



## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse: *"Inspiring Recovery Focused Outcomes"*

Hilton Kansas City Airport, 8801 NW 112<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, Missouri  
June 20-22, 2018

### Presenter Biographies

**Keynote Presenter – Cam Adair**, is the founder of Game Quitters, the world's largest support community for video game addiction, serving 50,000 members in 85 countries. Named one of Canada's top 150 leaders in Mental Health. A talented hockey player, Cam's life took a dramatic turn at the age of 13 when he began to suffer from intense bullying, leading Cam to drop out of high school. He never graduated and never went to college, spending the next year depressed, living in his parent's basement playing video games up to 16 hours a day, until the age of 19 when he made a commitment to change. Cam has spoken at high schools and universities, TEDx events, leadership development programs, and international addiction conferences, including the RENEW Youth Summit in Tanzania, Africa, and the SHRM Annual Conference, the largest Human Resources conference in the world. His keynotes combine deep and meaningful personal insights with lessons on addiction recovery, personal development, social dynamics, entrepreneurship, leadership, creative, and psychology.

**Sheryl Anderson**, is a counselor and program coordinator of Project Turnabout's Vanguard Center for compulsive gambling recovery in Granite Falls, Minnesota. She is an Internationally Certified Gambling Counselor-II, a state approved Gambling Treatment Provider for the state of Minnesota, and an Alcohol and Drug Counselor Reciprocal- MN.

**Jerry Bauerkemper**, BS, CCGC, is the Executive Director of the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling. Mr. Bauerkemper was the first director of problem gambling (1992 to 1996) for the state of Nebraska where he created the Gamblers Assistance program Executive Director of the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling. He served on the Board of Directors for the National Council on Problem Gambling from 2001-2008 and from 2012 to present. He currently serves on the National Councils' Legislative committee where he helps raise awareness of problem gambling in Washington DC. Mr. Bauerkemper has been providing counseling to gambling families since 1986. He has published research on the prevalence of problem gambling in the Nebraska Probation Department. He received the "First Step" award in 1999 for his work with problem gamblers. Mr. Bauerkemper is an internationally recognized expert on problem gambling and has provided training throughout the United States and Southeast Asia.

**Mark Blakeslee**, is an Educator, Therapist, Addiction Counselor and Lifetime learner with a vast experience base. He brings enthusiasm and candor to presentations.

**Dr. Stacy Conner**, LMFT, LMAC, PhD, is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and licensed Master Addiction Counselor. She is an Assistant Professor of Human Services at Washburn University in Topeka, KS where she teaches a variety of graduate and undergraduate addiction counseling courses.

**Sara Croymans**, is a University of Minnesota Extension Educator/Professor in Family Resource Management who worked out of the Stevens County and Regional Extension Offices, and is an Accredited Financial Counselor. She has been a consulting financial counselor at Vanguard Addicted Gambler Treatment Program, Granite Falls, MN. She has done extensive work with veterans and families.

**Nicolas Foss, MS, IADC, NCGC-II**, MS, IADC, BACC, ICGC-II, Associate Director for Treatment Services at Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services of Southeast Iowa. Mr. Foss has specialized in treating problem gamblers for the past 7 years, along with substance use disorders.

**Keynote Presenter - Stacey Frohnapfel-Hasson**, MPA, OCPC, serves as Problem Gambling Chief, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. She oversees policy, planning and public outreach for a statewide system of care, and has 20-plus years in behavioral health.

**Keynote Presenter – Ted Hartwell**, has a Masters degree in Anthropology from Texas Tech University and has been a member of the research faculty of the Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas since 1991. He is a problem gambler in long-term recovery and promotes awareness, prevention and recovery. Mr. Hartwell is currently engaged in researching the effects of problem gambling on Nevada tribal communities.

**Keynote Presenter – Dr. John Kelly**, is the Elizabeth R. Spallin Associate Professor of Psychiatry in Addiction Medicine at Harvard Medical School-the first endowed professor in addiction medicine at Harvard. He is also the founder and Director of the Recovery Research Institute.

**Sarah Knopf-Amelung**, MA-R, is Senior Research Associate of SAMHSA's Mid-America ATTC and the ATTC Center of Excellence on Behavioral Health for Pregnant & Postpartum Women and Their Families (ATTC CoE PPW) at UMKC.

**Melissa Lubbers**, is a current student in the Addiction Counseling Master's program at Washburn University. She is employed as an addictions counselor working primarily with Senate Bill 6 care coordination.

**Kirk Moberg, MD, Ph.D. FASAM** is the Executive Medical Director of the Illinois Institute for Addiction Recovery and is Clinical Professor at the University of Illinois, College of Medicine. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine.

**Keynote Speaker – Kimberly Nelson** is the Regional Administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) serving Region 7: Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. Ms. Nelson is a licensed addictions counselor with a master's degree in public administration and has worked in the behavioral health care field since 1992. Ms. Nelson has worked in health care for all of her professional career, primarily in the area of behavioral health as an addictions and managed care contract professional. Ms. Nelson's clinical work was early in her career and mainly focused on addiction services, initially in community-based settings in women's and children's residential programs in Kansas. She then moved into executive leadership roles primarily. Ms. Nelson provided leadership as program director in programs with criminal justice clients in community-based residential and outpatient settings, as well as with prison-based therapeutic communities.

**Keynote Presenter – Dr. Lia Nower**, is a Professor and Director of the Center for Gambling Studies at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on gambling policy, Internet gambling, the etiology and treatment of problem gambling and co-morbid addictive disorders.

**Keynote Presenter – Mark Parrino**, as the President of the AATOD, is responsible for the development & implementation of the Association's organizing initiatives. He is a consultant and educator to government, community & business groups concerning substance abuse treatment.

**Daniel Smith**, is known as a clinical trainer, and teacher of meditation and alternative complementary medicine for over 20 years. Pertinent to this presentation, he is also an avid practitioner of meditation for more than 30 years.

**Keynote Presenter – Sydney Smith**, is a Ph.D. candidate and holds licensure's as LPC, LADC, NCGC-II. Devoting 15 years to the counseling field, she has spent the majority of her career working with co-occurring disorders as a substance abuse and gambling addiction therapist practicing in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Immersed in cultures ranging from small-town Oklahoma to the West coast metropolitan areas of California and Nevada, Ms. Smith brings a depth perspective into the field of psychotherapy. Her expertise resides in the treatment of problem gamblers and their families. Also having served as the Clinical Director of Family Services at The International Problem Gambling Center, Smith has brought added value to her current study. As a Behavioral Researcher, in collaboration with UCLA Psychiatry Department, Sydney Smith and her affiliates are conducting research focused on empirically based treatment of spouses and families of problem gamblers. Additional current research includes working with the Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada on Problem Gambling education, prevention, and treatment among Native Americans in Nevada's Tribal Communities.

**Justin Spiehs**, MS, is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and licensed Master Addiction Counselor. He is an Assistant Professor of Human Services at Washburn University in Topeka, KS teaching a variety of addiction counseling courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

**Patricia (Pat) Stilen**, MSW is Co-Director of SAMHSA's Mid-America ATTC and Director of the ATTC Center of Excellence on Behavioral Health for Pregnant & Postpartum Women and Their Families (ATTC CoE PPW) at UMKC.

**Daniel J. Trolaro**, is the Assistant Executive Director for the NJ Council on Compulsive Gambling. A graduate from The College of New Jersey with a BS in Finance and a concentration in Economics, Dan also holds his MS in Psychology from California Coast U.

**Suzanne Wheeler**, M.A., serves as a Senior Program Director at the Collaborative to Advance Health Services at the University of Missouri, Kansas City and is a retired Army Colonel. Wheeler was the most senior out transgender military member at the time of her service.