



Voting Day Virtual Conference November 4, 2025

Manifestations of Youth Mental Health Challenges: Supporting Students at risk for Online Gambling, Eating Disorders and School Violence

This conference is an excellent learning opportunity for School Nurses, Counselors, Teachers, and Administrators supporting students. The conference is virtual this year, featuring these relevant topics led by top presenters in their respected fields:

Presenter: Online Gambling



Mark Gottlieb, Executive Director, Public Health Advocacy Institute (PHAI)

New College of Florida, BA 1987. Northeastern University, JD 1993. Mark Gottlieb is a public health and research attorney who has worked in the field of commercial tobacco control for nearly 30 years. He joined the staff of Northeastern Law's [Public Health Advocacy Institute](#) (PHAI) in 1993 where he has been the executive director since 2004. PHAI was founded more than 40 years ago by University Distinguished Professor [Richard A. Daynard](#), JD, Ph.D., who serves as its president. Professor Gottlieb's primary professional focus has been on legal and regulatory interventions to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with tobacco industry products. He has been working with the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) on commercial tobacco issues since 2006 and serves on the editorial board of the international pediatrics journal, [Children](#). His research and advocacy interests also include [gun violence prevention](#), [predatory gambling](#) and [food policy](#). Professor Gottlieb strongly believes that Public Health Advocacy must promote social justice and address health inequities. A bibliography of his scholarly work is available [here](#). Professor Gottlieb's litigation work includes tobacco personal injury cases, e-cigarette consumer protection actions, and the defense of health regulations through PHAI's Center for Public Health Litigation. Mark Gottlieb also serves as the president of the board of directors for the [Institute for Health and Recovery](#). He has directed the Public Health Advocacy Clinic to train and engage Northeastern University law students in public health advocacy since 2014.

Presenter: Online Gambling



Harry Levant, Internationally Certified Gambling Counselor. Mental Health Therapist. Doctor of Law and Policy. Director of Gambling Policy

As a therapist, I am determined to reach people and families struggling with gambling addiction. In my practice, I bring a comprehensive mental health approach to the treatment of gambling disorder. I am also a gambling addict in recovery for over 10 years. This firsthand experience positions me as an empathetic listener and compassionate therapist. I serve as the Director of Gambling Policy with the Public Health Advocacy

Institute at Northeastern University, where we are leading the movement to bring public health reform and regulation to the gambling industry. I also hold a doctorate from Northeastern where my research is dedicated to the prevention of gambling addiction and gambling-related harm. Doctorate of Law and Public Policy | Northeastern University
Masters | Professional Clinical Counseling | La Salle University
Internationally Certified Gambling Counselor (ICGC-I)

Presenter: Eating Disorder



Seda Ebrahimi, Ph.D.

Founder and Director of the Cambridge Eating Disorder Center (CEDC)

Seda Ebrahimi, Ph.D. has been working in the field of eating disorders since 1986. She began her career as a pre-doctoral intern at Brown University's internship consortium and continued on to become an assistant clinical professor after a year of postdoctoral fellowship in the field of eating disorders. Subsequently, she worked as the Director of the Eating Disorders Research Program at Butler Hospital, the Director of the Eating Disorders Treatment Program at McLean Hospital, and has been an Instructor of Psychiatry at Harvard University. She continues to provide clinical education to professionals at conferences and trainings locally and nationally. Dr. Ebrahimi is a member of the Academy for Eating Disorders, International Association of Eating Disorder Professionals and American Psychological Association. She is also involved in patient advocacy on a local and national level.

Presenter: Youth Mental Health and School Safety



Annie Slease, M.Ed. Mental Health Literacy Collaborative

Annie Slease, M.Ed., is the Cofounder and CEO of the Mental Health Literacy Collaborative (MHLC). www.themhlc.org When her 18-year-old's crisis first emerged in 2010, Annie was a classroom teacher unaware of mental health literacy. In the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy in December 2012, she launched the blog Still Hopeful Mom, sharing her family's story about near-suicide loss involving a firearm. Through her writing, she explored the challenges of parenting through mental illness and navigating both the behavioral health and prison systems. In 2015, Annie connected with Sandy Hook Promise and began presenting their school programs in early 2016. She repurposed her 25-year teaching career into full-time mental health advocacy in 2017. Since then, she has served state and national spaces, raising awareness, addressing gaps, and championing upstream solutions. In 2023, after serving as Director of Advocacy and Education at NAMI Delaware and as Strategic Manager of Mental Health Initiatives at the University of Delaware's Center for Disabilities Studies, Annie co-founded the Mental Health Literacy Collaborative (MHLC). In addition to her role with MHLC, Annie continues to serve her home state of Delaware as a board member of the Delaware School-Based Health Alliance, a core team member of the Delaware Recovery Ready Workplace Initiative, a community advisor for Delaware's CCBHC project, and an appointee of the Governor to the Delaware Behavioral Health Consortium. Annie is a mother, grandmother, wife, educator, and advocate, and a proud citizen of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.