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State Grants To Focus On Substance Abuse Prevention

The Wichita Mountains Prevention Network is preparing strategic plans to implement state grants that focus on substance abuse prevention.

Three of the five-year grants from the state Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services are to serve a 15-county area, which includes Comanche, Stephens, Jefferson, Cotton, Tillman, Harmon and Jackson counties.

Over the last several months the network conducted an assessment of community data. Based on that data, the organizations said, it will focus primarily on underage drinking prevention in Comanche County with Block Grant funds. The Wichita Mountains Prevention Network team is composed of seven staff members and the board of directors and a group of community volunteers, the Lawton Fort Sill Community Coalition.

In upcoming months, the coalition's subcommittees will create strategic plans to reduce the substance abuse issues identified in the assessment. The underage drinking subcommittee, also known as Community Advocates for Sober Teens (CAST), will look at strategies to reduce accessibility to minors.