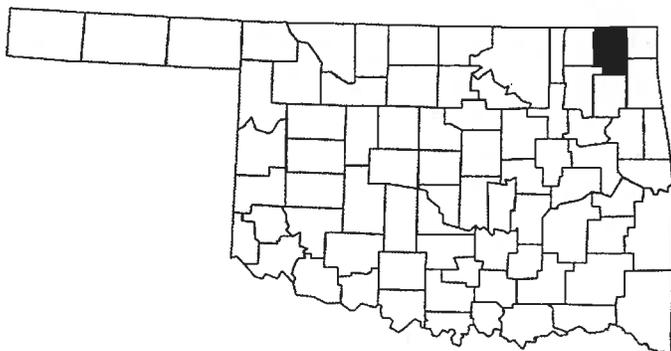


CRAIG COUNTY

CRAIG COUNTY TURNING POINT

Established in May 2003



Even though this partnership is in its infancy, the progress towards real system change at the local level has been fast. This group has reached out to various sectors of the community for input and has been willing to work with non-traditional partners to accomplish their goals. The need for creating a partnership in Craig County stemmed from several crises situations including closing of Eastern State Mental Hospital, possibility of losing the ambulance service, and the politics of change because of limited resources. This partnership is learning how to work with existing entities and reach compromises that create a win-win for all parties. This is a very good example of systems change at the local level.

Activities

- First meeting hosted by the Craig County General Hospital.
- Completed community opinion survey in July 2003.
- Based on the results the coalition formed the following work groups.
 - Mental Health
 - Trails and Facilities
 - Substance Abuse
 - Senior Health Issues
 - Community Health Center
- Working with local media to publicize the coalition activities and health education.

Outcomes

- Data were collected on 329 people. The survey results demonstrated that there is a very high prevalence of cancer in Craig County. Also, heart disease and mental health issues were ranked very high as being an influence on the health of the community. Respondents also reported that obesity and lack of exercise facilities were of a concern.

- The Trails and Facilities subgroup has met with several grantors about monies available for projects.
- The City of Vinita was given 648 acres of land near the Oklahoma Forensics Hospital and plans to develop a multi-use park that includes trails, fishing docks and playground for kids.
- The Trails and Facilities subgroup is meeting with various land plan consultants and hopes to create a master trail and park development plan for the Vinita area.
- The Substance Abuse subgroup is in the process of gathering data for the Craig County area in order to compile a resource directory.
- Plans are being made to implement Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) teams in various schools.
- Hosting a symposium on Meth use and detection that will be open to the public as well as service providers.
- Mental Health subgroup was formed due to the huge problem that has faced the community since the closing of Eastern State Hospital. Due to some overlap in suggested activities, they have now joined forces with the Substance Abuse subgroup.
- The joint groups are beginning to narrow their focus of the vast problem and plan on initially focusing on middle school students and establishing preventative mental health and substance abuse programs.
- The Community Health Center subgroup was charged with researching the possibility of applying for the Federal 330 funds. After initial research the subgroup became aware of several other possible applications in Northeast Oklahoma for these funds. The group decided to focus on other pressing issues at this time.

Participants

- Craig County General Hospital
- Local Town Mayors
- County Commissioners
- State Representative
- County Sheriff
- School Superintendents
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Craig County Health Department
- Business Owners
- Faith Community
- Chamber of Commerce
- City Government
- Senior Citizens