



October 25, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce that OASAS has developed new resources in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health to support your efforts in addressing tobacco use throughout your programs. These resources were produced as a result of recommendations from providers asking for training tools and reinforcements to remind staff and clients about the importance of promoting tobacco independence. The following [educational tools](#) are now available through the OASAS website for you to use:

- Online tobacco-free educational training video titled “Freedom from Tobacco.” This training video is split into two sections, each under 20 minutes, with a goal of providing support and reinforced messages for clients and staff. Section one is the [client video](#) and may be shared with clients individually or in a group setting as clients and family members gain a better understanding of the importance of addressing nicotine and a tobacco-free lifestyle to support life-long recovery. Section two is the [counselor video](#) targeted to support staff and counselors as they integrate tobacco use into the same context of addressing all other substance use disorders. You may actually recognize some staff and clients who agreed to participate in this production as they have voluntarily shared their own unique experiences.
- A new [downloadable poster](#) was designed to reinforce the message of an alcohol, drug and tobacco-free lifestyle.

I am also pleased to share that SAMHSA has announced two new treatment advisories you may find useful: “Tobacco Use Cessation During Substance Abuse Treatment Counseling” and “Tobacco Use Cessation Policies in Substance Abuse Treatment: Administrative Issues.” The Advisories are available for download at <http://www.kap.samhsa.gov>.

Additionally, effective July 1, 2011, a maximum of three smoking cessation sessions per episode of care may be billed in a chemical dependency outpatient clinic by a clinical (including medical) staff person. Please refer to your [APG update](#) for more detail on this service.

I would encourage you to utilize the new items and familiarize yourself with available resources as you support and promote a tobacco-free lifestyle. I appreciate your on-going efforts as you assist individuals as they work toward their recovery.

Sincerely,

Arlene González-Sánchez
Commissioner