



Director's Message

September 12, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you may know, Governor Kitzhaber signed [Executive Order 12-13](#) last month requiring all state agencies and campuses to become tobacco-free. This Executive Order prohibits the use of all tobacco products inside state agency buildings and on state agency grounds, including smokeless tobacco and electronic cigarettes. This Executive Order applies to all employees, clients, and visitors.

Many agencies already have tobacco-free policies in place, but for those that do not, there are three deadlines for complying with this Executive Order. Properties wholly owned or leased by the state (other than close-custody facilities) must become tobacco-free by January 1, 2013. Shared properties must become tobacco-free by July 1, 2013. OYA's and DOC's close-custody facilities must become tobacco-free on or before December 31, 2014.

Moving toward a fully tobacco-free environment is the right thing to do. It not only will make a positive difference for all of us who work at OYA, it also will send a consistent message to the youth in our care and custody, and to their families, that we practice the behaviors we seek to encourage in our youth – to avoid addictive behaviors and to establish positive and healthy lifestyles.

PEBB estimates that approximately 9 percent of state employees use tobacco products. If you are one of those individuals, we encourage you to use the time before this change takes effect to [seek assistance](#) to stop using tobacco. We realize this change may be difficult for some individuals to achieve, so we will be providing more information in the upcoming weeks and months about resources available to help you stop using tobacco.

We also want to hear your concerns and thoughts about this change. If you have ideas for making this transition easier or if you have requests for specific types of smoking-cessation support, we welcome your comments. We want to help as much as possible to make this a smooth transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fariborz Pakseresht".

Fariborz Pakseresht
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe O'Leary".

Joe O'Leary
Deputy Director