

# Reverse the Revolving Door of SUD

## Exaggerate

**Some think:** Patients with addiction problems **exaggerate** their symptoms of pain because they are **drug seeking**.

**Reality:** **At best, they can stave off withdrawal**, an experience often feared.

## Choice

**Some think:** Substance abuse is a voluntary **choice**.

**Reality:** *In the beginning, the person may start as a voluntary user; however, the behavior eventually becomes **compulsive and uncontrollable**.*

## Character Flaw

**Some think:** People with addiction have a **defective** or **selfish personality**.

**Reality:** *Addiction was originally framed as a form of antisocial personality disorder, but **research** does not support this idea.*

## Rock Bottom

**Some think:** Substance abusers have to hit “**rock bottom**” in order to want help

**Reality:** *The **earlier** the treatment is administered the **better** because waiting could cost the person his or her life.*

## Hopeless

**Some think:** Helping addicts who continue to have **recurring relapses** is **pointless** because their case is **hopeless**.

**Reality:** *Treatment for substance abuse is ongoing and **relapse shows that they tried**.*

