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State Health Officials Schedule Community Chat in Lawton

As part of an effort to learn what Oklahomans believe are their most crucial health needs, the Oklahoma State Department of Health is hosting a series of “community chats” throughout the state through June. These meetings will focus on what Oklahomans believe are the primary health concerns of their communities. The feedback received will be used to update the *Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan*, first launched in 2009.

Lawton will be the site for a Community Chat on Monday evening, June 9, from 5 p.m. till 7 p.m. at the Cetes Conference Center of Cameron University, 2800 West Gore Blvd., Lawton.

Lawton residents, as well as those residents from neighboring communities, are encouraged to attend and offer their input on how to strengthen those community partnerships that will make a difference in the lives and health status of all Oklahomans. Among those who will be listening to community members will be State Health Commissioner Dr. Terry Cline and members of the Oklahoma State Board of Health.

The *Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan* was mandated by the Oklahoma Legislature in 2008 through SJR-41, which directed the State Board of Health to prepare a report that outlines a plan for the “general improvement of the physical, social and mental well-being of all people in Oklahoma through a high-functioning public health system.” The current version of the *Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan* focuses on three targeted “flagship initiatives” including children’s health improvement, tobacco use prevention, and obesity reduction.

Persons unable to attend the community chat can participate via an online survey found at <http://ohip.health.ok.gov>. Both English and Spanish survey versions are available.

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