

Quymon DAILY HERALD

TCC received grant for tobacco awareness

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By Miranda Fleming, reporter1@ptsi.net

Texas County Coalition has recently received a \$70,000 grant to educate the community on the dangers of tobacco.

TSET (Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust) is a program designed to assist efforts in tobacco prevention and will be up and running shortly.

“Tobacco is harmful and destructive to our families, co-workers and children. The Texas County Coalition is excited to build upon the in-roads made in tobacco prevention in Texas County,” said Coalition Chair Person Rachel Jones. “We are looking forward to making our schools, towns and neighborhoods safer, cleaner and tobacco free environments for our children and families.”

The Coalition appointed Next Step Network as the lead agency to house the TSET program as well as it’s new Tobacco Grant Coordinator Kayla McCarter.

McCarter will be responsible to help educate young people and adults about the use of tobacco dependency, health issues and provide tobacco control interventions. She will also provide education on second and third hand smoke as well as health factors for those exposed to smokeless tobacco or chew who, not by choice, have been exposed to it.

Reducing tobacco related disease, disability and death is the goal of the Tobacco grant. Preventing young people from starting to smoke, promoting all ages of smokers to quit smoking and eliminating exposure of tobacco smoke for non-smokers is also part of the grant’s goal.

The aim for the TSET program statewide is to control, discourage and reduce use of tobacco, as well as reducing sickness and death due to tobacco, alleviating social and economic tobacco burdens in Oklahoma, and limiting the promotion and sale of tobacco products.

By 2012, TSET’s goal is to have 200,000 less tobacco users by reducing it’s influence in Oklahoma.

Tobacco use in the U.S. is the single most preventable cause of death. Unfortunately in Oklahoma, statistics show, tobacco kills more people than alcohol, auto accidents, AIDS, suicides, murders and illegal drugs combined.

Smoking causes:

- 82 percent of lung cancer cases
- 80 percent of deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- 17 percent of heart disease deaths
- 11 percent of stroke deaths

Second Hand smoke exposure causes:

- Low birth weight babies, miscarriages, premature births and stillborn births



Highly motivated Tobacco Grant Coordinator Kayla McCarter and Financial Assistant Ruben Perez are busy making the initial preparation for the TSET program. McCarter and Perez are shown here in front of the \$70,000 grant check to fund the program.

Smokeless Tobacco (chew or spit) is equally dangerous as it contains 28 percent of carcinogens, the causing agents.

In Oklahoma, 5,800 people will die as a result of smoking and 700 non-smokers die each year from second hand smoke, costing Oklahoma \$218 million or \$750 per Oklahoman (smoker or not) in Medicaid costs, paid through taxes.

TSET Coordinator Kayla McCarter reminds that every Oklahoman can make a difference, regardless of who you are or what you do.

“I look forward to working with all through out the community,” said McCarter.

For more information about tobacco visit the following websites:

www.ok.gov/health

www.stopswithme.com

www.breatheeasyok.com

The Oklahoma tobacco help-line is also available and provides free stop quitting supplies such as nicotine patches, the number is 1-800-Quit-Now.

For more information about the TSET program, contact Kayla McCarter at prevent1@ptsi.net or 580-338-3733.