



SAMHSA STR-TA Grant – Guiding Principles

Language Matters. Words have power. Use affirmative language to advance prevention, treatment and recovery. Provide developmentally and culturally appropriate prevention, treatment and recovery. Implement evidenced-based prevention, treatment and recovery practices.

Prevention

- Prevention works. It is an effective strategy to decrease substance use disorders.
- Prevention efforts require collaboration.
- Early identification, diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders decrease substance use disorders (SUD) and opioid use disorders (OUD) (Source: [SAMHSA](#)).
- Brain development continues into the mid 20's, therefore efforts to prevent or delay substance use are critical.
- Adolescent substance use is not inevitable.
- Prevention of OUD for youth starts by addressing alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco use.
- While risk-taking is developmentally appropriate for youth, substance use is an unhealthy risk.

Treatment

- SUD/OUD is a treatable chronic brain disorder.
- Standard medical practice includes identifying, diagnosing and treating patients for SUD/OUD.
- FDA indicated medications are the standard of care and are effective for treating OUD and saving lives.
- All patients with OUD must be offered FDA indicated medications as part of their treatment.
- Evidence-based psychosocial interventions in combination with MAT improve outcomes.
- Address stigma to increase access to care.
- People can and do recover from OUD and other SUDs.
- Seek, assess, and treat adolescent and young adult OUD.

Recovery

- Medications for OUD can support long-term recovery.
- MAT is a critical part of recovery for many living with OUD and individuals on MAT should not be discounted as not being “in recovery”.
- Peer support workers can offer role-model recovery and provide support across the continuum of care.
- Recovery is holistic and includes an individual's health, home, community and purpose.
- Recovery is culturally-based and defined by the individual, in consultation with their clinician and when appropriate, family and community.