

# Mental Health Recovery-Oriented Language

Medical Model Language      Recovery Model Language

Decompensated.....Not  
doing well

Manipulative.....Getting  
needs met, strategic

Non-compliant..... Doesn't  
want to

High functioning.....Doing  
well

Low functioning.....Having  
difficulty

He's a schizophrenic.....He's a  
person with schizophrenia

Mentally ill.....Has a  
mental health challenge, has lived mental  
health experience

Unmotivated.....Doesn't  
want to

Client, patient.....Name,  
person I work with

Chronic.....In  
recovery

Delusional.....Sees or  
hears things that others don't