Coalition for a Healthy and Drug Free Walters

Cotton County 2011

About Us...

The Coalition for a Healthy and Drug Free Walters is a community coalition that helps find new and exciting ways to reach the youth. The coalition's mission statement is to provide Walters young people with activities, instruction, and incentives needed to make the personal decision not to develop a lifestyle which would involve the use and abuse of drugs. The Coalition for a Healthy and Drug Free Walters will strive to provide each student with the tools to make positive decisions and to develop good citizenship skills which will lead to a successful life. The Coalition will further strive to make "Drug Free" the choice of all students, at all levels, for all occasions.

The Coalition is more than five years old and has recently become a Turning Point partnership.

Partnership Priorities

- Minimize risk factors that increase the likelihood youth will abuse drugs and alcohol;
- Strengthen the coalition by recruiting youth who can positively impact other youth.

The Cotton County Coalition has pulled together as a community to include many partners from the school system, legal division and law enforcement to substance abuse professionals and parents. We have worked toward decreasing and eliminating underage drinking, house parties and first handedly advocated to pass a "Social Host Law" in our town. The support has been welcomed and those who were against our efforts are now the minority!

- Brenda Ototivo, Coalition Member & Exec. Dir. at Jim Taliaferro Community Mental Health Center

Community Profile: Strengths and Challenges

Walters is a small community that focuses its resources on the most profound problems in the community. They have chosen a focus on substance use and abuse prevention by partnering with Walters Public Schools where youth are an integral part of their planning process.

Description of Assessments

Coalition partners attended training on the community-based assessment process called MAPP, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships and are ready to discuss next steps.

The coalitions helps administer the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment, which measures risk and protective factors and tracks substance use and abuse in youth.

Funding

Drug Free Communities Grant

Purpose: *Support community interventions that reduce substance abuse.*

Funding Period:

Oct. 2010—Sept. 2015

Funder: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

STOP-ACT Grant

Purpose: *Support community interventions that reduce underage drinking.*

Funding Period:

Oct. 2008—Sept. 2012

Funder: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Impact

The coalition works to ensure community members are aware of the ills of substance use and abuse.

Coalition for a Healthy & Drug Free Walters Meets monthly at the Cotton County Dept. of Human Services/Health Dept.

Judge Mike Flanagan, Chair

Kimberly Dwyer, Project Director
(580) 875-2568

Partners

Concerned Citizens

Cotton County Department of Human Services

Cotton County Health Department

District Attorney

District Judge

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Students Making Important Life Efforts

Town of Walters

Walters Town Council

Walters Public Schools

Partnership Outcomes

- Conducted two Town Hall meetings that advocated for policy change around underage drinking.
- Youth presented at City Council where council members voted to enact Social Host Ordinance.