



The Deflection Conversation Framework:

Adapting Language to Reduce Stigma

TASC's Center for Health & Justice
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TTA provider for COSSAP first responder deflection/diversion grantees since 2017



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CHJ Training and Technical Assistance

- Grounded in the concept of the Six Pathways
- Monthly webinars
- Quarterly grantee calls
- Newsletters for *Catching Up With COSSAP* ([register here](#))
- [First Responder Deflection Resource Library](#)
- [National Survey of First Responder Deflection Programs](#)

PRE-ARREST DIVERSION: **PATHWAYS TO COMMUNITY** POLICE, TREATMENT AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE



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Panelists



Chelsea Laliberte Barnes, LSW, CCTP
Deflection Administrator



Jarmichael Harris
Director of Scholastic
Recovery—Addiction
Professionals of North Carolina



Thomas Bashore,
Director—National Deflection
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Objectives

1. Understand the significance and harm that stigma causes and the use of current and correct language.
2. Understand the consequences of stigma for individuals seeking to engage with care services.
3. Provide insight into why person-first language is important when working with those who have mental health and substance use disorders.

~~STIGMA~~

Cost to Reduce Stigma = 0

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Objective 1

Understand the significance and harm that stigma causes and the use of current and correct language.

- “Substance use” should be used for all substances, including alcohol
- Using evidence-based language vs. calling it “an intervention”



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Objective 2

Understand the consequences of stigma for individuals seeking to engage with care services.

- Consequences for
 - Person with SUD
 - Friends and family
 - Colleagues
 - Public
- Reduce fear, anxiety, blame, shame, etc.
- Large percentage of individuals will not seek out care



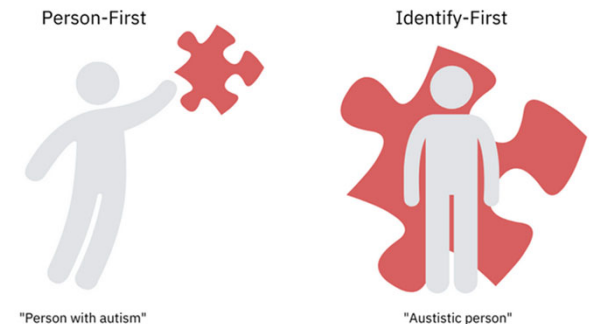
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Objective 3

Provide insight into why person-first language is important when working with those who have mental health and substance use disorders.

- It separates the person from their diagnosis
- It avoids stigmatized language
- It treats the disorder as a disease and not a moral failing



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Person-First Language

Stigmatized Language	Person-First Language
Substance or drug user	Patient
Junkie	Person in active use
Addict/Former addict	Person with substance use disorder/Person in recovery
Habit	Substance use disorder
Abuse	Illicit = Use/Prescribed = Misuse
Clean/Sober	Not actively using/ Substance-free/In remission
Relapse	Return to use
Rehab	Treatment
Dirty	Actively using



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Ways to Avoid Using Stigmatized Language

- Educate yourself and others
- Be an advocate
- Challenge others when you hear it
- Scrub your discharge summaries
- Scrub your official reports and policies
- Encourage those in recovery to tell their stories
- Public outreach
- Practice, practice, practice



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Additional Resources

- NIDA webpage: <https://nida.nih.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/health-professions-education/words-matter-terms-to-use-avoid-when-talking-about-addiction>
- Shatterproof: <https://www.shatterproof.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Stigma-AddictionLanguageGuide-v3.pdf>
- JCOIN: https://www.jcoinctc.org/wp-content/uploads/10252019_JCOIN-First-Person-Language.pdf
- Library of COSSAP deflection resources: <https://www.theiacp.org/projects/cossap-law-enforcement-first-responder-partnership-training-and-technical-assistance>



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Questions?



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Upcoming CHJ/COSSAP Offerings

- Office hours on the third Friday of each month. Next: January 20, 2023
- Next grantee quarterly calls will be December 15, 2022, and March 14, 2023



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For More Information and to Request TTA

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Request TTA on the COSSAP Resources
Website

<https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/TTA>

TASC's Center for Health & Justice
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