

Keynote Presentations



The Healing Power of Presence

Chris Anderson, MS, LMFT, NCGCII/BACC

Wagering is risking something of value on the (uncertain) outcome of an event – an event not in the past or present, but in the future. The ‘fun, rush, or high’ of gambling is a function of anticipation – of the outcome of a future event. Problem gamblers believe that ‘all the good things in life are just around the corner after the big win is finally made’ (GA Combo Book, p. 11) – that life for them is not in the Present, but at some point in the future. There is a healing power that manifests for us all when live fully into the Present. This presentation is about the journey out of the past and the future and into the fullness of the present moment.



A Better High: How to encourage healthy natural highs over problem gambling

Matt Bellace, Ph.D

This informative and humorous keynote focuses on using healthy natural highs (e.g. exercise, mediation, laughter) as an alternative to problem gambling and other unhealthy highs. Particular attention will be paid to the neural correlates of addiction, including gambling, as well as the current research on how nature (e.g. blue space, forest bathing) improves well-being. The program is not a lecture, but rather Dr. Bellace will use his unique comedic style, interactive demonstrations and inspirational stories to engage the audience.



Gambling on the Future: Adolescent Participation in Gambling and Crime

Amanda McCormick, Ph.D

Adolescents who develop gambling problems are also more likely to be involved in other forms of crime and delinquency, which presents additional challenges to their healthy development. In this presentation, Dr. Amanda McCormick will review the existing knowledge on adolescent gambling and criminal behaviours, present data on gambling participation among a sample of incarcerated juvenile offenders, and discuss the implications of this research for the prevention and treatment of problem gambling and gambling addiction amongst adolescent populations.



Let It Go, Just Let It Go

Kent Rader

The stress reduction keynote titled Let It Go, Just Let It Go is both entertaining and informative. Recent surveys report more than half of our employees hate their jobs. The number one reason cited is the stress associated with today's business environment. Having spent twelve years as CFO and CEO of Hospitals, Kent Rader has experienced this stress first hand. This keynote program takes participants on a journey they won't want to end. It begins by showing participants the origins of stressful feelings and how humor is a proven tool in combating these feelings. Kent offers practical ways to include more humor in your life, along with stories that are guaranteed to make you laugh.

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2018 Agenda