



**NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY
ASSISTANCE
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Eliot Spitzer
Governor

David A. Hansell
Commissioner

Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	07-INF-11
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Division of Employment and Transitional Supports
Date:	September 18, 2007
Subject:	Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Tobacco-Free Prevention and Treatment Programs
Suggested Distribution:	Temporary Assistance Directors Food Stamp Directors Medical Assistance Directors Employment Coordinators Drug/Alcohol Coordinators TOP Coordinators Staff Development Coordinators
Contact Person(s):	Mark Madden, Bureau of Transitional Programs at 518-473-8870 or Mark.Madden@otda.state.ny.us
Attachments:	OASAS July 24, 2007 Press Release
Attachment Available On – Line:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
					14 NYCRR Part 856

Section 2

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter (INF) is to inform local social services districts that the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) is promulgating regulations at 14 NYCRR Part 856 to require tobacco-free environments at all prevention and treatment programs which are funded or certified by OASAS.

II. Background

OASAS Commissioner Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo announced (see Attachment 1) that New York will be the first state to require that all chemical dependence prevention and treatment programs become tobacco-free. This proposed regulation would require providers to be tobacco-free by July 24, 2008, allowing a full year for planning and implementation.

OASAS has already led the chemical addiction field in New York by implementing tobacco-free regulations at all of its 13 Addiction Treatment Centers (ATC). Many other OASAS providers have also implemented similar policies. With the support of those providers who have already gone tobacco-free, OASAS will work with providers to craft policies that will comply with the new standards.

OASAS has established a website, www.oasas.state.ny.us/tobacco/provider.cfm, which includes a wealth of resources and links. An e-mail address, specifically for tobacco-free questions, has been set up at tobaccofree@oasas.state.ny.us. An OASAS phone line (518-485-1768) will handle telephone inquiries Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

III. Program Implications

No specific local district action is required as a result of the OASAS tobacco-free policy. However, local districts should be aware of this effort, since there is significant interaction between local district staff and OASAS treatment providers.

Issued By

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Title: Deputy Commissioner
Division/Office: Division of Employment and Transitional Supports