

The Most Respectful Way of Referring to People is as People

| Current | Alternative | Reasoning |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Clients / Patients / Consumers</p> <p>Alex is an addict</p> <p>The terms listed below, along with others, are often people's ineffective attempts to reclaim some shred of power while being treated in a system that often tries to control them. The person is trying to get their needs met, or has a perception different from the staff, or has an opinion of self not shared by others. And these efforts are not effectively bringing them to the result they want.</p> | <p>The people in our program The folks we work with The people we serve</p> <p>Alex is addicted to alcohol Alex is a person with a substance use disorder Alex is in recovery from drug addiction</p> | <p>More inclusive, less stigmatizing</p> <p>Put the person first Avoid defining the person by their disease</p> |
| <p>Mathew is manipulative</p> | <p>Mathew is trying really hard to get his needs met Mathew may need to work on more effective ways of getting his needs met</p> | <p>Take the blame out of the statement Recognize that the person is trying to get a need met the best way they know how</p> |
| <p>Kyle is non-compliant</p> | <p>Kyle is choosing not to... Kyle would rather... Kyle is looking for other options</p> | <p>Describe what it looks like uniquely to that individual—that information is more useful than a generalization</p> |
| <p>Mary is resistant to treatment</p> | <p>Mary chooses not to... Mary prefers not to... Mary is unsure about...</p> | <p>Avoid defining the person by the behavior. Remove the blame from the statement</p> |
| <p>Jennifer is in denial</p> | <p>Jennifer is ambivalent about..... Jennifer hasn't internalized the seriousness of... Jennifer doesn't understand.....</p> | <p>Remove the blame and the stigma from the statement</p> |



Southeast (HHS Region 4)

ATTC

Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Phoenix Center

Prevent • Treat • Recover

FAVOR SG

FACES AND VOICES OF RECOVERY

Language of Recovery

Current Terminology

Treatment is the goal;
Treatment is the only way into Recovery

Substance Abuse

Drug of Choice / Abuse

Denial

Relapse Prevention

Pathology Based Assessment

Focus is on total abstinence from all illicit and non-prescribed substances the CLINICIAN identifies

A Drug is a Drug is a Drug

Relapse

Relapse is part of Recovery

Clean / Sober

Self Help Group

Untreated Addict/Alcoholic

Drug Overdose

Alternative Terminology

Treatment is an opportunity for initiation into recovery (one of multiple pathways into recovery)

Substance Use Disorder/Substance Misuse

Drug of Use

Ambivalence

Recovery Management

Strength / Asset Based Assessment

Focus on the drug CLIENT feels is creating the problems

Each illicit substance has unique interactions with the brain; medication if available is appropriate.

Recurrence/Return to Use

Recurrence/Return to Use may occur as part of the disease

Drug Free / Free from illicit and non-prescribed medications

Mutual Aid Group

Individual not yet in Recovery

Drug Poisoning