

This document was modified from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Evidence-Based Resource Guide Series, Treatment of Stimulant Use Disorders *https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/SAMHSA\_Digital\_Download/PEP20-06-01-001\_508.pdf* and

Introduction to Methamphetamines, presented to the Lynn Health Center, May 10, 2021.

Erasing the Stigma

**of Opioid Use Disorder**

**Recognize Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)**

**as a chronic disease**

**All of us need to understand that OUD is a disease.** Similar to depression, arthritis or diabetes, OUD has real, physical causes. As with other chronic diseases, OUD can be treated and long-term recovery is possible.

**aIwncareraesne eOsUsD**

Getting **prompt treatment** for opioid dependence and withdrawal **can prevent opioid misuse**. Healthcare staff should be familiar with the signs and symptoms of OUD and facilitate linkage to appropriate services.

**Treat people who have OUD**

# with respect

Healthcare staff need to foster openness and trust with people living with OUD. They **deserve the same respect as someone recovering from surgery** or any other chronic condition.

**Use respectful**

# person-centered language

Work on changing the language around OUD throughout the organization at all levels. Start a campaign to **raise awareness** of the damaging effects of stigmatizing language.

Help coworkers recognize stigmatizing language in day to day conversations, and have staff sign a language pledge.