



About Us...

Harper County Turning Point Partnership had great success with their initial project, the opening of a health department in their county in 2003. Harper County was one of only seven counties in Oklahoma that did not have a health department.

Harper County Turning Point Partnership currently meets the second Wednesday of the month at noon in Laverne. The partnership has focused much time on underage drinking issues, improving the opportunity and safety for those wanting to be physically active, and keeping seniors in the community.

Parkview Pointe, an assisted living center, held a ground breaking at the

end of June. The youth committee's work on underage drinking continues by partnering with the Laverne 2M2L Club and in the spring hung green ribbons around town in honor of alcohol awareness month and partnered with the local newspaper to promote this event.

The partnership works with Systems of Care linking with Beaver County to provide services. This is an excellent resource for youth and their families.

Construction is currently underway to complete the recreational trail to the school

utilizing a Safe Routes to School Grant. The Harper County Development Authority, created to act as the governing board, meets once a month on the last Thursday of the month to oversee work on the assisted living project



Partnership Priorities

- Underage drinking
- Children's health
- Physical activity
- Development of an assisted living center



Community Profile: Strengths and Challenges

The quote to the left is a good description of the Harper County Turning Point Partnership. Over the years the group has achieved many goals, not by being the strongest but by being persistent in what they believed in. Currently many goals are becoming a reality from the assisted living center to adding on to the existing trail using the Safe Routes to School grant. These are projects that have taken much time and energy and the challenge will be to use these accom-

plishments as momentum to continue to do great things in the community. There are many active members in the partnership but there are still many sectors left to get involved.

"In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins...not through strength but by perseverance."

H. Jackson Brown

Description of Assessments

In the spring of 2010 the partnership completed a community health status assessment to gain an understanding of the community's perceived health issues and concerns. Substance abuse issues were at the top of the list with underage drinking being the number one issue in the community. The coalition is beginning the MAPP process and currently are identifying community sectors that are currently not represented in the partnership.



Brick Grain Elevator in Buffalo

Featured Intervention / Project

Close to five years ago the Laverne community experienced a tragedy when a community leader was killed riding his bike one evening. The need for a safe place to walk or ride a bike became a top priority for the coalition and the community. Through a Department of Tourism grant and the community raising approximately \$40,000 plus in-kind donations, close to three miles of concrete trail has been built. The end of the

trail however did not connect to anything and lack of funding halted the project. The coalition became aware of a Safe Routes to School grant that was available to schools or communities wanting to im-

prove the safety of children who walk or bike to school. The coalition partnered with the Town of Laverne and applied to complete the trail to the school. We were awarded a \$123,000 grant to finish the trail and purchase some

additional safety devices. They are currently in the process of constructing the trail to the school. The community is excited about the opportunity to have a safe way for children to get to school as well as encourage those in the community to be active. Upon completion of this project, the trail will only lack a quarter of a mile from being a four mile completed loop .



Continuation of rail leading to the school

Funding

Impact

- ◇ ***Systems of Care***
- ◇ ***Provide services to families that have children with emotional or behavioral issues***
- ◇ ***September 2010 to September 2011(annual)***
- ◇ ***Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service***
- ◇ ***\$60,000***

- ◇ ***Safe Routes to School***
- ◇ ***Establish a safe way to walk or bike to school***
- ◇ ***December 2009 to December 2011***
- ◇ ***Oklahoma Department of Transportation***
- ◇ ***\$123,000***

- Increased understanding of Systems of Care and the referral system
- Met with City officials and engineers to finalize plans for Safe Routes to school trail

- Increased knowledge of bicycle safety through bicycle rodeo for all elementary students
- Met with Town Board and law enforcement to readdress the social host ordinance and how to use it in this community

- Provided opportunity to increase understanding of financial management for families
- Worked with USDA and Northstar bank to establish funding for Parkview Pointe Senior Living

- Multiple articles ran by local newspaper on underage drinking and social host ordinance



Contact Information



Oklahoma State
Department of Health
OSDH

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Organizational Members

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| Bank of Laverne | Laverne Lumber Company |
| Laverne Public Schools | Oklahoma State Department of Transportation |
| City of Laverne | Buffalo Economic Development Director |
| Leader Tribune | City of Buffalo |
| Turning Point Staff | Northwest APRC |
| OSU Extension | Buffalo First Baptist Church |
| Senior Citizens Center | Department of Human Services |
| Local Citizens | Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth |
| Laverne Chamber | Laverne Police Department |
| Western Plains Youth and Family Services | |
| Oklahoma Federation of Families | |

Partnership Outcomes



- New 1/4 mile trail completed to the school
- Law enforcement utilized social host ordinance in Laverne
- 5 families being served through Systems of Care
- Close to 40 adults receiving physical activity through Body Recall classes
- Acquired close to \$160,000 in local donations and a USDA loan to begin construction on Parkview Pointe Senior Living