

Cornerstone Behavioral Healthcare

PM.15 Smoking Policy

Summary:

Cornerstone Behavioral Healthcare (CBH) is dedicated to providing its clients, staff, visitors, and vendors with a safe and healthy environment by implementing a 100% commercial tobacco-free campus policy.

Policy:

CBH recognizes that the use of commercial tobacco products on our grounds is detrimental to the health and safety of everyone. This institution supports an environment where staff, clients, visitors, and vendors are not exposed to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke and are supported in efforts to live commercial tobacco-free. Preventable chronic disease is a significant contributor to early mortality in behavioral health populations. People with serious mental illness are dying 25 years younger than average, often from preventable physical conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Commercial tobacco smoking rates among persons in behavioral health populations are many times higher than the general population. A smoke-free life can be achieved by behavioral health populations and can add years of well-being and a healthy life. Therefore, CBH has adopted a 100% commercial tobacco-free campus policy that exceeds state law (22 M.R.S.A. § 1580-A).

Commercial tobacco use is defined as the smoking, vaping, or use of any commercial tobacco product, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, spit and smokeless tobacco, chew, snuff, snus, electronic cigarettes, and other non-FDA approved nicotine delivery devices. This does not include products specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for cessation or nicotine replacement therapy, or tobacco intended for ceremonial use.

This policy prohibits commercial tobacco use:

- In all organization-affiliated buildings and at any locations where employees work
- On all organization-owned or leased grounds, except in designated smoking areas, or more than 25 feet from the building
- In all organization-owned or leased vehicles and personal vehicles used in the course of work whenever other employees or another person is in the vehicle for work-related reasons
- At all events hosted, organized, or sponsored by CBH, indoor and outdoor

This commercial tobacco-free policy applies to all staff, clients, visitors, and vendors, including organizers of, and attendees at, public events, including but not limited to, conferences, meetings, lectures, and/or events using CBH owned, leased, and affiliated property who are required to abide by CBH's commercial tobacco-free policy.

The only exception to this rule would be for cultural activities and Native American ceremonies. The Program Manager or designee will supervise the use of tobacco for cultural activities or Native American ceremonies.

Communication and Compliance:

This policy will be communicated through commercial tobacco-free signs posted at all campus entrances and throughout the facility, through staff education, including being written into training manuals and new employee orientation. Everyone is required to comply with CBH's commercial tobacco-free policy. Enforcement of this policy will follow the standard procedures of the facility. Commercial tobacco treatment information is available for those interested in quitting, including about the Maine QuitLink (1-800-QUIT-NOW or MaineQuitLink.com). Maine QuitLink offers a variety of phone- and web-based quit service options that are free, friendly, and confidential.

Frank Willard

CEO

Date