

ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

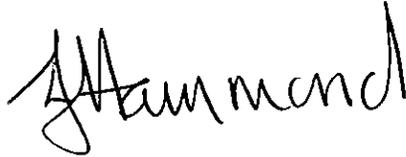


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Date: November 30, 2012

To: Addictions and Mental Health Providers
Community Mental Health Programs
Mental Health Organizations

From: Linda Hammond
Interim Director 

RE: Tobacco Freedom Policy Implementation

This past August, the Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH) held a series of regional meetings throughout the state in its commitment to improving the health of Oregonians and collaborating with partners and the consumer community. Together with consumers, residential providers, community members and other stakeholders, we collaborated on the best way to implement the Tobacco Freedom Policy. We discussed both barriers and solutions for implementation of the policy and gathered as much feedback as possible. It was clear from those meetings that many organizations have already successfully implemented, or are prepared to implement, the Tobacco Freedom Policy. Others are developing strategies to move the policy forward. Thank you to all who participated in these extremely valuable conversations.

After careful review and consideration of the information and suggestions that came out of these meetings, AMH has established the following course of action to ensure the successful implementation of the Tobacco Freedom Policy for all programs:

- Providers are responsible for implementing the attached updated Tobacco Freedom Policy by January 1, 2013.

- Providers who are experiencing serious barriers to implementation may submit a “Request for Extension” indicating a proposed strategy for addressing barriers and an expected timeline that is no later than July 1, 2013. Attached is the form AMH has provided for the request, as well as a sample plan. Requests must be received by January 1, 2013.

To assist providers with successful implementation, AMH will coordinate with Public Health to provide a variety of technical assistance tools, including direct consultation and coordination of consultation with Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP) and prevention coordinators for their county. A guidance document for implementation is also attached to help guide development and implementation of individual provider policies.

Additionally, AMH will coordinate and host quarterly regional support and networking meetings starting in early 2013. More information about the quarterly meetings will be coming soon.

In closing, our goal at AMH is to be a strong partner and resource for providers so they can be successful in going tobacco free. For more information and resources, visit the AMH Tobacco Freedom website at www.oregon.gov/oha/amh/pages/tobacco-freedom/main.aspx, or contact LuAnn Meulink, Tobacco Freedom Project Manager, at luann.e.meulink@state.or.us or 503-945-6289.