Define STEMM again please.
A: STEMM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine, and this represents the future of employment in America. Many people have observed that, as jobs disappear, substance use intensifies within communities. The crack epidemic hit urban America at the same time that the nation was in a recession in the 1980s, and likewise, as manufacturing jobs are being shipped abroad, drugs such as heroin and methamphetamines are intensifying in rural America.

What do you say to substance abuse counselors who discourage the protective factors because they interpret them as enablers and defense mechanisms? i.e. praying grandmothers (enablers), sense of humor(defense mechanisms).
A: In the mid-1980s a primary approach to addictions counseling was influenced by the language of Sigmund Freud, who believed that clients were in denial (their defense mechanism) and our job was to break that denial, using heavy confrontation. Research by William Miller, as outlined in the book, Motivational Interviewing, reveals that the more heavily we confront our clients, the more heavily they drink. Our old approach to counseling also suggested that when clients sought help, we should focus only on the addiction and address other problems later, if at all. The belief was that counseling in any other manner would be a form of defocusing and enabling. This approach was challenged in the 1980s when more women entered addiction counseling as clients with histories of sexual abuse. We learned that a failure to address childhood trauma while simultaneously addressing the addiction was ineffective and that we have to become skillful in addressing more than one problem at a time.

As African Americans have a number of negative stereotypes which, if internalized by counselors, can lead to a lack of belief in the client’s ability to change, recognizing protective factors and strengths can give clients and counselors hope. In addition, protective factors can also serve as an effective prevention strategy. Take the number of African American children who wound up in the child welfare systems in the 1980s because their parent was addicted to crack-cocaine. Many of these children were placed in the homes of “praying grandmothers” who nurtured them until their parents recovered.

What is the name of Afeni Shukur’s Autobiography?
A: Afeni Shakur: Evolution of a Revolutionary by Jasmine Guy. A little bit about the book. Afeni Shakur is the mother of rapper Tupak Shakur. She was visited by Jada Pickett Smith who went to high school with Tupac at the Performing Arts High School in Baltimore. Jada visited Afeni after Tupak was assassinated and told her that she should cry for three days and then get a lawyer. She told her that due to her son’s addiction he was not paid for many of his contracts. The story is about Afeni going from a revolutionary to prison to long-term crack-cocaine recovery and ultimately running the Tupak Shakur Foundation in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

What is the name of the Canadian Indian video again?
A: The video is entitled, The Honor of All and can be viewed on YouTube. It tells the story of a group of Canadian Indians who went from 100 percent alcoholism to 95 percent recovery.