

GAMBLING ADDICTION AND THE DRUG COURT PROGRAMS: TREATING A DIFFICULT POPULATION

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Let's start with a quote!!!

- ▣ We need to keep making our streets safer and our criminal justice system fairer, our homeland more secure, our world more peaceful and sustainable for the next generation....
- ▣ Barack Obama



Our Team



Our Team

- ▣ Eight members of the team
- ▣ Judge, Two Reno Municipal Court Marshals, Prosecutor, Legal Defender, Therapist/Counselor, Senior Court Specialist, and Judicial Assistant.
- ▣ Meet for staffing weekly, discuss cases, make recommendations for the new or existing members based on needs, court weekly/bi-weekly/monthly, drug and alcohol monitoring, supervision, therapy, and support.

Our Program



- ▣ Minimum one year in length.
- ▣ Counseling mandatory!!!
- ▣ Drug testing/monitoring SCRAM unit and/or drug patch.
- ▣ Breath interlocking device, Victim Impact Panel.
- ▣ Cannot step foot in CASINO, bar, or other locations that encourage gambling or alcohol use.
- ▣ Monitored by a Reno Municipal Court Marshal versus standard parole/probation. Subject to search and seizure.
- ▣ Fines, community service, jail time and suspended sentence.

Dani Danley-Therapist and gambling counselor

- ▣ Using the Cross Cutting Symptoms Measure, Lie/Bet, ACES, and general interview those who need further evaluation can be identified.
- ▣ Provide interview/evaluation and referral as needed. If gambling is identified place them based on insurance, or needs (grant, cash pay).
- ▣ Provide treatment when needed in conjunction with other providers (residential treatment, homeless programs, halfway house).



Henry Sotelo-Legal Defender

- ▣ Represents the members of our program and helps to guide them based on needs (makes referral for persons who may be more appropriate for our program versus other programs or serving time).
- ▣ Helps to minimize the severity of the consequence one may face for mistakes in the program like relapse, gambling behaviors, or other non-compliance issues.



Alison Ormaas-Prosecutor

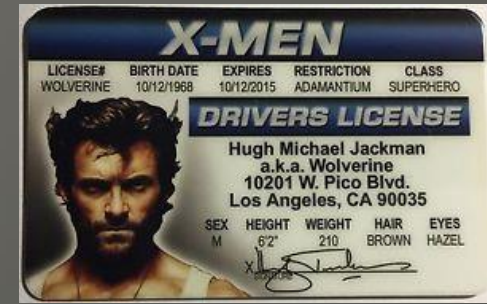
- ▣ Job is to ensure the safety of our streets in Reno, NV.
- ▣ Lacks in a punitive nature, wants to see success in our program and help those needing to be drug, alcohol, and gambling free.
- ▣ Will argue revocation after all avenues are exhausted like interventions that may be needed (residential treatment, increased counseling, adding 12-step programs, etc).



In Our State.....



In Our State....



- ❑ From 2003-2012 there were 1,025 people killed in car crashes directly related to alcohol.
- ❑ The national average of drinking too much and driving is 1.9%, Nevada is 1.8%
- ❑ Nevada law is 0.08% BAC or higher considered per se DUI violation.
- ❑ Under the influence is defined as impaired during driving based on two separate theories; illegal drugs and/or alcohol.
- ❑ What is ordered by the courts: counseling, monitoring, interlocking device, loss of license, fines, and community service.

In our State-Driving Under the Influence

- ▣ Per Se Violation
- ▣ 1. Alcohol 0.08 BAC or higher
- ▣ 2. Marijuana 2ng/ml of blood or 10ng/ml of urine.
- ▣ 3. Prohibited Substances
 - ▣ Methamphetamines
 - ▣ Cocaine
 - ▣ Heroin
- ▣ Under the influence-Must show impairment
Alcohol, prohibited and controlled substances, and prescription medications.



In our state-Gambling...

- ▣ There is a 6% rate of gambling addiction in the State of Nevada.
- ▣ National rate of gambling addiction is 1%.
- ▣ National rate of underage gambling 6%-9%.
- ▣ Prostitution, alcohol, gambling, recreational marijuana, and 24/7 availability!!!
- ▣ Only state with legalized sports betting inside the casinos!!!
- ▣ What does this all mean?



Connecting the dots

- ❑ Casinos offer alcohol to those who are playing usually marketed as for free.
- ❑ Alcohol, gambling, and DUI arrests?
- ❑ Many arrests are in vicinities of the casinos.
- ❑ Gambling machines and alcohol available at grocery stores, bars, convenience stores, and even the airport.



Wonder what his first favorite thing is?



The Graduate



DUI, Gambling, and Drug Court Case Study

- ▣ In 2016 the first gambling and DUI case was recognized and offered treatment in the Reno Municipal Court program (our program). This client attended counseling to address gambling, and alcohol from May 2016 until graduation from the program in October 2017. This client remains sober today, and has not made a bet since May 2016, and has not used alcohol since April 2016. How you ask, he still attends counseling and uses his support network!!!
- ▣ Maybe this works!!!

Phase 1 Client Testimonial



Phase 1 Client Testimonial

- ▣ Nothing comes ahead of it's time, and nothing ever happened that didn't need to happen. It's been a journey and a struggle. I am trying a new method to sobriety. One that has helped me get through a dark time in my life. For some reason I have managed to stay alive and maintain my health. I am learning to deal with life on life's terms with the presence of gambling, anxiety, stress, and alcohol I have had a struggle of it's own. Serenity is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to cope with it.

Phase 2 Client Testimonial



Phase 2 Client Testimonial

- ▣ Double Trouble: Many people don't have an addiction to gambling and alcohol, then there are those who do. Living in the environment that is in Nevada this becomes a problem for many. Casinos make the gambling and drinking readily available. They offer us free drinks, food, and money while we gamble! With both addictions where else do we go? Through the program I am seeing what has caused the situation I am in. In counseling I am learning how the brain responds to drinking and gambling. It's time I take charge of my life and deal with these addictions.

Phase 3 Client Testimonial



Phase 3 Client Testimonial

- ▣ All my life I traded one addiction for another; drugs to gambling, and drinking. I have tried treating my self for one or another, but never had much success. Being in this program has helped me tremendously by treating my gambling, alcohol, and drug addictions. This has helped me to start over with the tools I have learned realizing that gambling can lead me right back to alcohol, using, and losing. I see now that these play into one and treating them all is the best medicine.

Client Statement on Being treated for Co-Occurring Disorders



Client Statement on Being treated for Co-Occurring Disorders

- ▣ I remember when I first met Dani and she said that she would look for underlying issues. I don't remember verbatim, but it was something along the lines of metaphorically taking a look under the hood and search for any other problems to go with alcoholism or what might be causing me to go from a casual drinker to full on Hemingway! I took exception to this. I was offended. It wasn't until 57 days in jail, 28 days in rehab and an hour with Dani, I realized where she was going with her comments.

Unofficial Study

- ▣ 22 clients were asked two questions.
- ▣ 1. How many DUI arrests?
- ▣ 2. How many of those occurred leaving a gambling establishment or casino?
- ▣ Of 51 DUI arrests, 10 were leaving a casino or gambling establishment.
- ▣ Is there a connection? I would say yes!!!!





Coordination of Care

- ❑ Evaluation of every client entering into the program is key.
- ❑ What is actually treated and what really exists may be different. This is why we are moving towards a stricter policy on which counselors can provide services.
- ❑ What happens when the gambling is not addressed? We want to ensure this is recognized.
- ❑ Gamblers Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous?

Proper Referrals



Therapist Recommendations

- ▣ Each client is given the Cross Cutting Symptoms Measure which is evaluated by the therapist weekly. Based upon the outcome a recommendation for evaluation can be made.
- ▣ If the evaluation deems gambling treatment or mental health counseling may be beneficial, this is offered/recommended.
- ▣ Not all cases will fit this model or have these needs!!!



What treatment works?

- ▣ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, using ABCDE to gain insight into gambling disorders.
- ▣ Holistic approach to treatment (essential oils, meditation, mindfulness, exercise, and dietary changes).
- ▣ Look for ALL disorders needing treatment. What happens if we only treat the alcohol use that led to the arrest?
- ▣ Maybe even DBT skills.



NADCP Best Practices

- ▣ National Association of Drug Court Practices.
- ▣ Substance abuse treatment: Participants receive treatment based on treatment needs. Treatment providers deliver evidence-based interventions.
- ▣ Continuum of Care: in custody treatment, team representation, treatment dosage and duration, treatment modalities, evidence-based treatment, medications, provider training and credentials, peer support groups, and continuing care.

NADCP Best Practices

- ▣ Participants receive treatment and social services for conditions that occur with substance use and are likely to interfere with there compliance in drug court, increase criminal recidivism, or diminish treatment gains.



Questions?????



REFERENCES

- ▣ WWW.CDC.GOV/MOTORVEHICLESAFETY/STATES
- ▣ WWW.NCRG.ORG
- ▣ Adult drug court practices volume I and II, NADCP National Association for Drug Court Professionals.
- ▣ <https://www.nadcp.org/>