

Language of Recovery

Current Terminology	Alternative Terminology
Treatment is the goal; Treatment is the only way into Recovery	Treatment is an opportunity for initiation into recovery (one of multiple pathways into recovery)
Substance Abuse	Substance Use Disorder / Substance Misuse
Drug of Choice / Abuse	Drug of Use
Denial	Ambivalence
Relapse Prevention	Recovery Management
Pathology Based Assessment	Strength / Asset-Based Assessment
Focus is on total abstinence from all illicit and non-prescribed substances the CLINICIAN identifies	Focus on the drug the CLIENT feels is creating the problems
A Drug is a Drug is a Drug	Each illicit substance has unique interactions with the brain; medication if available is appropriate.
Relapse	Recurrence / Return to Use
Relapse is part of Recovery	Recurrence / Return to Use may occur as part of the disease
Clean / Sober	Drug Free / Free from illicit and non-prescribed medications
Self Help Group	Mutual Aid Group
Untreated Addict / Alcoholic	Individual not yet in Recovery
Drug Overdose	Drug Poisoning