**American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Definition of Addiction**

“Addiction is a primary, chronic disease of brain reward, motivation, memory and related circuitry. Dysfunction in these circuits leads to characteristic biological, psychological, social and spiritual manifestations. This is reflected in an individual pathologically pursuing reward and/or relief by substance use and other behaviors.

Addiction is characterized by inability to consistently abstain, impairment in behavioral control, craving, diminished recognition of significant problems with one’s behaviors and interpersonal relationships, and a dysfunctional emotional response. Like other chronic diseases, addiction often involves cycles of relapse and remission. Without treatment or engagement in recovery activities, addiction is progressive and can result in disability or premature death (https://www.asam.org/resources/definition-of-addiction).”

**12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous**

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol–that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings
8. Made a list of persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs (Alcoholics Anonymous, 2001, 59-60).

**12 Steps can be helpful to people who experienced violence because they:** emphasize relationships**,** are non-hierarchical**,** create a safe, caring environment**,** are available most times of day**,** are free (Niess & Garvin, 2012).

**12 Steps can be unhelpful to people who experienced violence because:** their primary purpose is something other than domestic violence**,** the people in the rooms are not experts in domestic violence**,** the beliefs of members often reflect the community beliefs about domestic violence (Niess & Garvin, 2012).

**Recommendations**

Strong linkages between substance use disorder treatment providers and perpetrator intervention programs and survivor advocates are correlated with more positive client outcomes (Timko, et al, 2012). Strong linkage, including formal linkage agreements, between substance use disorder treatment providers and perpetrator intervention programs correlated with greater awareness of and attention given to screening for IPV by allied mental health providers. Similarly, advocates and perpetrator interventionists gaining greater access to allied mental health providers for survivors and perpetrators (Laing, Irwin, & Toivonen, 2012).

Clients and patients entering treatment for substance use disorder should be screened for intimate partner violence (IPV) using the Jellineck inventory for assessing partner violence (J-IPV). If survivors and/or perpetrators are identified, interventions can be taken to address safety planning and advocacy for survivors and programming to address IPV committed by perpetrators of violence (Kraanan, et al, 2013). Advocates and perpetrator intervention program staff should be trained to screen for substance use disorders (Chermack, et al, 2009).

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