



## About Us...

The PATCH (Pottawatomie Alliance Towards Community Health) has been in place since 2007. The PATCH coalition is a community driven partnership that consists of individuals, organizations, agencies, associations and businesses interested in supporting the communities in Pottawatomie County. The PATCH coalition strives to encompass the whole county in providing services to the Pottawatomie residents. Pottawatomie County is fairly large with its surrounding towns being over twenty minutes away. The PATCH coalition focuses on

community collaboration and building strong relationships throughout the county. The coalition has great visions for the future of Pottawatomie County and its citizens. The coalition is eager to look for grants that will assist them in focusing on several health indicators that persist in Pottawatomie County.

## Community Profile: Strengths and Challenges

Pottawatomie County is fairly large county with around 70,000 citizens living here. The County seat is Shawnee, with 13 rural towns surrounding it. Pottawatomie county is home to, two major private colleges; Oklahoma Baptist University and St. Gregory's University. These two universities are located on the same street, just a mile away from each other. The Pottawatomie communities are very receptive when it comes to supporting community events. The PATCH coalition has been lucky to have the acceptance and acknowledgement of the rural towns. The PATCH coalition faces normal challenges just like most coalitions when it comes to creating change in small communities. The PATCH coalition has passed 24/7 Tobacco Free Policies in the rural schools. When it comes to major changes for the small communities there will always be a little difficulty, but with perseverance we have seen them overcome the struggle and strive to better the health and well-being for their communities. The PATCH coalition is planning to start the MAPPs process with in the next year. This process will take a lot of time and dedication from coalition members and partnering agencies. We know that we may come across some trying times to get the end product. But in the long run it will benefit our whole county for future projects and grants.

## Partnership Priorities

- Tobacco Prevention
- Child Health
- Obesity
- Community Collaboration & Development
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- Legislative Breakfast
- Make It Your Business Symposium
- Youth Leadership

## Description of Assessments



*“16 people die every day do to Tobacco related illnesses”*

Pottawatomie County-PATCH has several organizations that conduct need assessments in the county. Gateway to Prevention has been targeting substance abuse prevention in the county for a few years, they have worked with the schools to get them to do the OPNA (Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment). With the OPNA data this will let the school superintendents and local community organizations know where Pottawatomie County has high rates of Tobacco Use, Alcohol and

Other Drugs in the communities. This needs assessment targets 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. Once the assessments are done this gives each community a driving force to mobilize and build capacity to address the needs in the county. From here we will develop a plan of prevention to target each community.

PATCH will soon begin to start the first stages of the MAPP process (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships). The MAPP process is a strategic

approach to community health improvement. The MAPP tools will help communities improve health and quality of life through community-wide strategic planning. PATCH will kick off MAPPs some time in the next year in Pottawatomie County. PATCH members look forward to creating a healthy community and providing a better quality of life for their citizens with the outcomes from the MAPP process.

## Featured Intervention / Project

### SGU & OBU BASKETBALL “WHITE OUT”

PATCH coalition members worked together to showcase the 16 people who die every day in Oklahoma, due to tobacco related illnesses. The Tobacco Coalition sponsored the “White Out Event” at both Oklahoma Baptist University and St. Gregory’s University. The coalition handed out white t-shirts with the number “16” message on the back of them and provided every guest who attended with the Oklahoma Helpline materials.



## Impact

The PATCH coalition strives to make the best out of all things. The coalition has impacted the community by hosting the “Make It Your Business” symposium. This symposium has opened the eyes of local business owners about the health and wellness of each employee. The PATCH coalition held the first legislative breakfast in Pottawatomie county and had

great response from local citizens. The coalition has helped make changes in local business to help them achieve a tobacco free work place.

The PATCH coalition has several contacts throughout the whole county and looks forward to addressing local community issues that may arise over the future months. The PATCH coalition

applied for the TSET Nutrition and Fitness grant this year, but wasn't awarded. The coalition decided to focus on the indicators in the grant, to see if we can accomplish some of them with out the grant. The coalition is dedicated to work towards applying for the next round of the nutrition and fitness grant if made possible.

The PATCH coalition participated in the 5320 campaign. Our hopes are that each Pottawatomie County resident will make changes to their lifestyle to Eat Better, Move More and to Be Tobacco Free.



PATCH coalition members volunteered to help assembly this PINK Elephant. The PINK Elephant is to encourage parents to speak to their children about underage drinking. Underage drinking in Shawnee, is the “Elephant in the room”. The youth coalition encourages parents to talk early and often with all minors.

## Partnership Outcomes

- ◇ PATCH has had a tremendous amount of outcomes over the past year.
- ◇ CATCH KIDS CLUB has been implemented for the past 5 years.
- ◇ Tobacco Free Business: Pottawatomie County Department of Human Services and Eaton Corporation.
- ◇ Increased the SWAT youth coalitions.
- ◇ Pottawatomie County increase the 5A's training from zero clinics; to having three health clinics trained.
- ◇ Increased the collaboration with the local mayors and city officials.
- ◇ Pottawatomie held its first Legislative Breakfast with the attendance we had it was a local success.
- ◇ Increased the awareness of local rights regarding Tobacco Prevention.
- ◇ Pottawatomie hosted the first “Make It Your Business” training for the local business in Pottawatomie.
- ◇ The PATCH coalition has increase it membership over the past year. With several new agencies and local businesses coming to the table to help broaden the resources for the residents of Pottawatomie County.

## Funding

- ◇ **Grant: TSET Tobacco Prevention**
- ◇ **Purpose: To educate local citizens about Tobacco Prevention and reduce the number of Tobacco users in Pottawatomie County**
- ◇ **Funding Period: Oct. 2010 –Sept. 2011**
- ◇ **Funder: Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust**
- ◇ **Amount Awarded: \$205,000.00**

Accomplishments



Pottawatomie Counties "MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS" Symposium



The coalition members of PATCH not only worked on the local levels of change, but they embraced the state-wide initiative to Restore Local Rights regarding tobacco.