

PATCH Coalition

Pottawatomie County

2009

Coalition Priorities:

1. Provide Tobacco Education to Pottawatomie County Citizens
2. Increase community knowledge for overall Health & Wellness

About Us...

Pottawatomie Alliance Toward Community Health, PATCH, is the coalition serving Pottawatomie County. For the past five years the coalition has successfully worked with Gateway to Prevention and Recovery to serve the community. During this time the coalition which meets once a month to discuss issues pertaining to the program has received substantial support from all of the agency and its staff. Gateway to Prevention and Recovery is the Lead Agency for the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control Grant for Pottawatomie County.

The mission of PATCH is to improve the health of community members of all ages and populations through community partnerships that prevent tobacco use among youth, reduce tobacco dependence, and promote smoke-free environments while promoting a healthy thriving community where individuals, families and groups have the opportunity to improve their health and quality of life. The PATCH coalition has also been a Turning Point partnership since 2007. Membership in PATCH consists of individuals, organizations, agencies, associations, businesses and institutions with an interest in supporting tobacco use prevention, cessation in addition to overall health and wellness. What started as a group of local, concerned citizens has grown into a comprehensive continuum of prevention, intervention, treatment and training service, for the citizens of Pottawatomie County.

Significant Outcomes:

St. Gregory's University- Shawnee Okla. As part of its ongoing initiative of improving campus health, St. Gregory's University has announced it is going "tobacco free" at its three campus locations. The change will take place on August 1, 2009, and under the new policy, tobacco use of any kind will be prohibited anywhere on campus, indoors and out. SGU joins a list of approximately 160 colleges and universities nationwide that prohibit smoking and all forms of tobacco use everywhere on campus (no designated smoking areas), according to the American Lung Association. "We believe the new policy will enable students, faculty, staff, monastic community and visitors to preserve their health by providing a healthy environment where people can live, learn, teach and work free from any risks associated with tobacco use," said SGU Executive Vice President Shingi Goto.

Throughout the roll-out of the tobacco-free campus, the university has focused on raising awareness through signage, information on its Web site and a partnership with local health agencies to offer smoking cessation classes to faculty and staff, Goto said. "Breathe Easy" stickers and various other signage will be posted at all campus entrances to remind students, employees and visitors of the tobacco ban. PATCH members delivered 1-800-QUITNOW, cessation information posters, and over 15 outdoor, metal Tobacco-Free Campus signs to the Safety Officer, David Koehler, at St. Gregory's.

Partners:

Unity Hospital	Earlsboro Public Schools
Pottawatomie Health Dept.	Gordon Cooper Tech. Center
AmeriCorps	Shawnee Police Dept.
Gateway to Prevention & Recovery, APRC	First Baptist Church
Rave Sound	Shawnee Youth Coalition
Shawnee Public Schools	Shawnee Housing Authority
Dale Public Schools	Dept. of Human Service
Absentee Shawnee Tribe	Early Head Start
Young Mothers	Citizen Potawatomie Nation

Key Activities:

- ◆ 24/7 Schools: Pleasant Grove, South Rock Creek, Shawnee, Earlsboro, Tecumseh.
- ◆ St. Gregory's University-24/7 Campus
- ◆ Sports & Art Camp
- ◆ SWAT Retreat for Pottawatomie County Schools