

Inequity, Stigma and Solutions in Health and SUD Care

A Client & Provider Perspective



"Providing dynamic, progressive, and diverse supports to improve the well-being of our communities."

- Mental Health Services
- Alcohol/Drug Treatment Programs
- Problem Gambling Treatment
- David Romprey Oregon Warmline
- Intellectual/Developmental Disability
- Equine Therapy



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Disclosures

No disclosures to report.

My Experience

“Of all the forms of inequality,
injustice in health is the most
shocking and inhumane.”
– Martin Luther King Jr.



Timmy

Timmy's Story

- Accessing Treatment
- Healthcare disparities
 - Medical
 - Dental

What Worked

Jennifer

Jennifer's Story

- **ER Visits in active addiction**
 - Nubain
 - Nasogastric Tube
 - Lack of empathy and "Drug Seeking"
- **Post Surgical Care in SUD Recovery**
 - Different experiences, same hospital.
 - Family member
 - My own experience

What worked

- Some physicians and nurses had education around SUD and use of Buprenorphine MAT medications.
- It took one ER doctor who genuinely cared for me to get inpatient treatment. And it took one doctor who was open to my experience and information to have a good surgical experience and outcome.

The numbers

- Oregon ranks 1st in the nation for past year illicit drug use (SAMSHA, 2021).
- Oregon also ranks last, 50th, in the U.S. in access to SUD treatment (2021).
- 78% of PWUD report at least one instance of stigma related to healthcare system engagement (Muncan et al., 2020)

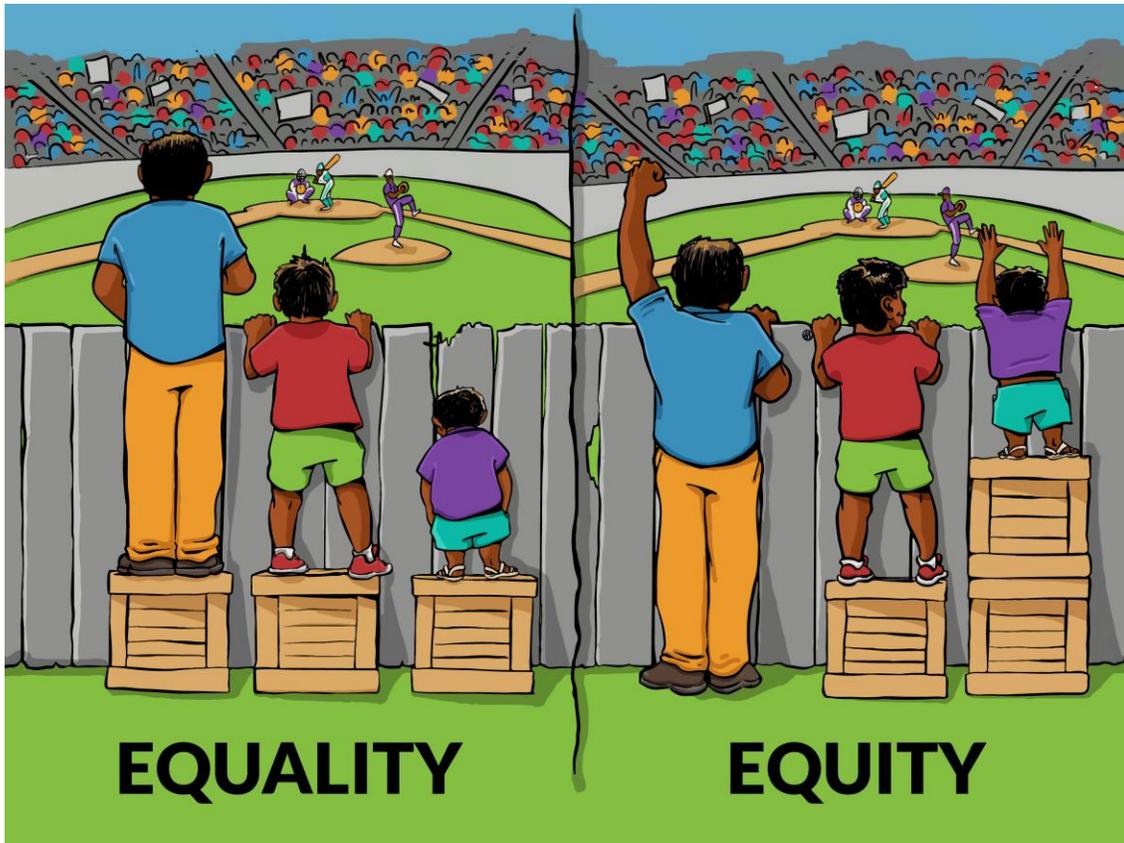
Barriers to Equitable care

- Stigma; negative perception of substance use disorder among rural providers (Dschaak et al., 2018).
- Provider shortages per population and decreased access to specialty or timely care in rural settings. (GOBHI, 2022)
- Payment amounts for Medicaid providers (Callison & Nguyen, 2017)

Helpful Implementations

- Medicaid expansion has drastically improved access to services for those who have a SUD.
- DEA passed Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023.
- ADA classifies SUD as a disability-Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act.

Solutions



- Policy
 - Equitable care
 - Follow-up care/Specialty care referrals
 - Treating Pain/Prescribing controlled substances
- Education and training for medical providers
 - Trauma informed care
 - Substance Use Disorder
 - MAT
 - No Wrong Door
 - Peer services
 - Appropriate Language- treatment and documentation
- Advocacy

Summary

The system only works if it works together.

Stigma leads to PWUD not accessing services in a timely manner.

Leads to increase in healthcare costs overall.

Care should be equitable to all who access it.

Evaluate policy, educate providers, and be an ally for those who are in active SUD or recovery.

We do recover

“STIGMA IS RELATIONAL: “A PROCESS BY WHICH THE REACTION OF OTHERS SPOILS NORMAL IDENTITY.” IT THRIVES, OR DIES, IN THE WAYS PEOPLE TREAT ONE ANOTHER.”- ERVING GOFFMAN

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THANK YOU

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