

# CONNECTICUT COUNCIL on **PROBLEM** **GAMBLING**

Wednesday October 20, 2021

10:00 am- 2:30 pm

**9:45 am-10:00 Welcome- Diana Goode Executive Director, CT Council on Problem Gambling**

**10:00 am- 11:30 am**

**Presenters: Cam Adair**

**Title: The Real Gaming World: Esports, Streaming & Gambling**

**Description:** Video games have changed, and so too, have their business models. Today's modern games are designed to not only keep you playing, but also to keep you spending money. Features such as in-app purchases, micro-transactions, loot boxes, skins, and esports betting cause concern over their risks of gambling behavior. Gaming is also no longer just about playing the game but belonging to a unique culture and community through streaming and esports. Join Cam Adair as he shares his personal journey of overcoming his addiction to the gaming world and offers key insights into how gaming has changed forever in 2021, including must-know information for mental health professionals.

**Learning Objectives:** The participant will:

1. Explain three emerging trends in video game design and monetization schemes
2. Identify at-risk gamers (with validated screening tools)
3. Evaluate how gambling presents in gaming and esports
4. Apply prevention and treatment strategies for problematic gaming

**Bios:** Cam Adair is an international speaker and entrepreneur who is widely hailed as a leading expert on video game addiction. He is best known as the founder of Game Quitters, a support community for gamers from 95 countries. In 2020, Cam launched the INTENTA Gaming Disorder Clinical Training. His work has been published in Psychiatry Research, reported in government hearings, and been featured in New York Times Magazine, Forbes, BBC, NPR, CNN and more. In 2017, he was named one of Canada's Leaders in Mental Health.

**11:30-12:00 pm**

**Presenters: Diana Goode & Bonnie Weyland-Smith**

**Title: Statewide Responsible Gambling Marketing Campaign**

**Description:** This session will discuss the new Statewide Responsible Gambling Marketing Campaign in Connecticut. This campaign was created by the CT Council on Problem Gambling's Statewide RG Marketing Committee which consists of CCPG, CT Lottery, Mohegan Sun Casino, Foxwoods Casino, and Sportech. In this presentation, attendees will hear about the purpose of the campaign and how the committee plans to build capacity around RG efforts in our state. The goal is to harness the marketing and creative talents of CT's gaming and gambling stakeholders to increase awareness of responsible gaming initiatives and the availability of treatment and recovery services for those struggling with gambling related problems.

Focus on three key areas: 1. Branding/Marketing 2. Training 3, Voluntary Self-exclusion

**Learning Objectives:**

This presentation will help participants:

1. Identify the perceptions and attitudes of adults in CT around the topic of responsible and problem gambling by reviewing CT specific data collected by CCPG
2. Describe the need for consistent messaging between all stakeholders
3. Understand the importance of educating all parties about the potential risks associated with gambling and that help is available for those impacted

**Bios:** Diana Goode has been with the Council since May 2018. She brings 25 years of leadership experience and passion in the nonprofit sector to the important work of raising awareness about problem and responsible gambling.

Diana previously held executive-level positions with Foodshare, Gifts of Love and Operation Fuel. Community participation and involvement is key to Diana; she has previously served as a board member for the Community Farm of Simsbury, Gackstatter Family Foundation, Avon Land Trust, and Farmington River Watershed.

**Bonnie Smith has over 20 years' experience in substance misuse and problem gambling prevention. She is the CEO of B. Weyland Smith Consulting, LLC, where she and her team provide clients consultation on prevention and treatment research, evaluation, grant writing, data visualization and coalition capacity building. She has presented at several state and national conferences including National Prevention Network, CADCA, CT Public Health Association and CCPG Annual Conference. Bonnie holds a Master of Public Health from The University of Connecticut, Department of Community Medicine and Healthcare and is a Certified Public Health and Prevention Professional.**

**12:00- 12:30 pm Break**

**12:30- 1:30 pm**

**Presenters: Jody Bechtold & Alyssa Wilson**

**Title: Clinical or Gaming Operator Interventions: How to Effectively Use a Harm Reduction Strategy of Self-Exclusion in Clinical Practice**

**Description:** Harm reduction refers to strategies aimed at reducing negative consequences of gambling behaviors that occurs on a continuum from responsible gambling to voluntary self-exclusion. Both strategies have positive outcomes in removing or reducing negative consequences of gambling. While promising, clinicians may not understand the differences between self-exclusion as a clinical intervention or as operator program, or how to use these strategies within clinical practice. The current presentation will highlight harm reduction and self-exclusion programs as clinical intervention strategies and provide clinical case examples with step by step overviews for using self-exclusion with other evidence-based strategies.

Jody Bechtold and Alyssa Wilson have “The Gambling Disorder Treatment Handbook: A Guide for Mental Health Professionals” available starting March 18 2021 (during National Problem Gambling Awareness Month)

**Objectives:**

1. Define harm reduction across the continuum
2. Describe research on self-exclusion published to date
3. Identify self-exclusion process across brick and mortar and online gambling websites
4. Describe how to use self-exclusion in a clinical setting

**Bios:**

Jody Bechtold is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of PA, an ICGC-II and BACC with the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board and is the CEO of The Better Institute in Pittsburgh PA. Jody has been treating individuals with a gambling disorder and/or their families for over 15 years. She has also delivered clinical training presentations related to gambling for the last 10+ years.

Alyssa N. Wilson is an Associate Professor and Department Chair of Applied Behavior Analysis at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Southern California. Dr. Wilson has published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on interdisciplinary approaches to gambling etiology, assessment, and treatment. She has delivered over fifty national and international presentations related to gambling assessment and treatment. Dr. Wilson serves as an Associate Editor for Behavior Analysis in Practice and is an editorial board member for Journal of Contextual Behavior Science and Perspectives of Behavior Science.

**1:30- 2:30 pm**

**Presenter: Wendy Anderson**

**Title: The Importance of Responsible Gaming Training for Employees and How to Successfully Deliver it**

**Description:** A discussion on training your casino and gaming employees on Responsible Gaming. This panel will identify why training is important and the various tools and technologies that can be utilized to ensure a successful employee RG program.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. To clearly define and recognize the importance of training casino and gaming employees on Responsible Gaming. Including outlining an employee's role regarding Responsible Gaming.
2. To outline what a successful employee Responsible Gaming training course should incorporate. Including what topics should be covered and how to successfully monitor training impact on your organization.
3. To highlight the different technologies that can currently be implemented to ensure successful delivery of employee learning as well as to identify and analyze the benefits of providing training virtually.

**Bio:** Wendy Anderson is the CEO of RG24seven, the industry's only compliance-grade virtual Responsible Gaming and Casino training platform.

Anderson brings over 20 years' experience in Communications, Training, Marketing, Brand and Operations, including 15 years in the global gaming industry. Prior to RG24seven Anderson worked as Chief of Staff for BMM International, with responsibility for BMM's Marketing, Education, and 'People' programs across all 14 BMM locations worldwide.

Anderson holds a BA (hons) degree from The London College of Communication, England, is a 2016 graduate of the Leadership Las Vegas Program and a Graduate of The International Company Directors Course, Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) 2018.

**2:30-3:30 pm OPEN Gambler's Anonymous Meeting**

**A great opportunity to learn more about Gambler's Anonymous as a resource for those experiencing problems relating to gambling. GA members will share their stories, information on the 12 steps, literature, and other resources. There will be time for questions at the end.**

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