem gambling.

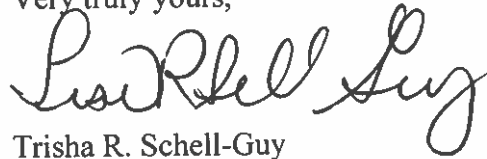
On April 17, 2019 OASAS released a Request for Proposal to solicit a vendor to conduct a statewide household survey of Gambling, Health and recreational Behaviors. See <https://www.oasas.ny.gov/langaccess/documents/rfp-gambling-household-survey.pdf>. The purpose of this survey is to obtain prevalence estimates for problem gambling, co-occurring substance use disorders and symptomology of other mental health disorders to assist in identifying gaps in services. The survey will also assist with monitoring trends and gathering data to develop public awareness and provide additional community-based services in a cost-effective way. We expect to make an award in early July and begin the contract in the fall of 2019. Further, OASAS has added questions to the county planning system that allows counties to specifically report on the problem gambling needs in their communities.

Recommendation 2: Continue efforts to ensure problem gambling treatment programs (OASAS and approved providers) are reasonably accessible to all State residents regardless of their ability to pay.

Consistent with OSC's recommendation, in March 2019, OASAS issued revised regulations which now allow all OASAS certified providers to apply for a designation to deliver problem gambling services in a certified or otherwise authorized setting. This greatly expands the reach of potential providers to OASAS' vast system of over 1400 providers. Additionally, the Problem Gambling Resource Centers have begun pre-operational planning and will be coming on-line over the next several months. These centers will continue to expand the network of private practitioners approved to deliver problem gambling services.

OASAS remains committed to following up on all OSC recommendations and to continuing its efforts to ensure all New Yorkers have access to problem gambling treatment.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trisha R. Schell-Guy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Trisha" being the most prominent.

Trisha R. Schell-Guy
Deputy Counsel

cc: Robert Kent
Vittoria Parry
Steven Shrager
Patricia Zuber Wilson