

## News Release

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### ***HEALTHY HUMANS, HEALTHY HORSES* Track Wellness Program Initiated for Upcoming Turf Paradise Racing Meet**

PHOENIX – At the December Racing Commission Meeting, Steward Magdaleno Perez announced the start of the *Healthy Humans, Healthy Horses* track wellness program. This program was created to address the growing substance abuse problem at Arizona racetracks by supporting racing participants who may be suffering from the serious issues of addiction.

“I commend Magdaleno and the entire Racing team in their diligent efforts to move this project forward,” said Arizona Department of Gaming Director, Ted Vogt. “The *Healthy Humans, Healthy Horses* program will directly support Arizona horsemen and create a safer and healthier backside, driving us forward in meeting our mission to ethically and effectively regulate horse racing, while ensuring it is conducted in a socially responsible manner.”

In the upcoming racing meet starting on January 4<sup>th</sup> at Turf Paradise, the Arizona Department of Gaming – Racing Division will be implementing the following measures to help curb substance abuse at Arizona racetracks:

- Suspension reductions for those who seek help with substance abuse
- Random drug testing for licensees on horseback
- Partnering with subject matter experts to address the influx of substance abuse
- Adjusting fines and suspensions for repeated drug-related offenses
- Proactively connecting those seeking help with substance abuse to available resources statewide

“A big thank you to the Racing Division for their hard work to support the Arizona racing community,” said Racing Commission Chair, Rory Goreé. “It is a priority for the Commission to help ensure the health and safety of racing participants, and this project furthers that goal while providing necessary aid to those in need.”

#### **About ADG**

Established by the Arizona State Legislature in 1995, ADG is the state regulatory agency for [tribal gaming](#), [racing and pari-mutuel/simulcast wagering](#), and [unarmed combat sports](#). ADG also provides and supports education, prevention and treatment programs for people and families affected by problem gambling through its [Division of Problem Gambling](#) and 24-hour confidential helpline, 1-800-NEXT-STEP.

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