

Choctaw County Choctaw County Coalition

Established 1996, Identified as Turning Point Partner 2002

At a Glance

The original Choctaw County Coalition was established in 1996, to provide input for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program implemented by the local county health department. This group of individuals was very active throughout the community in addressing the high teen pregnancy rates in Choctaw County. Funding for this program ended and as a result, the Choctaw County Coalition for Teen Pregnancy Prevention dissolved in 2000. The community coalition was reengaged in 2002 through a Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant awarded to the Hugo Public Schools. The role of the coalition was to provide guidance for implementation of the grant's overall strategies, and the task force action plans. The coalition has provided the necessary leadership to mobilize the community around the issue of preventing violence and related problems within the community. Within this framework, committees were formed to address specific issues, which correspond to objectives adopted for the project. In addition to this role, in January 2003, the coalition expanded their primary focus of violence prevention into other community health concerns, such as sedentary lifestyles, community beautification, the arts and youth education.

Over the last year, the Choctaw County Coalition has significantly broadened its partnerships and has been extremely successful in addressing health needs of the community. In November, the Coalition was recognized for their community improvement efforts, which included a new walking trail near Walter Leonard Park. Being presented the TORCH AWARD at the Annual Hugo Chamber of Commerce Banquet – the following was depicted in regard to the Choctaw County Coalition:

A Community is only as strong as its citizens. Citizens' pulling together for a common good is a time-honored tradition. When a determined group of people pulls together, along with elected representatives and area businesses, the sky is often the limit. The Choctaw County Coalition is just such an organization. Although its roots are but only a few years old, their progress cannot be denied. Their vision is to develop and sustain a progressive, healthy, drug free and fun community. Their mission is to build partnerships to achieve a safe, economically and viable community. An example of one of their endeavors is the new walking track now underway. Among the shining stars of community activism are coalition members who have laid the groundwork for years of focused activities, special family events and other projects that are improving our community."

This partnership is truly leading their community into a healthier future.

Key Activities of 2005

- Abstinence Education - Project PROMISE
- Adolescent Health Conference
- Balloon Festival
- Choctaw Nation CORE Capacity – Cardiovascular Disease prevention
- Citywide designated "clean-up" days.
- Conducted Needs Assessment.
- Downtown City Beautification Project
- Expanded Partnership
- Healthy Lifestyles Initiatives
- Hospital Wellness Program
- Hugo Walking TRAIL Development
- Implemented the Walk This Weigh Campaign.
- Litter Free Choctaw County
- Main Street – Design Works Assessment
- Re-furbished City Parks
- Skate Park Development
- Smart Start
- Systems of Care
- Tobacco Control and Prevention Program – Project S.P.I.T.

Priorities of the Partnership

- Health Services/Education/Prevention
- Community Beautification/Pride
- Recreation
- Educational Improvement
- Economic Development
- Alcohol, Drug, Tobacco Use Prevention

Partners

- AEP-Public Service
- Arts Council
- Board Businesses/Agencies
- Choctaw County Health Department
- Choctaw County Schools
- Choctaw Memorial Hospital
- Choctaw Nation CORE Capacity
- Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles
- City Council
- Community members at large
- Counseling Center of S.E. Oklahoma
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Mental Health
- Educational Opportunity Center-SOSU
- Elected Officials
- Faith Community
- For-Profit People Service Providers
- Health Department
- Housing Authority
- Hugo Area Chamber of Commerce
- Hugo Boys Club/Girls Club
- Hugo Daily News
- Kiamichi Area Technology Center
- Lane Frost HRC/Hospital
- Little Dixie Community Action Agency
- Local Banks: Bank First, First United, Security First National
- McCare
- McDonald's
- Medical Community
- Mental Health Center
- Non-Profit People Service Providers
- Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service
- OSU Extension Services
- Project S.P.I.T. Consortium
- Southeastern Oklahoma State University
- Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust
- Wal-Mart
- Weight Watchers
- Women's Action League

For More Information:

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