

Session 7

Title: Ethics, Legal Consideration & Harm Reduction Strategies

Date: 1/7/2025

9 am-12 pm

Presenter: Jody Bechtold, LCSW, ICGC-II, BACC, IGDC, CGT

Description 1: Ethics for Gambling Disorder

This training discusses various ethical considerations as they pertain to individuals with a gambling disorder. We will review the IGCCB Code of Ethics and discuss the importance of each principle. Clinicians will review cases and apply the ethical decision-making model.

Description 2: The Legal System related to Gambling Disorder

The second part of this training explores the various ways in which clinicians may be involved in the legal system related to gambling disorders. For many, it's not "if" but "when" they will interact with attorneys, probation/parole, and court-ordered treatment requests. Clinicians will learn more about "Gambling-motivated-crime" as a concept unique to gambling disorders.

Description 3: Responsible Gambling

The third section of this training introduces clinical approaches to harm reduction across the continuum, from responsible gambling to self-exclusion programs. Clinicians will learn how to apply the 10 Rules of Responsible Gambling to create harm reduction plans for their clients.

Learning Objectives:

1. Review and apply a practical model for ethical decision-making to inform clinical practice.
2. Articulate the differences between ethical dilemmas and clinical challenges.
3. Describe the Criminal Population as it relates to gambling disorders.
4. Articulate how to determine if a client fits the "gambling-motivated-crime" concept.
5. Explain the Legal Involvement for a clinician, before and during and after sentencing.
6. Define what is Harm Reduction on a continuum.
7. Describe how to apply harm reduction with problem and disordered gambling.
8. Discuss how to use the 10 Rules of Responsible Gambling for harm reduction plans

References:

https://counseling.education/counseling/intro/ethical_models.html

<https://www.igccb.org/code-of-ethics/>

Malkin, M. L. (2021). Problem Gambling, General Strain Theory and Gender. Michigan State University.

Malkin, M. (2019). Gender and the Social, Economic and Legal Consequences of Gambling.

Adolphe, A., Khatib, L., van Golde, C., Gainsbury, S. M., & Blaszczynski, A. (2019). Crime and gambling disorders: A systematic review. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 35(2), 395-414.

<https://www.pacouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/Rules-Of-Responsible-Gaming.pdf>

Tanner, J., Dawson, A. S., Mushquash, C. J., Mushquash, A. R., & Mazmanian, D. (2017). Harm reduction in gambling: A systematic review of industry strategies. *Addiction Research & Theory*, 25(6), 485-494.

Presenter Bio:

Jody Bechtold, LCSW, ICGC-II, BACC, IGDC, CGT is a highly regarded gambling addiction expert working extensively across the globe with individuals, organizations, and associations. She is the CEO of The Better Institute, a group practice located in Pittsburgh. She is the co-author of *The Gambling Disorder Treatment Handbook: A Guide for Mental Health Professionals* (2021) and 2

chapters in the *Social Work Desk Reference v 4 on Gambling and Gaming Disorders*, published in 2022. She serves on the board for the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board (IGCCB). Jody holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work and has several certifications (ICGC-II, IGDC, BACC, CGT) with the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board. When Jody isn't working, you can find her providing pet therapy with her dog, Hanna, and supporting her husband's business, Pittsburgh Guitars. Please email jody@betterinstitute.com or visit www.BetterInstitute.com to contact Jody Bechtold, LCSW, ICGC-II, BACC, IGDC, CGT.