Developmental Recovery – A Habilitation Model of Care
Presenter: Robert Neri

Can this model be applied to individuals with developmental delays?
A: Yes – the approach is person centered and collaborative, so it works with the individual's strengths.

How do you help a person who does not accept the spiritual aspect in recovery?
A: There are many pathways to recovery. The spiritual aspect can be developed by using language like, "a search for purpose and meaning" in life, thus backing into self-care and spiritual principles as part of the conversation.

What is the difference between habilitation and rehabilitation?
A: Rehabilitation requires a period of time when life matured and was working, then loss of control and restoration built on pervious life knowledge and skills. Habilitation is the construction of life values and mastery for the first time.

How do you handle more antisocial clients that are very resistant to learning empathy when considering rewards instead of punishment?
A: Antisocial is a continuum. Most folks with a substance use disorder have a conscience as guilt is usually a necessary part of the progression. However, specific to your question, empathy can be taught as a skill. Deep emotional work is often not the best approach with anti-social, rather, "how this affects you" is a better approach.

How would you approach a client that has burned out on 12 Step Groups, or rejects the concept of surrender?
A: Surrender is on a continuum and admission-submission-compliance-acceptance-surrender. It's a natural maturation process with recovery. I would explain the process from a change perspective and let it evolve as part of the process.

Don't we have to increase the pain of remaining the same while lessening the pain of change, or is the goal more to lessen the fear of change?
A: The goal is to build hopefulness thru strength based approaches before uncovering all the painful experiences relating to past addiction. Anytime you can use education to lessen the fear of change, it's a good thing.