Stigma of Drug Abuse:

- The belief that Addiction is a character flaw or weakness that can’t be cured.
- Causes discrimination and exclusion from “normal” people. It is why insurance companies get away with not paying for treatment and it allows politicians to take away food stamps from single mothers who struggle with addiction.
- It is oppressive. It causes people to keep their addictions secret and prevents them from getting help.
- People who are victims of stigma internalize the hate it carries, transforming it to shame and self-loathing. Parents may feel guilty and avoid getting treatment for their child.
- It is because of stigma that some doctors won’t treat addicts.
- It is harsh judgment