



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration

Announcement: Tobacco and Smoke Free Offices and Facilities July 31, 2008

In keeping with our commitment to providing health care and services of the highest quality, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) will be tobacco and smoke free at all of our offices and facilities on January 2, 2009.

The use of tobacco products is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. The DDA has long been dedicated to creating healthy environments for the individuals residing at our facilities, as well as our dedicated staff, volunteers and visitors. Although our offices and the buildings at our facilities have been smoke free for many years, we have allowed smoking in designated outdoor areas and on community outings. Once we become tobacco and smoke free, all tobacco products and other non-tobacco smoking alternatives may not be used by anyone at any of our offices or on the entire campus of our facilities. In addition, use of tobacco products and non-tobacco smoking alternatives during community outings will be prohibited.

The decision to become tobacco and smoke free was not made lightly, and efforts are underway to make the transition as smooth as possible. I have appointed Diane Dressler, Statewide Training Coordinator and Housing Specialist, to chair a statewide steering committee that will examine the impact of this policy and develop the resources needed for implementation. This will include a wide variety of resources and support for residents and staff to address the addictive nature of tobacco products. Office and facility-based implementation will be spearheaded by on-site staff, with committees steering local implementation efforts. The DDA will provide periodic updates on our progress in implementing this initiative.

I wish to thank you in advance for your assistance in developing and implementing strategies to create tobacco and smoke free environments at our offices and facilities. Through our efforts, we will make these environments healthier places for residents, staff, volunteers and visitors.


Michael S. Chapman
Director