



Brattleboro Retreat

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brattleboro Retreat Announces Tobacco-Free Campus

BRATTLEBORO—The executive leadership of The Brattleboro Retreat is proud to announce that the Brattleboro Retreat will become a tobacco-free campus as of August 1, 2008. This policy change is being instituted with the goal of protecting and enhancing the health of all people who work or receive care at the Brattleboro Retreat. The policy applies to guests and visitors as well, and is aimed at all tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco.

“This step recognizes the health implications of smoking and the dangers of exposure to second hand smoke,” said Gregory Miller, MD, vice president of Medical Affairs. “We believe that becoming a tobacco-free campus is crucial to providing care that is consistent with the organization’s core value to support the whole health of our staff and patients.”

The health implications of tobacco use have been well documented for many years. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and drains Americans of billions of dollars in healthcare costs.

Tobacco use is particularly prevalent in psychiatric populations and the health impact is correspondingly greater. People with schizophrenia, for example, are more likely to die of tobacco related illness than suicide. Tobacco use is, in fact, the leading cause of death in this population.

Additionally, a number of research studies imply that people who simultaneously quit tobacco and alcohol or other drugs are more likely to remain sober and have better outcomes. The Retreat’s tobacco-free policy calls for the provision of state-of-the-art clinical services to assist patients in overcoming nicotine addiction during and after their stay at the Retreat.

The Brattleboro Retreat, founded in 1834, is a not-for-profit, regional specialty psychiatric hospital and addictions treatment center, providing a full range of diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitation services for individuals of all ages and their families. Nationally recognized for its premiere treatment in behavioral healthcare, the Brattleboro Retreat offers a high quality, individualized, comprehensive continuum of care including inpatient, partial hospitalization, residential and outpatient treatment.