



## **20th Annual Problem Gambling Conference Brings Together Experts in Field Including Well Known TV News Reporter, Sportscaster, Talk Show Host and Weather Forecaster.**

**For Immediate**

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**SPOKESPERSON:** *Available for comment*

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(Green Bay, Wis.) – For most people, gambling is a fun form of entertainment. For others, however, gambling is or can be a problem that affects the gambler, his or her family and friends and even the gambler’s workplace.

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling (WCPG) is hosting the 20th Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference. This year’s event will take place March 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan.

“This year we are excited to have Journalist and Author, Spencer Christian as a presenter at the conference. Spencer will share his personal journey of desperation and despair because of his compulsive gambling,” says Rose Blozinski, WCPG Executive Director. “The conference is designed for anyone concerned about problem gambling in Wisconsin, including criminal justice personnel, human resources professionals, mental health professionals, gaming industry personnel, clergy, problem gamblers, and their families and friends.”

This annual event provides connections to some of the leading experts in the compulsive gambling field. Conference speakers and panelists will cover a range of topics, including:

- **Peer Mentoring/Coaching: An Innovative Means of Supporting Recovery**
- **Drum Circles: An Alternative and Holistic Approach to Treatment**
- **Understanding Problem Gambling Through Film and Television**
- **Setting and Holding Boundaries with Your Problem Gambler**
- **A Path to Recovery: Finding Purpose and Fulfillment after Gambling**
- **Introduction to Internal Family Systems**
- **Improving Emotional Intelligence and Resilience for People with Gambling Disorders**
- **Ethics, Boundaries and Much More**

- **Marijuana and America: Clinical and Public Health Perspectives**
- **Digging Deeper: The Who, What, When, Where and Why of Recovery Coaching as a Recovery Support Service**
- **Sports Gamblers: Non Sports Gamblers Vs. Sports Gamblers Similarities and Differences**

There are two additional day-long workshops prior to the conference on March 13th, “Gambling Supervision” that will be presented by Jerry Bauerkemper, BS, CCGC, Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling, Bellevue, NE and “Trauma-Informed Care: Putting Humanity Back into Human Services” that will be presented by Scott Webb, LCSW, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Madison, WI.

WCPG is a statewide organization that provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling. The WCPG operates a Problem Gambling Helpline, and a Text and Chat line that are available 24/7 as a resource for anyone facing a gambling problem.

***If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, Text at 1-850-888-Hope or Live Chat through the WCPG website at [www.wi-problemgamblers.org](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org).***

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*The **Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling** is funded by a public awareness grant from the State of Wisconsin and additional funding from donors, including Wisconsin Native American Tribes. The Council operates a 24-hour Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 1-850-888-HOPE Textline, and Chat available on [www.wi-problemgamblers.org](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org), distributes informational brochures, organizes an annual statewide conference, makes presentations on problem gambling and conducts training sessions for treatment providers interested in the special requirements for working with compulsive gamblers and their families.*

*For more information, visit the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](http://www.wisconsin-council-on-problem-gambling.org) website, visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling) or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>*