




STRIDES AGAINST SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE

IMPLEMENTING SMOKING BANS AND RESTRICTIONS TO REDUCE SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE



Working at a health care facility, we make it our priority to ensure the well-being of both patients and employees. Our facility originally had policies in place to protect individuals against the possible exposure to secondhand smoke. That policy required a person to be at least 25 feet away from any entrance to the facility when smoking. We found that people's judgement of distance can vary, so we were having a hard time keeping that policy in place. We would see patients smoking in the parking lot and people coming in for their appointments would have to walk past them and be subjected to secondhand smoke. We also noticed that the employee seating area was being used as a smoking location for patients or people walking by the clinic. This was becoming extremely problematic so our clinic collectively decided to create a new smoking policy to have presented to the Tribal board for approval.

The new policy stated that our clinic grounds would be a 100% smoke-free campus. Once the new policy was approved, we ordered new signage and had it posted throughout the clinic grounds. In the beginning we had to remind patients of the new policy change, but within the first few weeks, we were seeing an improvement. Now, six months into our new policy, our campus is smoke-free and we only have to remind people on occasion of the new policy. Patients and employees have been very appreciative of the new changes. Employees are able to enjoy their lunch and breaks outside without having to worry about smoke drifting their way, and patients do not have to catch wind of it when coming to their appointments.

By Kristin Osanna, Grants Coordinator
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100% SMOKE FREE