



Our Unified Resources (OUR) Turning Point Coalition

Beckham/Roger Mills County

2012

About Us...

In 2000, the original coalition, Western Oklahoma Coalition for Community Strengthening (WOCCS) was formed. WOCCS consisted of many agencies focused on collaborating with multiple agencies serving youth. WOCCS was initially formed for a TITLE V planning grant with the Office of Juvenile Affairs. WOCCS laid the ground work for the current coalition: Oklahoma Unified Resources (OUR) Turning Point Coalition.

OUR Turning Point Coalition was formed on the belief that a diverse, yet unified group of people and organizations can have the greatest impact to make changes and improve the quality of life for all people in the counties it serves.

In 2007, there were three groups meeting regularly within Beckham and Roger Mills Counties. These were Systems of Care, Western Oklahoma Tobacco Control Coalition and the Sayre Resource Network. With guidance from the Area Prevention Resource Center, members from these three groups met to discuss merging into one large coalition. All parties agreed to this and the Oklahoma Unified Resources (OUR) Turning Point Coalition was formed to serve Beckham and Roger Mills Counties.

OUR Turning Point has 4 priority areas it is currently focusing on: Access; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs; Positive Youth Development; and Wellness. The Access committee (Western Oklahoma Family Care Center) is chaired by Shelby Maddox. (WOFCC) mission is to help the underprivileged individuals and families overcome hindrances in their lives so they can become productive self-supporting citizens. As a result of work done by the Access Committee the Community Care Center was established in the old Armory located in Elk City as a one stop shop for assistance. The following agencies are housed in the Care Center; Western Oklahoma Family Care Center, (WOFCC), HELP Inc. (Regional Food Bank), ACTION Associates, (Domestic Violence Counseling), Red Cross and the Baptist Disaster Relief. Services available to individuals who qualify include utility, travel, clothing and furniture assistance, life coaching, financial counseling, G.E.D. training, career center/job placement and salvation army financial aid. In addition to these services WOFCC also offer a free dental clinic 2 times each month with services donated by two area dentists. One medical clinic is offered every week and is staffed by volunteer doctors and nurses. Optometry and pharmacy services are also available. To date, WOFCC has assisted over 800 individuals and families.

Sarah Senger chairs Western Oklahoma Tobacco Control Coalition. The primary focus of this committee is to reduce the harms and hazards of tobacco use and promote cessation. This year has been a busy and productive for the Tobacco Control Coalition members. A few of the major accomplishment this year include two more schools, (Arapaho School District in Custer County and Reydon School District in Roger Mills County) passed a 24/7 No Tobacco Policy making 15 of the 17 school districts within the Coalition area Tobacco Free! In addition, Cordell SWAT students presented the Youth Access to Tobacco Ordinance to the Cordell City Council members, the ordinance passed unanimously. Coalition partnerships continue to grow, collaborating with a new partner Western Oklahoma State College's-Elk City Campus Nursing Program and again with Southwestern Oklahoma State University Nursing Program to conduct Tobacco talks to public school students throughout the Coalition area. Another note worthy partnership is a result of the 2011 Legislative Brunch, Reprehensive Harold Wright, has become a strong advocate for the Tobacco Coalition and in May of this year scheduled a meeting with the Mike Brown, Mayor of Weatherford and Clinton City Manager Steve Hewitt to discuss Youth Access to Tobacco and the Clean Indoor Air ordinances. Plans are now in the works for Weatherford to pass these ordinances and for Clinton to update their existing ordinances. This grant year also marked some of the highest number of calls to the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline, close to 300 calls just in the first 6 months between October 2011 and March 2012. Coalition members also assisted Weatherford Regional Hospital with a system's change. Now all Weatherford Regional Hospital tobacco users including employees, patient's families of patients and/or visitors of the hospital are referred to the Oklahoma Helpline, and utilize the fax referral forms. The Tobacco Control Coalition has been making great strides since being awarded the grant in 2005 and look forward to another exciting and productive year in 2013.

The Positive Youth Development Committee is chaired by Cindy Buckmaster and is supported by a Systems of Care Grant.

Rick Garrison chairs the Western Oklahoma Wellness Initiative Committee, (WOWI). In July of 2011 the Coalition was awarded the TSET Nutrition & Fitness Grant. During the Start Up phase of the grant, the WOWI committee members have been working hard collecting base line data within the three sectors, School/After School Programs, Community/Neighborhoods and Worksites across the two counties of Beckham and Roger Mills. This data will be an important starting point in which to create healthier communities for the citizens of these two counties. In addition, committee members have been busy recruiting new members and building partnerships within the community. Many of these new partnerships are a result of the work done around the Farmers Market and the Community Garden. This year the committee applied for the Safe Routes to School Grant. Awards should be announced in September 2012. If awarded, the committee in collaboration with the Elk City school district plans to place a much needed light to calm traffic and allow for safe pedestrian crossing around the school complex. The school district will also incorporate walking and biking within the physical education classes.

OUR Turning Point meets the third Thursday of every month in the conference room at City of Elk City Hall, 320 West Third, from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Mission Statement

The mission of this organization will be to improve the quality of life for all people in the counties served by this coalition.

VISION

By the year 2012, the quality of life in both Beckham & Roger Mills Counties will have improved.

**Lisa Church,
Chair**

churchl@elkcity.com
1-580-225-3230

**Cindy Buckmaster,
Co-Chair**

cbuckmaster@itlnet.net
1-580-225-0175

Activities

- Coalition Membership Recruitment
- Farmer's Market
- Relay for Life
- Tobacco Prevention
- Media Campaigns for Healthy Living
- SWAT-Students Working Against Tobacco
- Underage Drinking Awareness
- Compliance Checks on Underage Drinking
- Fitness and Nutrition Activities
- World NO Tobacco Day
- Great American Smoke Out
- KICK Butts Day
- Great American SPIT OUT
- Reward/Reminder Visits

Outcomes/Impacts

All school districts in both Beckham & Roger Mills County are 100% Tobacco Free.

Elk City now has a Farmer's Market open every Saturday

The Western Oklahoma Family Care Center has provided over \$25,000 in free services in the form of health care, clothing, rent, utilities, food and other miscellaneous needs.

Partnerships

- Beckham County Health Department
- Cheyenne Public Schools
- City of Elk City
- Concerned Citizens
- Elk City Community Church
- Elk City Youth and Family
- Elk City Public Schools
- Department of Human Services
- Great Plains Regional Medical Center
- Great Plains Systems of Care
- Hutchinson Oil Company
- Integris Clinton Regional Hospital
- Lincoln Teen Center
- Office of Juvenile Affairs
- Oklahoma Commission on Children & Youth
- Oklahoma Turning Point
- OSU Extension Office
- Red Rock Regional Prevention Coordinator
- Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Sayre
- Students Working Against Tobacco
- Western Technology Center
- Western Oklahoma Family Care Center
- Western Oklahoma Tobacco Control Coalition

FUNDING

- CX Tobacco Prevention Grant
- Funder: TSET
- CX Nutrition & Fitness Grant
- Funder: TSET
- Systems of Care
- Funder: ODMHSAS
- RPC Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grant
- Funder: ODMHSAS

"To accomplish great things we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe."

Anatole France