

2024 Learning Collaborative

How to Engage Individuals with Substance Use Disorders



Karen Snyder, CPRS

Partnerships & Operations Director, 2nd Act
Secretary of US Attorney's Office Northern
District of Ohio, Heroin & Opioid Action Plan,
Prevention & Education Subcommittee



Michael J. Biscaro, Psy.D, ABPP

Chief Psychologist
Behavioral Health Institute, Summa Health



Ashley Rosser

Harm Reduction Educator, Thrive for Change
and Founder of Facebook group
Ohio Harm Reduction Alliance



Charles Sackman

Person in Recovery



Aimee Scheidemantel, MS, LPC

Manager, Substance Use Navigation
The MetroHealth System

2024 Learning Collaborative

How to Engage Individuals with Substance Use Disorders

Session Objectives

- Learn about resources and support systems available to support individuals with substance use disorders.
- Explain best practices that support talking to individuals with substance use disorders.
- Put learning into practice by role playing being a navigator/CHW having a conversation with an individual with a substance use disorder.

2024 Learning Collaborative

How to Engage Individuals with Substance Use Disorders

About Us

2nd Act is a collective of artists in recovery which uses theatre, film, and drama therapy to address the impact of substance use. Together we empower diverse and inclusive communities to promote understanding in the face of stigma. They believe in a world where all stories are honored, recovery is celebrated, and everyone gets a second act.

2024 Learning Collaborative

How to Engage Individuals with Substance Use Disorders

About Us

Thrive for Change's mission is to promote health, hope, and healing for individuals at risk of overdose & their loved ones through education, collaboration, advocacy, and direct service. Their vision is a world free from drug overdose fatalities, where people who use drugs have equal access to basic needs and are empowered to advocate for themselves.

2024 Learning Collaborative

How to Engage Individuals with Substance Use Disorders



Karen Snyder, CPRS

Partnerships & Operations Director, 2nd Act
Secretary of US Attorney's Office Northern
District of Ohio, Heroin & Opioid Action Plan,
Prevention & Education Subcommittee



Michael J. Biscaro, Psy.D, ABPP

Chief Psychologist
Behavioral Health Institute, Summa Health



Ashley Rosser

Harm Reduction Educator, Thrive for Change
and Founder of Facebook group
Ohio Harm Reduction Alliance



Charles Sackman

Person in Recovery



Aimee Scheidemantel, MS, LPC

Manager, Substance Use Navigation
The MetroHealth System

2024 Learning Collaborative

How to Engage Individuals with Substance Use Disorders

Role Play

- Navigator's Role
- Individual / Family Member's Role

How to Engage Individuals with Substance Use Disorder

Navigator's Role

Objective: Initiate a compassionate, non-judgmental conversation about substance use, recognizing the stigma and difficulty of discussing the topic, and offer pathways to recovery.

Start with Empathy	"I know we're here to help you. I've noticed something about you. Is there anything you need support with?"
Normalize the Conversation	"Many people have substance use concerns, even substance use disorders. It's not something you should think of as a stigma."
Ask Open-ended Questions	"Have you ever had any alcohol, prescription, or over-the-counter medication issues?"
Listen Without Judgment	"Thank you for sharing that with me. How are you feeling about this?"
Offer Solutions, Not Directives	"If this is something you're struggling with, there are resources available to help you. Would you like to explore some options?"
Reassure	"See, you're not alone. We're here to help you. Who else is involved in your care?"

How to Engage Individuals with Substance Use Disorder

Individual / Family Member's Role

Objective: Encourage the person with substance use concerns (or a family member) to feel comfortable discussing the issue and considering support options.

Initial Hesitation	"I'm not sure if I'm ready to talk about this. It's something I've been dealing with for a while, but it's hard to bring it up."
Denial or Downplaying	"I don't think it's really a problem. I mean, sometimes I drink or use more than I should, but I can handle it."
Expression of Concern (Family Member Role)	"I'm really worried about my [partner, parent, friend]. I've noticed a change, but I don't know how to bring it up without making them feel attacked."
Shame or Stigma	"It's embarrassing to admit this. People would think less of me if they knew."
Interest in Help	"I've thought about getting help, but I'm scared of what it means, or what my family will think. How do I even start?"

Better Health Partnership
2024 Learning Collaborative

2ND ACT, thrive FOR CHANGE, MetroHealth, Summa Health

2024 Learning Collaborative

How to Engage Individuals with Substance Use Disorders

Role-Play Guide

1. **Navigator Approach:** Practice navigating the initial hesitation by validating feelings and creating a non-judgmental space.
2. **Individual/Friend's Hesitation:** Explore ways to respond with understanding and compassion, focusing on breaking through stigma gently.
3. **Navigator Offering Resources:** Work on guiding the conversation toward available support and options for recovery, while allowing the individual to maintain agency over their choices.
4. **Encouraging Next Steps:** Practice offering next steps, like referrals to counseling or treatment options, without making it feel like an obligation or pressure.

2024 Learning Collaborative

How to Engage Individuals with Substance Use Disorders

Interested in a panel discussion for your event?

Contact

Karen Snyder: karen@weare2ndact.org

US Attorney's Office, Northern District of Ohio
Heroin Opioid Action Plan
Prevention & Education Subcommittee

Thank You



Afternoon Feedback

