

Problem & Compulsive Gambling Symposium

Stigma, Recovery and Addiction: How the Issue of Stigma has an Effect on those Seeking Treatment for any Disorder

By Bill Johnson

Centerstone's 3rd annual Problem & Compulsive Gambling Symposium, held on March 24 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. CT, will feature "Stigma, Recovery and Addiction: How the Issue of Stigma has an Effect on those Seeking Treatment for any Disorder" by Bill Johnson.

Bill Johnson's presentation will include candid discussion about the 23 million people who mostly live silently in recovery and how putting a more public face on recovery can help with treatment and successful recovery outcomes.

His own 43+ years of personal recovery from addiction and the years he's worked in the field, gives him a unique perspective on this issue. Johnson will cover the traditions of anonymity that started in 1933, the birth of the present self-help movement, and the movement of putting a face on recovery, as well as how all of this can help people recover and talk publicly about our personal recovery but not violate any of the traditions of today's 12 step movement.

Bill Johnson has worked in the addiction treatment and prevention field for more than 45 years. His experience has spanned the continuum of care - from detox to residential services. He was certified as an addiction professional for more than 34 years, receiving his first credential in 1978 in Illinois. He served as the Executive Director of a large rural



treatment program for more than 10 years and as the Executive Director of the Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association for 17 years. He established a consultant business, provided training across the United States, and served as an advocate for those wishing to pursue addiction credentialing internationally. He was part of an international group that provided credentialing in Nepal.

He currently serves as the Administrator of the Illinois Council on Problem Gambling. He is most proud of having more than 42 years of continuous recovery from addiction; he has not used any alcohol or illicit drugs during that time

