



CYNTHIA D. LAWARE, SECRETARY  
STEVEN M. GOLD, DEPUTY SECRETARY

STATE OF VERMONT  
AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Burlington-based AHS Staff**  
**FROM: Cynthia D. LaWare, Secretary**  
**DATE: March 28, 2007**  
**SUBJECT: Pine Street Space, Alternative Interim Options and Upcoming Staff Meetings**

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As you know, in the fall you received an update regarding our negotiations with Redstone Development to relocate the North Avenue (Burlington) and Kennedy Drive (South Burlington) District Offices to the former Specialty Filaments building on Pine Street in Burlington. Both AHS and BGS staff have been working with the developer to finalize architectural plans and the lease agreement. Unfortunately, it is our understanding that a private company has expressed very strong interest in this Pine Street property. This company is only interested in this particular space, and because of the importance of this company to economic development in Burlington, the city has made it clear that they prefer that the company occupy the Pine Street space, not the State.

Although we are continuing our negotiations with Redstone Development for the Pine Street space, given the strong possibility that the Pine Street building will no longer be available, we are currently engaged in the following:

- I am committed to providing an opportunity for employees at the North Avenue building to relocate as soon as possible, even if that requires an initial temporary site. We will also explore how to reduce the number of staff in the North Avenue building which could further improve indoor air quality. As part of a relocation to interim space, we will be exploring a variety of options and ascertaining what spaces are currently available in downtown Burlington. One of the options we are exploring includes temporarily relocating some current employees at 108 Cherry Street so that AHS district office direct service units can move there in order to have a single, interim, accessible Burlington address for consumers. These plans are in the very early stages, however, and we will be actively engaging in dialogue with all potentially affected employees as we move forward.
- Through BGS, we have initiated a discussion with a developer of a new building that will be built across from the Court House on Cherry Street. This building would be large enough to accommodate the consolidation of all AHS offices in Burlington that are not currently housed in 108 Cherry Street, the Court Building or DOC's current offices. These discussions are very preliminary and again, we will certainly be keeping employees informed of any new developments.

I want to reiterate that we will be moving forward immediately to create the opportunity for interim relocation of North Avenue employees. We appreciate that there have been staff concerns about the North Avenue building for some time and are committed to ensuring a healthy work environment for all.

**AHS, VDH and BGS leadership will be holding meetings with all interested staff at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 26, at both the North Avenue building and at 108 Cherry Street.** I will be joined by

BGS Commissioner Tasha Wallis at 8:00 a.m. in the Economic Services Conference Room in the North Avenue Building. AHS Deputy Secretary Steve Gold and VDH Acting Commissioner Sharon Moffatt will hold a meeting in 108 Cherry Street Conference Rooms 2A and 2B at the same time.

Thank you for your attention and for your patience. Please feel free to offer your thoughts and comments to AHS Field Director Jane Helmstetter or VDH Commissioner Sharon Moffatt. We look forward to seeing you on Monday morning.