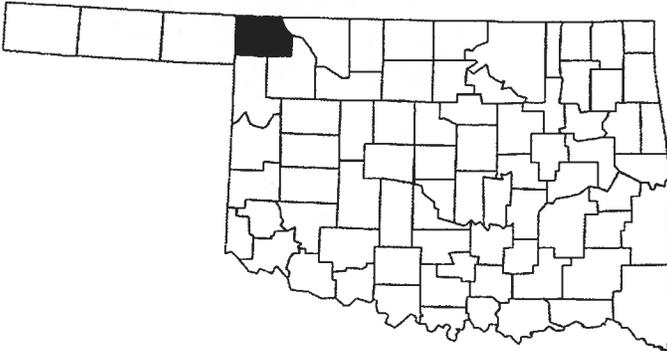


HARPER COUNTY

HARPER COUNTY TURNING POINT PARTNERSHIP

Established in 2001



One task at a time, this small community has had outstanding success. With the passage of a sales tax for the support of a county health department, a new county health department was opened in Laverne with a satellite office in Buffalo. Now they are working on the establishment of an Independent Living Center. The Partnership is small in number, but big in work ethic and understanding of their abilities in the community. If they try to multi-task, completion of a task will not happen. Taking one task at a time and seeing it through completion works for this community, and will benefit them for many years. This is how a community has success—by doing what they know and doing it themselves.

Activities

- Partnership conducted community assessment.
- Partnership prioritized community needs and developed goals.
- Outreach education (brochures, FAQ's, news articles, presentations, public meetings).
- Partnership held meetings monthly.
- Conducting funding research for independent living center for the elderly population.
- Fund raising events for independent living center.
- Partnership traveled to and presented Harper County Story to Osage County Partnership. The Osage Partnership is faced with similar health issues as Harper County has already experienced.
- Working on plans for affordable independent living center.

Outcomes

- Partnership identified top priority to establish a county health department.
- County Commissioners adjusted county sales tax to include 14 percent for the support of a county health department.
- Vote for the county sales tax passed by 91 percent.

- Strong partnership between hospital, health department, county commissioners, schools, business community, city and county government, and community.
- Board of Health established.
- Health department opened offices in Laverne and Buffalo.
- Partnership consulted with county health department to establish local Community Health Services based on community needs.
- Health survey developed and distributed throughout county.
- Partnership identified top priority to establish independent living center for the elderly population.
- Established Harper County Development Authority and a governing board.
- Contract signed on property for independent living center in Laverne and Buffalo.

Future Plans

- Help design programs based on community needs.
- Help in the implementation of programs.
- Expand Prevention programs in Harper County.
- Expand the partnership.
- Utilize health professionals from existing area health departments and other resources.
- Make application for grants to construct independent living housing for the elderly population.

Participants

- Bank of Laverne
- Beaver County Health Department
- Buffalo Public Schools
- City of Laverne
- OSDH Community Health Services and Turning Point staff
- County newspapers
- Freedom West
- Harper County 4-H Clubs
- Harper County Commissioners
- Harper County Community Hospital
- Harper County Emergency Medical Services
- Harper County Firefighters
- Laverne Public Schools
- Murphy's Farms
- Northwestern Oklahoma State University
- Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service
- Parish Nurse Program for Harper County
- Senior Citizens
- Texas County and Woodward County Health Departments