

# Responding to Objections to Harm Reduction

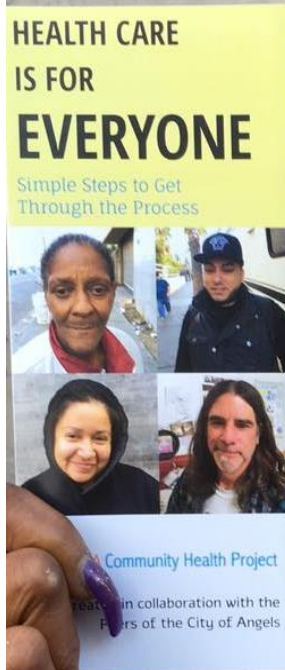


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1. What objections do we hear?
2. What's behind those objections?
3. How can we respond?

# What is Harm Reduction?

- ▶ A philosophy and set of strategies for working with people who use drugs that aims to reduce harm to individuals, families and communities.



# Examples

- Syringe exchange
- Overdose prevention
- Safer drug use education
- Making services available to all  
– including people who aren't abstinent
- Medication-assisted treatment
- Supervised injection facilities



# Harm Reduction Presents Key Challenges

- ▷ A challenge to the person's knowledge
- ▷ A challenge to the person's experience
- ▷ A challenge to their skill



# Adult Learning Theory

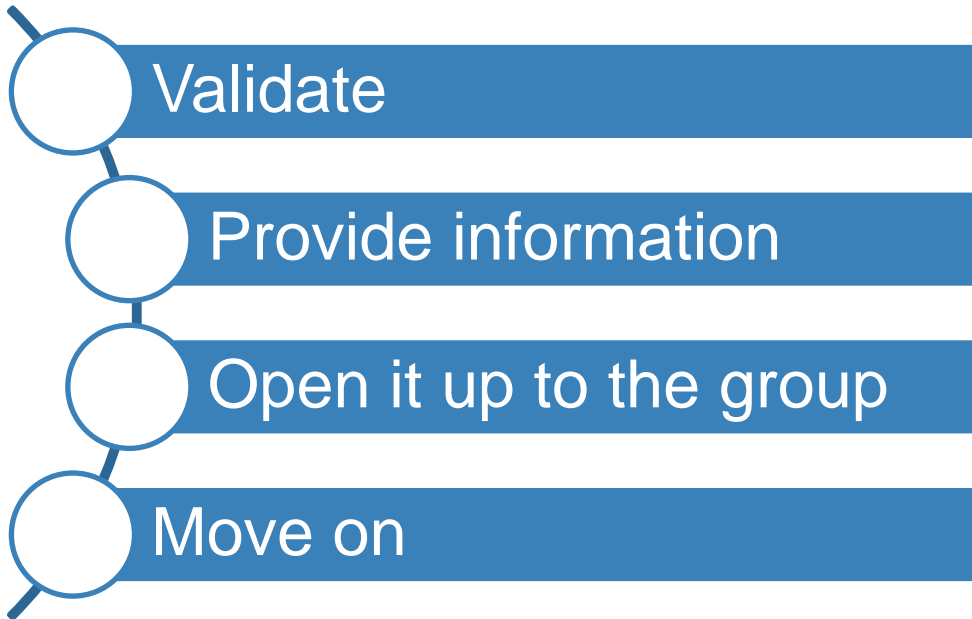
- ▶ Adults need to validate new information based on their own beliefs and experiences
- ▶ They are asking: does this fit with what I know, does it fit with what I believe, does it fit with what I know how to do?
- ▶ When people object it's because they are considering changing.

**We always encourage objections.**

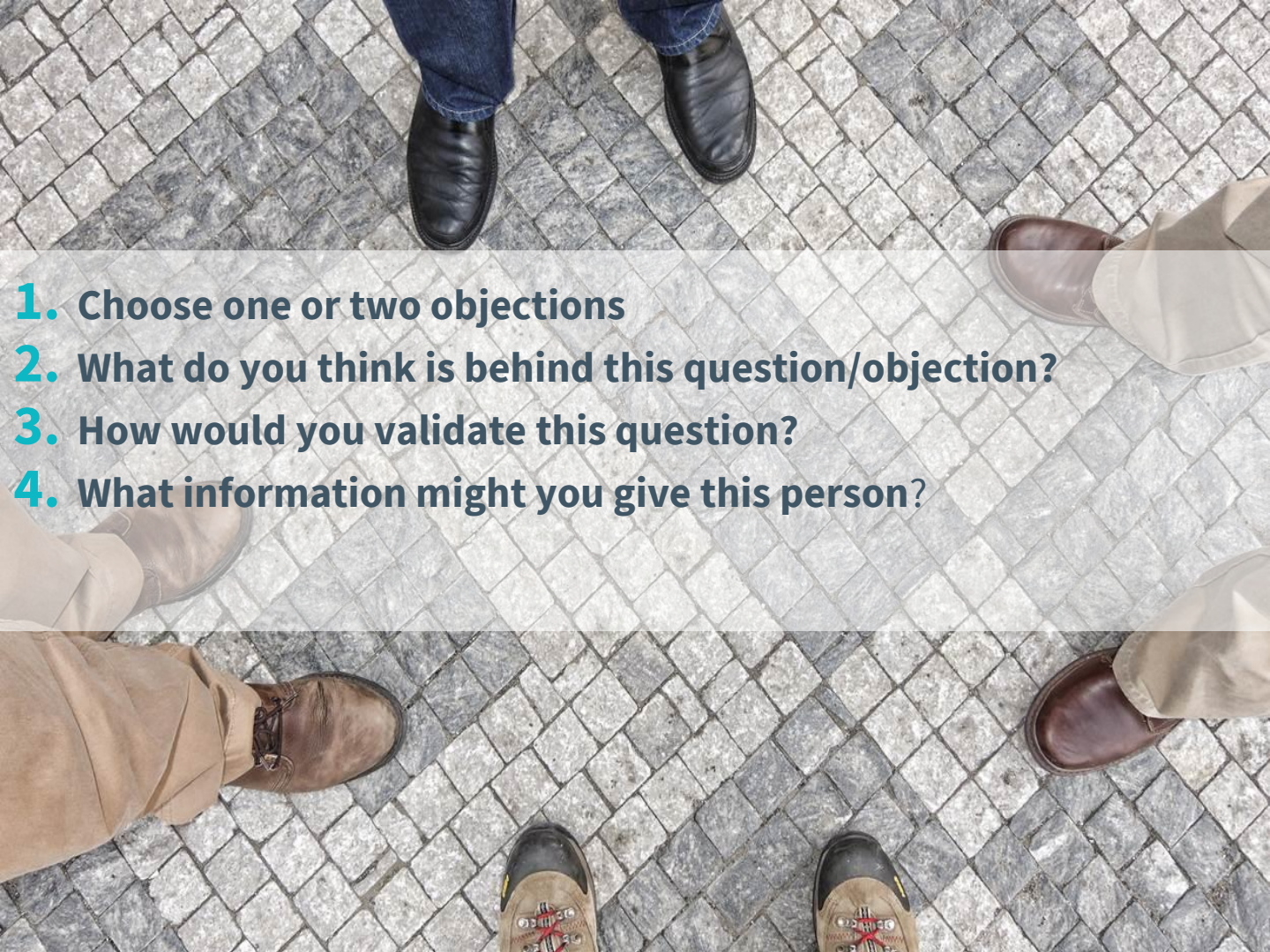
# Objections to Harm Reduction?



# Formula for Responding to Objections







- 1. Choose one or two objections**
- 2. What do you think is behind this question/objection?**
- 3. How would you validate this question?**
- 4. What information might you give this person?**

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