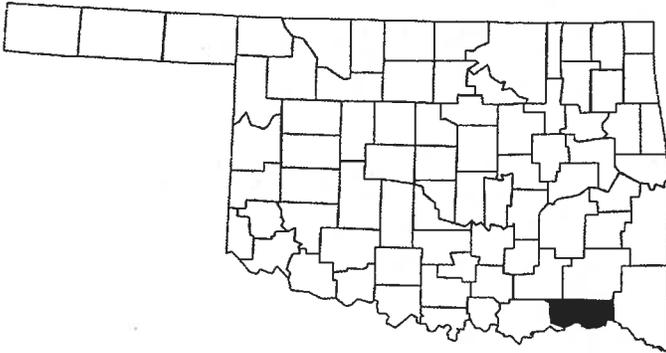


CHOCTAW COUNTY

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY COALITION

Established in 2002



The original Choctaw County Coalition was established in 1996, to provide input for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program implemented by the local county health department. This group of individuals was very active throughout the community in addressing the high teen pregnancy rates in Choctaw County. But due to lack of funding this program was no longer provided and as a result dissolved the Choctaw County (Teen Pregnancy Prevention) Coalition in 2000. In 2002, the community coalition was re-engaged through a Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant awarded to the Hugo Public Schools. The role of the coalition was to provide guidance for implementation of the grant's overall strategies, and the task force action plans. The coalition has provided the necessary leadership to mobilize the community around the issue of preventing violence and related problems within the community. Within this framework, committees were formed to address specific issues, which correspond to objectives adopted for the project. In addition to this role, in January, 2003 the coalition expanded their primary focus of violence prevention into other community health concerns, such as sedentary lifestyles, community beautification, the arts and youth education.

Activities

- Established County-wide Community Coalition from former Hugo Safe and Drug Free Coalition.
- Conducted Needs Assessment.
- City-wide designated "clean-up" days.
- Implemented the surveillance of police patrolling city parks.
- Restored city tennis courts and Ansley Park in Hugo.
- Enhanced security features in all public schools in the Hugo School District.

Outcomes

- Identified Priorities: Safe Schools, Youth Development/ Education, Economic Development, and Community Beautification.
- Restored city tennis courts and Ansley Park in Hugo.
- Enhanced security features in all public schools in the Hugo School District.
- Adopted Walk This Weigh Campaign.

Future Plans

- Expand the partnership.
- Adopt ByLaws.
- Establish Advisory Board.
- Increase community participation through community based activities.
- Implement Community-wide "Walk This Weigh" campaign.
- Implement Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS) in Hugo Public Schools, Fall 2003.

Participants

- Choctaw Memorial Hospital
- Destiny Future Quest
- Kiamichi Technology Center
- Hugo Public Schools
- Little Dixie C.A.A.
- Choctaw County Health Department
- Housing Authority
- Local Banks: Bank First, First United, Security First National
- Wal-Mart
- McDonald's
- City Council
- Chamber of Commerce
- Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service
- Choctaw Nation
- Mental Health Center
- Hugo Daily News
- Community members at large