

## **Whatever Happened to Recovery?: Treating Symptoms or a Syndrome**

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This presentation will discuss what we really mean by recovery and wellness in addiction prevention and treatment; and whether we actually take recovery seriously despite our frequent use of the term. Prevention initiatives frequently do not receive the priority funding and attention they deserve. Treatment programs, policies and payment often appear to be set up to treat symptoms, rather than a syndrome that has many characteristics of a chronic, potentially relapsing illness.

This keynote will challenge participants to examine their attitudes about wellness and recovery. It will also draw contrasts with prevention and treatment efforts in mental health, especially at a time when the focus on co-occurring disorders is increasing.

### **Objectives:**

#### **Participants will:**

1. Identify their definitions, attitudes and practices about wellness and recovery in addiction prevention and treatment.
2. Discuss the discrepancy between perceived concepts about recovery and actual clinical practice and program design, policies and payment.
3. Review their current practice or program to suggest ways to improve consistency of a recovery approach in addiction and co-occurring disorders prevention and treatment.