

McCurtain County
Coalition For Change
Established 1991

At a Glance

The vision for the McCurtain County Coalition For Change is to have a safe and healthy community. The original coalition was developed in 1991, called the McCurtain County Partnership. Later it was named the McCurtain County Coalition. In March 1999, it was renamed the McCurtain County Coalition for Change. Membership has grown to 45 members countywide. The logo for the coalition was developed through a student art contest in which the winner received \$100, donated by a coalition member. Today the Coalition For Change has matured with many successful programs and on-going projects. In the past this partnership's primary focus has been to work together to reduce alcohol and other drug problems through coordinated and committed community prevention efforts. However, future plans are to expand the partnership and bring new membership to the table to identify other health related concerns of the community.

Key Activities of 2005

- Strengthen coalition capacity (Turning Point Philosophy)
- Expanding partnerships and co-sponsoring youth programs
- Developed partnerships with other coalitions
- Developing a data base about alcohol/drug issues to be shared with local, state, and federal agencies
- Annual Youth Risk Behavior Survey conducted in 5 schools in 3 grades.
- After school programs
- Student mentor programs
- Summer programs for youth
- Youth drug free clubs
- Outdoor/Indoor recreation programs
- CORE Capacity (Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and its link to smoking, alcohol, and drug abuse)
- Providing Alcohol/Tobacco/Drug Educational Programs related to Smoking & Smokeless Tobacco, Fatal Vision Program, Alcohol Abuse, Marijuana, Heroin, Cocaine, Inhalants, Methamphetamine, Hallucinogens, Drug Testing, Drug Free Workplace
- Sponsorship of the Community Action Planning Students (CAPS) Examples of their programs below have been: Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT), Mentoring, Community Clean Up, Community Food Drives, Vehicle Safety, Skits (Role Play) performances, Nursing Home Assistance, Tobacco Ad Surveys, Recycling, Super Kids Day – End of School Event, Parents Day (Vehicle safety)
- Parent Training
- Job and Health Fairs
- Coalition Building Training

Priorities of the Partnership

- Reduce Substance/Alcohol Abuse
- Strengthen Collaboration among community agents responsible for serving youth and families
- Youth Development – Community Action Planning Students

Partners

- Area Prevention Resource Center (APRC)
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- City of Idabel
- Idabel Minority Action Committee (IMAC)
- Little Dixie Community Action Agency
- McCurtain County Health Department
- McCurtain County Hospital
- McCurtain County Interlocal Cooperative/McCare
- McCurtain County Sheriff Department
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Turning Point staff
- Oklahoma State Department of Human Services
- Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service
- Others
- Six School Districts

For More Information:

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