

# A DOZEN REASONS

to Address Tobacco Use Among the Behavioral Health Population



Behavioral health clients have a disproportionately high usage of tobacco products.



Tobacco dependence and mental illness are defined as co-occurring disorders by SAMHSA.



Tobacco Use Disorder is a diagnosis in the DSM-5 assigned to individuals who are dependent on the drug nicotine due to use of tobacco products.



Treating tobacco dependence saves lives and improves quality of life.



Smoking decreases the effectiveness of many psychotropic medications, which can impede recovery.



Nicotine can trigger urges for other addictive substances. It is often used to boost or prolong the high of other drugs.



Smoking drains finances that may already be strained and can interfere with employment and housing options.



Behavioral health care providers have experience treating co-occurring disorders and addictions.



Reimbursement to providers for treating tobacco dependence is improving.



Treating tobacco dependence is cost-effective and saves health care dollars.



Smoking increases stigma, which is already experienced by this population.



Treating tobacco dependence improves employee productivity and health.