

Understanding the ASAM Criteria in the Context of the California Treatment System

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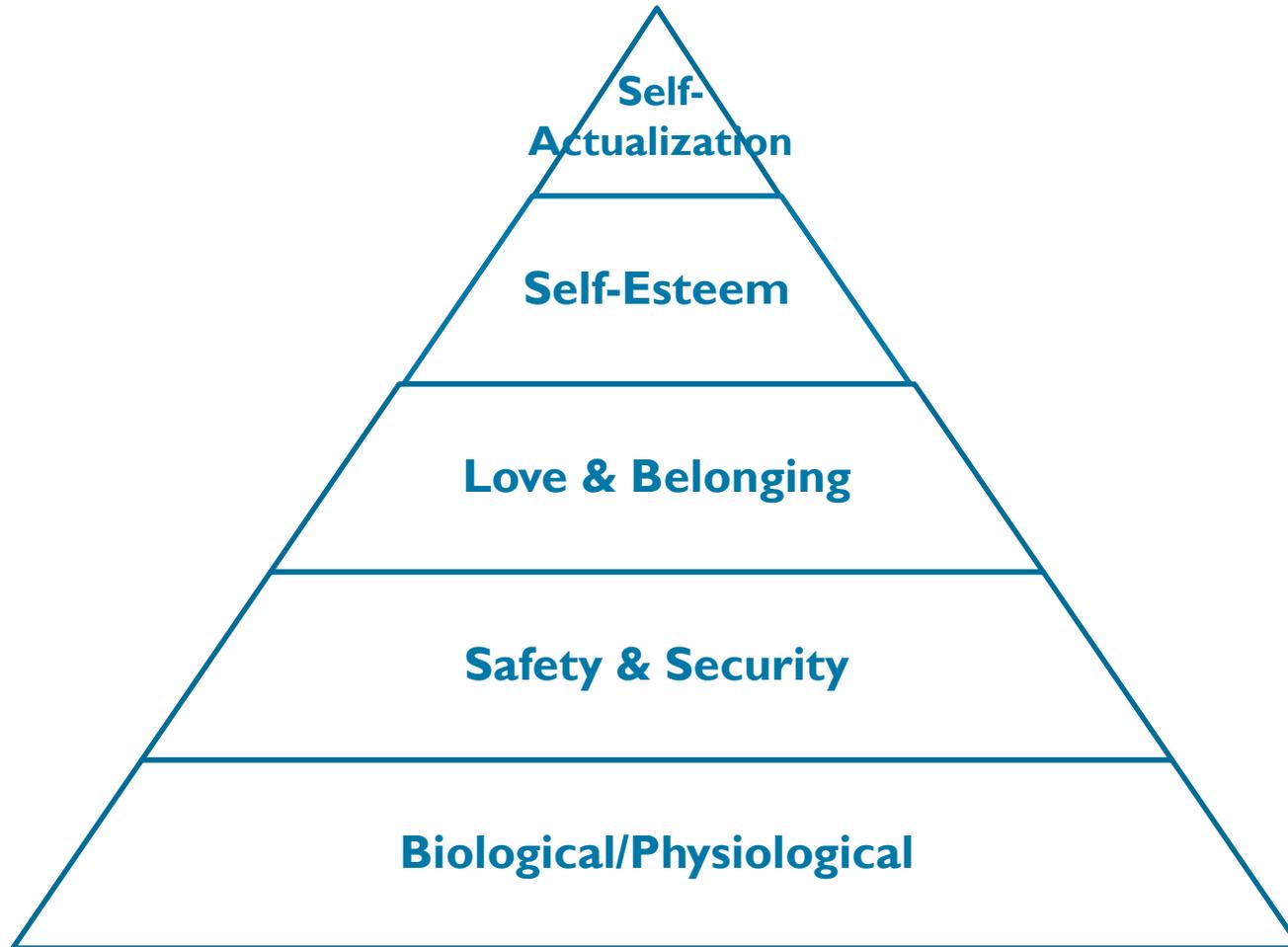
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Behavioral Wellness
A System of Care and Recovery

Six Dimensions of a Multidimensional Assessment

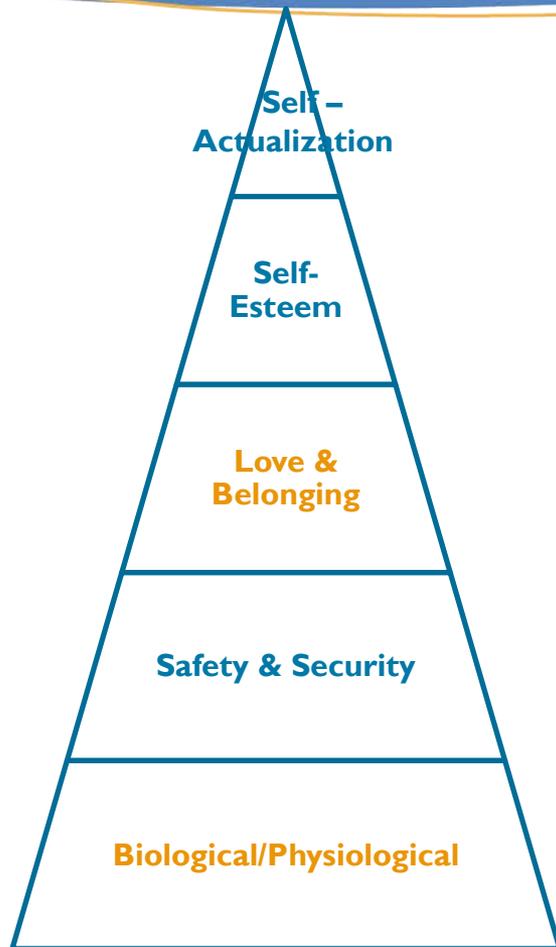
1. Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential
2. Biomedical Conditions and Complications
3. Emotional, Behavioral, or Cognitive Conditions and Complications
4. Readiness to Change
5. Relapse, Continued Use, or Continued Problems Potential
6. Recovery and Living Environment



Remember Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs?



Relationship Between ASAM Dimensions & Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



ASAM Dimensions 4 – Readiness to Change

ASAM Dimensions 3 – Emotional/ Cognitive Conditions

ASAM Dimensions 6 – Recovery/ Living Environment

ASAM Dimensions 2 – Biomedical Conditions
ASAM Dimension 3 – Emotional/Cognitive Condition
ASAM Dimension 5 – Relapse/Continued Use
ASAM Dimension 6 – Recovery/Living Environment

ASAM Dimensions 1 – Acute Intoxication/Withdrawal
ASAM Dimension 2 – Biomedical Conditions
ASAM Dimensions 3 – Emotional/Cognitive Conditions



ASAM Dimensions

- Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential
- Biomedical Conditions and Complications
- Emotional, Behavioral, or Cognitive Conditions and Complications
- Readiness to change
- Relapse, Continued Use, or Continued Problems Potential
- Recovery and Living Environment

ASI* Domains

- Alcohol, Drugs
- Medical
- Psychiatric

- Alcohol, drugs
- Employment support
Legal, Family Social

*ASI: Addiction Severity Index, most commonly used assessment in CA



Six Dimensions of Multidimensional Assessments

1. Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential
2. Biomedical Conditions and Complications
3. Emotional, Behavioral, or Cognitive Conditions and Complications
4. Readiness to Change
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6. Recovery and Living Environment

4

Utmost Severity/Imminent Danger

3

Serious Issue, high risk or near imminent danger

2

Moderate difficulty, with some persistent chronic issues

1

Mild difficulty, Chronic issue likely to resolve soon

0

Non-issue, or very low-risk issue, chronic issues likely to be mostly or entirely resolved



What guides placement priorities?

- The highest severity problem, with specific attention to Dimensions 1, 2, and 3 should guide the patient's entry point into the treatment continuum.
- Resolution of any acute problems(s) provides an opportunity to shift the patient down to a less intensive level of care.



Assessing “Immediate Needs” and “Imminent Danger”

- Immediate can be assessed in person or over the phone.
- Should address each of the six dimensions,
- Includes three components:
 - The strong probability that certain behaviors will occur(i.e., continued alcohol or drug use, etc.),
 - That such behaviors will present a significant risk of serious adverse consequences to individual and/or others (i.e., driving while intoxicated, neglect of child, etc.),
 - The likelihood these events will occur in the very near future (within hours or days, not weeks or months).

