



Guiding Principles of *Recovery*

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- ◆ ***Recovery emerges from hope.*** The belief that recovery is real provides the essential and motivating message of a better future – that people can and do overcome the internal and external challenges, barriers, and obstacles that confront them.
- ◆ ***Recovery is person-driven.*** Self-determination and self-direction are the foundations for recovery as individuals define their own life goals and design their unique path.
- ◆ ***Recovery occurs via many pathways.*** Individuals are unique with distinct needs, strengths, preferences, goals, culture, and backgrounds – including trauma experiences – that affect and determine their pathway to recovery. Abstinence is the safest approach for those with substance use disorders.
- ◆ ***Recovery is holistic.*** Recovery encompasses an individual’s whole life, including mind, body, spirit, and community. The array of services and supports available should be integrated and coordinated.
- ◆ ***Recovery is supported by peers and allies.*** Mutual support and mutual aid groups, including the sharing of experiential knowledge and skills, as well as social learning, play an invaluable role in recovery.
- ◆ ***Recovery is supported through relationships and social networks.*** An important factor in the recovery process is the presence and involvement of people who believe in the

person’s ability to recover; who offer hope, support, and encouragement; and who also suggest strategies and resources for change.

- ◆ ***Recovery is culturally-based and influenced.*** Culture and cultural background in all of its diverse representations – including values, traditions, and beliefs – are keys in determining a person’s journey and unique pathway to recovery.
- ◆ ***Recovery is supported by addressing trauma.*** Services and supports should be trauma-informed to foster safety (physical and emotional) and trust, as well as promote choice, empowerment, and collaboration.
- ◆ ***Recovery involves individual, family, and community strengths and responsibilities.*** Individuals, families, and communities have strengths and resources that serve as a foundation for recovery.
- ◆ ***Recovery is based on respect.*** Community, systems, and societal acceptance and appreciation for people affected by mental health and substance use problems – including protecting their rights and eliminating discrimination – are crucial in achieving recovery.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration (SAMHSA), 2011
www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1112223420.aspx