



14th Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse: “*Evolution Through Innovation*”

Hilton Kansas City Airport, 8801 NW 112th St., Kansas City, Missouri
June 21-23, 2017

Presenter Biographies

Conference Keynote – Director Fran Harding serves as Director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), and is recognized as one of the nation’s leading experts in the field of alcohol and drug policy. Director Harding serves as the lead for SAMHSA’s Strategic Initiative on Prevention of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness, which creates environments where youth, adults, families, communities, and systems are motivated and empowered to manage their overall emotional, behavioral, and physical health. In addition to representing SAMHSA on interagency efforts to prevent underage drinking, prescription drug misuse and abuse, and marijuana use among youth and young adults, Director Harding collaborates with SAMHSA’s Center for Mental Health Services on program and policy issues related to the connection between substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion. Prior to federal service, Director Harding served as Associate Commissioner of the Division of Prevention and Recovery at the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, where she was responsible for the development of policy and guidelines for alcohol and drug abuse and gambling prevention, treatment, and recovery programming. Director Harding has held numerous national positions, including serving as president of the National Prevention Network, an organization representing the alcohol and drug abuse prevention offices in all 50 states, and as New York State’s representative to the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors. In 2004, she became the first non-researcher to receive the prestigious Science to Practice Award from the International Society for Prevention Research.

Keynote Presenter – David Dastmalchian is an American actor known for film, television and theatre work. Raised in Kansas, he studied at The Theatre School at DePaul University. His work includes *The Dark Knight*, the Oscar-nominated *Prisoners*, *The Employer*, *Sushi girl*, *Girls Will Be Girls 2012*, *Saving Lincoln* and Marvel Studio’s *Ant Man*. Prior to beginning his career as an actor, he suffered from a heroin addiction. In recovery, he wrote about his experience in his screenplay, *Animals*, which was later adapted into a film of the same name.

Keynote Presenter – Don Feeney, MS, BS has been Research and Planning Director at the Minnesota State Lottery since 1991, where he is responsible for policy analysis, corporate social responsibility programs, and strategic planning. Mr. Feeney served on the Board of Directors of the National Council on Problem Gambling from 2003 to 2016, was president from 2011 to 2013, and most recently led the creation of the Council's 2015 – 2020 strategic plan. He holds a master's degree in public policy from Harvard, a Master's degree in statistics from the University of Minnesota, and a Bachelor of Science degree in applied mathematics from Brown University.

Keynote Presenter – Dr. Jon Grant is a Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience at the University of Chicago, where he also supervises an outpatient clinic for addictive-impulsive-compulsive disorders. Professor Grant is the author of twelve books on impulsive and compulsive behaviors and over 300 peer-reviewed scientific articles. He is the Director of a Center of Excellence in Gambling Research supported by the National Center for Responsible Gaming and Editor in Chief of the Journal of Gambling Studies.

Keynote Presenter – Marsha Partington, MA, LADC has a long history advocating for the LGBTQ population beginning in the 80's during the AIDS epidemic. She is a licensed substance abuse counselor in Minnesota, having received her Master's degree at Hazelden's Graduate School of Addiction Studies in Addiction Counseling. While a counselor at Pride Institute's Residential Treatment Center in MN, Marsha completed specialized training in working with Gender non-conforming clients. Ms. Partington created and facilitated a Transgender Support group and educational groups for allies for staff and clients. Currently Marsha is employed at Wayside Wellness Outpatient as a primary counselor working with women with co-occurring disorders. She is the proud parent of a 25 year old transgender son.

Keynote Presenter – Loreen Rugle, PhD, ICGC II, BACC is Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Maryland and is currently Program Director of the Maryland Center of Excellence in Problem Gambling. Her previous position was Director of Problem Gambling Services with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the State of Connecticut. Dr. Rugle brings over 30 years of experience in the treatment, prevention and research of problem gambling to her current position. She has managed problem gambling programs within the Veterans Administration, in the private sector and within state systems.

Keynote Presenter – Kate Speck, PhD, MAC, LADC has over 38 years of experience as an educator/trainer in behavioral health. She has a strong background in addictions co-occurring disorders, prevention/intervention, suicide prevention, adolescents, pregnant and parenting women, and in training and education. She is currently with the University of Nebraska, Public Policy Center as a Senior Research Manager. Dr. Speck teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the social sciences as well as planning and directing statewide training programs. She has provided training in ethics, clinical supervision, Motivational Interviewing etc., and technical assistance locally and nationally in addictions since 1997.

Keynote Co-Presenter – Arthur H. Woodard, Jr., M.S.W. is a consultant with The Avalon Group in Hartford Connecticut, a trainer/trainer of trainers for the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR), and a trainer/trainer of trainers in The Recovery Coach Academy.

Keynote Co-Presenter – Jim Wuelfing, CPP-R is the owner and Principle Associate of the New England Center. Aside from his work in problem gambling prevention, Mr. Wuelfing is the lead author of the Recovery Coach Academy which has been used to train thousands of recovery coaches across the nation. He has co-written and trained the highly praised workshop, “Racism of the Well Intended. Mr. Wuelfing has been on the faculty of the New England School of Alcohol Studies for over twenty years and has served on both the planning committee and the faculty of the New England School of Prevention Studies since its inception in 2000.

Juan Baez is the Problem Gambling Specialist for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services since 2011. He previously worked in the gaming industry as a Training Specialist. Mr. Baez majors in Sociology and Addictions Counseling at Fort Hays State University. He is bilingual and has over seven years’ experience working in the gambling field.

Shannon Dick, MS is owner and lead analyst with the Western Kansas Statistical Lab. Over the last five years he has worked with various local organizations in Western Kansas as well as across the state of Kansas to help make better use of their data. His focus is working to make data analytics understandable for the not-so-data inclined and to promote data driven decision making. He has been a consultant for the Southwest Kansas Problem Gambling Task Force since 2012. Mr. Dick received his Master’s degree in Statistics from Kansas State University.

Jeremy Eberle, MA, LIMPH, CDGC, PLADC is a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner, Certified Disordered Gambling Counselor, and Provisionally Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor at Choices Treatment Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. He has been with the center for the past seven years, specializing in gambling and substance abuse therapy. Jeremy graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2004 and from Doane University with a Masters of Arts in Counseling in 2010.

Nicolas Foss, MS, IADC, NCGC-II is the Associate Director for Treatment Services at Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services of Southeast Iowa. He is an International Alcohol and Drug Counselor and National Certified Gambling Counselor II. Mr. Foss has specialized in treating problem gamblers for the past 6 years, and is now focused on developing broader addictions treatment programming at a private non-profit agency in Burlington, IA.

Bob Kerksieck, LMSW, IAADC retired in 2016 from his position as Health Facilities Surveyor for the Gambling Treatment Programs at the Iowa Department of Public Health. He holds a Master's degree in Counselor Education from University of Wisconsin at Platteville. Mr. Kerksieck has a wide range of clinical social work, counseling and administrative experience working with children and families, adults, substance abuse and problem gambling, since 1982. He has presented on problem gambling-related issues at dozens of conferences in ten states.

Matt McCreary, LCPC, CEAP, ICCGC, CADC, PCGC serves as the Director of US Problem Gambling & Special Programs for BDA Morneau Shepell. He is responsible for researching new technologies and developing approaches to incorporate these technologies into the service model. Mr. McCreary provides supervision to clinical staff as well as oversight on all reporting and quality assurance functions. He provides clinical trainings nationally on a variety of topics including, problem and compulsive gambling counseling, motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral therapy and has worked with the gaming industry to develop responsible gaming policies and employee trainings.

Kirk Moberg, MD, PhD is the Executive Medical Director of the UnityPoint Illinois Institute for Addiction Recovery. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine and is certified by the American Boards of Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. Dr. Moberg is an active member of the faculty of the University of Illinois College of Medicine holding the rank of Clinical Professor. He is the President of the National Rural Alcohol and Drug Abuse Network, Inc. and serves on the boards of the Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine and the Illinois Council on Problem Gambling.

Debra Neal, LCPC, BACC, NCPG-II is a Licensed Professional Counselor and began working with problem gamblers in 2000. She has two decades of clinical experience working with families, couples, and individuals affected by mental health and substance abuse. Ms. Neal treats large populations of problem gamblers and families in recovery using an intensive outpatient, solution-focused framework. Her focus is long term engagement using motivational enhancement, cognitive behavioral therapy and family therapy modalities. Ms. Neal is an international trainer in motivational interviewing and serves in the role of a Board Approved Clinical Consultant.

Kirk Nessel, BA is a graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in Communication Studies. Kirk has 15 years of professional training and development/teaching experience. He has provided prevention education for Prelude Behavioral Services through a grant and the Iowa Dept. of Public Health for the past 6 years.

Glenn Osowski, ICGC-II provides Vocational Development and Therapeutic Supportive Employment Services for the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans team at Ann Arbor VA Healthcare System encompassing Ohio and Michigan since July 2015. Prior to his current position Mr. Osowski was a Readjustment Counseling Therapist for four years at the VA Brecksville Gambling Treatment Program in Cleveland, OH. He is an ICGC-II gambling counselor certified in IPT and CBASP psychotherapies. He has over 9,000 clinical hours treating gamblers both inpatients and outpatient. Prior to his VA career he served 13 years as a combat Marine. He is also a recovering pathological gambler.

Ki Park, Ph.D. is a Senior Research Scientist at the CSBR. He holds a PhD in community and behavioral health with emphasis in health communication from the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa. Mr. Park has been part of CSBR research team since research collaboration with Iowa Gambling Treatment Program (Iowa Department of Public Health/Division of Behavioral Health) initiated more than 10 years ago.

Megan Petra, PhD, MSW is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Toledo. She is interested in the reducing the harm of addictive disorders on family members of those with addictions, and problems related to addictions such as intimate partner violence and mental/physical health disorders. Dr. Petra's research agenda is informed by over 20 years of social work practice and research experience in prevention, treatment, and harm reduction for both addictions and intimate partner violence.

Ashley Trantham, MS, Prevention Coordinator serves as the Account Executive, Responsible Gambling for BDA Morneau Shepell. She is responsible for researching new technologies and developing approaches to incorporate these technologies into the service model. Ms. Trantham provides oversight on all reporting and quality assurance functions. She provides clinical trainings nationally on a variety of topics relating Problem & Compulsive Gambling treatment and prevention.

Frances Waldren, LMSW, LAC, KCGC-I is the Program Manager of the Sex Trafficking Unit (SSU) at the Wichita Children's Home. She provides oversight to the direct care staff and the clinical staff. Ms. Waldren is a licensed drug and alcohol counselor providing services to the youth. She is responsible for developing various programs and activities for the youth in the SSU that are engaging and that will make best use of their time. Her programming and clinical services include trauma informed care, motivational interviewing, SASSI screening, strength based case management, cognitive behavioral therapy, narrative therapy, QPR-Suicide Prevention and other various modalities.