

Introductory Remarks & Current Trends in Problem Gambling

Objectives

1. Participants will have an enhanced understanding of what is problem gambling, its prevalence, and impact.
2. Participants will learn and recall at least 1-2 treatment and prevention strategies and initiatives to counter problem gambling.
3. Participants will identify 1-3 personal areas for growth within their professional knowledge to support their individual and team learning goals.



Ken Holt, LISW-S, LICDC-CS, GAMB, OCPSA

Program Description

This session introduces problem gambling, including its definition, prevalence, and impact on individuals, families, and communities. Participants will examine distinctions between at-risk gambling, problem gambling, and gambling disorder as defined by the DSM and the Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI).

The training reviews a brief history of gambling, globally, nationally, and within Ohio, and explores how expanded access through the state lottery, Keno, casinos/racinos, and legalized sports betting has influenced current trends. Attention is given to populations affected, including youth, adolescents, young adults, older adults, and marginalized communities.

Participants will learn about treatment and prevention strategies, as well as the significant co-occurrence between gambling and other behavioral health disorders, underscoring the need for increased cross-training within the behavioral health workforce.

The session concludes with a call to action for greater awareness, education, and advocacy, while guiding participants to identify areas for their own professional growth to support both individual and team learning goals.

Speaker Bio

Ken Holt, LISW-S, LICDC-CS, GAMB, ICGC-I, OCPSA has been providing integrated substance use disorder, mental health, and problem gambling services as a clinician and supervisor for over 9 years. Ken currently works as a Behavioral Health Manager with Signature Health Inc. where he provides administrative guidance and supervisory support for a team of counselors, community case managers, and prevention specialists. Ken has completed the Ohio Advanced Gambling Treatment Fellowship and maintains active engagement with County and State level Problem Gambling prevention, treatment, training, and advocacy efforts.

Eligible for .75 CEU from the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board (OCDPB)