



# Motivational Interviewing:

**Stages of Change**  
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## Acknowledgements & Disclaimer

These slides and associated materials were developed by:

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## Introductions

- Name
- What is something you do out of habit?
  - Caffeine
  - Shopping
  - Buying things
  - Nicotine
  - Bite your nails



## Objectives

- Brief definition of Motivational Interviewing
- Identify the elements of change and techniques for supporting behavior changes
- Increase knowledge regarding the application of Stages of Change and practice of MI when working with individuals
- Describe characteristic of people in each of the Stages of Change

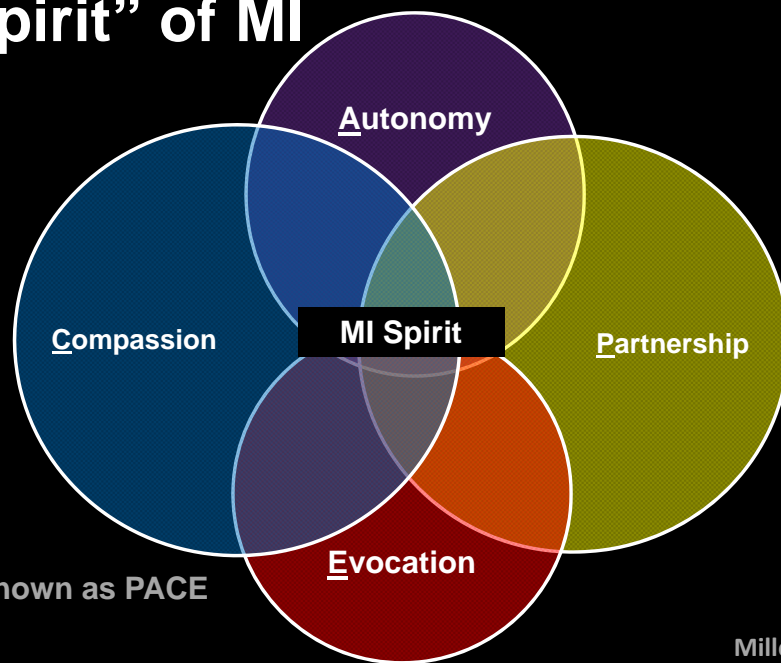
# part I: brief definition of Motivational Interviewing



## What is Motivational Interviewing?

It is an evidence-based treatment that addresses ambivalence to change. It is a conversational approach designed to help people identify their readiness, willingness, and ability to change and to make use of their own change-talk.

## The “Spirit” of MI



\*Also known as PACE

Miller & Rollnick, 2013

**part II: identify the elements of change and techniques for supporting behavior changes**

# Change

Stages  
of  
Change

Motivation

Ambivalence

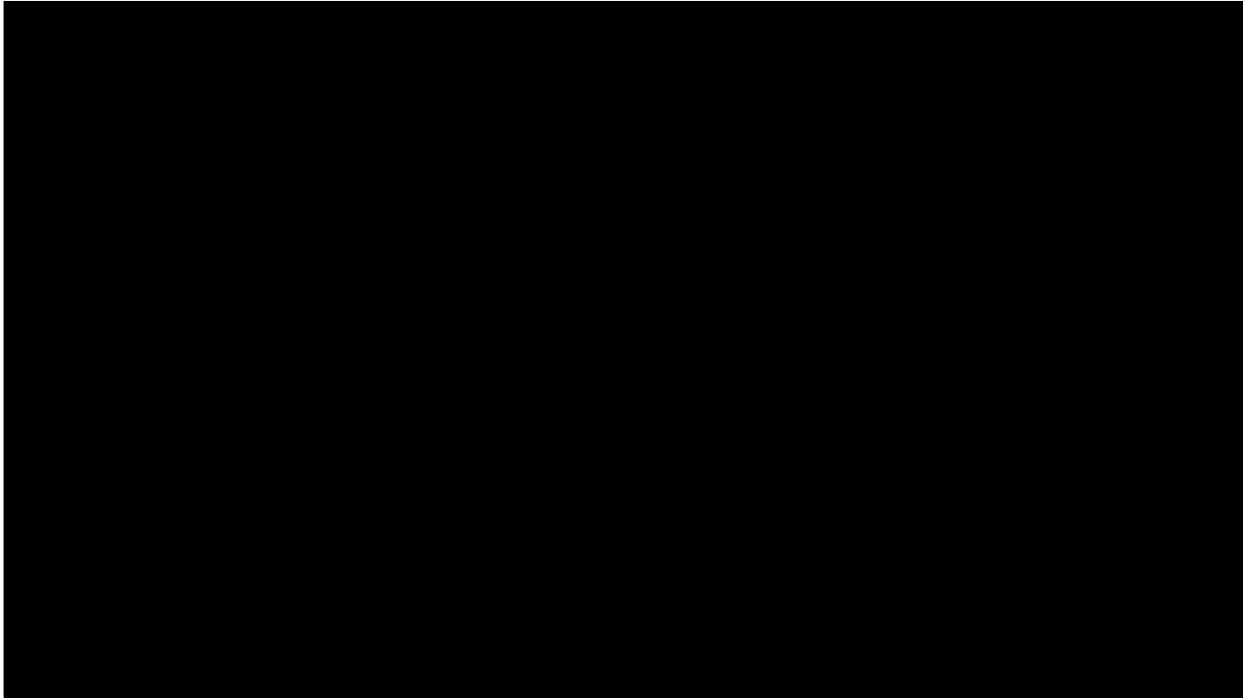
It is important for the helper to meet the person where they are at ...  
not where they want them to be.

- **“A natural and instinctive response** of trained care providers **is to fix the problem**, make things right, to use knowledge acquired from training and experience to help the individual seeking care to overcome their problems.”

Miller & Rollnick (2012)



## “The Righting Reflex”



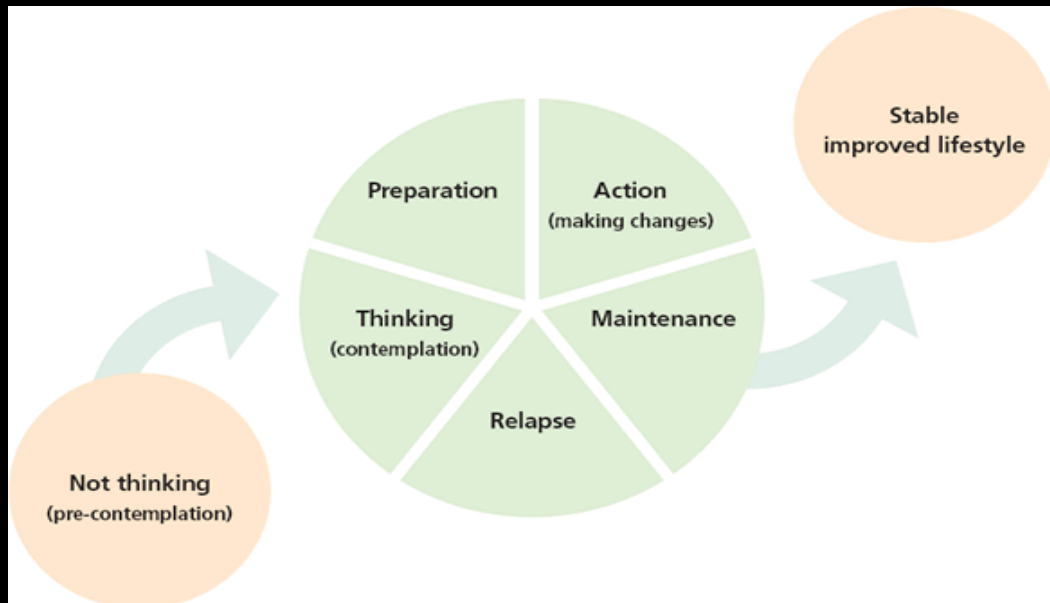
goal is for individuals  
to talk *themselves*  
into changing

**part III: increase knowledge  
regarding the application of  
Stages of Change and  
practice of MI when working  
with individuals**

## Barriers, Goals, and Strategies



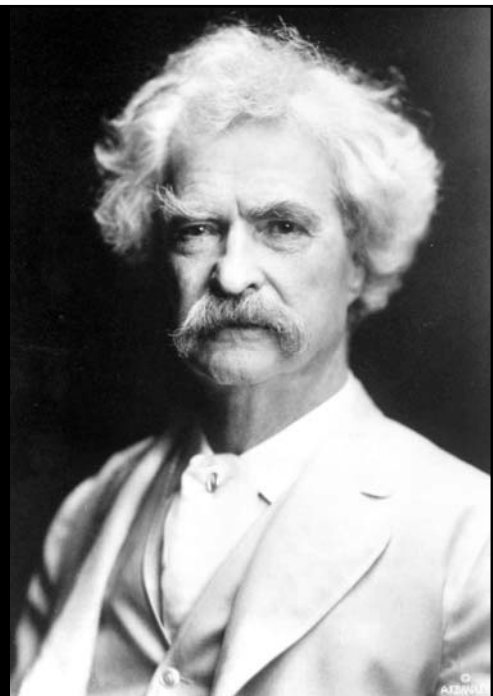
# Stages of Change



**Change is Hard Work!**

**The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not.**

**-Mark Twain**





# Pre-Contemplation

## Barriers & Misconceptions

- Unaware
- No Connection

## Strategies

- Increase Awareness
- Educate
- Examine Discrepancies



*It is NOT on their radar screen*

**pre-contemplation: not aware**  
**can't see the problem**

# Contemplation

## Barriers

- Ambivalence
- Lack of Self-Efficacy

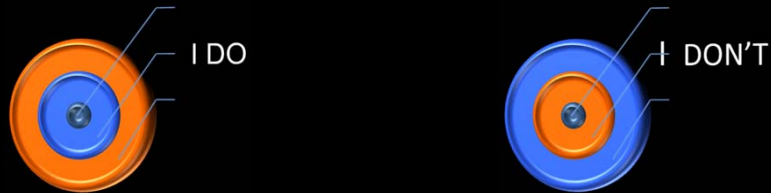
## Strategies

- Examine an individual's personal values
- Weigh the pros and cons
- Tip the balance



**contemplation: problem  
acknowledgment  
thinking about changing  
no specific plans in place**

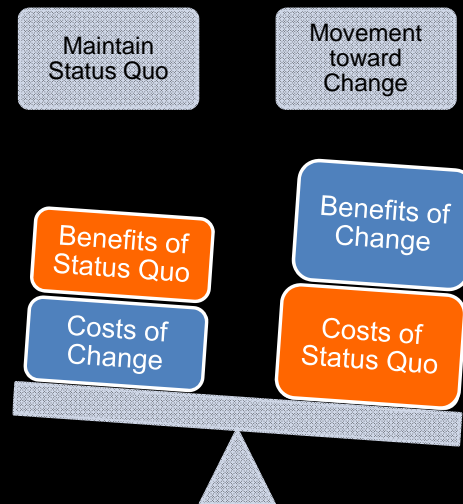
# Ambivalence



- A state of mind in which a person has co-existing but conflicting feelings, thoughts, and actions about something.
- Ambivalence is normal and it's easy to feel two ways about it. "I do want to change and I don't want to change."
- Simultaneously wanting and not wanting something or wanting both of two incompatible things.

**80%** of people will be in  
pre-contemplation or  
contemplation

# Tip the Balance!



## Determination/Preparation

### Barriers

- Insufficient options
- Lack of knowledge
- Fear of failure, rejection, change or pitfalls

### Strategies

- Strengthen commitment
- Effective resources
- Develop realistic timelines and goals



**determination/preparation:  
focus on solution (problem)  
and future (past)**  
**small behavioral changes**

## Reduce Barriers

“I want to quit smoking”

- Situation 1 - Driving To Work x 3
- Situation 2 - Smoke Breaks With Co-workers
- Situation 3 - After A Meal x 4
- Situation 4 - When I'm Feeling Stressed
- Situation 5 - In Social Settings x 6



# Action

## Barriers

- Overconfidence in ability
- Unplanned events/crisis

## Strategies

- Consistent support
- Focus on successes
- Provide positive reinforcement
- Treatment/Crisis plan



Action: **observable**  
behavioral changes

# Maintenance

## Potential Barriers

- Unfulfilled
- Lack of competing reinforcers

## Strategies

- Affirm changes made
- Develop internal and external rewards
- Help the individual find activities to replace the previous problematic behaviors
- Provide encouragement and Support



**maintenance: old behavior is still a temptation (possible relapse)**

# Relapse

- Strategies
- Relapse can be a normal part of the recovery process
- Assist the individual in learning from the relapse before committing to a new plan of action
- Discover the triggers that lead to the relapse



**relapse: not offered as a  
contingency plan but learn  
from relapse**



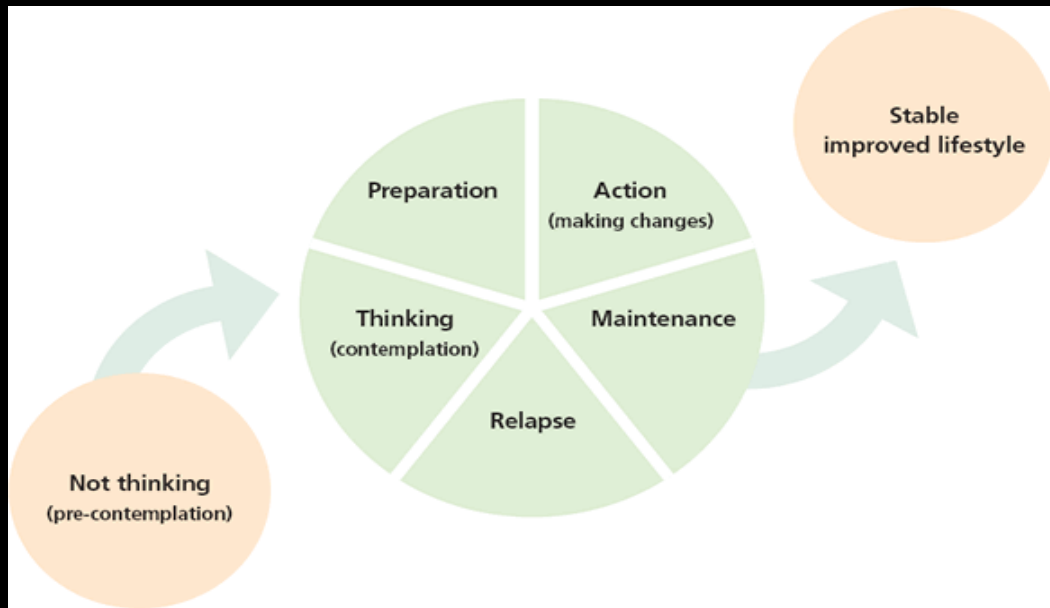
## Stable Improved Lifestyle

- Relapse is less likely and a new stable lifestyle is present
- Strong coping skills
- New habits are adopted

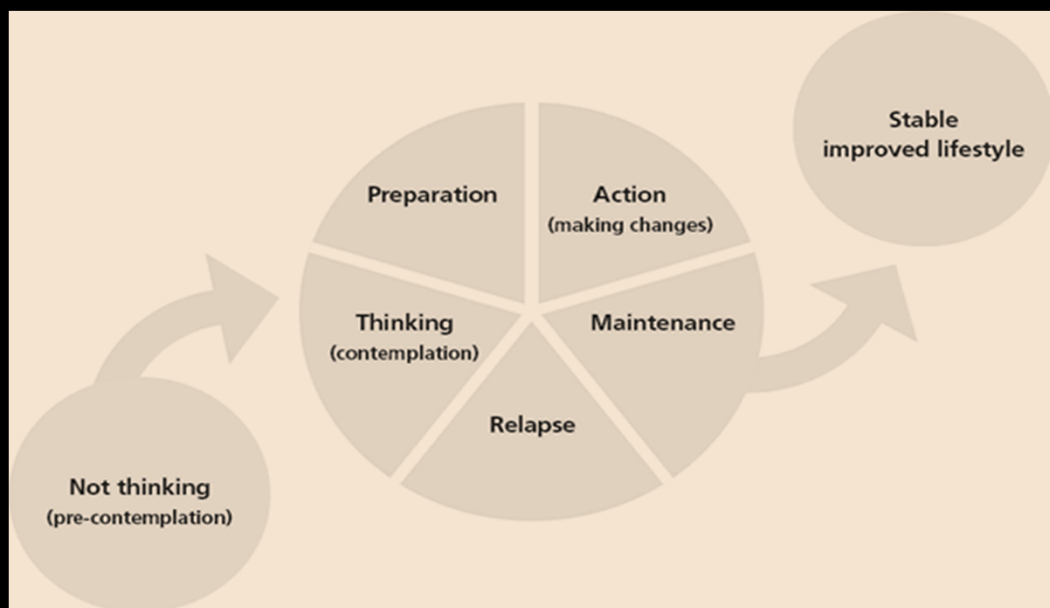
A green rectangular sign with the word "EXIT" written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**stability: not triggered and  
moved on to another goal**

Stages of Change



Stages of Change



## Activity: Guess the Stage of Change

- “I think I may need to slow down on my drinking”
- “I went ahead and made some changes so I’ll be ready to take the substance abuse class”
- “It hasn’t been easy but I’ve been going to the class and even done the homework.”
- “I don’ t have a problem. The people around me do”
- “I am so proud to have got my 5 year chip”

## part IV: practical application

What is your statement of change?



## Exercise

Think back to the behavior that you have been considering changing, but you have been ambivalent about.

Ask yourself:

1. How long have you been considering changing this behavior?
2. What has stopped you from making the change?
3. What would need to happen for you to make the change?

# Assessing Motivation

The mental process, function, or instinct that produces and sustains incentive or drive in human and animal behavior.

## Components

- **Willing**: Degree of discrepancy between current behavior and future values
- **Able**: Confidence for change
- **Ready**: Has to do with priorities

# Ultra Brief Personal Action Plan

- Do something that you wouldn't normally do for yourself...
- "Is there something that you could do by the next time we meet that you would find valuable/helpful?"
- "What is one thing you could do towards reaching your goal?"



# part V: describe characteristic of people in each of the Stages of Change

## Pre-contemplation

### Participant:

- May or may not be aware of the problem
- Overwhelmed, hopeless
- Resigned, low energy
- Hostile, high energy
- No feeling of control
- Denial
- Little or no fear of consequences
- Minimizes harmful consequences

### Helper: Build Trust & Rapport

- Non judgment
- Accept client-autonomy
- Empathy
- Listen and help clarify
- What are participants goals?
- Provide information
- Focus on Safety (reduce harm)
- Look for Ambivalence

## Pre-contemplation

### Reluctant

- Not aware of problem behavior or harm
- Not thinking about change
- Passive
- Fearful or uncomfortable with change

### Rebellious

- **Does** see the problem behavior
- Lots of emotional energy to resist change
- Will argue and be hostile

### Resigned

- **Does** see the problem behavior
- Overwhelmed, hopeless
- Lack of energy

### Rationalizing

- **Does** see the Problem
- Appears to have all the answers
- Intellectualizes and Minimizes the harm
- Resistance lies in "thinking" rather than emotions

## Contemplation

### Participant:

- Acknowledges that a problem exists
- Ambivalence is high!
- Struggles to understand the problem and possible causes and solutions
- Considers action-this could take time!

### Helper: Build Trust & Rapport

- Clarify Ambivalence-Tip the balance!
- Assess how long they have been contemplating change. Past attempts to change?
- Give accurate information, make it personal
- Don't forget the positive (what is the client getting out of the negative behavior?)
- Increase self-efficacy (confidence)

## Determination/Preparation

### Participant:

- Motivation for change evolves into a plan of action
- Gathers knowledge and resources necessary for change
- Client begins to set goals with realistic timelines
- Many clients get overwhelmed and get stuck here!

### Helper:

- What are participants goals?
- Change plan should be acceptable, accessible and effective
- Identify and troubleshoot barriers and triggers
- Identify Supports
- Menu of options

## Action

### Participant:

- Implements plan
- Client begins to modify behavior
- Gives greatest commitment of time and energy
- Most visible to others

### Helper:

- Careful listening
- Affirmation
- Does plan need revision?  
Plan for relapse
- Build self-efficacy!
- Action is not change, it is only one step in the process



# Maintenance

## Participant:

- Sustains behaviors
- It takes time to make actions into established behaviors
- Work with relapse triggers
- Realize that relapse is a potential part of the process not failure

## Helper:

- Careful listening
- Affirmation
- Identify triggers, unexpected stress
- Plan for relapse

# Relapse

## Participant:

- Fear that the habit is stronger than they are
- Takes place gradually after initial slipup
- Self efficacy erodes
- Why:
  - Strong unexpected urge
  - Relaxed guard
  - Didn't realize cost of the change

## Helper:

- Opportunity to learn
- Normalize Relapse
- Help them understand the cycle of change
- Tweak the plan

# part VI: next steps

## Additional Information & Resources @ [cabhp.asu.edu](http://cabhp.asu.edu)



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### motivational interviewing

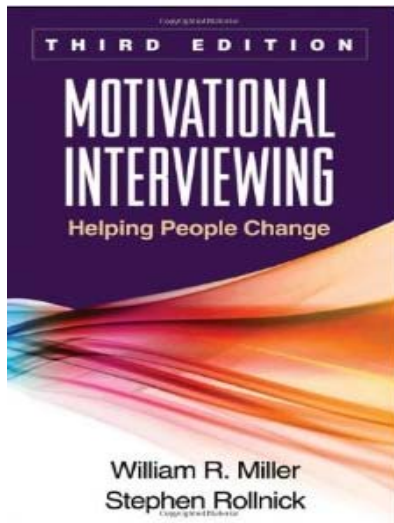
#### awareness/introductory trainings

These are half to full day introductory motivational interviewing trainings for a general audience.

Learning objectives for awareness trainings might include:

- Identifying where in their client/patient consults a guiding style, rather than a directing style, might be useful
- Contrasting directing helping style responses with motivational interviewing helping style responses to client statements
- Describing how the dimensions of the motivational interviewing spirit, collaboration, respecting autonomy, and curiosity, look in their client/patient consults
- Recognizing examples of resistance talk and change talk in client statements. Practicing responding to client statements with reflections and open-ended questions, with the intent of soliciting change talk

## Additional Resources



Miller & Rollnick  
*Motivational  
Interviewing: Helping  
People Change*  
(3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2012)  
*Available used on Amazon*

## Questions & Comments



## References & Links

Miller & Rollnick

<http://www.motivationalinterview.org>

SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices, MI Overview

<http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/ViewIntervention>

Prochaska & DiClemente

<http://www.prochange.com/transtheoretical-model-of-behavior-change>