



About Us...

The **Washington County Wellness Initiative** held its first meeting January 14, 2004.

The Washington County Wellness Initiative is housed at the Washington County Health Department which sponsors and supports many of the partnerships activities and programs.

The success of the Washington County Wellness Initiative is due in large part to the dedication, talent and energy of M'Liss Jenkins, the Wellness Coordinator at the Washington County Health Department. M'Liss is the glue that keeps the Washington County Wellness Initiative together.

The Initiative is comprised of a vast number of individuals, organizations, committees, and partner coalitions. Although the various committees, workgroups, and coalitions affiliated with the Initiative meet monthly throughout the year the Washington

County Wellness Initiative hold a meeting annually.

The **Washington County Health Access Committee** began in February 2006, and is composed of 23 community members from the business, health and social services sectors. The Vision of this group is, *"All people in Washington County who are currently uninsured will have a 'medical home' that focuses on prevention, early detection and coordinated medical care."*

This growing need for health care access prompted the Washington County Health Access Committee to consult with Morton Comprehensive Health Services, Inc. (MCHS), a Tulsa-based Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) on establishing a community health center in Washington County.

As part of Washington County's five-year strategic

The **Suicide Prevention Committee** is developing its sub-committee structure to plan and implement efforts to reduce the county's high suicide rates. The committee will work with the Washington County Health Department which has selected suicide prevention as one of its strategic priority goals. The goal is to reduce suicide in Washington County from 18.5 percent to 12 percent by 2015.

The goal of the **Transportation Committee** this year was to pilot test a "flexible" fixed route public transportation system for Bartlesville. The committee with the assistance of community advocate Roger Alexander created a Action Plan that identified the strengths and challenges to developing this type of transportation system.

Partnership Priorities

- Access to Health Care/Primary and Preventive Care
- Transportation
- Affordable Housing
- Suicide Prevention
- Mental Health/Behavioral Health
- Poverty Alleviation



Washington County Health Department



It is, in total area, the smallest county in Oklahoma, adjacent to the largest county in Oklahoma, Osage County. It is the second smallest county, by land only size, i.e., not including water.

“The Washington County Wellness Initiative is one of the community’s greatest vehicles for bringing citizens together to tackle important issues.”

*~Mary Beth Murray,
Administrator*

*Washington County
Health Department*



Price Tower, a Frank Lloyd Wright designed building in Bartlesville

Community Profile: Strengths and Challenges

Washington County, Oklahoma is located in the region of Oklahoma known as Green Country because of the rolling hills and abundance of trees. This predominately rural county is situated along the Oklahoma- Kansas border and is accessible by major U.S. highways 75 and 60. According to the 2010 U.S. Census data, 50,976 people live in Washington

Bartlesville is the largest city and the county seat with a population of 38,885

people (68% of the county’s population). The community was once thriving and boasted having the most PhD.s and M.D.s per capita in the United States. However, in 2002 the area’s largest employer, Phillips Petroleum, merged with Conoco, becoming ConocoPhillips. When this merger occurred, the corporate headquarters moved to Houston, Texas, resulting in drastic shifts to the Washington County population, including an

increase in the community’s rates of unemployment and poverty. In 1968, Phillips Petroleum employed 9,800 people in Bartlesville, and by the end of the year 2002 this number decreased to 2,800 people.

The Bartlesville public schools went from having 31% of the school children enrolled in the free and reduced lunch in 2002 to 46% in 2010.

Description of Assessments

The growing percentage of people living in poverty continues to be a concern for the community, and the lack of health care access has created a significant shift in individuals utilizing the emergency room for primary care.

Washington County is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area for low income primary care, on April 1, 2010, and for mental health on December 31, 2007. Washington County received a designation for a Medically Underserved Population for the low income population.

Washington County conducted Community Needs Assessment in 2005 and 2010, in order to assist with strategic planning to resolve health and social disparities. The 24-question survey was distributed in various locations around the county. Survey sites varied by location, population served and demographics. There were 1,385 surveys completed in 2010 and the data compiled by the Washington County Health Department. Community survey results indicated that over one quarter of the residents of Washington County use the emergency room for care.

The lack of providers the target population makes accessing primary care difficult and, consequently, the Jane Phillips Medical Center, the hospital in Washington County, reports an increase in non-emergent utilization of the emergency room.

According to the 2010 Community Needs Survey, the majority (72.3%) of respondents travel 10 miles or less to see a physician. Transportation was listed as the third largest barrier to accessing health care services.

Access to Healthcare Committee

The Access to Health Care Committee of the Washington County Wellness Initiative hosted a Town Hall to discuss plans to develop a Federally Qualified Community Health Center in Bartlesville.

The was held on June 15, 2011 Jane Phillips Medical Center, 3500 S.E. Frank Phillips Boulevard. The Health Resources and Services Administration designated Washington County as a

medically underserved area for the low income population.

This designation means that Washington County is eligible for federal funding to help provide access to care.

The Access to Health Care Committee and its partners are researching the possibility of establishing a FQCHC in Bartlesville.

An FQCHC is a non-profit, community-directed provider that serves populations with

limited access to health care, including low income

populations, the uninsured, people with limited English proficiency, migrant and season farm workers, individuals experiencing homelessness and people living in public

housing.



The Washington County Board of Commissioners, as a lead agency, received a \$35,000 community development and planning grant from the Oklahoma State Health Department of Health's Office of Primary Care to provide the committee with technical assistance and support for community development and planning activities.

Access to Health Care Funding

Impact

The Bartlesville Regional United Way recently awarded a \$10,000 Venture Grant to Family HealthCare Clinic for their Washington County Integrated Health Network System. This program will begin to build a coordinated care system which includes linkages and referrals to primary, preventative, specialty, and acute cares services for residents of Washington County and surrounding areas.

United Way's Venture Grant Program was established in order to meet the critical needs in our community and improve the quality of life throughout the United Way's service area by uniting and inspiring its residents. The goal of the Venture Grant Program is to be proactive in addressing unmet human service critical needs, and address ways of preventing social problems.

"The recently completed Community Needs assessment points out the need for health care in our community," said Michael Cole, CEO and Executive Director of the Bartlesville Regional United Way. "We are happy to be funding this program to help address this need for linkage to medical care for the underserved in our community," said Cole.

The goals for the Washington County Integrated Health Network System include increasing access to quality healthcare, reducing non-emergency room visits, promoting wellness and prevention, and improve health outcomes.

"It is the hope of Family Healthcare Clinic that all people in our area who are currently uninsured will have a 'medical home' that focuses on prevention, early detection and coordinated medical care," said Patty Leach, Executive Director of Family Healthcare Clinic.

Towns and Cities in Washington County

**Bartlesville, Copan, Dewey, Ochelata,
Ramona, Vera**

Contact Information



*Dewey Hotel and Museum, Dewey, OK
(Washington County)*

Dewey is home to the Washington County Senior Citizens center at 300 E. Angus. The center provides entertainment and learning opportunities for the county's older citizens, as well as the Dewey Senior Transit bus. The Washington-Nowata County Nutrition Project is headquartered in the same building as the senior center.

For additional information about the Washington County Wellness Initiative, please contact:

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Partnership Outcomes

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLANNING SUMMIT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2011

11:30 AM–1:30 –PM
 Kress Building
 206 SE Frank Phillips
 Bartlesville, Oklahoma

LUNCH Provided RSVP to 918-335-6926 or djenkins@health.ok.gov

Learn how affordable housing projects can benefit the community and you!

The Faces of Affordable Housing Need in Washington County



"One in four renters and homeowner households now pay more than 50 percent of their annual incomes for housing. Spending half of your income on housing means that you have very little to spend on anything else."

—America's Rental Housing: Meeting Challenges, Building on Opportunities. * Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Builders, Lenders, Developers, Suppliers, Tradesman, Realtors, Nonprofits, Churches, Community Leaders and anyone interested in improving the housing needs of Washington County

Offered in partnership with:

The City of Bartlesville • Washington County Health Department • Community Action Resource & Development
 Casa Hispana • Washington County Wellness Initiative • Oklahoma Turning Point • Dynamic Independence
 Vision Forward • Disciples Christian Church • Nehemiah Housing Services • Cherokee Vision Housing Services
 League of Women Voters • Youth & Family Services Structured Living Program • Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign

The committee held a mini-housing summit to bring together those interested in planning future affordable housing projects.

The committee is an active partner with Oklahoma Turning Point, and they bring diverse groups together to work on such issues as housing, transportation and healthcare. Individuals from a variety of sectors including builders, lenders, property developers, realtors, suppliers, contractors, non-profit leaders were invited to attend as well as community members.

The Affordable Housing Committee received a \$10,000 grant from the United Way Venture program. Portions of the funds were used to sponsor this event.