



# 34th National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gambling

Digital Symposium ★ July 20-23, 2020

Main Conference ★ November 4-6, Washington DC

To continue our core programs during the covid-19 pandemic, NCPG is excited to implement our first-ever **Digital Symposium** on **July 20 – 23**. A selection of streamlined, specialized sessions will be delivered on a familiar webinar platform with over **16 hours of CEU content** delivered in convenient blocks, providing unique yet socially distant education for responsible gambling (RG) and problem gambling (PG) professionals. **Recordings will be available** for registrants after the sessions as well. In these challenging and rapidly changing times, take this opportunity for continuing education with thought-provoking, innovative, **active practitioners** to stay up to date on the **latest developments in the field**.

## Schedule and Speakers\*

Monday, July 20 12-4:30pm	Tuesday, July 21 12-4:30pm	Wednesday, July 22 12-4:30pm	Thursday, July 23 12-4:30pm
<b>Julie Hynes; Jodie Nealley</b> Two Sides of the Same Coin: How Responsible Gambling & Treatment/Recovery Advocates Can Effectively Work Together	<b>Brianne Doura-Schawohl</b> Responsible Gambling for Sportsbook Staff	<b>James Walsh, PhD</b> Incorporating Spirituality in a Clinical Setting: Exploring the Legacy of Joseph W. Ciarrocchi	<b>Patrick Foster</b> Lessons Learned from Talking about Gambling to 15,000 Pro Athletes
<b>Katie Carlson</b> Responsible Gambling 101	<b>Keith Whyte</b> Calling for National Harmonization of Problem Gambling Helplines	<b>Heather Chapman, PhD, ICGC-II</b> Gambling Disorder in the Lives of Veterans: Conceptualization and Treatment	<b>Teresa McDowell, EdD; Greta Coe</b> Using Core Competencies to Guide Problem Gambling Service Systems
<b>Kate Spilde, PhD</b> Research: What Does the Data Say? What Do We Do with It?  <b>Marc Potenza, MD, PhD</b> New Data on Adolescent Gambling	<b>Anthony Parente, ICGC-II</b> A Compassionate Path of Recovery for Gamblers: Mindfulness Theory, Research and Treatment	<b>Kleo Papas, Alan Pedley, Maureen Williamson</b> Responsible Gambling: Why Are Effective AML & KYC Frameworks Essential? <i>Anti-Money-Laundering; Know Your Customer</i>	<b>Michael Auer, PhD; Simo Dragicevic; Johan Brandsten; Andreas Hartmann</b> Artificial Intelligence & Responsible Gambling
<b>Brianne Doura-Schawohl</b> NCPG Advocates: the Past, the Present & What the Future Holds	<b>Janine Robinson</b> Beyond PG: RG Prevention Messaging that Anyone Can Use	<b>Lucy Dadayan, PhD</b> Are States Betting on Sin? The Murky Future of State Taxation	<b>Christina Thakor-Rankin</b> Responsible Gambling & Generation Z

\*Subject to Change

**Monday, July 20**

**Two Sides of the Same Coin: How Responsible Gambling and Treatment/Recovery Advocates Can Effectively Work Together**

***Julie Hynes; Jodie Nealley***

The viewpoints of responsible gambling advocates and problem gambling providers have often been considered diametrically opposed. Historically, responsible gambling has been frequently seen by providers and people in recovery as “lip service” and ineffective. However, responsible gambling efforts have grown considerably in recent years, with increasing use of a growing research base and implementation of harm reduction practices. During this session, the presenters will share their individual journeys from opposite ends of the continuum of care -- prevention and recovery -- towards a mutual awareness and respect of how working together can benefit individuals wherever they are on that continuum. Participants will gain practical tools for navigating relationships and strategy for effective work in their professional settings.

**New Data on Adolescent Gambling**

***Marc Potenza, MD, PhD***

Dr. Potenza discusses a recent study seeking to understand relationships between gambling and other risk behaviors in youth because high prevalence estimates of gambling and gambling problems are seen in adolescents relative to general adult populations. Furthermore, given the popularity of gaming and blurred boundaries between gaming and gambling, understanding such relationships with gaming is relevant to adolescent health. The study looked at specific substances, specific gambling types, attitudes toward gambling, and risky or problematic behaviors (including aggressive and violent behaviors).

**Responsible Gambling 101**

***Katie Carlson***

The gambling environment is changing rapidly. The number of different types of gambling is increasing, and so is access to these venues. These recent trends have increased the necessity and relevance of nurturing a gambling environment that is protective of vulnerable and underage players. Responsible gambling (RG) practices will not be successful if it is placed outside the realm of business. Ethical game design, responsible marketing, staff training, and investments in research and technological advancement are the cornerstones of RG practices. In this session, we will discuss the following areas: how to develop a responsible gambling framework; where to get some ideas; elements that should be addressed in every framework; examples of what has worked and not worked in Indiana; how to construct a valid business case for implementing items in your organization.

**Research: What Does the Data Say? What Do We Do with It?**

***Kate Spilde, PhD***

Researchers will discuss the outcome of data and how it can drive the policy needed for responsible gambling approaches.

**NCPG Advocates: The Past, the Present and What the Future Holds**

***Brianne Doura-Schawohl***

Over the past 48 years NCPG’s problem gambling advocacy, awareness, and assistance services have greatly changed and significantly expanded. NCPG’s Legislative Director provides an overview of our current programs and efforts and outlines our plans for the future.

**For more information: [www.ncpgambling.org/conference](http://www.ncpgambling.org/conference)**

**[Register here - deadline July 13](#)**

**Tuesday, July 21**

**Responsible Gambling for Sportsbook Staff**

***Keith Whyte; Brianne Doura-Schawohl***

All sportsbook staff need responsible gambling training to meet licensing, regulatory and compliance requirements. This session provides interactive introduction to fundamentals of responsible gambling along with unique considerations and issues around sports betting and problem gambling.

**Calling for National Harmonization of Problem Gambling Helplines**

***Keith Whyte***

NCPG Executive Director Keith Whyte will discuss how the National Helpline Network improves access to help for problem gamblers in crisis anywhere in the nation and the advantages to harmonizing these critical helpline operations.

**A Compassionate Path of Recovery for Gamblers: Mindfulness Theory, Research and Treatment**

***Anthony Parente, ICGC-II, BACC***

The path of recovery for the gambler is diverse, unpredictable and wrought with challenges. Each person's journey is as diverse and unique as the individual in recovery. Research indicates that a mindfulness based compassionate approach to lifestyle changes can enhance one's recovery process and reduce the risk of relapse as well as limiting the harm that gambling addiction causes. This experiential workshop will explore the benefits of mindfulness practice in recovery. We will also examine the essential therapeutic skills of the compassionate practitioner.

**Beyond Problem Gambling: Responsible Gambling Prevention Messaging that Anyone Can Use**

***Janine Robinson***

New gambling products are always rolling out. Online gambling is thriving, and sports betting is king. Responsible gambling (RG) needs to keep pace with rapid changes and new challenges. This requires programming that goes beyond responding to problem gambling, and instead focuses on proactively preventing harms. This session will explore advanced concepts for operationalizing successful responsible gambling programs, including: CEO and corporate leadership training, the Return on Investment (ROI) on RG, employee engagement and mentoring, customer loyalty and trust, state of the art RG training, and building and sustaining a culture of RG. Attendees will be inspired to take their RG program to the next level, armed with the knowledge they need to get started.

Please join us **November 4 – 6, 2020** for the  
**Main Conference** in-person in Washington, DC  
at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill for **three invaluable days** filled with  
education, training and networking opportunities  
with the nation's **leading PG and RG experts**.

**Registration is open!**

**[Register here](#)**

**Wednesday, July 22**

**Incorporating Spirituality in a Clinical Setting: Exploring the Legacy of Joseph W. Ciarrocchi**

***James Walsh, PhD***

William James, the great American psychologist, defined religion as “the feelings, acts and experiences of individual men in their solitude, as far as they apprehend themselves to stand in relation to whatever they may consider the divine.” Religion and spirituality have generally been excluded from consideration as an appropriate part of psychological treatments. However, a rich body of research has documented their positive and negative aspects in well-being and psychological recovery. The intention of this workshop is to explore how religion and spirituality may be incorporated into psychological therapies including treatment for gambling and other addictions and forms of mental health suffering. We will explore the work of the late Joseph W. Ciarrocchi, who published extensively concerning the proper role of spirituality and religion in the therapeutic milieu. At the end of this workshop participants will: have a clear understanding of positive and negative aspects of spirituality and religion on well-being and psychological health; have a structure for incorporating spirituality and religion appropriately into gambling treatments; have an appreciation for the contributions made to our field by Joseph W. Ciarrocchi.

**Gambling Disorder in the Lives of Veterans: Conceptualization and Treatment**

***Heather Chapman, PhD, ICGC-II, BACC***

The Cleveland VA Medical Center's Gambling Treatment Program has been treating veterans and active duty military personnel since 1971. The program's mission is to provide evidenced based care for our veterans/military within the structure of a teaching hospital, and in collaboration with our regional, state and national partners. One such partnership aims to enhance gambling treatment competencies through an intensive Gambling Education and Supervision Fellowship, with Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services. This workshop highlights case examples of our Fellowship Graduates who also work in the intensive Cleveland VA Gambling Program. As a participant, you are invited to experience each clinician's assessment, conceptualization, and treatment plan within the context of the veteran's culture. Participants will be encouraged to join the discussion, working together as we aim to continually strive for dissemination of best practices.

**Responsible Gambling: Why Are Effective AML & KYC Frameworks Essential?**

***Kleo Papas, Alan Pedley, Maureen Williamson***

AML= Anti-Money-Laundering; KYC = Know Your Customer

**Are States Betting on Sin? The Murky Future of State Taxation**

***Lucy Dadayan, PhD***

“Sin taxes” are often viewed as budget saviors, though they play a rather small role in state budgets. Although states raise revenue from sin taxes, policymakers should be mindful of these taxes’ limitations. Absent policy changes (such as increased tax rates), long-term growth for sin tax revenue has often been weak and limited. Moreover, greater dependence on sin tax revenues can lead to odd incentives: part of the reason for taxing some of these activities is to discourage consumption and use rather than to maximize revenue. This report reviews the long-term revenue trends from the three most common sin taxes (alcohol, tobacco, and gambling) and explores how changes in economic activity may affect future revenues. The report also reviews the current status of emerging sin taxes, examining taxes on marijuana and providing overview for taxes on e-cigarettes and sugar-sweetened beverages.

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**[Register here - deadline July 13](#)**

## Thursday, July 23

### **Lessons Learned from Talking about Gambling to 15,000 Pro Athletes**

***Patrick Foster***

Insights into EPIC Risk Management's work with over 15,000 pro athletes, focusing on problem gambling (PG) risk and protective factors. An important presentation about the often overlooked but crucially important intersection between gambling and the sports world.

### **Using Core Competencies to Guide Problem Gambling Service Systems**

***Teresa McDowell, EdD; Greta Coe***

Stakeholder feedback informing the Oregon Health Authority-Problem Gambling Services (OHA-PGS) strategic plan identified the need for competencies to guide and evaluate the readiness and performance of those providing problem gambling services. Results of previous research on mediators of change in problem gambling treatment were used along with an extensive literature review to develop a list of potential competencies used in a modified Delphi study where internationally recognized gambling treatment experts completed two rounds of review to reach consensus on 166 competencies across five domains. The OHA-PGS uses the core competency list along with an accompanying guide to inform their system. The competencies are currently being used to inform workforce development decisions and activities. They are also the basis of a state-wide clinician evaluation tool, which will identify areas for state-sponsored professional development. In this presentation we share creation of the core competencies and discuss how they can be used to drive important decisions in problem gambling service systems, including policy (e.g., requirements for state certification, collaboration between states toward unified expectations, common standards for educational preparation, state and national exams, continuous feedback for strategic plans), service delivery (e.g., identifying best practices, clinical evaluation and continuous staff improvement), and workforce development (e.g., higher education curriculum, certification course content, delivery of continuing education, clinical supervision). We will also share the OHA-PGS plan to explore the transferability and applicability of subsets of these competencies to problem gambling prevention specialists and peer mentors.

### **Artificial Intelligence & Responsible Gambling**

***Michael Auer, PhD; Simo Dragicevic; Johan Brandsten; Andreas Hartmann***

Using artificial intelligence to monitor player activity for signs of gambling problems and to intervene is no longer science fiction-it is happening today in UK and Europe. Leading experts in this area will review state of the art, promises and pitfalls of automating responsible gambling and discuss how this innovative technology could be applied in the US.

### **Responsible Gambling & Generation Z**

***Christina Thakor-Rankin***

Looking at how the next generation of players will perceive and engage with the world of sports-betting (including e-sports) and gambling, including: move away from Random Number Generator (RNG) and chance to skill and judgement and its impact on self-awareness and player controls; the expectation of operator controls and in-built player protections; accessibility and ability to create new forms of gambling which fall outside of traditional laws, regulations and definitions; the requirement for games to be responsible by design; white noise and fake news versus impactful messaging and communication.

**Join us July 20-23 online! More information at <http://www.ncpgambling.org/conference>.**

**[Register here](#) - deadline July 13**