



PATCH hosts second annual legislative breakfast

This event was the second annual **Pottawatomie Alliance Toward Community Health (PATCH)** coalition sponsored legislative event, where restoring local rights regarding tobacco prevention was the key talking point. Growing from the successes of last year's event, a planning committee was formed to identify key stakeholders in the county and to create a strong list of guests and all of the elected officials in the county. They coordinated with local businesses to garner sponsorships for the breakfast foods from Unity Health Center and rental space from the Heritage Center. The event was extremely successful, witnessing over 170 guests, discussion of restoring local rights to Oklahomans, and strengthening network relations. The Director of Health Services, Mr. Tall Chief, provided the duties of Master of Ceremonies, while Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman, Rocky Barrett, offered the morning prayer in the Potawatomi native language.

Vice Chairman Linda Capps welcomed the guests to the CPH Heritage Center and helped set the professional tone of the event. Keynote Speaker Dr. Terry Cline spoke about the health disparities of Oklahomans and how it is directly correlated to tobacco use. There was an opportunity for Speaker Kris Steele, Rep. Tom Newell and Rep. Josh Cockroft to give their opinions and views on the subject. The floor was then opened up to the guests for questions. There was nearly 30 minutes of discussion of how restoring local rights would make an impact to Oklahoma communities, how it will affect Tribal Nations, and how it would ultimately affect the health of all Oklahomans.