

Language related to substance use

adapted from Safer Supply Community of Practice Webinar – Substance Use Related Language and Stigma

Use People First Language

- PWUD, PWUS, PWLE
- Someone who has a [SUD]
- Clean → Someone in recovery
- Dealer → Someone who sells drugs

Less stigmatizing options

- Sterile/unused syringe
- User → Actively using
- Clean/Abstinent → Not currently using
- Clean/dirty (urine test) → Positive/Negative test result
- Illicit → Unregulated drugs

Language to Avoid

- Addict
- Clean and sober
- Clean/dirty needle
- Abuse/abuser
- Habit
- Relapse/slip
- Illicit drugs
- Alcoholic

Local Harm Reduction Resources

AVI (AIDS Vancouver Island) - 713 Johnson St (3rd floor)

- 250-384-2366

Sobering Center - 1125 Pembroke St - 250-213-4444

Daily Dose Society - 820 Cormorant St - 250-800-0569

SOLID - 1056 North Park St - 250-298-9497

PEERS Drop In center - 1-744 Fairview Rd - 250-388-5325

Safe Consumption Sites

The Harbour – 941 Pandora

Safe Inhalation Site – 926 Pandora

Rock Bay Landing – 535 Ellice St

Street Survival Guide

Google “street survival guide Victoria”

- Everything you/your patient needs to know about HR and substance services, shelters, etc
- Updated regularly online

Naloxone kits – free for patients from any pharmacy

Motivational Interviewing

1. Resist the righting reflex – causes change resistance
2. Understand your patient’s motivations
3. Listen to your patient – change/sustain talk
4. Empower your patient – explore their change ideas