

Harper County
Harper County Turning Point
Established 2001

At a Glance

Harper County Turning Point Partnership had great success with their initial project, the opening of a health department in their county in 2003. Harper County was one of only seven counties in Oklahoma that did not have a health department. Since that time the partnership has been working on developing an independent living center for Seniors. Due to the complexity and financial obligations associated with a project of this magnitude, it is taking much patience and dedication to this project. The Harper County Development Authority, created to act as the governing board, continues to meet once a month to work on the senior housing project. Another committee was recently created to begin addressing youth issues in the county. This group is currently planning focus groups in the both county schools. Based on this assessment, the group can begin focusing on the appropriate health issues. The small size of the partnership makes it important for the group to maintain its specific focus so progress can be made and goals achieved.

Key Activities of 2005

- Continued to hold monthly meetings and expand partnership
- Continued fundraising efforts
- Negotiated with County Commissioners and other county residents of possible land acquisition in Buffalo for future projects
- ORO Corporation, a certified Community Housing Development Organization, received a \$20,000 grant from the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency to conduct a pre-development assessment for senior housing in Harper County
- Participated with the Oklahoma Turning Point Council(OTPC)

Priorities of the Partnership

- Utilize assessment to determine Harper County senior living needs
- Continue multiple fundraising efforts
- Maintain commitment of Harper County citizens
- Implement Walk this Weigh initiative in Laverne and Buffalo schools
- Hold focus groups in both county schools
- Address youth health issues based on focus groups results
- Continue OTPC participation

Partners

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• American Red Cross• Bank of Laverne• Buffalo Economic Development Director• Buffalo Public Schools• City of Buffalo• City of Laverne• Harper County Commissioners• Harper County EMS• Harper County Hospital• Harper County Journal• Laverne Lumber Company• Laverne Public Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leader Tribune• Local Citizens• Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services• Oklahoma State Department of Health Turning Point Staff• Oklahoma State Department of Transportation• ORO Corporation• OSU Extension• Senior Citizens |
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