

**SEVENTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION
December 11-14, 2023
Washington D.C.**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.
CICAD/doc.2817/23
December 12, 2023
Original: English**

**SUBSTANCE USE HEALTH
A STARTING PLACE**

REMOVING BARRIERS TO CARE FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

SUBSTANCE USE HEALTH

A STARTING PLACE

Removing Barriers to Care for People who Use
Drugs

Anthony Esposti, CEO, CAPSA



Our Discussion Today

1

An explicit health lens across the spectrum of use (and non-use), including the distribution of services and resources .

2

Removing the presumption of illness as the starting point.

3

Speaking of health as a way to dismantle stigma and remove barriers to care

Substance Use Health Occurs Across a Spectrum

Explicit link to substance use across the spectrum



There is a Gap Creating Inequity

No practice. No research.
No services.



“US”

“them”

“Addiction”

“Healthy”



Illness-only discourse =

- 1. Uninformed decision-making**
- 2. More costs and harms**
- 3. More stigma**

A Solution: Substance Use Health

A Call to Action

CAPSA's vision is to create equity for Substance Use Health resources and funding to advance equitable care across the spectrum.

Physical Health and Mental Health do not presume illness and have multiple supports for life-long wellness.



**Physical Health
& Mental Health**



**Substance Use
Health**



THANK YOU

CAPSA
Bringing Expertise to Needed Systems Change

www.capsa.ca