



Susan B. Allen
Memorial Hospital

75th Anniversary
1931-2006

News Release

Contact: Gene Kimble
Director of Marketing
(316) 322-4543
e-mail: gkimble@sbamh.org

Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital to go Tobacco-Free October 1

For Immediate Release

August 4, 2006

EL DORADO, KS - Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital (SBAMH), along with a number of other health care organizations in south-central Kansas, will be going tobacco-free beginning October 1, 2006. As of that date, no tobacco use of any kind will be permitted – inside or outside – on Hospital property. This initiative also will include the elimination of designated areas outside SBAMH where employees, patients and visitors currently use tobacco products.



“This is something SBA has been looking into for quite some time,” said Jim Wilson, Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital President and CEO. “When we see the statistics that tobacco is the cause of death for 3,800 Kansans every year and is the root cause of many illnesses and lost productivity, and that second-hand smoke is hazardous to individual’s health, we feel allowing tobacco use in and around our hospital causes a health and safety risk for our patients, employees and visitors.”

SBAMH, along with other organizations in the area, including Wesley Medical Center, Via Christi Health Systems, the Wichita Clinic, Newton Medical Center, the University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita, and others have been working together to make

the October 1 date work for everyone, and to coordinate the message to keep it as consistent as possible at all the facilities involved. As of July 10, 79 Kansas Hospital Association member hospitals had also made a pledge to go tobacco-free on or before January 1, 2007, with more pledging weekly.

“It’s our hope that those persons who use, or visit patients, in our Hospital see the health benefits this will provide, and will support our decision,” said Wilson.

In an effort to help persons who would like to quit the use of tobacco, SBAMH contacted the El Dorado YMCA and asked if the “Y” could make a smoking cessation program available to the general public. The “Quit Together” program will begin August 8 and run for eight weeks. For more information or to sign up for the program, please contact the El Dorado YMCA at 316.320.9622.

- X X X -