



23rd Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse:

"From Stigma to Strength: Changing the Conversation, Changing the Tune"

Adams Pointe Conference Center, Blue Springs, Missouri, June 17-19, 2026

Day 1: Wednesday, June 17

Time	Event
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open (Concourse III)
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Registration Table Open (Concourse II)
8 – 9 a.m.	Breakfast (Salon D-E)
9 – 10:15 a.m. Session 1 – 75 min.	<p>Conference Welcome/Committee Introductions Keynote Address: Changing the Tune Within: Music, Meaning, and the Choices We Make Presenter: Steve Miller, Certified Prevention Specialist Location: Salon D-E Objectives: Upon attending this session, the participant will be able to describe how music influences emotional regulation, identity formation, and decision-making across the lifespan, with specific reference to adolescent brain development and vulnerability to substance use and gambling disorder; identify ways music engagement can function as a protective factor, including emotional regulation, stress response modulation, and meaning-making; and explain the relationship between emotional dysregulation, compulsive behaviors (substance use and gambling), and co-occurring mental health conditions, and how music-based practices may support recovery-oriented coping strategies. **gambling specific CEUs</p>
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Networking Break (Salon D-E and Concourse III)
10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Session 2 – 75 min.	<p>Intentional Listening: Applied Strategies for Coping and Choice Presenter: Steve Miller, Certified Prevention Specialist Location: Salon A-B-C Objectives: Participants will demonstrate at least two music-based tools that support emotional regulation and recovery capital for individuals impacted by Substance Use Disorder or Gambling Disorder., apply participatory engagement strategies informed by community-building principles to facilitate conversations that reduce stigma and promote connection through music, and develop one individualized or program-level strategy for integrating music intentionally into prevention, early intervention, or recovery-supportive practice related to Substance Use Disorder or Gambling Disorder. **gambling specific CEUs</p> <p>Building a Strong Responsible Gaming Framework: Tools, Resources, and Collaboration Presenter: Julie Hynes Location: Salon F-G Objectives: Participants will be able to identify key tools and resources that support a regulated responsible gaming program, describe approaches to customer messaging that encourage informed decision-making, and examine how strategic collaborations contribute to effective and coordinated responsible gaming efforts. **gambling specific CEUs</p>

	<p>Tobacco Is Still the #1 Cause of Death for People with Serious Mental Illness—Why Are We Still Treating It Separately? Presenter: Jamie Katz Location: Tele-Conference Objectives: Participants will be able to describe the impact of tobacco use on morbidity and mortality among people with serious mental illness; Identify common myths, cultural norms, and systemic barriers that contribute to treating tobacco use and apply at least two practical strategies for integrating tobacco screening, brief intervention, and treatment.</p>
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (Salon D-E)
1:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Networking Break (Salon D-E and Concourse III)
1:15 – 2:30 p.m. Session 3 – 75 min.	<p>Keynote Address: A Personal Journey through Science to Insanity and Back Again Presenter: Ted Hartwell Location: Salon D-E Objectives: Upon completing this workshop participants will be able to detail at least four risk factors for development of a gambling disorder, list several ways in which gambling disorder affects public health and list multiple treatment and recovery pathways and potential barriers to engagement. **gambling specific CEUs</p>
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Networking Break (Salon D-E and Concourse III)
2:45 – 3:45 p.m. Session 4 – 60 min.	<p>Make a Joyful Noise: Music and Song in the Maintenance of Recovery Presenter: Ted Hartwell Location: Salon A-B-C Objectives: Participants will learn what role mirror neurons play in learning and forming emotional connections, particularly with regards to their activation through music, how music and/or song can be used to help individuals connect to past impacts of their addictive behaviors, the pathways that led them out of those behaviors, and the joy of being present in the moment, and participants will identify at least one song or piece of music that evokes a powerful emotional connection for them and how, and share it (anonymously) with the group. **gambling specific CEUs</p> <p>Working in the Gray: Supporting Recovery When the Path Isn't Clear Presenter: Stephanie Filmore Location: Salon F-G Objectives: Participants will be able to explain practical strategies for supporting individuals with Substance Use Disorders, emphasizing engagement, non-linear recovery, and person-centered approaches within real-world service systems, address shared behavioral and systemic challenges that affect individuals with Gambling Disorder, particularly barriers to engagement, service fragmentation, and the need for flexible, recovery-oriented support strategies and understand how co-occurring mental health conditions interact with Substance Use Disorders, impacting recovery stability, engagement, and system navigation. **gambling specific CEUs</p> <p>Changing the Tune on Gambling: From Stigma to Strength—What the 2025 Kansas Gambling Survey and Lifespan Data Tell Us Presenters: Lisa Chaney, M.S. and Farzana Sultana, Ph.D. Location: Tele-Conference Objectives: Upon completion of this workshop, the participant will be able Describe lifespan gambling prevalence and key changes in gambling risk status, attitudes, and stigma in Kansas between 2017 and 2025 to inform prevention and early intervention priorities.; Analyze and understand the relationships between DSM-5 gambling and substance-related addictive behaviors, along with co-occurring relationships between gambling and mental health.; and Identify at least two concrete, strength-based strategies to reduce stigma and improve engagement with problem gambling</p>

	<p>prevention, treatment, and recovery support within participants’ own communities and service settings.</p> <p>**gambling specific CEUs</p>
3:45 – 4 p.m.	Networking Break (Salon D-E and Concourse III)
4 – 5 p.m. Session 5 – 60 min.	<p>Keynote Address: Beyond Stigma: Building Recovery-Oriented Cultures Presenter: Stephanie Filmore Location: Salon D-E Objectives: Participants will gain insight on substance use disorders broadly, with attention to stigma, language, and systemic barriers that impact prevention, engagement, treatment access, and long-term recovery outcomes across substances. While the presenter’s primary expertise is in substance use recovery, the keynote addresses shared cultural and systemic factors, such as stigma, exclusion, and policy-level responses, that similarly impact individuals with Gambling Disorder. The presentation addresses the intersection of substance use disorders with co-occurring mental health conditions, emphasizing how stigma and system design influence access to integrated, person-centered care.</p> <p>**gambling specific CEUs</p>
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.	<p>Fun Evening of Karaoke (Salon D-E) Join us for an evening of Karaoke and fun!</p>

Day 2: Thursday, June 18

Time	Event
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open (Concourse III)
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Registration Table Open (Concourse II)
8 – 9 a.m.	Breakfast (Salon D-E)
9 – 10:15 a.m. Sessions 6 – 75 min.	<p>Keynote Address: Sports Betting Panel: The Ever-Evolving Change Moderator: Jon Gayer Panelists: Timothy Fong, MD, Danny Funt, and Isaac Rose Berman Location: Salon D-E Objectives: During this panel, participants and panelists will learn and discuss and explain the DSM-5-TR diagnostic criteria for Gambling Disorder, including severity specifiers (mild, moderate, severe), patterns of impaired control, and the similarities and distinctions between Gambling Disorder and Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) as classified within the DSM-5-TR, identify risk factors and comorbid mental health conditions associated with Gambling Disorder, including anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, trauma-related disorders, and substance use disorders, with specific attention to college-aged populations and sports betting behaviors and describe how emerging forms of sports betting, including prediction modeling and crypto-based sports wagering—may increase risk for Gambling Disorder by reinforcing cognitive distortions such as illusion of control, chasing losses, and overconfidence, as defined in DSM-5-TR clinical descriptions.</p> <p>**gambling specific CEUs</p>
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Networking Break

<p>10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Session 7 – 75 min.</p>	<p>Updates on Clinical Strategies for Sports Bettors with Gambling Disorder Presenter: Tim Fong, MD Location: Salon A-B-C Objectives: Attendees will be introduced to current concepts in the development of treatment plans for the sports bettor with gambling disorder; attendees will gain insight into the trends, availability and access to various forms of sports betting and how impacts mind, body and brain and attendees will be able to recognize clinical differences and similarities between traditional sports bettors and those who engage in prediction markets **gambling specific CEUs</p> <p>How Sportsbooks Talk about Problem Gambling — Publicly and Behind Closed Doors Presenter: Dany Funt, Author Location: Salon F-G Objectives: Upon completion of this breakout session, the participant will have a deeper understanding of how the sports betting industry thinks about and discusses gambling addiction, participants will be invited to grapple with the dilemmas faced by people on the operator side, and participants will learn about challenges to implementing RG initiatives based on workplace discourse. **gambling specific CEUs</p> <p>Through Fear of Recovery Presenter: Ken Martz, PSYD, MBA, ICGC-II BACC Location: Tele-Conference Objectives: During this presentation participants will be able to identify the brain and research basis of fear in the etiology of SUD and gambling disorder, participants will be able to describe the role of fear in the maintenance of an addiction process, and the establishment of recovery and participants will be able to discuss specific steps, tools and techniques to manage fear effectively. **gambling specific CEUs</p>
<p>11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch (Salon D-E)</p>
<p>1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Networking Break (Salon D-E and Concourse III)</p>
<p>1:15 – 2:30 p.m. Session 8 – 75 min.</p>	<p>Keynote Address: Changing the Tune: From Discord to Harmony in Substance Abuse Treatment -- The engaging and evidence-based use of music therapy in pursuit of lasting recovery. Presenters: Morgan Robertson, MT-BC and Taylor Corcoran, MT-BC Location: Salon D-E Objectives: Participants can provide a general explanation of the evidence-based practice of music therapy, participants will understand how music therapy might benefit their current practice and the current scientific evidence supporting the use of music in treating substance abuse and other addictive behaviors and participants recognize how music may fit into their scope of practice and how to locate a trained music therapist when appropriate.</p>
<p>2:30– 2:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Networking Break (Salon D-E and Concourse III)</p>
<p>2:45 – 3:45 p.m. Session 9 – 60 min.</p>	<p>Engineered to Engage: Inside the Psychology of Modern Sports Betting Products Presenter: Isaac Rose Berman Location: Salon A-B-C Objectives: Upon completion of this presentation participants will be able to explain how specific sports betting app features can trigger DSM-5 Gambling Disorder criteria, including loss chasing, preoccupation, and inability to control/cut back gambling, apply knowledge of these product mechanics to clinical screening for gambling disorder by recognizing client language and behaviors specific to mobile sports betting and differentiate between traditional sports betting patterns and mobile app-specific behaviors to improve accuracy in assessing DSM-5 Gambling Disorder severity. **gambling specific CEUs</p>

	<p>Changing the Tune: New Rhythms for Lasting Recovery: A hands-on look at the potential use of music therapy in your practice: no experience required!</p> <p>Presenters: Morgan Robertson, MT-BC (Board Certified Music Therapist since 2011) and Taylor Corcoran, MT-BC (Board Certified Music Therapist since 2016), Neurologic Music Therapy® Music Therapist (NMT™)</p> <p>Location: Salon F-G</p> <p>Objectives: Participants will be able to Identify key trends in user engagement and early outcome data from Oklahoma’s Evive implementation, evaluate the role of digital interventions in supporting individuals experiencing gambling-related harm, and discuss opportunities for integrating digital tools with existing problem gambling and substance use treatment frameworks.</p> <p><i>**gambling specific CEUs</i></p>
	<p>From China to Main Street: How Illicit Fentanyl Enters Our Communities</p> <p>Presenter: Brian Townsend</p> <p>Location: Tele-Conference</p> <p>Objectives: During this presentation attendees will understand the international supply chain of illicit fentanyl, specifically the flow of precursor chemicals from China to manufacturing hubs in Mexico and the industrialization of the production process, understand how the use of the dark web and social media for "last-mile" delivery facilitates the entry of fentanyl into local communities, increasing the risk of accidental drug poisoning for individuals meeting DSM-5 criteria for Stimulant Use Disorder (SUD) and identify the smuggling and distribution methods used by transnational criminal organizations and how this widespread availability impacts the clinical risk assessment for individuals diagnosed with Opioid Use Disorder (SUD).</p>
<p>3:45 – 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Networking Break (Salon D-E and Concourse III)</p>
<p>4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Session 10 – 60 min.</p>	<p>Keynote Address: The Fentanyl Crisis</p> <p>Presenter: Brian Townsend</p> <p>Location: Salon D-E</p> <p>Objectives: Participants will be able to explain the historical evolution of the opioid epidemic from prescription medications to the current era of illicitly manufactured fentanyl and counterfeit pills, explain how the presence of illicit fentanyl in the drug supply increases the risk of accidental drug poisoning for individuals meeting DSM-5 criteria for Stimulant Use Disorder (SUD) and describe how the widespread presence of illicit fentanyl in the drug supply changes risk assessment, safety planning, and overdose prevention strategies for individuals meeting DSM-5 criteria for Opioid Use Disorder (SUD).</p>

Day 3: Friday, June 19

Time	Event
8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open (Concourse III)
8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Registration Table Open (Concourse II)
8 – 9 a.m.	Breakfast (Salon D-E)
9 – 10:15 a.m. Session 11 – 75 min.	<p>Walking In Balance Breakout Presenter: Abraham Bearpaw Location: Salon A-B-C Objectives: Participants will understand substance use through a holistic lens by identifying how imbalance in the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual domains contributes to substance use, as taught in the Walking In Balance framework, participants will explore the role of cultural values, identity, and historical trauma in substance use and recovery, recognizing how reconnecting to Indigenous teachings and balance can support healing and resilience, and participants will identify practical, culturally grounded strategies for recovery by applying Walking In Balance principles—such as self-awareness, responsibility, and community connection—to support long-term wellness and relapse prevention.</p>
	<p>Engage"ing" the College Community: Working within Existing Prevention Programs to Address Problem Gambling Prevention Presenter: Molly Lindner Location: Salon F-G Objectives: During this presentation attendees will understand how to articulate the need to address problem gambling and sports betting with the college student population, discuss the benefits of embedding sports betting and problem gambling prevention into substance use prevention and mental health programming, and communicate an understanding of how Missouri Partners in Prevention sports betting and problem gambling prevention efforts will be embedded within current prevention programs. **gambling specific CEUs</p>
	<p>Human First: Recognizing Bias and Reclaiming the Recovery Narrative Presenter: Melissa Lubbers-Billiot, MA, LMAC, MATC, TTS, PCCM Location: Tele-Conference Objectives: During this presentation attendees will identify personal, cultural, and systemic biases that influence perceptions of individuals with substance use disorders. Participants will explore how implicit and explicit biases shape the way society views addiction, including assumptions about morality, willpower, responsibility, and “deservingness.” By recognizing these biases, attendees will better understand how stigma contributes to shame, reduced help-seeking, and inequitable access to treatment for people with substance use disorders. Participants will examine how language and communication patterns impact treatment engagement, recovery outcomes, and community attitudes toward substance use disorders. This objective focuses on the real-world consequences of stigmatizing or deficit-based language—such as labeling individuals as “addicts,” “clean,” or “non-compliant.” Participants will analyze how these terms reinforce harmful narratives, influence provider behavior, and create barriers to care. The group will practice shifting to person-first, recovery-affirming language that supports dignity, autonomy, and long-term healing and develop practical strategies to check personal biases and actively contribute to a recovery-supportive narrative in professional and community settings. Finally, attendees will learn tools for self-reflection, bias interruption, and narrative reframing. This includes identifying moments when bias may influence decision-making, communication, or treatment planning. Participants will leave with actionable steps to model respectful, person-centered language and to advocate for</p>

	<p>environments that reduce stigma and promote equitable treatment for individuals with substance use disorders.</p> <p>**gambling specific CEUs</p>
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Networking Break and Hotel check out (Grand Ballroom)
10:45 a.m. – Noon Session 12 – 60 min.	<p>Keynote Address: Walking In Balance Presenter: Abraham Bearpaw Location: Salon D-E Objectives: Participants will be able to describe the core principles of the Walking In Balance program, including the role of cultural identity, balance, and traditional values in substance use disorder (SUD) prevention, explain how wellness domains (spiritual, emotional, physical, and mental) are integrated in Walking In Balance to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors against substance use, and apply Walking In Balance prevention strategies—such as storytelling, reflection, and community connection—to promote healthy decision-making and resilience in individuals, families, or communities.</p> <p>**gambling specific CEUs</p>
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Conclusion of Conference

Thank you for attending the 2026 MCPGSA!