

Task Force on Child Abuse/Domestic Violence/Substance Abuse Prevention/Love County Turning Point/System of Care Coalition

Love County
2008

Coalition Priorities:

- ◆ **Prevention of Child Abuse/Domestic Violence**
- ◆ **Substance Abuse Prevention/Tobacco Prevention**
- ◆ **Mental Health Access**
- ◆ **Responsible Sexual Behavior**
- ◆ **Nutrition/Physical Activity**

About Us...

A Child Abuse Prevention Task Force that has been meeting monthly since 1991 became the Turning Point Partnership in 2002.

In 2008, the group completed distribution of 10,000 telephone stickers promoting the 2-1-1 Helpline, conducted "Start Talking So They Don't Start Drinking," a county-wide Town Hall meeting on underage drinking, and celebrated passage of SB 551, the Forget-Me-Not Vehicle Safety Act. The law, which makes it illegal to leave a child under 6 or vulnerable adult unattended in a car, was proposed in our Coalition.

Key Activities:

- ◆ Continued a weekend Farmers Market in Marietta during the summer.
- ◆ With backing from Mercy Health/Love County Hospital, printed 2-1-1 telephone stickers, affixed them to 2-1-1 explanatory letters, and distributed 10,000 copies in Marietta Monitor, as take-home items for school kids and workers, and as stock items for county agencies. Placed a member on the 2-1-1 of Southeastern OK board. County's usage of 2-1-1 helpline increased significantly in the months of the promotion.
- ◆ With a grant from Ardmore-Area Prevention Network, hosted a Love County Town Hall meeting on underage drinking. About 65 elected community, county, and school officials attended. High school students advocated for the organization of 2M2L clubs to deter under-21 drinking, and also asked for social host ordinances. The next week, the Marietta City Council passed such an ordinance.
- ◆ Oklahoma Bar Association awarded a grant to the Love County victim advocate office, a prime deterrent for domestic abuse.
- ◆ In August, the coalition recognized Sen. Johnnie Crutchfield, Rep. Greg Piatt, and the family of the late Rep. Terry Hyman for sponsorship of SB 551, Forget-Me-Not Vehicle Safety Act. Coalition member Andrea Lester, host of www.fortgetmenotusa.com, authored the legislation, which protects children under age 6 and vulnerable adults from being left unattended in cars.

Partners:

Ardmore Area Prevention Network
Bethel Union Baptist Church
Community Children's Shelter
CASA of Southern Oklahoma
Department of Human Services
Family Shelter of Southern Oklahoma
First Christian Church
First United Methodist Church
Greenville School System
Juvenile Services
Lake County Nursing Home
Leadership Love County
Love County Chamber of Commerce
Love County Children's Review Board
Love County District Attorney
Love County Health Department
Love County Multidisciplinary Team
Love County Sheriff
Love County System of Care
Marietta City
Marietta Lions Club
Marietta Police Department
Marietta School System
Mental Health Services of Southern Ok.
Mercy Health/Love County
OSU Extension Services
Thackerville School System
Turner School System
Okla. Commission on Children & Youth



Andrea and Joe Lester (front) with Health Department specialists Janie Pennington and Andrea Duran

Significant Outcomes:

- ◆ CONTINUATION OF FARMERS MARKET
- ◆ ADVOCACY OF 2-1-1 HELPLINE
- ◆ SUSTAINING LOVE COUNTY ADVOCATE OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE
- ◆ INITIATIVE ON UNDERAGE DRINKING
- ◆ PASSAGE OF CHILD SAFETY LAW SB 551