Haskell County Coalition

Our mission is Haskell County Coalition is committed to improving the quality of life for everyone through efficient and effective partnerships.

Since becoming a Turning Point partnership in 2006 they have expanded the partnership to not just provide an opportunity for important community networking but provide resources and services to the County. The coalition partnered with three other county coalitions to provide a Smart Start Program for all four counties. The group also utilized School Enrichment data collected from County Schools to develop an 5th Grade Rally to meet the needs of area schools while providing youth education and empowering them to live healthy by making better choices.

Haskell County Coalition has taken a more active role in ATOD prevention. In addition to substance abuse and underage drinking prevention efforts they have began to address tobacco control. The coalition partnered with the Latimer County Coalition to form a consortium and apply for a Tobacco Control Grant in which they were awarded.

From sponsoring Back to School Roundups, 5th Grade Rallies, holding annual March Against Meth events and participating in many community events they have proven to be a valued community partner that is continually bringing needed resources and services to their community.

The coalition has partnered with regional Turning Point coalitions to bring resources and programs funded by grants to the community. In addition to the tobacco grant, they partnered with three other coalitions to bring a Smart Start grant and program to the county. They are now an active partner in addressing school readiness and have implemented the “Raising a Reader” program in county daycares and head start programs.

They have recently started looking at plans to effect health in a more long term and strategic manner. The coalition has begun to assess the community needs and will then work to create a comprehensive County Health Improvement Plan.

Partnership Priorities

- Tobacco Control
- Community networking and information sharing
- Child & Family Enrichment
- Youth education and empowerment
- Alcohol tobacco and other drug prevention
- Child and Family Health
- Access to Health Care
- Economic Development
Haskell County is very rural county in Southeastern Oklahoma with a population of just under 13,000. In the past 10 years this area has seen a slight increase in population including the Hispanic community. The county has and continues to have a very high number of Native American Residents.

There is a great feeling of community in Haskell County. It’s citizens are ready and willing to pull together to address problems and work collectively to better their community. This diverse county has numerous resources but continues to have many issues effecting it’s citizens’ health. The county has high rates of poverty, unemployment, is consistently leading the state in number of grandparents raising grandchildren and poor access to healthy foods and recreational areas.

Haskell County continues to struggle with poor health status and rankings many times higher than national and state averages. The county ranked 38th out of the 77 counties in Health Outcomes with a premature death rate considerably higher than the state rate and more than double the national rate. In Health Factors they were 67th of the 77 counties. Factors contributing to this ranking include very high rates of adult smoking, adult obesity, and teen birth rates; many uninsured adults and poor access to health care; higher than average rates of children in poverty, inadequate social support and single parent households.

Smart Start Kiamichi Country (SSKC) believes active living helps the whole family enjoy life! Moving more boosts energy and promotes sound sleep and it’s a lifelong way for one, and their child/children to stay healthy and keep a healthy weight. In fact, active living lowers the chances of obesity, diabetes and heart disease for everyone. Head Start Children and Early Head Start Children were invited to attend FUN DAYS to move and learn. This year SSKC sponsored a Head Start FUN DAY at the Stigler Kiamichi Technology Center Campus. One hundred fifty people signed in at event. Head Start Students got the opportunity to learn how to be active through plan and had a great time doing it! They participated in a variety of games and activities as they rotated through the “stations” as well as learned about health! Children rotated from one station of activities to another station every 6 minutes. Station activities included: Potato Sack Races, HUGE Rolling Wheel, Tug of War, Parachute, Ball Toss, Tunnel Play, Roll the Dice, Hop Scotch, Bowling, and Tire/Hula Hoop/Jump Rope. Music played for 6 minutes then stopped for 1-2 minutes for children to rotate to next station. At every station there were 1-2 volunteers to provide instruction and safety support for children at play.

Smart Start’s vision is that all Oklahoma children will be safe, healthy eager to learn and ready to succeed by the time they enter school.
Partnership Contact Information

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Partnership Outcomes

- Community Awareness Raised/5320 Campaign
- Community Education Initiatives
- Tobacco Education
- Tobacco Policies Adopted
- Addition Partners Gained
- School Readiness Program expanded in county head starts and daycares
- Tobacco Control consortium established and funded for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program
- Coalition development including expansion of the partnership, strategic planning and capacity

The HALT Project

Working to HALT tobacco’s influence in Haskell and Latimer County

Partners

Choctaw Nation
Faith Community
San Bois CASA
Self-Help Housing
OCCY
State Representative Ed Cannaday
San Bois Home Health
ABLE Commission
Haskell County DHS
KIBOIS Community Action
Smart Start Kiamichi Country
Haskell Co. Health Department
Area Schools
Haskell County Star
Friends of the Library
Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board
Elected officials
The Oaks-APRC
Stigler Area Chamber of Commerce
District Attorney
Drug Task Force
Living In Latimer Coalition
OK Health Care Authority
HALT Tobacco Control Project
Latimer County Sheriffs Department
City of Wilburton
Kiamichi Technology Center
Stigler News Sentinel
Local Law Enforcement
KIBOIS Head starts
OSU Extension
Stigler Health and Wellness Center