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Coalition members hear 2-1-1 report

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The Woodward Area Coalition made up of A Turning Point, Partners Acting as Change Agents (PACA) and Northwest C.A.R.E. Partnership held its monthly meeting on April 19.

Guest speaking at the meeting was Carrie Wiggs who is the State 2-1-1 coordinator.

The Oklahoma 2-1-1 Collaborative is a service which is provided to 58 counties in Oklahoma and provides a number for people to call when they need help with any thing that may not be considered a "9-1-1 emergency." The 2-1-1 program can assist with things like running out of food or necessities with no way to get them, to needing a ride to the pharmacy and not being able to find one or any other of a vast array of issues someone may face such as housing, health care, child care, food, counseling, financial assistance or volunteer opportunities.

The system does not provide the services needed directly but connects those who call with the right organizations to help them.

Woodward County is among the 19 counties in Oklahoma without 2-1-1 service and Wiggs spoke to the Woodward Area Coalition on how a 2-1-1 system could be implemented for the counties in north and northwest Oklahoma.

There are 2-1-1 systems in place across the United States which service 65 percent of the nation and Wiggs stressed the importance of having such a system.

"It helps people look for health and human services all over Oklahoma," said Wiggs. "It's local people helping local people."

Wiggs said that many people in the area of Oklahoma counties who do not have a 2-1-1 service have showed great interest in starting one.

"It's our goal to help you guys start 2-1-1 in your area," said Wiggs.

For more information about 2-1-1 access [www.211.org](http://www.211.org) or [www.211oklahoma.org](http://www.211oklahoma.org).

Also discussed in the meeting were preparation plans for the upcoming Girl Power event on April 28 for fifth and sixth grade girls in northwest Oklahoma and the Walk This Weigh walking competition which kicks off May 12 at the George Goetzinger Walking Trail at 10 a.m.

For further information on Girl Power or Walk This Weigh call (580) 254-3391