

# Open the Door to the Conversation

## Substance Use Screening Starts with Us



### Why Start the Conversation?

If we don't ask, we may miss the chance to make a real difference. Early conversations about substance use create opportunities for support, prevention, and change.

### How We Approach Screening Matters



#### Be Non-Judgmental

Create a space where people feel safe. Avoid telling people what to do.



#### Provide Clear, Honest Information

Share health and social risks so individuals can make informed decisions about their use.



#### Explore Motivation

Ask what matters to them. What are their goals?  
What might be a reason to cut back or quit?



#### Respect Autonomy

Change is a personal decision. Our role is to guide — not pressure.



#### Use Validated Screening Tools

Choose evidence-based screens that are appropriate for the population you serve.



*Every Conversation is an Opportunity.*

Start it. Hold it with care.  
Open the door.



**Nevada Opioid  
Center of Excellence**  
CASAT | School of Public Health