

Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ, Inc.
40th Annual Statewide Conference on Disordered Gambling
September 23, 2022

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: “UNDERSTANDING GAMBLING-MOTIVATED CRIME”

Michelle Malkin, JD, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice at East Carolina University. She received a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, A Juris Doctorate degree from Northeastern University School of Law, and her Master’s and Doctorate degrees in criminal justice from Michigan State University. Michelle’s research interests include a focus on problem gambling and gambling-motivated crime. In 2018, she received a research fellowship for her research on women and gambling-motivated crime from the Center for Gaming Studies at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

PLENARY SESSION I: “THE NUANCE OF MINDFULNESS: GAMBLING TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS”

Vivien (Wen Li) Anthony, MSW, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Rutgers University School of Social Work and a Research Associate with the Center for Gambling Studies. Dr. Anthony is interested in exploring the etiology and risk mechanisms of internet addiction and video game addiction and developing and evaluating interventions for these problems. She has adapted and tested a mindfulness-based intervention for Internet Gaming Disorder among college students.

Jackie Stanmyre, MSW, LCSW, LCADC serves as Assistant Director of the Center for Gambling Studies (CGS) in the Rutgers University School of Social Work. Her CGS grant-funded research focuses on improving gambling screening and intervention as well as analyzing sports wagering and online gambling play-by-play data. She additionally studies athletes and their gambling behavior and participation in sports wagering.

PLENARY SESSION II: “GETTING TO CURRENT THINKING ON GAMBLING AND TRAUMA”

Ken Litwak, MS, LCAC, ICGC-II, CCTP, DRCC, IGDC is currently Executive Director of Gambling, Education and Community Relations at John Brooks Recovery Center, with three (3) locations – Atlantic City, Pleasantville and Mays Landing, New Jersey. Ken is pursuing a PhD in Psychology. Mr. Litwak is also a Senior Clinical Advisor and Therapist for Kindbridge, providing individual gambling and gaming counseling and training of new therapists. Ken was a Treatment Coordinator for CCGNJ, Inc. and created New Jersey’s first virtual, on-demand 30-hour gambling training, which is currently being used nationally and internationally.

PLENARY SESSION III: “PROBLEM GAMBLING: VOICES OF RECOVERY” PANEL

Gloria B. has been a Gam-Anon member since April 1975. In addition to attending weekly Gam-Anon meetings, Gloria is a delegate to the International Gam-Anon Board of Delegates, participating in meetings to vote upon issues and policies concerning Gam-Anon as a whole. She is currently a member of Gam-Anon's Literature, Public Outreach, and Inreach Committees. She feels privileged to contribute to the work of these Committees and the Board and continues to reach out and offer support to those affected by someone else's gambling disorder.

Stephen Block, CPGC, ICGC-II, is an Expert Witness on Problem Gambling, who assesses, evaluates, and provides referrals to probation and parole clients, prepares forensic reports, and provides testimony in State and Federal Courts in gambling related cases. Mr. Block is also an outreach and education specialist for the Gamblers' Treatment Center, Staten Island, New York. Steve is the Co- Founder and current President of the New York Council on Problem Gambling, and Vice President of the Association of Professionals Treating Problem Gambling (APTPG) in New Jersey.

Sheila Wexler, LCADC, CCGC has been working in the field of addictions since 1977. Sheila has worked in the residential treatment, outpatient services and private practice. She has had extensive experience in counseling the addicted person and their families. Sheila is one of the pioneers in the treatment of compulsive gambling. In 1987, she developed and implemented a compulsive gambling inpatient treatment program at New Hope Foundation in Marlboro, New Jersey. Sheila is the author of a chart on the effects of compulsive gambling on the family. She has instructed Addiction Education classes throughout the country. She has also done extensive training on expanding addiction services to include compulsive gambling treatment.

Arnie Wexler, CCGC is a Certified Compulsive Gambling Counselor and was the Executive Director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. for eight (8) years. He currently works with his wife, Sheila. They run a consulting firm: Arnie and Sheila Wexler Associates. They present workshops and seminars about Compulsive Gambling Addiction. Arnie is one of the foremost experts about compulsive gambling and has been involved in helping compulsive gamblers for over 40 years. He has appeared on many of America's top television shows, including Oprah, Nightline and 48 Hours. He has been quoted and profiled in hundreds of magazines and newspapers. They run a national hotline for problem gamblers: 888-LASTBET and their website is www.aswexler.com. Arnie has presented workshops and training seminars nationally and internationally. He has trained over 35,000 casino employees and executives and has worked with gaming companies to help formulate Responsible Gaming Programs. In addition, he has done training for Fortune 500 corporations, legislative bodies and on college campuses. He has also done trainings for the National Football League (NFL). Arnie can be contacted at Aswexler@aol.com.

