

Language **MATTERS**

Let's talk in a way that reflects science and demonstrates respect!

When discussing addiction ...

 Let's Say ...	 Instead of ...
✓ Substance Use Disorder	✗ Substance abuse / drug habit
✓ Person with an addiction / with a Substance Use Disorder	✗ Addict, junkie, druggie, alky, alcoholic
✓ Person in recovery / in remission	✗ Ex-addict, abstinent, clean, sober, used to be addicted
✓ Has an addiction / dependence	✗ Suffering from an addiction, battling booze
✓ Not engaged	✗ Non-compliant
✓ Medication is a treatment	✗ Medication is just another addiction
✓ Lapse / reoccurrence	✗ Using again, fell over, off the wagon
✓ Positive urine drug screen / drug test	✗ Dirty urine / dirty drug test
✓ Treatment / Intervention	✗ Rehab
✓ Intoxicated	✗ Drunk, pissed, stoned, out of it, wasted
✓ Distressed, agitated	✗ Crazy, off his / her rocker, lost it, acting out
✓ Person disagrees	✗ Denial
✓ Resourceful	✗ Manipulative
✓ Recovery residences	✗ Sober homes

Sources: Addiction Policy Forum; ONDCP: "Changing the Language of Addiction." Michael P. Botticelli; Language, Substance Use Disorders, and Policy: The need to Reach Consensus on an "Addiction-ary"; John F. Kelly PhD, Richard Saltz MD & Sarah Wakeman MD



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