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Photo Provided

Counselors who attended intervention training are, from left, Virginia Loew-Shelhammer, Jack Koehrsen, "Intervention" television show regular and addiction specialist Candy Finnegan, Geoff Rovin, Carole Ann Al-Din and Sandra Street.

Local Counselors Trained By 'Intervention' Star

Five Northern Panhandle counselors were among those selected to attend a special training on gambling interventions conducted by addiction specialist and "Intervention" regular Candy Finnegan.

Finnegan is a nationally recognized interventionist trained by intervention founder Dr. Vern Johns and is a regular on the A&E reality television show, "Intervention." She is the author of "When Enough Is Enough," a "tell it like it is" guide to the process of intervention.

Counselors from across the state gathered at Stonewall Jackson Resort to learn skills to help facilitate interventions

■ Gambling addiction counseling is available to all West Virginia residents and their loved ones. The confidential hotline is 1-800 GAMBLER (426-2537).

among family members and business associates. The local counselors who attended were Virginia Loew-Shelhammer, Jack Koehrsen, Geoff Rovin, Carole Ann Al-Din and Sandra Street.

Interventions can be helpful because they facilitate getting the addict into treatment, Lowe-Shelhammer said. These interventions are also helpful because they can offer the family needed emotional

support and resources.

"Family members and others close to the gambler often do not know the whole story. Each one of the intervention participants holds a part of the gambler's secret," Lowe-Shelhammer said.

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