

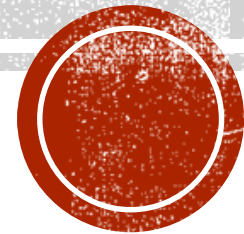
**IT IS NOT ABOUT THE MEDICINE, IT
IS ABOUT THE PERSON: HOW
ADDICTION REALLY STARTS & WHAT
TO DO ABOUT IT**

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BIO

- Jack is a social worker with over 20 years of experience as a community organizer, advocate, professor, and clinician. Jack is a graduate of the Joint MSW program between NC A&T State University & UNCG. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist; Certified Clinical Supervisor in Addictions; and holds the NASW NC Certificate in Clinical Supervision. Jack is also a certified Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) with the Department of Transportation.
- Jack is also a frequent adjunct professor in social work at the BSW & MSW levels. He has received teaching and academic awards for his work in the classroom. He has over 10 years of teaching social work students in NC. Jack is an advocate and former lobbyist. He has worked with NASW NC, NAMI NC and the National AHEC Organization. In 2007 Social Work Today Magazine named Jack “One of Today’s Most Influential Social Workers”



OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the basics of the addictive brain and disease process
- Debunk common held myths about addiction
- Offer some key insights you can use everyday



MYTH 1: ADDICTION IS A CHOICE

- Because we must have some kind of substance come into the body to kick off this process that part of the equation is correct. The *first* use is choice afterwards for some people it is not
- Moralistic framing of addiction as a consequence for bad behavior misses the point that many of us have a life experience where medication becomes our drug that causes the cascade effect to start
- We do not know who is genetically predisposed to addiction and who is not. Statistically, depending on the substance in question can be as low as 1 in 3 (tobacco)



MYTH 2: WILLPOWER ALONE WILL FORCE ONE TO BECOME SOBER

- We have all heard the stories of the man who drank for 30 years and suddenly stopped. Just as we have all heard the stories of the 90 year marathon winner.
- Assuming willpower alone will make this happen is disingenuous. Drugs, as we know, change the brain by attaching to the synapses and causes the brain to work differently – particularly with opioids. Without medical detox and intervention of replacement therapy (like methadone) the person becomes physically sick.



BEGINS WITH UNDERSTANDING YOUR PATIENT

- Full medical and psychosocial workup
- What is the family history of addiction?
- We know that the patterns of behavior in addicted families can last generations if not resolved
- In a comprehensive workup (age of first use, intensity of use, amount, context) we learn how the substance become integrated into the schema of the person's life



CONNECT THE FAMILY AND PATIENT TO RESOURCES AS SOON AS YOU SUSPECT

- Narcotics Anonymous
- Na-Anon for family
- Do not let this be “silent” because it may be embarrassing. Many athletes have a high need for “performance” and the “look of successful performance.” These folks are at high risk
- If one’s future sense of self is tied to the outcome of their sobriety we move in different direction
- With family support we change the course of things



RESOURCES

- NA.org
- Nar-anon.org
- Hazelden
- CDC/SAMHSA
- Jack Register – CEO Jack Register & Associates
 - jackrlcsw@gmail.com

