

Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc.
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Text: 1-850-888-4673

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Green Bay, WI 54311
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Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling’s 27th Annual Statewide Conference

“Shine Your Light, Change The World Through
Awareness, Education, and Prevention”

March 19-20, 2026
Pre-Conference
March 18th

- ♦ Ethics Training 4 CEUs
- ♦ Clinical Supervision 6 CEUs
- ♦ Earn up to 22 CEUs

Shine with us at:
Milwaukee Marriott West
W231N1600 Corporate Ct
Waukesha, WI 53186

Online registration and payments are available
on our website: wi-problemgamblers.org

“Shine Your Light, Change The World Through
Awareness, Education, and Prevention”

Who Should Attend?

- ♦ Persons involved in problem gambling research, treatment and/or prevention
- ♦ Criminal Justice Personnel
- ♦ Employee Assistance Personnel
- ♦ Mental Health Professionals, Social Workers and Addiction Counselors
- ♦ Human Resource Personnel
- ♦ Elected and Non-Elected Tribal Officials
- ♦ Elected State and Municipal Officials
- ♦ Gaming Industry Personnel
- ♦ Educators and Students
- ♦ Clergy
- ♦ Problem/Compulsive Gamblers
- ♦ Friends and Family Members of Problem/Compulsive Gamblers

Why Should You Attend?

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. Annual Statewide Conference is a wonderful opportunity to bring together a great variety of people who have contact with problem gamblers in Wisconsin. This annual event provides connections to some of the leading experts in the gambling disorder treatment field. The conference is designed for anyone concerned about problem gambling in Wisconsin, including those active in treating, preventing, or researching gambling disorders.

MISSION STATEMENT: 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.

Continuing Education Units:
Participants can earn up to 22 CEUs with attendance to the Pre-Conference and Full Conference. We will be applying for CEU certifications through the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC), Employee Assistance Certification Commission (EACC), International Problem Gambling and Gaming Certification (IPGGC), Wisconsin Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (WAMFT), and National Association of Social Workers (NASW). All participants will receive a certificate of attendance within 6 weeks of the Conference.



Scholarships:
A limited number of scholarships are available, including the Susan Hengst Scholarship for recovering gamblers and the Richard Stanchfield Scholarship. The deadline for scholarship applications is February 23rd, 2026. Applications are available on our website.

Exhibitor Information:
Individuals and organizations wishing to give their organization additional visibility within the problem gambling field may register as exhibitors. The deadline for registration is February 23rd, 2026. The cost for one table is \$175, which includes registration for one person to accompany your booth and take part in conference presentations and meals during the event. Exhibitor applications are available on our website.

Accommodations:
A limited number of rooms are available on a first-come/first-serve basis. Deadline for room reservations is Wednesday, February 23rd, 2026, to be eligible for the conference rate of \$129.00 (plus tax) per night. There is no guarantee if made after February 23rd, 2026. To reserve your room, call Milwaukee Marriott West at 877-651-7666 and refer to the WCPG Conference. All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or advance deposit. Milwaukee Marriott West is located at W231N1600 Corporate Ct, Waukesha, WI 53186.

Registration Information:
Pre-Registration is required. If you plan to attend Ethics, you **MUST** check the Ethics box listed on the registration form to participate in the presentation. (limited seating).

A **\$25.00** administration fee will be charged for conference registration cancellations. Absolutely no cancellation refunds after March 2nd, 2026. For additional brochures, directions, accommodation information, or any other additional information, please contact the WCPG.

Please visit our website at wi-problemgamblers.org to view the biographies of our Presenters

| Wednesday, March 18, 2026 | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 7:00am-3:30pm | Registration Open |
| 8:00am-12:00pm | Utilizing the Creative Arts in Treatment |
| 9:00am-4:00pm | Supervision |
| 1:00pm-5:00pm | Ethics & Boundaries in Trauma Informed Care |

- Utilizing the Creative Arts in Treatment
Sara Devine, MT-BC, NMT, LCSW, ICGC-II, FAMI, WMTR, Seed Inc., Appleton, WI

Do you ever feel stuck in sessions with your clients—like they’re just not responding to verbal prompting? Discover how integrating creative arts into treatment can activate different areas of the brain and access memories in ways that traditional talk therapy cannot. This hands-on workshop will introduce you to a variety of creative arts approaches that can be used within the scope of your licensure. You’ll learn practical techniques to better engage clients and foster intrinsic motivation for recovery—making sessions more dynamic, responsive, and effective.

- Supervision

Information Coming Soon!

- Ethics & Boundaries in Trauma Informed Care
Mark Sanders, LCSW, CADC, On The Mark Consulting, Chicago, IL

The great majority of clients seeking behavioral health services have histories of trauma. Topics covered in this skill-building presentation include: An historical perspective on the challenges in addressing trauma, advocacy and trauma informed care, addressing 5 types of traumatic stress disorders, the iatrogenic effect and trauma informed care, how to avoid doing harm, establishing healthy boundaries in trauma informed care, and how to become a trauma informed organization.

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

(Only one person may register per form. Please photocopy for additional registrations. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)
If there are 3 or more people attending from one organization each will receive \$10 off their registration fees

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

County: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Meals: ☐ Regular ☐ Vegetarian

AWARDS BANQUET: Thursday, March 19, 2026 6:00pm - 9:00pm

☐ I will attend ☐ I will not attend ☐ \$30.00 Non-registered Banquet Guest

(The Full Conference and Thursday Only Rates include the Awards Banquet at no additional cost, but you must register in advance.)

| RATES BEFORE 2/24/26: | RATES AFTER 2/18/26: | Please check if you plan to attend Ethics: <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00 | Pre-Conference Ethics - Workshop Only (March 19, 1:00pm-5:00pm) “Ethics and Boundaries in Trauma Informed Care” - Mark Sanders INCLUDED IN FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00 | Pre-Conference (March 18, 8:00am-12:00pm) “Utilizing the Creative Arts in Treatment” - Sara Devine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$55.00 | Pre-Conference (March 19, 9:00am-4:00pm) “Supervision” - Information Coming Soon! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$175.00 | Full Conference Rate (NOT INCLUDING PRE-CONFERENCE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$175.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$205.00 | Full Conference AND Pre-Conference Presentation “Utilizing the Creative Arts in Treatment” - Sara Devine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$195.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 225.00 | Full Conference AND Pre-Conference Presentation “Supervision” - Information Coming Soon! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125.00 | Thursday Only OR Friday Only (Please circle choice) |

- All rates include breaks.
- Lunch included with Thursday and Friday registration.
- EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Pre-Registration Is Required.

Registration Checklist:
Please have the following completed for your Conference Registration:
☐ Completed application form
☐ Meal selection (**Regular/Vegetarian**)
☐ Awards Banquet attendance
☐ Ethics attendance (**check box below if attending**)
☐ Membership submission if desired
☐ Payment
☐ **EAP Continuing Education**

Your WCPG Bronze level or higher Membership saves you money:
Renew your Bronze Membership or join now and save \$35 off Full Conference Registration!

Membership Fee: \$ _____
(\$75.00 or more for discount)

Conference Fee: \$ _____

Membership Discount: (\$35.00)

TOTAL Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check or money order payable to:

Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. (WCPG)
Mail to: 1585 Allouez Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54311

Now accepting online registration and credit card payments!

Please include your email address when registering. We will email all correspondence and CEU Certificates.

If you register without an email address, you will receive correspondence via mail to the address provided.

Thursday and Friday Workshops Continued

The format used, in addition to discussion, will allow workshop participants to have the opportunity to work with actual situations where individuals have consequences that occurred as a result of problem gambling. The workshop will begin with a general discussion on the financial problems and consequences caused by gambling. The session will continue with a more in-depth approach, highlighting techniques and strategies used to deal with these problems and issues. The final portion of the workshop will incorporate what was previously discussed into practical application and role-playing activities. Session members will take on the roles of the therapists who will try to help their clients with these issues and concerns.

- **Just Let Her Breathe, Taking Care of You**
Pat Jirovetz, ATRL, LPC, ICGC-II, Creative Calm Counseling, LLC, Oshkosh, WI
Taking care of yourself is important for good mental, physical, and emotional health. In this workshop there will be a hands-on experiential exercise using poetry and mandalas. Learn how taking time for yourself will help increase your mood and overall health. No art ability needed.

- **When and How Does a Problem Gambler Decide to Change Their Behavior?**
Peter Moran, MA, LPC, Qualified DOT SAP, PJM Services, Green Bay, WI
The goal of this workshop is to help participants understand the dynamics of a problem gambler changing their behavior. Through lecture and audience participation, gambler behavior change will be addressed. This workshop is appropriate for anyone interested in behavior change, gamblers, significant others of gamblers, counselors, etc.

- **When Walking Away is a Step Forward: Understanding Gambling Self-Exclusion**
Andrew J. Schreier, ICS, CSAC, LPC, BACC, ICGC-II, Community Medical Services & New Life Resources, Inc., Menomonee Falls, WI
This presentation explores gambling self-exclusion programs as a harm reduction strategy designed to empower individuals to take back control over their gambling behaviors. Self-exclusion provides a formal, structured way for people to voluntarily ban themselves from gambling venues or online platforms, creating space for recovery, reflection, and healthier choices.

By looking at its history and evolution, we can understand how self-exclusion has shifted from being a paper-based administrative measure to a widely recognized and digitalized tool used across multiple states and countries. We will also examine how research has assessed the effectiveness of self-exclusion, including successes, challenges, and risks. Importantly, we’ll discuss how self-exclusion differs from traditional substance use and mental health interventions, and why it requires unique approaches for treatment providers. Practical tips, case examples, and interactive activities will give participants the tools needed to comfortably introduce, explain, and support clients through self-exclusion as part of a comprehensive care plan.

- **Continuing Risk of the Gaming-Gambling Convergence**
James Schreier, Ph.D., SPHR, Independent Consultant, Beyond the Far Cliffs, West Allis, WI

This interactive workshop equips problem gambling professionals with the insights and tools to address the rising convergence of online gaming and gambling, especially among youth. Participants will explore the psychological and behavioral traits of gamers, assess risk trends using strategic foresight techniques like the Implications Wheel, and reframe the issue through the lens of paradigm shifts. Through hands-on exercises and collaborative analysis, attendees will learn to identify emerging risks, apply prevention strategies, and tailor interventions that reflect the evolving digital landscape. The workshop concludes with a creative application of gamer strengths to enhance prevention and education efforts.

- **Tailoring Motivational Interviewing to Address Youth Problem Gambling**
Ken C. Winters, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Oregon Research Institute (MN location), Falcon Heights, MN

Motivational interviewing (MI) is an evidence-based clinical tool in the addiction treatment field. Tailoring MI for certain clients and target problems is showing promise as a path to optimize outcomes. This proposed presentation will provide a description of ways to adjust MI techniques to improve outcomes when working with adolescents or young adults who present with a gambling problem. Presentation topics will include screening tools, use of key MI techniques (e.g., decisional balance, triggers, and cravings), and dealing with client pushback. The presentation will be interactive. The speaker will engage attendees with targeted questions and issues for group discussion.

Thursday, March 19, 2026

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 7:00am-4:00pm | Registration Open |
| 8:00am | Welcome |
| 8:00am-9:15am | Keynote #1 |
| 9:15am-9:30am | Break |
| 9:30am-10:45am | Workshops #1 |
| 10:45am-11:00am | Break |
| 11:00am-12:15pm | Workshops #2 |
| 12:15pm-1:00pm | Lunch |
| 1:00pm-2:30pm | Keynote #2 |
| 2:30pm-2:45pm | Break |
| 2:45pm-4:00pm | Workshops #3 |
| 4:15pm-5:15pm | Open GA & Gam-Anon Meetings |
| 6:00pm-9:00pm | Awards Banquet |

8:00am: Welcome

- **Rose Blozinski, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling**

8:00am - 9:15am: Keynote

- **How Preventing and Treating Problem Gambling Gets Under the Skin**
Ken C. Winters, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Oregon Research Institute (MN location), Falcon Heights, MN

Epigenetics is a science that helps explain how environmental factors work “under the skin” by directly modifying gene expression without altering the underlying genetic code or structure itself. There is growing recognition that epigenetics is a contributing factor to addictive behaviors. It is intriguing to consider that prevention and treatment efforts to address problem gambling are influential via epigenetic processes. This presentation will explore the emerging science of epigenetics and its role in understanding the development, prevention and treatment of problem gambling. A basic, user-friendly overview of epigenetics will be provided, followed by how effective prevention and treatment makes its impact on many levels, with one such level being epigenetic influences.

9:30am - 10:45am: Workshops

- **Jammed Triggers: Changing the Trajectory: Dr. Linda Graves**
- **How To Identify and Deal With the Financial Problems that May Arise From Problem Gambling: James Harrison**
- **When Walking Away is a Step Forward: Understanding Gambling Self-Exclusion: Andrew J. Schreier**

11:00am - 12:15pm: Workshops

- **Disordered Gambling: False Gods and Broken Promises: Jerry Bauerkemper**
- **Helping to Promote Change for People with Gambling Disorders: Michael Goldman**
- **Just Let Her Breathe, Taking Care of You: Pat Jirovetz**

1:00pm - 2:30pm Keynote

- **Silent Desperation: The Link Between Gambling, Financial Crisis, and Suicide Risk**
Andrew J. Schreier, ICS, CSAC, LPC, BACC, ICGC-II, Community Medical Services & New Life Resources, Inc., Menomonee Falls, WI

Gambling addiction is often called "hidden in plain sight" because it’s devastating consequences (financial ruin, emotional distress, and increased suicide risk) frequently go unnoticed until a crisis occurs, even as access to gambling continues to expand. This session will explore the intersection of gambling-related harms, financial crises, and suicide risk as well as provide insights into how gambling can escalate into severe mental health crises and the impact on family members and loved ones. Attendees will learn about key warning signs, intervention strategies, and resources to better support individuals facing gambling-related distress.

2:45pm - 4:00pm: Workshops

- **When and How Does a Problem Gambler Decide to Change Their Behavior?: Peter Moran**
- **Continuing Risk of the Gaming-Gambling Convergence: Dr. James Schreier**
- **Tailoring Motivational Interviewing to Address Youth Problem Gambling: Dr. Ken Winters**

| Friday, March 20, 2026 | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 7:00am-4:00pm | Registration Open |
| 8:00am | Welcome |
| 8:00am-9:15am | Keynote #3 |
| 9:15am-9:30am | Break |
| 9:30am-10:45am | Workshops #4 |
| 10:45am-11:00am | Break |
| 11:00am-12:15pm | Workshops #5 |
| 12:15pm-1:00pm | Lunch |
| 1:00pm-2:30pm | Keynote #4 |
| 2:30pm-2:45pm | Break |
| 2:45pm-4:00pm | Workshops #6 |

8:00am: Welcome

- Rose Blozinski, Executive Director, Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling

8:00am - 9:15am: Keynote

- Senior Gambling and Self-Determination Theory
Linda Graves, PsyD, California Council on Problem Gambling, Wheatland, CA

This workshop will look at senior gambling through the lens of self-determination theory. The presenter will use case studies throughout the presentation to illustrate the concepts presented. The workshop will consider the elements of self-determination, which are autonomy, competence, and relatedness, in relation to the aging process. Do older adults gamble because of or in reaction to the losses experienced through diminished self-determination? The facilitator will discuss motivations to gamble, including intrinsic and extrinsic motivations, as well as loneliness and loss. The presenter will discuss the health benefits as well as the health risks associated with gambling. Gambling disorders may accompany other addictive disorders or mental health disorders, so some data on co-occurrence will be presented. How do these factors affect a person’s autonomy, competence, and relatedness, the aspects of one’s self-determination?

The WCPG’s public awareness campaign is funded in part by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Care and Treatment Services

9:30am - 10:45am: Workshops

- Disordered Gambling: False Gods and Broken Promises: Jerry Bauerkemper
- How To Identify and Deal With the Financial Problems that May Arise From Problem Gambling: James Harrison
- Tailoring Motivational Interviewing to Address Youth Problem Gambling: Dr. Ken Winters

11:00am - 12:15pm: Workshops

- Jammed Triggers: Changing the Trajectory: Dr. Linda Graves
- Just Let Her Breathe, Taking Care of You: Pat Jirovetz
- Continuing Risk of the Gaming-Gambling Convergence: Dr. James Schreier

1:00pm - 2:30pm: Keynote

- “Sports Gambling: Know What Your Clients are Talking About and What Games They Play”
Jerry Bauerkemper, BS, CDGC, Problem Gambling Services Consultant - Iowa Problem Gambling - Iowa Problem Gambling Services, Galveston Island, TX

This presentation provides participants with an understanding of sports betting terminology and the different kinds of wagers they can place. The presentation will discuss common motivations and behaviors among sports bettors, highlighting both the similarities and differences between adolescents and adults.

2:45pm - 4:00pm: Workshops

- Helping to Promote Change for People With Gambling Disorders: Michael Goldman
- When and How Does a Problem Gambler Decide to Change Their Behavior?: Peter Moran
- When Walking Away is a Step Forward: Understanding Gambling Self-Exclusion: Andrew J. Schreier

Awards Banquet - Thursday 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Special Presentation During the Awards Banquet

Facilitated by Jim Harrison, MS, CSAC, LPC, ICGC-II, and BACC
The Dusty String Band

The Dusty String Band, under the direction of Mr. Jeff Salczenko, also known as Dusty Pockets, will be sharing how music can be used as an alternative to many negative behaviors. This group is composed of musicians from the greater Milwaukee area and will be performing bluegrass as well as gypsy jazz music that has been a major and significant part of our American heritage. Dusty will also share how music has helped him and has been a significant part of his life. The band would like to share that experience with you this evening.

Thursday and Friday Workshops

The following is a list of the workshops and their descriptions that will be presented throughout the Conference. The scheduled times are listed on the previous pages.

- Disordered Gambling: False Gods and Broken Promises
Jerry Bauerkemper, BS, CDGC, Problem Gambling Services Consultant - Iowa Problem Gambling - Iowa Problem Gambling Services, Galveston Island, TX
This workshop will discuss the motivation of gambling entities and disordered gamblers in the development of disordered gambling. We will look into the minds of disordered gamblers and discuss their motivation to begin gambling and how many of the false promises of gambling lead to false motivations and broken promises around gambling. The workshop will discuss money as a motivator and as a false God in addition to the other motivators like escape, poverty, security and happiness. These motives and false assumptions play a large part in "hooking" the gambler and promoting disordered gambling.
- Jammed Triggers: Changing the Trajectory
Linda Graves, PsyD, California Council on Problem Gambling, Wheatland, CA
This workshop teaches cognitive behavioral tools to assist clients in being able to have an urge or trigger for gambling without having that progress lead to a slip, a lapse or a full-blown relapse. The works of Drs. Marlatt, Larimer, Ciarrocchi and Bandura will be used to model techniques of “putting a fence around a trigger” and relapse prevention, including functional analysis, ego depletion, and cognitive restructuring. A discussion of how mindfulness interplays with these CBT tools illustrates how these modalities can be used together in treatment. The workshop concludes with a discussion of people’s beliefs about their capabilities or self-efficacy.
- Helping to Promote Change for People With Gambling Disorders
Michael Goldman, MA, LPC, CRADC, PCGC, CEAP, SAP, Glenview, IL
The purpose of this training is to help the participant understand the types of change for people with gambling disorders and to better cope with them. It will examine resistance and acceptance to change. The Stages of Change and Intentional Change Theories will be described. There will also be discussion on how to improve one’s capacity to deal with change.
- How To Identify and Deal With the Financial Problems that May Arise From Problem Gambling
James Harrison, MS, CSAC, LPC, ICGC-II, BACC, Evidence Based Counseling Services, New Berlin, WI
This workshop is designed to discuss and share the problems and consequences that may be a result of problem gambling and how to deal with these issues. Topics to be discussed are: identifying the consequences, money management, reducing access to cash, protecting assets, debt repayment, bankruptcy, and where to get professional help and support.

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling would like to thank Potawatomi Casino Hotel for their ongoing support.