

Neighborhood Safety Workgroup

NEWSLETTER

Words Matter

You can reduce stigma, and help save lives, just by changing your language. By using what's called person-centered language, you're not defining a person on any medical disorder he or she may have. It's nonjudgmental, it's neutral, and the diagnosis is purely clinical.

AVOID THESE WORDS

Addict

Drug Problem/Drug Habit

Drug Abuse

Clean

Dirty

Former addict

USE THESE WORDS

Person with a substance use disorder

Substance use disorder

Drug misuse, harmful use

Abstinent, not actively using

Actively using

Person in recovery

Overview of the Neighborhood Safety Workgroup (NSW)

The Neighborhood Safety Workgroup is a sub-committee of the San Diego County Meth Strike Force (MSF). The NSW focuses on reducing the impacts of meth in communities by increasing collaboration and partnership between prevention providers, law enforcement, multi-housing property management, and multi-housing residents.

Resources

Access and Crisis Line: 888-724-7240

2-1-1 SD or (858) 300-1211



STIGMA

Stigma is a set of negative beliefs that a group or society holds about a topic or group of people. Stigma has the potential to negatively affect a person's self-esteem, damage relationships with loved ones, and prevent those suffering from substance use disorder from accessing treatment. When a person experiences stigma they are seen as less than because of their health status.

Stigma can negatively impact a number of areas, including:

- Willingness to attend treatment.
- Willingness to access to healthcare.
- Harm reduction.
- Self-esteem and mental health.



no2meth.org