

Care Massachusetts The Opioid Abatement Partnership

Care Massachusetts Core Training and Technical Assistance Team



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Background: Care Massachusetts

Care Massachusetts is working collaboratively with cities and towns across the state to take action to end the overdose crisis.

We provide resources and technical assistance with:

- Connecting municipalities with the people most impacted by the overdose crisis
- Promoting the selection and implementation of proven public health strategies
- **Goldson** Educating the public on the source and purpose of the funds
- □ Facilitating collaboration across municipalities

Comms Resource Hub

A Quick Guide to the Massachusetts **Opioid Abatement Funds**

Q: What are Oploid Abatement Funds? Where did they come from? A: Messachusetts has participaled in netform/de thancial settlements with several companies as part of the historic efforts to demand abatement of the harms caused by the opinid up/demic. These set/iemants bring over \$900 million into Massioniaetta for substance use prevention, harm reduction, leading and recovery support. Fory percent of substantial one brown and control control of an internation of a reaction of support of the the Mastachusette funds are allocated to municipalities, while 60% are allocated to the statewide Opioid Recovery and Remodiation Fund.

Q; How can a member of the public see what funds have been received or spent in their municipality? How can I get in touch with those managing this spending in my community? A: Anyone can view their municipality's Data Dashboard, which includes detailed reporting and contact information, st: CareMass.orgidsta-dashboard

Q: How are Opioid Abstement Funds meant to be spent? The State Subchriston Agreement's shared commitment between the Commonweath and The state substruct ingression as a set of statement of an and the used to supplement and multipaties states that Opicia Anatement Funds must be used to supplement and vicengibien, rather than successful resources for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. The funds must be implemented in a manner that:

View the 6 dl State

Subdivision

Agreement

. Reflects the input of community members, especially those with personal experience with the overdinae soldernic, experie in treatment and prevention, and staff and organizations carrying out abstement work, Addresses departities in sotsting services and cutoones and improves equity and the health of communities disadvaritaged by rece, wealth, and stigma, including through efforts to increase diversity among service providers; Addresses mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and other behavioral health needs that occur with opicial use disorder. Leverages programs and services already reinfourced by state agencies and programs, including direct care reimbursed by MassHealth and BSAS;

 Encourages intervation, fills gaps, and fixes the shortcomings of existing approaches, and includes evidence-based, evidence-informed, and promising programs, and several weaternative events, events, and promany programs, and takes advantage of the flexibility that is alread for these funds.

(continued on next page)

Share your ideas about how our community can best spend Opioid Abatement Funds.

We want to → hear from you.

CARE

Visit:

CareMass.org/communications-resource-hub

for downloadable materials, talking points and guidance to support your communication about your work.



Words Matter: Stigma & Language

Office Hours 12/5/24



PRESENTER



Andrea (Andi) Macone

Director of Community Health and Equity MA DPH BSAS



Objectives

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- 1. Describe the impact of language in framing what the public thinks about substance use and recovery
- 2. Give examples of alternatives to stigmatizing language
- 3. Get answers to questions about how to discuss substance use with your community using an affirming and strengths-based approach

OCHE Purpose Statement

The Office of Community Health and Equity (OCHE) aims to cultivate meaningful, mutually beneficial relationships with residents of Massachusetts and organizations that serve them, and to drive equitable systems change and decision-making in response to needs expressed through those relationships.

With commitment to self-determination, liberation, and belonging and through centering identity-based needs, we strive to make accessible the information, tools, and resources necessary for individuals and communities to develop a healthy relationship with substances.



DPH Words Matter Pledge

Who?What?

💬 When?

Where?

Why?





Words Matter

- BSAS & DPH staff
 - **Words Matter Pledge**
 - September 2024
- **DPH offices & hospitals**



"At BSAS, one of our core values is compassion and positive regard for others in all our efforts. It is at the foundation of our mission to support accessible [services]. This core value should be reflected in the language we use to communicate about the people and communities we serve."

Why do words matter?

- Stigma leads to discrimination and harm
- Evidence that language impacts care and health outcomes (Kelly, 2020)
- Impacts PWUD, families & communities

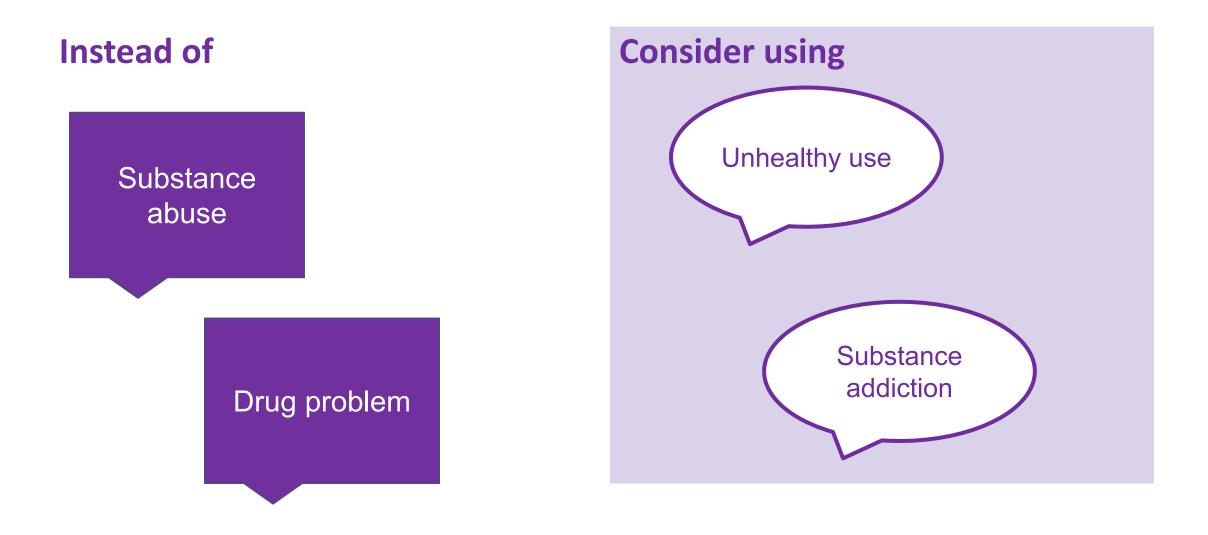


"Our words have impact. Language frames what the public thinks about substance use and recovery. It can also affect how individuals, groups, and families think about themselves and intentionally or unintentionally propagate stigma"

How to use non-stigmatizing language?

INSTEAD OF	CONSIDER USING	BECAUSE
Substance abuser Drug abuser Alcoholic Addict User Drunk Junkie High-risk population	 Person with a problematic relationship with substances Person with a substance use disorder (if so diagnosed) Substance use Person using substances Person who uses drugs (PWUD) Person with living experience Person at high risk of overdose 	Person-first language humanizes individuals and indicates that someone may "have" a problem as opposed to them "being" a problem, while labels can define a person by their substance use. It's important to note that not all people who use substances have a substance use disorder, and these phrases should not be used interchangeably. Rather, use language specific to the person being discussed.

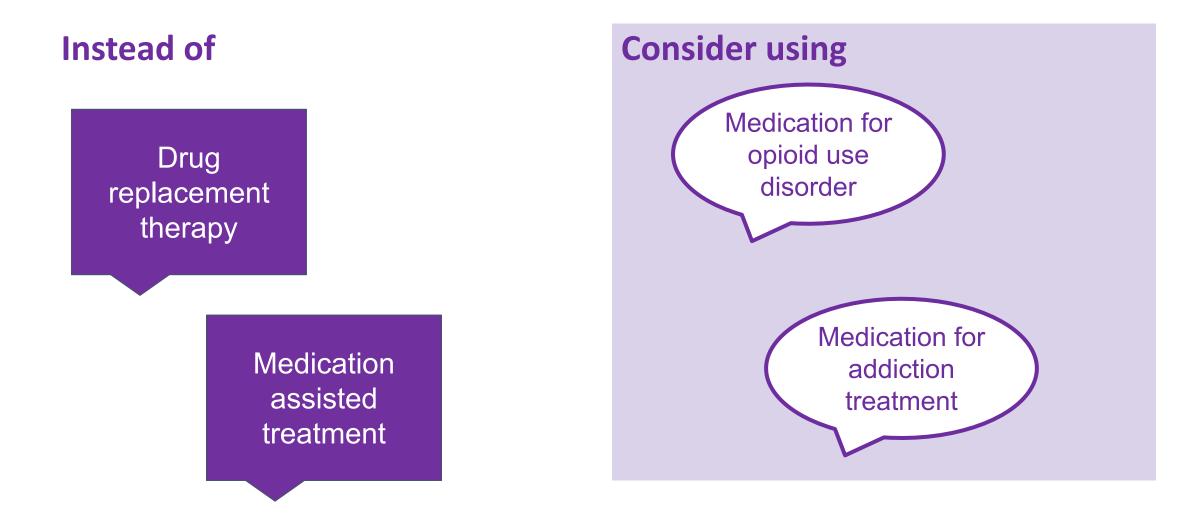
Examples of non-stigmatizing language



Examples of non-stigmatizing language



Examples of non-stigmatizing language





Thank You!

Please reach out to <u>Andrea.Macone@mass.gov</u> for individual support on implementing non-stigmatizing language in your municipality!

Questions?





NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 12, 2-3 pm Expenditure Report Corrections Open Session | <u>Register Here</u>
- Dec. 19, 2-3 pm Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI) Opioid Abatement Fund Usage Overview | <u>Register Here</u>
- Previous office hours slides and recordings
- Request individualized technical assistance
- Sign up for our <u>listserv</u>



Feedback Survey

Please take a couple minutes to respond to the <u>anonymous</u> <u>feedback survey</u> after the call ends





THANK YOU!

