

# THE ANTLERS AMERICAN

Thursday, 04 June 2009

## Group targets underage drinking



Antlers American: Brad House

Participants in the two-day Youth of Antlers Take Action seminar listen to instruction before setting out on a group activity similar to musical chairs aimed to illustrating similarities among different individuals. Over the course of the two days, participants took part in a range of activities with the underlying goal of reducing underage drinking.

By Brad House  
Publisher

Southeastern Oklahoma Interlocal Co-operative held a two-day seminar in Antlers last week, "Youth of Antlers Take Action."

The event was made possible through a Grant To Reduce Alcohol Abuse from the Oklahoma State Department of Education aimed at funding similar programs in Pushmataha County over the next three years.

Goals of the event include: incorporation of effective, research-based strategies to help reduce underage drinking among secondary school students in Pushmataha County, reducing prevalence of alcohol use, delay the onset of alcohol use, demonstrate changes in attitudes toward abstaining from alcohol, increase parent participation at parent-teacher conferences in the middle school and high school and show increases in parental awareness of negative consequences of alcohol use.

The organization also hopes to empower communities and school systems to develop and implement effective programs that reduce and prevent drinking by underage students and limit access to alcohol.

In addition, Southeastern Oklahoma Interlocal Cooperative is partnering with the Pushmataha County Turning Point Coalition, which co-sponsored the event, to more aggressively target underage drinking, accessibility of alcohol to minors, and use of other drugs.

Teachers, students, parents and others took part in the two-day seminar, which included games and exercises (such as a ropes course).