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Healthy Together

A Partnership of Brown, Nicollet, Le Sueur, and Waseca Counties

Tobacco Free Grounds

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners passed a policy effective July 1, 2014 to protect the public and its employees from the dangers of second-hand smoke. The signs on county grounds read “100% Tobacco Free” and show graphics to inform the public that all forms of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes are not allowed on county property.

Amy Roggenbuck, Waseca County Public Health Director says, “This is a big step for our County in assuring that the public can conduct their business and enjoy leisure activities without being exposed to the harmful effects of tobacco. We hope the passing of our policy will lend encouragement to others who may be thinking of moving towards tobacco free grounds. “ The amended policy includes: all parts of the County’s buildings or spaces being used by the county, including building grounds, parking lots, driveways and vehicles. These areas are considered tobacco-free zones, and the use of any tobacco products including: cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco are prohibited. This policy effectively makes these county locations tobacco-free in their entirety: Waseca County Courthouse, East Annex, Security Building, Extension Office, Solid Waste/Recycling, Highway Department, Highway Garages, and Public Health/Human Services Offices.

In addition, buildings and shelters on county park grounds are also tobacco-free zones. This will enable public and employees utilizing our public parks to congregate without the worries of inhaling concentrated second-hand smoke.

The County Fairgrounds and open air areas of the county parks are exempt from this policy.

Waseca County Commissioners acted proactively, promoting healthy living, which includes the reduction of tobacco use. Tobacco use reduction is a goal of the Statewide Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), a grant program Waseca County is excited to be a recipient of this year. Waseca County has joined with Le Sueur, Nicollet and Brown Counties to form Healthy Together, a SHIP funded project that will be working with many partners to promote healthy eating and active living as well as tobacco use reduction throughout the four counties.

Waseca County is excited to build momentum around health improvement and in the Year of Workplace Wellness, tobacco free grounds is a terrific way to lead the charge.

Persons who are interested in becoming tobacco free can access Quit Plan services by calling Visit quitplan.com or call 1-888-354-PLAN (7526). Or for information from the Smoke Free branch of the Centers for Disease Control call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit www.smokefree.gov.

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Waseca County Tobacco Policy

May 2014

Purpose Statement –

It is the county's intent to provide a safe, secure, and healthy environment, free from the influence of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs for employees and the public it serves. Tobacco use and exposure to second-hand smoke create annoyance and productivity issues, increase the risk of heart and lung disease, asthma and cancer, and are the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S. causing more than 450,000 deaths each year. In keeping in accordance with the Waseca County Mission and to further the health of employees and the public, the Waseca County Board is committed to being proactive to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke; and to correct the misperception, especially among youth, that tobacco is a prevalent and acceptable behavior; and committed to continuing its leadership in tobacco harm prevention.

Tobacco Prohibition Policy Statement –

To safeguard the health of employees and the public, reduce the risk of legal exposure, and improve the appearance of county governmental buildings; Waseca County deems the following tobacco free and prohibits the use of tobacco products (including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and any other tobacco products):

- On all adjoining or surrounding property of the County's buildings or spaces being used by or on behalf of the County including: parking lots, driveways, Waseca County parks buildings and shelters, and locations which employ Waseca County employees
- In all County owned vehicles

This policy does not include Waseca County Parks grounds or the Waseca County fairgrounds property or structures.

Furthermore, to safeguard the health of employees and the public and to provide public health leadership, Waseca County employees are prohibited from using cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco products during the performance of job duties, unless the employee is in their personal enclosed vehicle or home and no county client is present.

Policy effective the 1st day of July 2014