

Reducing Stigma, Crisis Intervention and Family Navigating to Access Treatment

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Abstract

Does stigma matter when it comes to addiction and the opioid epidemic? In a word: yes. Stigma is the wall of shame ... you can't go over it; you can't go through it; and somehow, it appears around it. Stigma is one of the major barriers in accessing treatment. Why? When one finally admits they have a substance abuse problem, the shame and judgment is like drowning in a pool of dark, thick quicksand. Admitting, that there is a problem with mood altering substances, is so full of shame, embarrassment, and self-defeating, it opens one up to judgment by others. It's never kind. Historically, we do nothing, we say nothing, and hope it gets better. It never does ... not on its own. How do we start the conversation and cut through the barrier of shame? It starts with three of the hardest words the addict will ever say: I need help. When you talk about addiction, the conversation should be as straightforward as if you talk about diabetes or a heart attack. 1 Addiction is a medical condition that effects the brain and changes a person's behavior. It's not a moral failing. I'll say it again: it's not a moral failing. With this conversation, you open the door to reducing the stigma that holds thousands back from reaching out.



**CONFIDENTIAL
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Biography:

A CNN Hero of the Week Award recipient, nationally known for leading successful recovery programs and having over 35 years of continuous recovery himself, Author: Tell Me No I Dare You! Tedx Speaker, Honored by City of San Diego with, Scott Silverman Day 2-19. Scott serves as Founder & CEO of Confidential Recovery, Founder & Owner of Your Crisis

Coach, Executive Director & CEO of Safe Homes Coalition, and President of the Society of Addiction Professional Board. As the Founder of Second Chance, Scott worked for 18 years to break the cycle of substance abuse, unemployment, poverty, and homelessness. For over 18 years, Scott assisted more than 25,000 people in San Diego with job readiness training, employment placement assistance, mental health counseling, case management, and affordable housing referrals to people who desire to change their lives. Scott is a frequent speaker to political, business, and community groups on the need for prisoner reform to prevent homelessness, enhance public safety, and reduce costs for California's taxpayers by helping former inmates to avoid recidivism and re-incarceration. Other specialties: motivational speaking, author, coaching, and consulting non-profit management.

Speaker Publications:

1. "Abstract WP207: Could White Matter Lesion Predict the Risk of Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation in Cryptogenic Stroke?"
2. "Abstract TP160: May-Thurner Syndrome is Associated With Stroke Due to Paradoxical Embolism"
3. "Cortical superficial siderosis predicts early recurrent lobar hemorrhage"
4. "Mp6: homocysteine level in pfo related stroke patients with respect to medical therapy vs pfo closure"
5. "Metabolomic analysis reveals long-term decrease of homocysteine post pfo closure"

[3rd International Conference on Neurology and Neurosurgery;](#)
Webinar- December 15, 2020.

Abstract Citation:

Scott H Silverman, Reducing Stigma, Crisis Intervention and Family Navigating to Access Treatment, Neuro-Oncology Surgery 2020, 3rd International Conference on Neurology and Neurosurgery; Webinar- December 15, 2020 (<https://neurooncology-surgery.conferenceseries.com/>)