

# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

*“Expecting Excellence Every Day”*

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 27, 2008

**TO:** Executive Policy Team  
Administrative Management Team  
Wardens  
FOA Area Managers

**FROM:** Patricia L. Caruso *Patricia L. Caruso*  
Director

**SUBJECT:** Tobacco Cessation

The Michigan Department of Corrections is moving forward with a plan to have all CFA facilities and the FOA Tuscola Residential ReEntry Program become tobacco-free by February 1, 2009, prohibiting smoking and the possession of tobacco and tobacco products for both employees and offenders in all CFA facilities and at the FOA Tuscola Residential ReEntry Program. The use of tobacco and tobacco products will be prohibited on facility grounds and all tobacco products will have to be secured in a locked vehicle. There will no longer be designated smoking areas, and staff will be prohibited from smoking in their vehicles on facility grounds. This action is being taken for various reasons including litigation challenges facing the Department and legislative requirements in addition to the positive health benefits that will result for all who work at or reside in these facilities.

To ensure a successful transition to a tobacco-free environment, a Tobacco Cessation Committee was formed and chaired by Regional Prison Administrator Ray Wolfe. The committee has developed a timeline for the implementation of this plan, and in order to ensure a successful transition, will be seeking input from all staff at every facility and from all bargaining units, as well as from the offender population. The Department will be taking a proactive approach to assist staff and offenders in this significant lifestyle change.

To assist our staff, information about tobacco cessation programs and community support groups will be provided as well as information regarding the benefits provided by health insurances in this regard. In the coming months, information will be disseminated in a variety of ways through policy updates, FYI articles, Web site/wellness links, training

programs and continual discussions with administrative staff. The information disseminated will provide more specific details about the tobacco cessation plan and will hopefully answer the many questions that will arise.

To assist the offender population, we already have a successful Smoking Cessation program in place at every CFA facility. This program will continue with the goal of helping every prisoner in need of these services to transition to a tobacco-free lifestyle. In addition, various educational posters about tobacco cessation will be posted throughout the facilities and the Tuscola Residential ReEntry Program and corresponding handouts will be made available to the offender population.

Please share this information with all staff and offenders and encourage those who smoke or use tobacco products to start thinking about ways to quit. I know this is going to be a difficult challenge for many people, but the end result will be a benefit to all. I ask that you be supportive of our move to a healthier, tobacco-free environment.

PLC:CG