

Oklahoma Turning Point *Initiative*
Directors Report for 2009

Oklahoma Turning Point

Vision:

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Mission:

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

With 2009 coming to an end, let's take a look back at some of our accomplishments. As you read the following community reports you will see the many great things the communities across Oklahoma have achieved while improving the health of their community. Local folks need to be very proud of their accomplishments. Many today want to see immediate results in their efforts, but when you are taking on the task of improving Oklahoma's health you won't see the data change overnight. It will change in time as these partnerships continue to work toward changing the life style of their communities. The bad habits we have developed over the years will take awhile to change. Let's not give up!!!! And we won't!!!!

Many great things have happened this year with the Oklahoma Turning Point Initiative. On October 9th the first annual Oklahoma Turning Point Council Policy Day was held. While the planning committee was hoping to have 75 partners attend to work on the advocacy agenda for 2010, more than 175 showed up!!!!!! The partners worked hard at developing eight items for the 2010 agenda. There is certain to be much discussion when our Turning Point partners meet again at the annual Oklahoma Turning Point and Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition conference on December 3, 2009.

Several things happened this year; Turning Point Partnerships increased from 64 to 66 and areas our Field Consultants cover, also changed (who incidentally are the back bone of the initiative, and make my job fun and easy). The changes can be seen on the new map in the notebook that you'll see at the December 3 meeting. In addition, Brandie O'Connor will be spending a great deal of her time helping Comanche County Health Department with a National Accreditation Process for county health departments. We are very proud of Brandie for being asked to work on this important project. She will also continue to provide technical assistance to Jackson County and Comanche County partnerships and serve as the Assistant Director of the Oklahoma Turning Point Initiative.

At this time I would like to thank a very special person with the Oklahoma Turning Point Initiative. I'd like to share a few things with you about **Neil Hann**, Chief of Community Development Service. Neil has been the driving force behind the development of local partnerships addressing health issues at the local and state level. Neil has an understanding of Public Health issues at the federal, state, and local level. Neil see's the whole picture of Public Health and what it takes to make changes that will improve the health of Oklahoma. Neil is very humble, never wants recognition for himself, and he values others knowledge and experience. Neil is one of the best forward thinking public health professionals I have had the privilege to work with.

Larry Olmstead, Director
Oklahoma Turning Point Initiative
Oklahoma State Department of Health