



About Us...

The roots of Partners for Ottawa County Youth, Inc. (POCY) reach back to early 2000 when a group of individuals representing tribes, churches, agencies and businesses came together in an effort to provide a countywide *Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth* event. The event was a huge success, with over 100 people attending the day's activities and presentations. From this single event came acknowledgement of the necessity for a broad-based, unified group dedicated to identifying and addressing the needs of Ottawa County youth.

In 2006 POCY voted to become a Turning Point Partnership and a recognized Community Partnership Board under the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY).

With the help of OCCY, The Partners for Ottawa County Youth conducted a county-wide needs

assessment in 2007 to identify issues related to area youth. On the basis of this assessment, three task forces were formed, each focusing on different issue, including Parenting, Recreation and Health.

Since their establishment, each of



the task forces has taken action in their respective areas to work toward addressing the identified needs in the county.

Over this past year, focused efforts include planning for a program for students suspended, research on funding opportunities for a youth shelter to deal with youth who are at risk, expansion of availability of parenting classes, and support efforts for teen parents including a BabyFest held in June which provided parenting education and resource connection for teen parents.

Future plans for this active partnership include working with local schools and area tribes to bring a **Challenge Day** Program which will focus on anti-bullying and start a community effort to build self esteem and motivation for area teens. This program is nationally recognized and will be paid for through the generosity of Northeast Tribal Health Center's grant funds.



Partnership Priorities

- Parenting Education and Support Services
- Sheltering for Youth-at-Risk
- Recreation/After-School Programs
- School attendance and graduation rates
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Contact Information



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Partners for Ottawa County Youth Executive Board Members

- Judge Robert Reavis**, Ottawa County Assoc. Judge, **President**
- Beth Rotman**, OCCY, **Vice President**
- Clarissa Sumpter**, ROCMND Youth Services, **Secretary**
- Tara Gragg**, DHS, School Based Social Worker, **Treasurer**
- Johnnie Freeze**, Retired Dept. of Voc. Rehab, **Member**
- Debbie Gaines**, OSU Extension, **Member**
- Kim LaForce**, Office of Juvenile Affairs, **Member**

Mission

To Promote healthy communities in Ottawa County as we assist youth to have positive attitudes and behaviors

Partnership Contact: Beth Rotman 918-533-4904

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of every month at 12 noon at

Community Room
Courthouse Annex
102 East Central Avenue
Miami, Oklahoma



A Promise to Keep — An Event for High School Girls

Community Partners

- Ottawa County United Way
- Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
- ROCMND Youth Services
- DHS and School Based Social Workers
- OSU Extension
- Office of Juvenile Affairs
- Grand Lake Mental Health
- Systems of Care
- Boys and Girls Club
- Northeast Tribal Health Center
- Shawnee Tribe
- Ottawa County Health Department

Outcomes

- Project for planting flowers and herbs at local Boys & Girls Club with plans for Community Garden
- Newly formed “Bridges Out of Poverty” Workgroup
- *Challenge Day* Program to be initiated in school system
- Parenting classes in English and Spanish

