

Language Matters

Language is powerful especially when talking about addictions.

Stigmatizing language perpetuates negative perceptions.

“Person first” language focuses on the person, not the disorder.

When discussing persons with an addiction:



Addiction is a moral issue

Substance abuse

Addict, junkie

Relapse is part of recovery

Client, Consumer, Patient

Client is non-compliant

Medication is a crutch

Self-help



Addiction is a disease

Substance use disorder

Person is addicted

Relapse is part of the disease

Person in recovery

Treatment is not working

Medication is one tool of recovery

Recovery fellowship



Addiction is a health condition

Addiction

Person living with an addiction

Relapse is not a requirement

Recoveree

Multiple methods to initiate recovery

Multiple pathways of recovery

Mutual-aid



CT Alcohol and Drug Policy Council