

YUKON REVIEW



Public invited to Aug. 25th tobacco prevention meeting at ICVH

August 20, 2014 in [Community News](#)

The Canadian County Against Tobacco (CCAT) coalition will hold its monthly meeting at noon Monday, Aug. 25 in conference room A/B at Integris Canadian Valley Hospital, 1201 Health Center Parkway in Yukon.

The coalition meetings are open to anyone interested in tobacco prevention efforts. This month, the coalition will host Kathryn Kitchen, worksite wellness systems coordinator for the Oklahoma State Department of Health, who will speak about worksite wellness and tobacco policies.

CCAT was formed as a subgroup of the Canadian County Coalition for Children and Families in 2010 and is funded through the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust. CCAT is a community-based program that works to reduce tobacco use and promote prevention of tobacco initiation in youth.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Oklahoma, a statistic the coalition is working to change.

“CCAT has had some major victories in the fight against tobacco in the form of tobacco-free policies and the promotion and utilization of the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline,” CCAT member Rosemary Klepper said. “There is still plenty of work to be done since Oklahoma has one of the top ten highest rates of adult smoking and offers limited protection against secondhand smoke. I encourage anyone interested in tobacco prevention and education to join our group!”

In Oklahoma, the tobacco industry spends more than \$160 million annually on messages to make smoking seem attractive to youth and to offer discounts that can discourage quit attempts by current tobacco users.

Although CCAT does not have the same level of funding as the tobacco industry, they have still made strides in reducing tobacco influences through tobacco-free policies at eight out of the 10 public schools and two communities in Canadian County.

Although the coalition’s main focus is tobacco prevention, the group hopes to start working in other areas related to poor health outcomes, like physical activity and nutrition. This work will help reduce the impact of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and other conditions that negatively impact the health of Oklahomans.

The coalition is open to anyone who lives or works in Canadian County, and everyone is welcome at the monthly meetings held at Integris Canadian Valley on the fourth Monday of the month at noon.

For more information on CCAT, contact Jenny Kellbach, tobacco prevention coordinator with the Canadian County Health Department at (405) 422-6447 or jenniferk@health.ok.gov.

For help to quit using tobacco, contact the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or okhelpline.com.