



**NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY  
ASSISTANCE  
40 NORTH PEARL STREET  
ALBANY, NY 12243-0001**

**Eliot Spitzer**  
*Governor*

**David A. Hansell**  
*Commissioner*

**Informational Letter**

**Section 1**

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

**Filing References**

<b>Previous ADMs/INFs</b>	<b>Releases Cancelled</b>	<b>Dept. Regs.</b>	<b>Soc. Serv. Law &amp; Other Legal Ref.</b>	<b>Manual Ref.</b>	<b>Misc. Ref.</b>
					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](http://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](mailto: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

**Name:** Russell Sykes  
**Title:** Deputy Commissioner  
**Division/Office:** Division of Employment and Transitional Supports