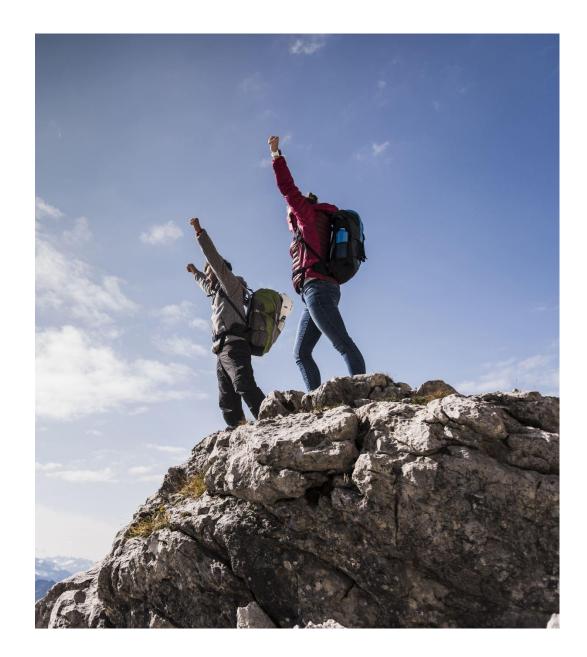
# Breaking the Cycle

A Journey from Gambling Disorder to Lasting Recovery





## Goals

• Participants will be able to identify key risk factors contributing to the development and progression of gambling disorder, utilizing evidence-based research and personal narratives.

• Attendees will analyze the effectiveness of various coping mechanisms in managing gambling disorder, distinguishing between strategies that promote sustainable recovery and those that perpetuate the cycle of addiction.

• Participants will evaluate the efficacy of different treatment approaches for gambling disorder, drawing upon both personal testimonies and empirical research to assess their impact on long-term recovery outcomes.

• Attendees will apply knowledge gained from personal stories and scientific insights to develop holistic treatment plans for individuals struggling with gambling disorder, integrating evidence-based interventions and personalized strategies for success.



## Ken Martz, Psy.D.

- Licensed Psychologist
- 30 Years experience in gambling disorder, substance use disorder and mental health treatment
- Former Special Assistant to the Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
- International bestselling author in addiction and mental health
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## **Rob Minnick**

Rob Minnick, known as ODAAT Gambling Awareness online is a gambling addiction recovery content creator on Tiktok (tiktok.com/@odaatgamblingawareness), Youtube (youtube.com/@odaatgamblingawareness) and Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/odaatgamblingawareness/). He made his last bet on November 12th of 2022 and now reaches an average of 15 million people monthly across all platforms sharing the story of his addiction and subsequent recovery in an effort to help others avoid making the same mistakes that he did.

Rob graduated from Georgetown University in 2021 with an undergraduate degree in Anthropology and has now become a full time content creator with intentions of continuing to help those going down the same path that he did. His target audience is made up of young men and women between the ages of 18-30 and he shares his story with them on a daily basis.

## Overview



Understanding the Gambling Cycle

Predisposing Vulnerability Factors

### From Social Fun to Problems

Making the Change

Long-Term Recovery: What do We Recover?

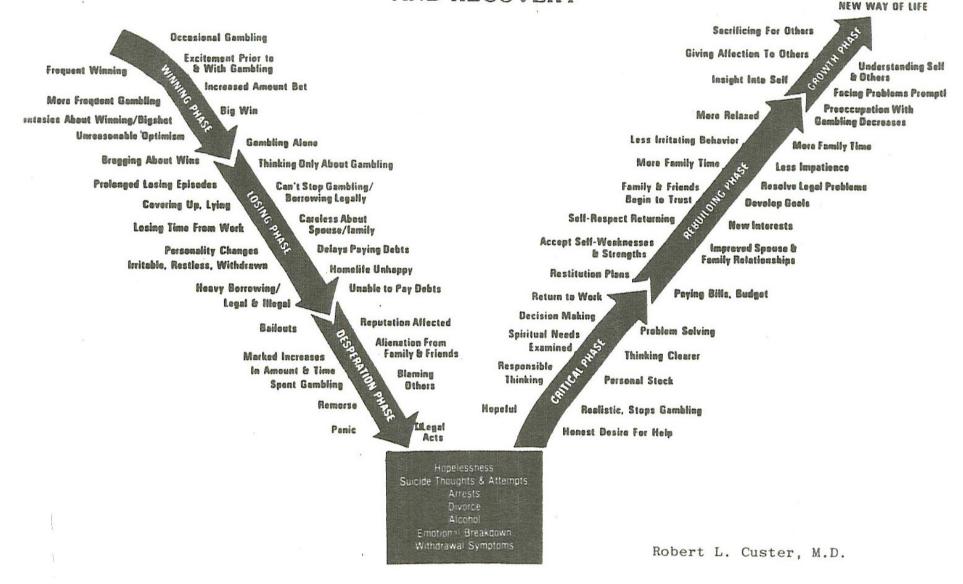
# Understanding the Gambling

## Apply it Now Why does one become addicted?

Causes	

## **The Cycle of Addiction**

### A CHART OF COMPULSIVE GAMBLING AND RECOVERY



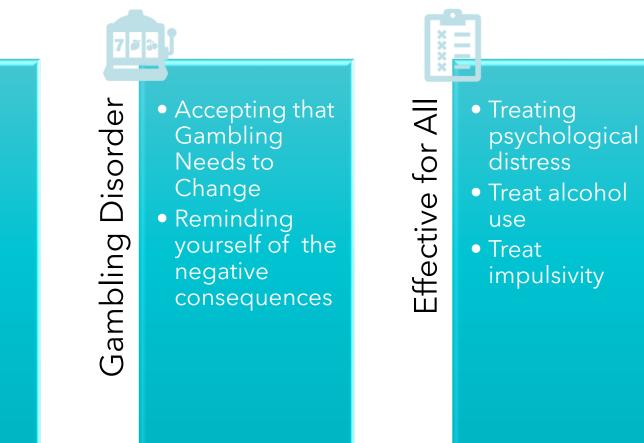
## What Works for Whom?



Setting

Limits

Financial



Knabe et. al. (2018) Behavior change strategies endorsed by gamblers subtyped by psychological distress, risky alcohol use and impulsivity



Psychosocial correlates in treatment seeking gamblers: Differences in early age onset gamblers vs later age onset gamblers



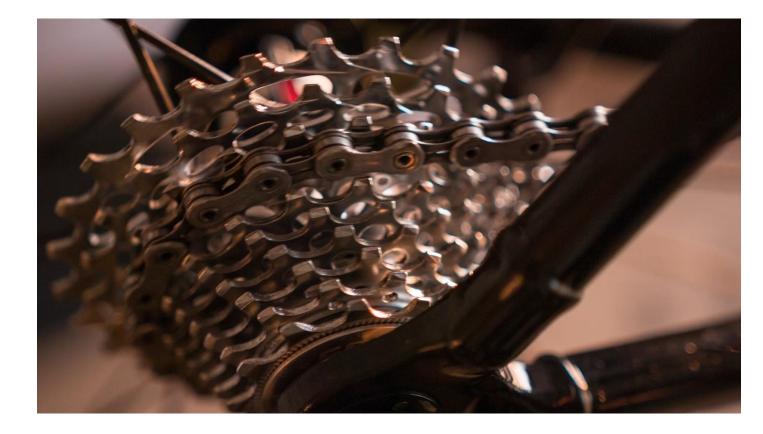
As age of first bet increases:

There is lower risk of gambling severity, use of other substances, and crime



As age decreases:

There is higher risk of gambling severity, use of other substances, crime, and of having a parent with gambling disorder



Risk of Suicidal Ideation and Attempts

- Female gender
- Gambling severity (including engagement in illegal behaviors)
- History of mental health problems
- Financial problems and
- Conflict related to gambling

(Meagan, M. et al, 2018)

# Predisposing Vulnerability Factors

## **Overview of Predisposing Factors**

### <u>Biological Vulnerability</u>

• D2 Receptor Gene (Kaasinen, V. et al., 2023)

### Environmental/Exposure Factors

- Trauma and Stress
  - Adverse Childhood Experiences (Bristow, L, 2022)
- Big Win
  - Flashbulb Memory (Fu, Y., 2023)
- Early Exposure to Gambling
  - Parental gambling, especially cross-gender, eg daughters of fathers who gamble (Suomi, 2022)
- Availability and Accessibility
  - Increased access to land and online venues (Abbott, M., 2020)

## **Overview of Predisposing Factors**





### **Psychological Factors**

Depression, Anxiety, and Alexithymia (Macia, L., 2023)

### **Financial Pressures**

Focus on finances (Buchanan, et al., 2020)



### **Peer Influence**

Peer pressure and role modeling (Botella-Guijarro, A., et al., 2020)



### **Personality Traits**

Impulsivity (Gori, et al, 2022)



# **Types of Gamblers**

Gambling Disorder: An Overview

Antisocial-impulsive (action subtype): Obsessive-dependent (escape subtype): • <u>Predominantly males</u> with above • Represented <u>equally by male and females</u> • Nurturing, responsible, and active in their average IQ, who achieve family prior to onset of this addiction euphoric state through gambling • Domineering, controlling, and • Passive-avoidant, unassertive, and in need manipulating of empowerment • View themselves as friendly, sociable, • Often have history of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse and use gambling as a gregarious, and generous means to escape their problems • Often energetic, assertive, persuasive, and confident in their interpersonal • Describe feelings of temporary elation and release from physical and emotional interactions pain while gambling • <u>Reluctant to their gambling problem</u> and generally resistant to treatment • May seek professional help for assistance with their gambling, relationship issues, or both • More malleable to treatment, with a better Prasad & Jiriwal (2019). Pathological

More malleable to treatment, with a better prognosis.

## Culture

• Consider the interaction of my culture, my client's culture, and the competency of translating these similarities/differences

Which areas am I in the Dominant Culture?

- Gender •
- **Gender Identity**
- **Sexual Orientation**
- Race
- Religion
- **Physical Abilities**
- **Body Weight**
- Language
- Socio-Economic Status
- Age •
- SUD/Gambling Recovery Status
  - Type of substance/gambling

  - Pathway to recoveryLength of time in recovery



## Culture Apply it Now

- Carla is a 26-year-old African American single female. She has been spending \$2,000 per week on slot machines and has accrued \$40k in debt and embezzled \$70k from her employer.
- Consider the interaction of my culture, my client's culture, and the implications of these similarities/differences



Dimension	Myself	My Client (Carla)	Implications
Gender		Female	
Sexual Orientation		Unknown	
Race		Unknown	
Physical Abilities		Unknown	
Language		English	
Socioeconomic Status		Unknown	
Age		26	
Alcohol/Substance Use		Unknown	
Gambling Active, in Recovery, or never gambled?		Active Gambling	
Gambling type		Slots	
Path to Recovery		NA	
Length of time in recovery		NA	

# The Recovery Journey

	<u>Early</u> Gambling	<u>Problem</u> Gambling	Early Recovery	<u>Recovery</u>
Thoughts	This Is Fun, I Want To Do More Of It			
<u>Beliefs</u>	I Could Win			
<u>Values</u>	Seek Thrills			
Emotions	Excited, Thrilled, Nervous			
<u>Behaviors</u>	Trying New Things, Moderate Risk Taking			
<u>Relationships</u>	Good, But Becoming Less Important			
<u>Biology</u>	Nervous,			
<u>Relationship</u> <u>With Self</u>	Undefined			
<u>Relationship</u> <u>With Higher</u> <u>Power</u>	None			

# The Contrasted Journey

<b>Risk Factor</b>	<b>Substance Use Disorder</b>	Gambling Disorder
<u>Generics and Family</u> <u>History</u>	Family history of addiction increases risk.	Family history of gambling addiction raises vulnerability. D2 Receptor gene
Early Exposure	Early substance use increases likelihood of addiction.	Early exposure to gambling (e.g., family influence) raises risk. Big Wins
<u>Mental Health Disorders</u>	Depression, anxiety, PTSD, and ADHD increase risk. Higher risk of accidental death	Depression, anxiety, and personality disorders are common co-occurring conditions. Higher risk of suicide
<u>Social and environmental</u> Influences	Peer pressure, availability, and normalization of substance use.	Accessibility of gambling (e.g., casinos, online betting) and familial/cultural acceptance.
<u>Coming Mechanism for</u> <u>Stress</u>	Using substances to escape stress, trauma, or emotional pain.	Gambling as a way to cope with stress, financial hardship, or emotional struggles.
<u>Financial Struggles</u>	Economic hardship can lead to substance use.	Gambling often worsens financial struggles, creating a cycle of loss and continued betting.
<u>Regulatory and Legal</u> <u>Factors</u>	Legal status (alcohol and marijuana), availability, and social norms shape use.	Increased accessibility due to online gambling and legalization trends.

From Social Fun to Problems

## **Risk Factors**

## **Behavioral Risks**

- Desensitization to Risk
- Escalation of Involvement
- Tolerance
- Withdrawal
- Negative Consequences Ignored
- Financial Reinforcement
- Loss Chasing

Cognitive Distortions

**Emotional Vulnerability** 

Social Isolation

# Ineffective Coping Attempts



# Ineffective Coping Attempts

Gambling to Escape Stress

Gambling as a Stressor

## Altered Stress Physiology Predisposing Gambling

(Buchanan, T. et al., 2020).



## **Relationships**

# Addiction is a disease of isolation....



# Harm Reduction and Prevention

"The most effective way to reduce harm associated with use is to prevent initiation and misuse in the first place" (Logan & Marlatt, 2010)

### Goals of effective prevention

- Increase perception of risk
- Increase coping skills
- Improve decision making skills
- Increase refusal skills
- Reduce peer support of gambling behavior
- Reduce parental support of gambling behavior
- Delay onset of negative behavior (age of onset is a significant risk factor)
- Address risk factors: early age of onset, positive attitudes toward gambling, impulsivity, association with deviant friends, poor parental supervision

### Goals of Intervention

- Increase awareness of harm caused by current patterns
- Increase perception of risk
- Arrest progression toward behaviors causing greater harm

# The Recovery Journey

	<u>Early</u> Gambling	Problem Gambling	Early Recovery	<u>Recovery</u>
Thoughts	This Is Fun, I Want To Do More Of It	This Is Stressful, I Need To Win To Solve My Problems		
<u>Beliefs</u>	I Could Win	I Should Win		
<u>Values</u>	Seek Thrills	Seek Success		
Emotions	Excited, Thrilled, Nervous	Scared, Anxious, Depressed, Irritable		
<u>Behaviors</u>	Trying New Things, Moderate Risk Taking	Thoughtless Risk Taking, No Regrets, Numbness		
<u>Relationships</u>	Good, But Becoming Less Important	Secondary, Unimportant, Deteriorating		
<u>Biology</u>	Nervous,	Exhausted, Tense, Stressed, Irritable		
<u>Relationship</u> With Self	Undefined	Bad. Happiness Depended On External Sources		
<u>Relationship</u> <u>With Higher</u> <u>Power</u>	None	Less Than None		

# Making the Ghange

## Why does one become addicted?

Causes	
<u>Biology</u> Genes, Biochemistry, Brains, Autopilot Learning	
<u>Relationships with Others</u> Peer Pressure, Family, "Enabling", Isolation, Lies	
<u>Relationship with Self</u> Shame, Guilt, Negative Beliefs, "Hate Self"	
<u>Relationship with Higher Power</u> Lack of Connection with Personal Values, Anger/Shame with God	

## Why does one become addicted?

Causes	Solutions
<u>Biology</u> Genes, Biochemistry, Brains, Autopilot Learning	Medication, Meditation Exercise, Diet, Sleep, Stress Management Decisional Actions
<u>Relationships with Others</u> Peer Pressure, Family, "Enabling", Isolation, Lies	Limit Setting, Relationship Building, Honesty, Clear Communication Family/Couples Therapy Positive Peer Pressure
<u>Relationship with Self</u> Shame, Guilt, Negative Beliefs, "Hate Self"	Forgive Self, Gratitude Practice Engage in Healthy Behaviors Today Healthy Coping Skills Training
<u>Relationship with Higher Power</u> Lack of Connection with Personal Values, Anger/Shame with God	Define Values, Live by Personal Values Pray, Meditate, Other Spiritual Practice

## **Goals and Beyond**

- Goal setting (Nowack, 2017):
  - Old approach: SMART Goals (Specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely)
  - Modern approach:
    - BHAGS (Big, hairy, audacious goals)
      - Challenging goals can increase motivation and readiness for change.
      - Tend to only achieve more or less based on where we set our goals (e.g. goal to cure cancer, walk on the moon etc.)
      - Small steps can be easier to achieve, but may or may not yield progress in the most effective direction for the long term.
    - Prefer approach vs avoidance goals (e.g. spending time with family vs avoiding gambling)
    - Use specific practice plans rather than simple intentions
      - E.g. If I have the desire to gamble, I will call my spouse instead.
    - Habit forming:
      - An average of 60-90 days practice is needed for new habits such as drinking, eating and exercising (although can range from 18-254 days for different complexity of habits)
      - Practice. Practice. Practice.

### Biology

Clinically appropriate use of medications, management of other health concerns

**Relapse Prevention** 

Tools and actions to manage triggers and urges

### Trauma

Trauma informed care

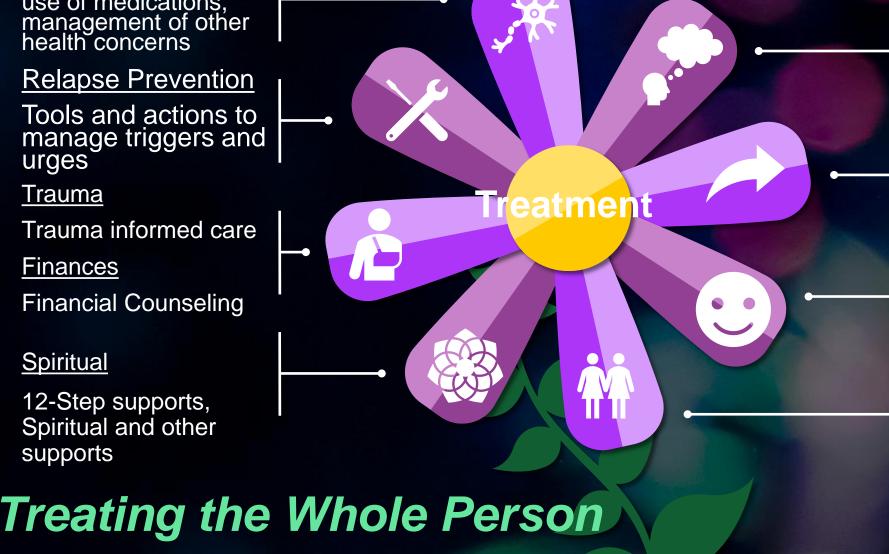
Finances

**Financial Counseling** 

### **Spiritual**

12-Step supports, Spiritual and other supports

## **Evidence-Based Support** Integrated Care to Take Root and Grow



### <u>Beliefs</u>

Cognitive therapy for self-defeating thoughts

### Motivation

Engage and increase motivation for success through stages of change

### Emotion

Addressing emotional triggers

**Relationships** Group therapy, Peer support

## Emotional Circle Pop Quiz: Which would be better for a beginner? What else can we do with someone advanced? Example: My boss yelled at me. I am mad.

#### Joy/Boredom

Happy, Loving, Delighted, Glad, Upbeat Playful, <u>Amused,</u> <u>Lighthearted</u>

Manic, Lonely, Empty, Fatigued, Dull, Tired

### Joy **Boredom Compassion** Anger Insensitive Drive **Sadness** Fear **Respect Courage**

**Anger/Drive** 

Confident, Vision, Directed, <u>Passionate, Motivated</u>

Mad, Rage, Hate, Impatience, Temper, Jealous, Frustrated, Rage, Furious, Irritated, Hostile, Critical. Annoyed

#### **Compassion/Insensitive**

Trusting, Caring, Benevolent, Merciful, Sympathetic, Sweet, <u>Warmhearted, Tende</u>

Anxious, Worried, Concern, Ruminate, Obsessive, Pensive

#### Fear/Courage

Brave, Daring, Grit, Valor, Perseverance, Endurance

Scared Confused, Horror, Panic, Terror, Fright, Shaken, Fearful, Startled

### Sad/Respect

Proud, Smart, Dignity, Honor, Appreciation, <u>Gratitude, Thankful</u>

Grief, Guilty, Stupid, Inadequate, Ashamed, Hurt, Insignificant, Weak, Embarrassed, Helpless, Submissive

### **Circle of Emotions:** Addiction/Recovery

### Anger/Drive

Helpless Anger at Self/Others/World Able to see a vision of a future

Selfishness/Self Focus Willingness to act for the sake of the "other"

Joy/Boredom

Isolation/Hungry

connection

Able to partner with provider

Fear/Courage

Fear of being "Caught"

Lourage to ask for help

### Sad/Respect

**Compassion/Insensitive** 

Hate myself/Shame Grief over losses Believing I am worthy of Recovery

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## **Emotional Circle And Addictions**

Challenge: Lack of confidence

Task: Finding "vision" of next steps for path of change

**Other Tools: Exercise** 

Challenge: Frozen in addictive pattern

Task: Finding "Why" of cause and motivation, Finding hope of alternatives

Other Tools: Rest, Sleep, Journaling

### **Anger/Drive**

onfident, Vision, Directed, <u>Passionate, Motivated</u> ad, Rage, Hate, Impatience, emper, Jealous, Frustrated,



### Fear/Courage

Brave, Daring, Grit, Valor, <u>Perseverance, Endurance</u> Scared Confused, Horror,

Panic, Terror, Fright, Shaken Fearful, Startled

### Joy/Boredom

Happy, Loving, Delighted, Glad, Upbeat, Playful, <u>Amused, Lighthearted</u>

Manic, Lonely, Empty, Fatigued, Dull, Tired

### Challenge: Lack of Joy

Task: Finding healthy pleasure and partnerships

### **Other Tools: Relationships**

#### **Compassion/Insensitive**

Trusting, Caring, Benevolent, Merciful, Sympathetic, Sweet, Warmhearted, Tender

Anxious, Worried, Concern, Ruminate, Obsessive, Pensive

Sad/Respect

Proud, Smart, Dignity,

Challenge: Self-Defeating Beliefs

Task: Believe and know that I can and I am worthy

### **Other Tools: Diet**

Challenge: Lack of prosocial values

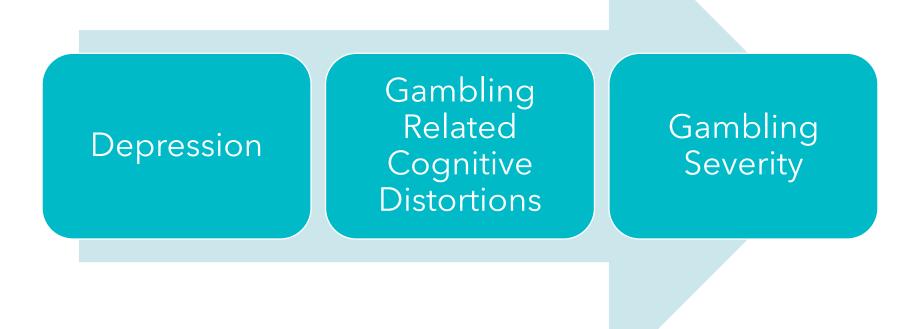
Task: Finding new values to permit forgiveness and letting go of the past

### **Other Tools: Meditation**

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# **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy**

(Need to address the gambling beliefs in addition to the other issues)



Schulter, et. Al. (2019) Gambling related cognitive distortions mediate the relationship between depression and disordered gambling

# Treatment Cognitive



In one study 80% of game related thoughts were irrational (e.g. Belief in controlling outcome)

Cognitive treatment focused on "illusion of control"

Focus on correcting erroneous perception of randomness

(Laducer & Walker, 1996, Newall et al, 2023)

- Understand randomness
- Understanding erroneous beliefs of gamblers
- Awareness of inaccurate perceptions
- Cognitive correction of erroneous perceptions



My gambling is under control

#### Gambling can be a good way to earn money

I don't really have to quit. I can just cut down and ration my gambling

#### Money is my real problem

#### If I borrow it, I'll pay it back

Gambling in the scheme of things, is a pretty important thing to be doing

People who don't gamble seem to be relatively stupid, slow or timid

Gambling can be a healthy recreation

I can win back losses if I play long enough

I'm a pretty smart person, so I have my own system to beat the odds

People respect a heavy bettor

#### Someday, I might score a really big win and quit with honor

Gambling could be the solution to my problems

Expensive presents can make up for past disappointments

Gambling makes me feel better

Borrowing money to gamble with is fine- it's just temporary

The more money I have to gamble with, the better my chances of winning

Somebody will always be there to bail me out if things go wrong

The reason I gamble has nothing to do with my personality

If I only knew why I gamble I could stop

Willpower is probably the best way to stop gambling

I can't afford to pay for treatment or to take time off work

### Treatment Cognitive: Mindfulness (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy: ACT)

- Mindfulness is a practice with growing attention
- It has a range of benefits:
  - Improves mood state,
  - Reduces anxiety
  - Perceived stress
  - Reduces severity
  - Establish abstinence
- Reduce cravings
- Decrease ruminations about gambling
- Improve quality of life
- Menchon et al. (2019)



## The Recovery Journey

		<u>Early</u> Gambling	<u>Problem</u> Gambling	Early Recovery	<u>Recovery</u>
	Thoughts	This Is Fun, I Want To Do More Of It	This Is Stressful, I Need To Win To Solve My Problems	I Am So Bored. I Have Nothing To Do With My Time And I Don't Care About Anything	
	<u>Beliefs</u>	I Could Win	I Should Win	I Can't Win	
	Values	Seek Thrills	Seek Success	Seek Meaning	
ļ	Emotions	Excited, Thrilled, Nervous	Scared, Anxious, Depressed, Irritable	Bored, Tired, Meaningless, Empty	
	<u>Behaviors</u>	Trying New Things, Moderate Risk Taking	Thoughtless Risk Taking, No Regrets, Numbness	Depressed And Heavy	
F	Relationships	Good, But Becoming Less Important	Secondary, Unimportant, Deteriorating	Vital. Still Mistrust But Beginning To Rebuild	
Ē	Biology	Nervous,	Exhausted, Tense, Stressed, Irritable	Sluggish, Bored, Lazy, Sad	
_	Relationship With Self	Undefined	Bad. Happiness Depended On External Sources	Regretful Of Past Actions, Disappointed But Hopeful For Change	
	<u>Relationship</u> <u>With Higher</u> Power	None	Less Than None	Early Stages, Curious	

### Long-Term Recovery: What do We Recover?

### **Recovery Capital**

Citizenship	<ul><li>Sense of Belonging</li><li>Social Contribution</li></ul>
Social Support	<ul> <li>Positive Relationships</li> </ul>
Global Health- Psychological	<ul> <li>Confidence</li> </ul>
Recovery Experience	<ul> <li>Life Purpose,</li> <li>Optimism</li> </ul>
Substance Use and Sobriety	<ul> <li>Achieving Abstinence</li> </ul>

### **Recovery Capital (William White)**



### Isolation/Connection

I feel like I have meaningful positive communication in my family and community

I have friends who are supportive of my recovery process

I have established close affiliation with a local recovery support group.



### **Hopelessness/Hope**

My personal values and sense of right and wrong have become clearer and stronger in recent years

I now have goals and great hopes for my future

I know that my life has a purpose

Hanauer et al. (2019)

### **Protective Factors**

- Spirituality
  - When I am faced with an important decision, my spirituality
  - 0 plays absolutely no role to
  - 10 is always the overriding consideration.



Psychology of Addictive Behaviors

© 2019 American Psychological Association 0893-164X/20/\$12.00 2020, Vol. 34, No. 1, 209-217 http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/adb0000492

#### Associations Between Recovery Capital, Spirituality, and *DSM*–5 Symptom Improvement in Gambling Disorder

Belle Gavriel-Fried Tel-Aviv University Tania Moretta University of Padova

Marc N. Potenza Yale University and Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling, Wethersfield, Connecticut

## Brief Recovery Capital Scale

There are more important things to me in life than using substances

I am generally happy with my life

I have enough energy to complete the tasks I set for myself

I get lots of support from my friends

I regard my life as challenging and fulfilling without the need for using drugs or alcohol

My living space has helped to drive my recovery journey

I take full responsibility for my actions

I am happy dealing with a range of professional people

I am making good progress on my recovery journey

(Vilsiant, C. et al 2017)



Financial Stability	Emotional Well Being	Healthy Relationships	Self-Esteem and Self- Confidence
Sense of Purpose	Physical Health	Freedom from Shame and Guilt	Spiritual Growth

Life Satisfaction





## The Recovery Journey

	<u>Early</u> Gambling	<u>Problem</u> Gambling	Early Recovery	<u>Recovery</u>
<u>Thoughts</u>	This Is Fun, I Want To Do More Of It	This Is Stressful, I Need To Win To Solve My Problems	I Am So Bored. I Have Nothing To Do With My Time And I Don't Care About Anything	I Am Becoming More Content With My Life Every Day
<u>Beliefs</u>	I Could Win	I Should Win	I Can't Win	I Don't Need To Win
<u>Values</u>	Seek Thrills	Seek Success	Seek Meaning	Find Contentment
Emotions	Excited, Thrilled, Nervous	Scared, Anxious, Depressed, Irritable	Bored, Tired, Meaningless, Empty	Peaceful, Happy, Calm
<u>Behaviors</u>	Trying New Things, Moderate Risk Taking	Thoughtless Risk Taking, No Regrets, Numbness	Depressed And Heavy	Happy, Exercise Often, Keep Busy
<u>Relationships</u>	Good, But Becoming Less Important	Secondary, Unimportant, Deteriorating	Vital. Still Mistrust But Beginning To Rebuild	Solid, Open, Honest
<u>Biology</u>	Nervous,	Exhausted, Tense, Stressed, Irritable	Sluggish, Bored, Lazy, Sad	Energetic, Focused, Calm
<u>Relationship</u> <u>With Self</u>	Undefined	Bad. Happiness Depended On External Sources	Regretful Of Past Actions, Disappointed But Hopeful For Change	Much More Honest, Inward Looking
Relationship With Higher Power	None	Less Than None	Early Stages, Curious	Still Not Well Defined, But I Now Have The Space And Capacity To Contemplate It

## **The Contrasted Journey**

<b>Risk Factor</b>	Substance Use Disorder	Gambling Disorder
<u>Medical Withdrawal</u> <u>Management</u>	Often necessary for withdrawal from alcohol, opioids, or benzodiazepines.	Not required, as there are no physical withdrawal symptoms, but withdrawal present from internal chemicals
<u>Medication Assisted</u> <u>Treatment</u>	Medications like methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone help manage cravings and withdrawal.	No FDA-approved medications for gambling disorder, but some off-label use of SSRIs and mood stabilizers.
<u>Cognitive Behavioral</u> <u>Therapy</u>	Used to identify and change substance-related thoughts and behaviors.	Used to address distorted beliefs about gambling (e.g., "chasing losses," illusion of control).
<u>12-Step and Peer Support</u> <u>Groups</u>	Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), SMART Recovery.	Gamblers Anonymous (GA), SMART Recovery.
Financial Counseling	Addressing financial instability as part of recovery, job search	Essential component-helping individuals recover from debt and financial consequences.
<u>Family and Couples</u> <u>Therapy</u>	Helps rebuild relationships impacted by substance use.	Focuses on trust restoration, financial recovery, and addressing secrecy around gambling.
<u>Legal and Social Services</u> <u>Support</u>	Assistance with legal issues (DUI, etc), housing, employment, and social reintegration	Often involves legal/financial interventions due to debt, bankruptcy, or fraud-related consequences.

### Keys to Change Remember:

Change is easiest, earlier

There are no single causes

It takes a village to cause or cure gambling

You are not alone

### **Action Steps**

Self-Reflection: Reflect on your own attitudes and behaviors towards gambling, as well as any personal experiences or family history that may contribute to your understanding of the topic.

Advocate for Change: Advocate for policies and initiatives that promote responsible gambling practices, increase access to treatment and support services, and reduce the stigma associated with gambling addiction.

Stay Informed and Engaged: Stay informed about developments in the field of gambling disorder research, treatment, and advocacy, and continue to engage in conversations and initiatives aimed at addressing the issue and supporting those affected by it.

<u>Educate Yourself:</u> Learn more about gambling disorder.

The Journey Continues...

## The Recovery Journey Apply it Now

• What is one thing that you have learned that you will apply in a work or personal relationship in the next week?

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# Questions

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