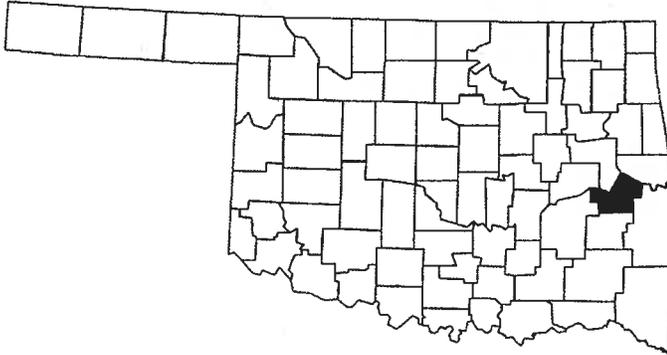


HASKELL COUNTY

HASKELL COUNTY HEALTH RESOURCE BOARD

Established in January 2002



Established through the Oklahoma State University health care study, a coalition of stakeholders representing the faith community, business sector, medical and public health, education, law enforcement and human service sectors have identified several priorities for the community that will not only improve the health of the residents but will eventually affect economic development in a positive way. The primary issue for Haskell County is addressing the access to health care issue. By working with a diverse group of partners the goal is to provide a seamless system of care that is accessible, affordable, and available to all who want or need primary as well as emergency care.

Activities

- Conducted the OSU feasibility study with 100 residents participating.
- Identified primary health care, dental care, mental health and substance abuse as priority issues.
- In August 2002 dialogue began between the Choctaw Nation, Haskell County Health Department and the Haskell County Healthcare System (hospital) in creating a seamless system of delivering primary health care to the county.
- In October 2002 the three entities began collaborations on designing a comprehensive primary and preventive health care system to improve the health status of underserved and vulnerable populations within the Haskell County service area. By working together, delivery of a seamless system of care that focuses on ensuring the availability and accessibility of essential primary and preventive health services to the people who have the most limited access to services and face the greatest barriers to care became a priority.
- In March of 2003 a health trust authority was established between the three entities to oversee the various projects of the community as related to the delivery of health care.
- Hired a grant writer in March of 2003 in order to apply for the federal 330 funds for the primary care health clinic.

Outcomes

- The OSU feasibility study indicated that the hospital was in dire straits.
- Approximately 42 percent of the visits last year to this facility were non-emergency, as many residents use the emergency room as their primary care clinic.
- Even though those who use the local hospital are satisfied with the care received, many residents chose to travel to Fort Smith, Muskogee, McAlester, and Tahina for care. This represents revenues lost to the Stigler community.
- The Haskell County Health Department currently rents space in downtown Stigler. This building is also over 50 years old and has some environmental issues that make it hazardous to the employees who work there and clients who frequent the health department.
- The Choctaw Nation realized some of the health and economic factors that face Haskell County and therefore chose Stigler to open a Community Health Center. The Choctaw Nation felt that a community health center located in Stigler would help to not only address the needs of this population but also serve those who are uninsured in Haskell County.
- Ground breaking for the new health department and primary care health clinic was held on October 13, 2003.

Future Plans

- Submission for the FQHC funds will be spring of 2004.
- Memorandums of Understanding between the three entities are being created to allow for better delivery of services.
- The end result for Haskell County will be a healthier community, economic growth, and a model collaborative for other projects not only in the state of Oklahoma but also in other areas of the country. By 2010, Haskell County will no longer be one of the 500 most needy communities; rather it will be one of the healthiest communities in America.

Participants

- Choctaw Nation
- Haskell County Health Department
- Haskell County Health Care (hospital)
- KIBOIS
- OSU Extension
- Local businesses
- Kiamichi Vo-Tech
- County Commissioners