

## Instead of this:

## Say this!:

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|--|---|
| Clients/Case/Consumers                   | Children/Youth/Families   |
| Mom/Dad                                  | Parents/Caregivers/(Youth)'s mother/father  |
| Out of Home Placement                    | Out of Home Treatment   |
| Not motivated/Lazy                       | Not engaged/not interested  |
| Close/Terminate                          | Transition  |
| Runaway/Elopement                        | Missing   |
| Non-compliance/Refused                   | Did not wish to continue receiving services/Could not be contacted/Facing personal barriers to services/Chose not to/Declined   |
| Aggressive                               | Engaging in behaviors such as hitting, kicking, etc./Becomes physically escalated   |
| Oppositional                             | Has difficulty following rules/Needs support to show positive behaviors   |
| Angry outbursts/<br>Anger Management     | Becomes escalated/Needs assistance expressing anger/emotions  |
| Attention Seeking                        | Relationship Seeking  |
| Normal                                   | Neurotypical/typically developing/like same aged peers  |
| Medication compliance/<br>non-compliance | Consistently taking/not taking medication   |
| Disabled/Delayed/Mentally challenged     | Person first language (ex: child with Autism rather than Autistic child; youth with bipolar disorder rather than bipolar youth) |
| Addict                                   | Youth/caregiver with substance use challenges   |
| Rehab                                    | Substance use treatment   |

## Things to be mindful of:

- Make sure language is objective and clear
- LGBTQ appropriate language—asking what pronoun/name the youth prefers
- Verbs vs. adjectives: When in doubt, describe the actions of the youth/family
- If it was written about you or your family member, how would it make you feel?
- When discussing a youth with substance use challenges, do not specify type of substance in documentation