Stigma in the SUD Population
Organizational Culture

Be a Recovery Advocate!

Knowledge Domain__________________

Stigma within the culture of an organization may prevent patients from seeking treatment and prevent providers from screening and treating people with a substance use disorder. The American Society of Addiction Medicine defines addiction as “a chronic disease of brain reward, and without treatment, addiction is progressive and can result in disability or premature death.” When developing organizational culture and policies, try to relate substance use disorder to another chronic condition that requires treatment. People with a substance use disorder are far less likely to discuss their disease if they feel stigmatized.

Recommended Group Activity____________

Break into small groups. Ask the group a question about organizational culture. After five to 10 minutes, ask each team to share their one word answers and how they came up with that word with the rest of the group. Examples of questions include:

• How does our center define recovery?
• How does our center view harm reduction?
• How does our center view substance use disorder?

To Learn More_________________________

The Stigma of Addiction: We Can’t Keep Ignoring It

What Are the Effects of Stigma?

Did You Know
There’s a cafe in Canada run by two men in recovery whose goal is to create a safe place for others who are in recovery. Addiction and recovery can sometimes lead to isolation, and the dream for these two men is to provide a place that encourages socialization, fosters new relationships, and reduces triggers.