



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS: Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin and Potawatomi Hotel & Casino

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The Eighteenth Annual Compulsive Gambling Awareness Conference was a huge success!

The Eighteenth Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference was a huge success with 125 people attending the two day conference.

This year’s conference was held March 23rd and 24th at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. Attendees came from all areas of Wisconsin as well as Arizona, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and the island of Saipan to attend the conference.

Speakers included:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jerry Bauerkemper (Nebraska) | James Harrison III (Wisconsin) |
| Dana Berger (Wisconsin) | Marc Lefkowitz (Arizona) |
| Scott Caldwell (Wisconsin) | Kirk Moberg (Illinois) |
| Jeremy Eberle (Nebraska) | Mark Sanders (Illinois) |
| Don Feeney (Minnesota) | Karen Vadino (Ohio) |

Topics included:

“Leadership 2.0: An Advanced Workshop for Supervisors in the Behavioral Health Field”; “Motivational Interviewing Track”; “When the Presenting Problem is The Solution: Strategies for Engaging the Most Difficult to Reach Clients in Counseling: A Focus on Process and Chemical Addiction and Self Harming Behavior”; “Gambling, Internet Gaming, and Fantasy Sports: Some Knowns With a Lot of Unknowns”; “Talkin’ ‘Bout My Generation: Generational Differences in Gambling an Why They Matter”; “Principles and Beliefs in the Practice of Ethics”; “Groups: Therapy, Recovery, Support, and Fun”; “All Stressed Up and No One to Choke”; “Gambling Disorder: A Lens Through Which to Understand the Rest of the Process Addictions”; “Helping Gamblers Find Debt Reduction Options and Get Their Budget On Track”; “Pleasure Unwoven” An In-Depth Look at the Debate over Whether or Not Addiction Can Really Be Called a “Disease”; “Applause, Applause”; “It’s About the Money and Not About the Money”; “Determining the Extent of College Age Participation in Daily Fantasy Sports Gambling”; and “Happiness: An Inside Job”.

2017 Board of Directors:

- Patricia Jirovetz** - President
- Mark Wesenberg** - Vice President
- Ed Ramsey** - Secretary
- Diana Abelt** - Treasurer

- Dan Cousins, Sr.**
- James Harrison III**
- Jessie Harvath**
- LeAnne Holden**
- James Lewis**
- Dr. Dennis Lorenz**
- Missy Tracy**
- Todd Zangl**

2017 Administrative Staff:

- Rose Blozinski** - Executive Director
- Cheri Cuny** - Operations Manager
- René Pringle** - Office Coordinator

Potawatomi Hotel and Casino Sponsorship

The WCPG would like to extend a big thank you to the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino for the 2017 Sponsorship it has provided. Through the generosity of the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino Sponsorship we will be able to provide Intro Trainings and Phase 1-4 Trainings in the Milwaukee area. Sponsorship was provided for the Eighteenth Annual Conference and 15 scholarships were awarded. The sponsorship also provides assistance for the operation of the 24-Hour Helpline. We are continually grateful for the on-going support we receive from Potawatomi. Their partnership gives us the opportunity to continue and expand resources for problem gamblers and their families.

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to the Eighteenth Annual WCPG Statewide Conference:

Major Sponsors:

Lake of the Torches Resort Casino * Menominee Resort Casino *
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin * Potawatomi Hotel and Casino * St. Croix Casino * Wisconsin Lottery

Other Contributors

Banker's Advertising Company * Creative Promotions * Kathy Diny * Green Bay Botanical Gardens * Green Bay Bull Frogs * Green Bay Packaging, Inc. * Green Bay Packers * Harley-Davidson Museum * Hawkins Ash CPAs * Horicon Bank * LaserForm LLC * Leonard & Finco Public Relations * Milwaukee Brewers * Milwaukee Zoo *
* Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of NE Wisconsin, Inc. * Prime Time Printing * Cathy Allen-Schneider * Schreiber Foods * Schroeder's Flowers * Seroogy's Chocolates * Sprechers Brewing Company * Usinger's Famous Sausage * Wisconsin State Fair * Wisconsin Timber Rattlers * Woodman's Foods * Carolyn & Maynard Zima

Award Recipients

Awards were given to the following individuals who have gone above and beyond in helping the Council achieve its mission of education and promoting public awareness of problem gambling disorders.

Cornerstone Award: Ed Ramsey This award is named after the first recipient, The Cornerstone Foundation. It is presented to a person or organization that has been instrumental in the growth of the Council. The recipient must show strong support and dedication to the expansion of the WCPG and its mission.

Spirit Award: Mark Wesenberg This award is in appreciation of outstanding dedication, support and true spirit given to problem gamblers and their families.

Spirit Award: Peggy Schlapman This award is in appreciation of outstanding dedication, support and true spirit given to problem gamblers and their families.

Special Recognition Award: Judy Ramsey This award is in appreciation of the support and friendship that an individual or organization has given the Council in perpetuating the Council's goals and mission.

Special Recognition Award: Daniel S. Ziolkowski This award is in appreciation of the support and friendship that an individual or organization has given the Council in perpetuating the Council's goals and mission.

Outstanding Volunteer Award: Chris Schlapman This award is given to an individual who has shown long term devotion and unending support of the Council and has volunteered innumerable hours toward helping the mission of the WCPG.

**** Save the Date ****

Nineteenth Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference

The Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha, WI March 15-16, 2018

Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc.

2016 Year in Review

The year 2016 was the 18th year of our Compulsive Gambling Public Awareness Campaign. It was our 23rd year in operation and the 21st year of the 24-hour Helpline. The Council continued to see tremendous growth during the past year.

The Public Awareness Campaign contains six different project areas used to enhance the awareness of Problem and Compulsive Gambling. These areas include the 24-hour Helpline, Mini-grants for Community-Based Activities, High School Educational Curriculum, Statewide Compulsive Gambling Awareness Conference, our Public Relations Media Awareness Campaign, and the Training of Human Service Professionals.

24 Hour Helpline

The Helpline received 13,081 calls in 2016 with the highest month of calls coming in January with 1,468 calls. We continue to receive many hits to our website annually. We received 8621 web hits in 2016. The highest month was July with 1,142 hits. The average debt amount of calls to the Helpline was \$38,090. However, many people refuse to divulge this information and are confused about their indebtedness. Area code 414 received the most calls. During the year 2016, 958 referrals were made and 97 packets of information were mailed out. The chat line received 31 chats. A text line 920-888-HELP was started.

Outreach Program

The WCPG provides an Outreach Program. This program provides educational sessions to high school students around the state. The goal of the program is to provide education and awareness on gambling disorders. Students learn the definitions of gambling, the risks associated with gambling, the warning signs and how to get help for themselves or others. Presentations in schools throughout the state continue. WCPG hired a part-time Outreach Coordinator to increase awareness in schools throughout Wisconsin. The Outreach program reached 5725 students and 436 adults in 2016.

State Wide Compulsive Gambling Conference

The WCPG hosted its 17th Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference on March 10-11, 2016, at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Milwaukee, WI. One hundred thirty-five people attended the two day conference.

Training of Human Service Professionals

We have been able to provide one Phase I through Phase IV training sessions throughout the state during 2016. One Phase I and II was held at Concordia University. A DOC training was held in Racine. One hundred nine training units were provided through our training sessions. Approximately 250 attendees participated in other trainings/conferences and workshops throughout 2016.

WCPG will be hosting several intro trainings and Phase I-IV during 2017.

We continue to develop a list of all persons/agencies within the state of Wisconsin qualified to provide training, education, treatment or public information at various levels, for use by such groups as Employee Assistance Programs, human resource personnel, AODA personnel, school counselors, treatment providers, and civic and church groups.

Mini-Grants

The mini-grant program continues. Mini-grants help to enhance the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling public awareness programs. There was one mini-grant awarded in 2014-15. The grant was awarded to Educational Television Productions of Northeast Wisconsin (ETP-NEW). The main goal of this grant is to work collaboratively with the WCPG to raise awareness about problem gambling. The ETP-NEW-produced video series would demonstrate the repercussions of problem gambling, identify the warning signs and direct individuals to resources. No mini-grants were awarded in 2015-16. The mini-grant information has been placed on our website so more organizations can become aware of the program.

Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc.

2016 Year in Review (continued)

Public Relations/Media Campaign

As part of the media awareness campaign, the following has been accomplished or continues:

- Planning, development, and implementation of the public awareness campaign-- phase sixteen.
- WCPG continues to develop a list within the State of Wisconsin with persons/agencies qualified to provide training, education, treatment or public information at various levels on the issue of compulsive gambling.
- Continued distribution of twelve different posters.
- WCPG increased its Social Media presence through Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Twitter.
- One-on-one media interviews in the state's five main media markets.
- More than 450 media contacts including newspapers, radio, and television.
- Many press releases regarding the WCPG effort were distributed.
- Continued distribution of "Is Gambling Affecting Your Life?" (Approximately 165,000 have been distributed)
- Exterior bus signage continues in several cities throughout Wisconsin, as well as posters for bus interiors.
- Bathroom ads in Wisconsin Casinos.
- Exhibits at a variety of conferences and programs throughout the state.
- Tokens, magnets, pens, pencils, note clips, back scratchers, calendars, oven sticks, and computer dusters, etc. are being distributed in a variety of ways throughout Wisconsin. These public awareness "tools" are an excellent opportunity to get the 800-Helpline number out to thousands of people. People will pick up a pen, which has the 800 number on it, more likely than they would pick up a pamphlet.
- Continued partnership with the Wisconsin Lottery.
- Increased materials in our resource library.
- Continues distribution of WCPG brochures including "special population" brochures.
- Continues distribution of membership brochure.
- Continues development of a data collection process for a book of experts.
- Reached an estimated 26,000 people through contacts at exhibits, workshops and conferences.
- WCPG continues to speak to a variety of groups-EAP, social service departments, counselors, people working with the elderly, Dept. of Corrections, etc. to provide education and awareness on the compulsive gambling addiction.
- WCPG continues to distribute our quarterly newsletter.
- A workplace brochure continues to be distributed to generate more awareness in the workplace environment.
- A legislative newsletter is distributed quarterly to all legislators in Wisconsin.
- A brochure geared towards parents continues to be distributed.

Potawatomi Bingo Casino Sponsorship

Through the Potawatomi Bingo Casino Sponsorship we were able to provide Phase I through Phase IV in the Milwaukee area. The Potawatomi funding also provides assistance for the operation of the 24-hour Helpline and conference 2016 sponsorship.

WCPG had a very challenging and productive 2016. We will continue to move forward in all of our endeavors and we look forward to continuing and expanding our programs in the year 2017.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Thank You

The Eighteenth Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference was held on March 23rd and 24th, 2017. We appreciate all the support the WCPG receives for the conference and throughout the year. The staff and Board of Directors of the WCPG would like to offer a huge "thank you" to all our conference sponsors who helped to make our Eighteenth Annual Statewide Conference a great success. We are also thankful for everyone who provided scholarships to the conference. Scholarships help to provide opportunities for people to attend who might otherwise not be able to do so.

We are so grateful to all of our volunteers who helped us before and during the conference. Our volunteers provide countless hours and help in hundreds of ways: Diana Abelt, Cathy Allen-Schneider, Carolyn Bickel, James Bolek, Cheri Cuny, Kathy Diny, Chris Gruber, LeAnne Holden, Brayden Massart, Mollie Massart, Judy Ramsey, Peggy Schlapman, Mark Wesenberg, Tarra VanSchyndel, Maynard and Carolyn Zima.

Another thank you goes to the conference presenters, exhibitors, and participants for their part in making this conference a success: Jerry Bauerkemper, Scott Caldwell, Jeremy Eberle, Don Feeney, Jim Harrison, Marc Lefkowitz, Kirk Moberg, Mark Sanders, and Karen Vadino for sharing their knowledge with us.

A special thanks goes to the WCPG Conference Committee, Daniel Cousins Sr., James Harrison III, Pat Jirovetz, Jamie McCarville, Ed Ramsey, Todd Zangl. Your guidance and input really helped make this conference a success. We appreciate your time and efforts.

My heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who contributed so much heart, soul and elbow grease to the conference. Your participation continues to help compulsive gamblers and their families find the assistance they need as they deal with this debilitating problem.

Just a reminder- planning has begun for next year's conference, which will be held March 15th and 16th, 2018 at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha, WI. Save the dates!

Thank you for "Working Together" with us!

Rose Blozinski

Rose Blozinski
WCPG Executive Director



**"The Stakes Are High" Intro Training
6 Continuing Education Units For \$10.00**

Eau Claire

Date: April 28th, 2017
Clarion Hotel, 2703 Craig Road, Eau Claire, WI

Manitowoc

Date: May 5th, 2017
Holiday Inn, 4601 Calumet Ave., Manitowoc, WI

Madison

Date: October 13, 2017
Comfort Inn 4822 E Washington Ave., Madison, WI

**Phase 1 Through 4 Training
15 Continuing Education Units for each Phase**

August 10-11, 2017 (Phase 1)
September 21-22, 2017 (Phase 2)
October 26-27, 2017 (Phase 3)
November 16-17-2017 (Phase 4)

Concordia University Wisconsin
12800 N. Lake Shore Drive
Mequon, WI 53097

Please see our website for more information
www.wi-problemgamblers.org

Moraine Park Technical College

Now offering a 3 credit course, Introduction to Problem Gambling 1. This will be offered in the fall semester- 550-101, 8/31/17-12/21/17, Thursday evenings. This course will provide an orientation to gambling addiction, explore the neurobiology and pharmacology of gambling addictions, and prepare the student to evaluate and address the issues of problem gambling disorders for treatment planning. This course is one of two courses to prepare students to earn the International Certified Gambling Counselor credential. It is listed under Human Services- AODA Curriculum.

For more information contact Moraine Park Technical College in Fond du Lac, WI at 1.800.472.4554.

**The Sixteenth Annual National Rural
Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Conference**

This unique rural alcohol and drug abuse conference provides participants the opportunity to personally interact with other rural alcohol and drug abuse professionals, federal agency representatives and nationally known institute faculty and resource individuals while accessing the latest in evidence-based practices for the improvement of rural services.

June 11-15, 2017 at UW-Stout www.uwstout.edu



**31st National Conference
on Problem Gambling**

Listening, Learning, Leading

Portland Oregon July 21-22, 2017
www.ncpgambling.org

For help, call: 1-800-GAMBLE-5 or text 920-888-HELP

1585 Allouez Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54311
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Fax: (920)437-8995

Newsletter now available via email....

Please contact
The Wisconsin Council
on Problem Gambling
1-800-Gamble-5
or email:
wcp@wi-problemgamblers.org

View this newsletter on the web at:

www.wi-problemgamblers.org

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Inside this issue:

- Eighteenth Annual WCPG Statewide Conference
- Conference Sponsorships and Contributions
- Award Recipients
- WCPG 2016 Year in Review
- From the Executive Director
- Save the Dates

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT: The WCPG is currently accepting volunteers. Anyone interested in donating their time and skills to the organization by helping with administrative projects is encouraged to contact us at (920)437-8888.

RESOURCE LIBRARY: The WCPG has both books and videos in our lending library. Materials can be loaned out on a two week basis. These materials can also be mailed to you. For more information, call René at (920) 437-8888 or e-mail her at: conference@wi-problemgamblers.org

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.

Our goals are to:

- Promote public education and awareness of gambling disorders.
- Maintain a toll-free statewide Helpline where people with gambling disorders and their families can call for immediate and continuing assistance in dealing with the addiction.
- Advocate quality assistance for all individuals affected by gambling disorders.
- Identify “high risk” individuals and groups with gambling disorders and provide prevention activities and information.
- Provide expert training to professional counselors in the treatment of gambling disorders.
- Compile and maintain a database of statistical information concerning gambling disorders in Wisconsin.