

# Quymon DAILY HERALD

## Youth Shelter, main focus at TCC meeting

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By Miranda Fleming, reporter1@ptsi.net

The Texas County Coalition met yesterday afternoon for their monthly meeting.

This local partnership board of Turning Point and the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth is represented by a volunteer community board.

For more than 10 years the Coalition has been meeting the needs of the community.

Although the group works to assist the needs in this area, Chairperson for Texas County Coalition Rachel Jones said, "Some of the areas of concentration currently is developing an emergency youth shelter for the panhandle, reducing tobacco use and reducing childhood obesity."

Jones reported that the youth shelter is coming along well and briefly discussed the possibility of "shower for supplies" to stock the shelter with household items.

Also discussed was the upcoming fundraiser for the youth shelter, the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater and supplied tickets for those interested in selling them.

The Recreational Task Force (Children's Health) discussed the new TSET grant for physical activity and nutrition, hoping to partner with other agencies such as the YMCA.

The latest information on the Tobacco Grant was introduced, the program is being taken over by Kayla McCarter with Next Step Network being the Lead Agency.

It was discussed how the Coalition and the Lead Agency work together, with the Coalition representing the community and the Lead Agency physically running the program. One requirement for the Tobacco Grant is the position of Program Coordinator, which Kayla was selected for, is a full time position with a fully dedicated Coordinator.

The group also discussed other grant requirements of the Coordinator reporting to the Coalition as well as the Coalition be proactive in the upcoming training in Oklahoma City for the program, along side the Coordinator. Ken Burton Director of the Next Step Network remained the group, "It (the Tobacco Grant Program) isn't just about kids," said Burton, "It's getting businesses to go completely tobacco free."

Jim Grocholski CEO of Memorial Hospital of Texas County expressed his support by saying, "We are working to get the Hospital smoke free."

The next meeting for the Coalition will be February 8th, at 12 pm noon, at the Texas County Health Department.



The Texas County Coalition met for their monthly meeting at the Texas County Health Department Tuesday afternoon. A volunteer organization representing a local partnership board of Turning Point and the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth is made up of community volunteers.