

# Town Hall Meetings to Confront Underage

WASHINGTON, March 22 /PRNewswire/ -- The Federal Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking, chaired by the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an operating division of the Health and Human Services Department (HHS), was established in 1992 by the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration Reorganization Act (Pub. L. No. 102-321).

..... **Click the link for more information.** ([SAMHSA](#) SAMHSA Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ), in partnership with state and local agencies and organizations, is spearheading a nationwide campaign to curb underage drinking before it starts. Town hall meetings, with the theme "Start talking before they start drinking," are being convened on and around March 28, 2006, in approximately 1,200 communities across the country.

In over 2 dozen rural and urban Oklahoma communities, residents will come together to learn more about the latest research on the impact of underage drinking on both individuals and the community, and to discuss how their community can best prevent underage alcohol use by reducing demand, availability and access. Oklahoma governor [Brad Henry](#) **Charles Bradford "Brad" Henry** (born July 10, 1963) is the Governor of the U.S. state of Oklahoma. A member of the Democratic Party, he was elected governor in 2002. Henry faced Republican US Representative Ernest Istook for re-election on November 7, 2006, and won with 66% of the , who has proclaimed March 28, 2006 as underage drinking prevention day in the state, and first lady Kim Henry will be participating in a number of town hall meetings. Other state and local officials, parents and youth will join community leaders and organizations (spanning health, education, law enforcement, highway safety, and alcohol control) across the state to encourage parents to talk with their children early and often about the negative effects of alcohol.

Research shows that parents of teens generally underestimate the extent of alcohol used by youth and its negative consequences, with parents viewing underage drinking as "inevitable." According to the 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, roughly 10.8 million underage persons ages 12 to 20 (28.7 percent) reported current alcohol use. Of these underage drinkers, 4.4 million were ages 12-17. Approximately 11.1 percent of 12-year-olds reported using alcohol at least once in their lifetimes. By age 13 the percentage doubles, and by age 15 it is over 50 percent. Teens use alcohol more frequently than all illicit drugs combined. In addition to its negative impact on health, alcohol use among youth is strongly correlated with violence, risky sexual behavior A person's sexual practices—ie, whether he/she engages in heterosexual or homosexual activity. See Sex life, Sexual life. , poor academic performance, alcohol-related driving incidents, and other harmful behaviors. In fact, alcohol is responsible for six times the number of youth deaths than can be attributed to all other drugs combined.

The town hall meetings will feature recently released public service announcements, developed in collaboration with the Ad Council, that bear the theme "Start talking before they start drinking." Other first ladies will participate in town hall meetings in Florida, Maine, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, and Wyoming.

More detailed information about date, time and location of town hall meetings across Oklahoma is appended. To learn about town hall meetings elsewhere across the country, see the Stop Underage Drinking federal partners website: <http://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/>; click on "town hall locations" and click on any state for town hall information.

SAMHSA, a public health agency within the U.S. [Department of Health and Human Services](#), is the lead federal agency for improving the quality and availability of substance abuse prevention, addiction treatment and mental health services Managed care The benefits covered under a health contract in the United States.

Town hall meetings are sponsored by the Federal Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking, which includes the Administration for Children and Families, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

#### Organizations Conducting Underage Drinking Prevention: Town Hall Meetings

#### Oklahoma

[This list includes Town Hall meetings reported as of 3/20/06 and, thus, may not be a complete list]

##### Altus, Oklahoma

Organization Name: Jackson County Community Health Action Team

Email: brandieb@health.ok.gov

Address: Jackson County Health Dept, 401 W. Tamarack Rd.

##### Antlers, Oklahoma

Organization Name: Pushmataha County Turning Point Coalition

Email: donnasg2002@yahoo.com

Address: c/o Pushmataha County Hospital, 510 East Main St.

##### Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Organization Name: Washington County Turning Point

Email: ystevens@bartnet.net

Address: Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Center a Division of Family Crisis & Counseling, 622 Frank Phillips Blvd.

##### Clinton, Oklahoma

Organization Name: Red Rock West APRC

Email: mwalls@red-rock.com

Address: 3030 Custer Ave.

##### Enid, Oklahoma

Organization Name: Community Development Support Association/Youth Opportunity Task Force

Email: cdsa-enid@sbcglobal.net

Address: 2615 East Randolph

Location: To be Determined

Address: TBA

City: Enid

Date: 4/28/2006

Event Time: Noon

Town Hall leader: Sean Byrne, Executive Director, PreventionWorkz Inc.

Location: Cherokee Strip Conference Center

Address: 123 W. Main

City: Enid

Date: 03/28/06

Town Hall leader: Sean Byrne, Executive Director, PreventionWorkz

Town Hall leader: Lisa Jobes, DARE Officer

Town Hall leader: Justin Simmons, Executive Director Youth & Family Services

Town Hall leader: Jay Curtis, Moderator

Town Hall leader: Cornelius Pitts, Pastor

Town Hall leader: Mike Field, Assistant D.A.

Town Hall leader: Talla Amborsini, Youth Speaker

Organization Name: Prevention Workz

Email: sean\_b@cox.net

Address: 1625 Garriott, Suite E

Eufaula, Oklahoma

Organization Name: McIntosh County Coalition for a Healthy Community

Email: shryl.hulme@okdhs.org

Address: 107 McKinley, #4

Guymon, Oklahoma

Organization Name: Texas County Turning Point Partnership

Email: kaya@health.ok.gov

Address: 1400 N. East St.

Hugo, Oklahoma

Organization Name: The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board/Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles

Email: tonubbee@sbcglobal.net

Address: Taskforce Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles, P.O. Box 882

Location: Talihina School Auditorium

Address: 600 1st Street

City: Talihina

Date: 3/30/06

Town Hall leader: Joyce Wells, Director Healthy Lifestyles Angie Dancer, Assistant Director Healthy Lifestyles, Roger Green

Idabel, Oklahoma

Organization Name: McCurtain County Coalition for Change

Email: kelly@mccare.k12.ok.us

Address: 103 NE Ave A

Norman, Oklahoma

Organization Name: Noble Community Coalition

Email: smartin@naicnor.org

Address: P.O. Box 824

Location: Noble Public Schools Administration Building

Address: P.O. Box 499, 111 S. 4th

City: Noble

Date: 03/28/2006 Event

Time: 06:30 PM

Town Hall leader: Stacey Martin, APRC Director

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Organization Name: Eagle Ridge Institute APRC

Email: khobbs98@yahoo.com

Address: 601 NE 63rd.

Organization Name: Red de Esperanza/Network of Hope

Email: anaya@coxinet.net

Address: 2416 S Harvey

Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Organization Name: Muscogee Nation Community Partnership Board

Email: mcn.ss.jhanun@sbcglobal.net

Address: P.O. Box 580

Pawhuska, Oklahoma  
Organization Name: Osage Nation  
Email: pshook@osagetribe.org  
Address: 1301 Grandview

Picher, Oklahoma  
Organization Name: CPC  
Email: cpc@picher.k12.ok.us  
Address: P.O. Box 173

Shawnee, Oklahoma  
Organization Name: Shawnee Asset Building Alliance  
Email: shawneeaprc@gatewaytoprevention.org  
Address: 1010 E. 45th  
Location: Shawnee Public Library  
Address: 101 N. Philadelphia  
City: Shawnee  
Date: 03/28/2006  
Event Time: 07:00 PM  
Town Hall leader: Sonya McDaniel, OSU Extension

Stillwater, Oklahoma  
Organization Name: Oklahoma State University  
Email: elizabethbruce@osu-com.okstate.edu  
Address: PaNOK APRC, 2324 West 7th Place, Suite 3

Tahlequah, Oklahoma  
Organization Name: Cherokee County Community Health Coalition  
Email: caroljmc@health.ok.gov  
Address: 912 S. College

Organization Name: Tahlequah Public Schools  
Email: dobbinsv@tahlequah.k12.ok.us  
Address: 400 W. Morgan Avenue  
Location: Armory Municipal Center  
Address: 100 N. Water  
City: Tahlequah  
Date: 03/28/2006  
Event Time: 4:00pm-5:30pm  
Town Hall leader: Val Dobbins, Tahlequah B.E.S.T. Coalition Coordinator

Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Organization Name: Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa  
Email: ablue@csctulsa.org  
Address: 16 E. 16th, Suite 202  
Location: East Central High School  
Address: 12150 East 11th Street  
City: Tulsa  
Date: 03/28/2006  
Event Time: 6:30 PM  
Town Hall leader: Alice Blue, Senior Planner

Vinita, Oklahoma  
Organization Name: Craig County Community Partnership  
Email: cccpelmer@yahoo.com  
Address: P.O. Box 462  
Location: Hornet's Corner Diner  
Address: P.O. Box 462  
City: Vinita  
Date: 03/28/2006  
Event Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Town Hall leader: Carolyn Elmer, Project Coordinator of DFC Grant

Walters, Oklahoma  
Organization Name: Positive Education Program Coalition  
Email: jbillywps@yahoo.com  
Address: 418 S. Broadway  
Location: Comanche Nation Community Center  
Address: Rt. 3 Box 82  
City: Walters  
Date: 03/28/2006  
Town Hall leader: Jennifer Billy, Project Coordinator

Woodward, Oklahoma  
Organization Name: Woodward, Oklahoma  
Email: su'ren@odmhsas.org  
Address: 1222 10th Street  
Location: Pioneer Room  
Address: 9th and Texas Avenue  
City: Woodward  
Date: 03/28/2006  
Event Time: 6:00 PM  
Town Hall leader: Richard Burney, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Yukon, Oklahoma  
Organization Name: Yukon, OK  
Email: casey.worthen@yukonps.com  
Address: c/o Yukon Public Schools, 600 Maple

CONTACT: SAMHSA Press, +1-240-276-2130

Web site: <http://www.samhsa.gov/> <http://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/>