

Posted Thursday, November 25, 2010 | Page 2

CE Names Barnes Tobacco Control Coordinator

LeFlore County Youth Services (LCYS), Inc., has been awarded a Tobacco Cessation Grant from the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust and has named B.J. Barnes as the coordinator for the program.

LCYS Executive Director Richard Couri advised, "LeFlore County Youth Services, Inc. has partnered with the LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living to develop the application for this grant and we are very pleased to have B.J. Barnes as the coordinator of the program. Mr. Barnes will do a great job in his new capacity and will provide the leadership this program needs. Mr. Barnes will be responsible to both LeFlore County Youth Services and the Coalition."

"I am excited and honored to serve our communities in this capacity," states Barnes. "I hope, through educating others of the dangers of tobacco and the resources available for cessation, we will help improve the lives of all LeFlore Countians."

According to the Oklahoma Department of Health's 2010 State of the County's Health Report: 27.4 percent (9,852) of LeFlore Countians use tobacco products. The report states \$3,300.00 per year is spent in excess medical cost per user for a total of \$32,511,600.00 spent on unnecessary medical cost due to tobacco use every year.

The goal of the LeFlore County Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control Program is to reduce disease, disability, and death related to tobacco use by:

- Preventing the initiation of tobacco use among young people;
- Promoting quitting among young people and adults;
- Eliminating non-smokers' exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS); and
- Identifying and eliminating the disparities related to tobacco use and its effects among different population groups.

More information regarding cessation programs can be found at www.stopswithme.org or by calling 1-800-QUITNOW.