

Region 10 Area Prevention Resource Center

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Serving Eight Counties in Southern Oklahoma

Bryan Love
 Carter Marshall
 Garvin Murray
 Johnston Pontotoc



Upcoming Events:

February

Carter County and Johnston County Reality Parties

Adults interested in making reservations for upcoming tours call ext. 103 for more details.

March

Murray County STOP Underage Drinking Town Hall Meeting

Call ext. 101 for more information.

April 30-May 2:

Youth Leadership Camp
 Youth interested in attending can call (580) 490-9197 or e-mail rshilen@wmpn.org for application packet.



Underage drinking is no joke. There's 2Much2Lose.

Too Much To Lose is a statewide project designed to raise community awareness about the underage drinking problem, deliver prevention messages, and build a consensus among community leaders, law enforcement, health and prevention professionals, parents, educators, business leaders, and those under 21. Our message is: underage drinking is illegal and unacceptable. Through public education, vigorous enforcement, training, and community engagement, Too Much To Lose strives to eliminate underage drinking in Oklahoma.

Go to 2much2lose.com for:

- Workshops and trainings on enforcement techniques
- Point-of-Purchase materials for retailers
- Free pencils, pens, stickers, and other materials

To start a 2M2L club in your school or community, go to 2much2lose.com or contact the Region 10 Area Prevention Resource Center for more information.

Toll-free tip line to report underage drinking or anyone providing alcohol to those under 21:
1-866-94-2MUCH



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Region 10 Area Prevention Resource Center

Working Together

coming soon >>>

in the next issue:
 Youth Leadership
 And Prevention



this issue:
 Underage Drinking

- Who We Are P.1
- Reality Party P.2
- Alcohol Compliance Checks P.3
- 2M2L P.4

The Mission of Region 10 Area Prevention Resource Center

The Region 10 Area Prevention Resource Center is a branch of the Wichita Mountains Prevention Network which is based in Lawton, OK. WMPN is a dynamic organization that has grown and evolved since 1989 to meet the needs of communities in southwest and south-central Oklahoma. As pioneers in prevention technology and community development, we are champions of proactive programming developed with community partners.

WMPN is a charitable organization whose primary goal is to network, involve, and utilize all of our community citizens, agencies, organizations, and institutions in order to promote positive youth, family and community development.

By developing increased awareness of problems facing society, we are able to promote a community climate of positive opportunities, attitudes, and activities. We encourage community support for effective parenting, constructive family communication and parental networking while aspiring to heighten community awareness and revision of youth-related laws.

Furthermore, we continue to support consistent enforcement of these laws as well as the development of appropriate juvenile justice programs in the community. Our agency actively promotes the continued development and implementation of comprehensive, community-wide programs, primary prevention, intervention and education. We strive to change social policy, laws and advertising practices regarding school, tobacco and other drugs while developing, supporting, and providing community and public education programs regarding such matters.

Through coalitions, WMPN has been instrumental in local support for our mission and the greater community mission to address high-risk behaviors. WMPN has a history of providing services to underserved and minority populations in southwest Oklahoma. In addition to targeting minority and low-income populations for services, including these groups in community planning and leadership opportunities has always been a priority. For more information about Region 10 APRC, call (580) 490-9197 or visit our website at www.wmpn.org.

WMPN Mission Statement
The Wichita Mountains Prevention Network is a nonprofit corporation providing professional services in the state of Oklahoma. Through education, community development, and proactive policy change, we serve to promote protective factors and reduce risk factors in our communities. These strategies are adopted to encourage youth and families to lead healthy, productive, and happy lives.

APRC Clearinghouse

Checkout the Clearinghouse on our website www.wmpn.org. You can place your order online or come by our office for a look at the wide variety of great resources. Remember, these items are free. For more information, call 580-490-9197 ext. 101.

Want to follow us and see what we are doing in your community?



Oklahoma Region 10 Area Prevention Resource Center



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APRC Conducts Reality Party

Adults introduced to teen drinking culture

A girl lies passed out on the couch and remains unconscious when she's carried into the bedroom. Two young men in the back yard throw punches over a drunken misunderstanding. An adult who heard about the party on the Internet claims to be a teen from the next town over while roaming among the partygoers unnoticed. Someone rushes through the home shouting for help because her friend is unresponsive and not breathing. The whole time, a parent works in his office upstairs, sure that everything is fine because he has everyone's keys. He thinks that the kids are going to drink anyway, so it might as well be in his home where they're "safe."

The Oklahoma Area Prevention Centers (APRCs) offered parents in 18 communities across the state a glimpse into a scenario that could greatly affect the lives of their teens. APRCs worked with student and community leaders to offer tours called "Reality Parties" in which

adults were allowed to walk through a typical high school party scene. The event took place on November 18, 2009 as a statewide event sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Parents from across southern Oklahoma gathered at a home in Ardmore to observe a tour that portrayed a teen drinking party with youth actors voicing concerns expressed by local teens and young adults. Although a group of high school actors portrayed the

teen drinkers, Gwynn Busby, director of the Ardmore APRC, said it was an accurate look at what actually occurs at parties in the region. "Many adults believe drinking is a rite of passage and think parties are the same as they were when they were young, but that's just not the case," Busby said. Due to issues such as the rise in prescription drug abuse, the prevalence of social networking, and the competitive nature of binge drinking, times have changed.

A panel that included Ardmore police officers Kevin Norris and Keith Ingle, along with Karen Tadych of the AGAPE project and Nan May of YW8, led a discussion after the tour. Busby said her agency staged the teen house party re-enactment to help parents understand the dangers that young people face regarding underage and binge drinking. "Our

intent was not to scare you," Busby said. "We wanted to show you this is not just about drinking and driving."

"85% of OK teens who drink report doing so in the home of a friend"*

More than 75 communities across the state, including Marietta, Tishomingo, Madill and Kingston, have adopted Social Host ordinances that hold accountable anyone who knowingly hosts or allows a party where anyone younger than 21 is drinking alcoholic beverages. The ordinances are designed to reduce teenagers' access to alcohol, reduce binge drinking and hold teens and adults accountable for their behavior. (cont'd)



Garvin County Stings Target Underage Alcohol Sales



Results in Garvin County surprise law enforcement officials

The number of underage people who were able to purchase alcohol in Garvin County in recent monitored buy efforts was high enough to worry local law enforcement officials.

Identification to prove the purchaser's age was rarely asked for, so authorities have decided they need to be more diligent about enforcing laws that prohibit the sale of alcohol to people younger than 21. And, they agree they need to work with area school officials to better educate teenagers about the effects and dangers of alcohol consumption.

"I had started to receive a lot of complaints from parents all across the county about kids being intoxicated," Garvin County Sheriff Steve Brooks

said. "Their kids were able to purchase beer and liquor. The complaints were starting to get more and more."

Brooks said he spoke to 19 parents at one football game, all concerned because their teens could get alcohol. Deputies and officers at local police departments in the county were receiving similar complaints, Brooks said.

The sheriff's office sought assistance from the Wichita Mountains Prevention Network, an organization that teaches about alcohol and tobacco use.

Using minors from that organization, two rounds of the monitored buys were conducted in Garvin County.

In each case the juveniles entered a business that sells beer or liquor and attempted to buy alcohol. The idea was to see which places would ask to see identification, since state law requires a

person to be at least 21 years old to buy alcohol. "To my surprise there were more stores than I even imagined that were selling to the minors," Brooks said. "We thought the process would involve maybe three stores not being in compliance in the whole county. The first night we did this we could only do Pauls Valley."

On the first night of the operation, employees in nine of the 14 Pauls Valley stores approached by minors failed to ask for identification. The numbers didn't improve much a week later when monitored buys were conducted in Wynnewood, Stratford, Maysville and Paoli. In those communities, seven of 12 stores failed to check the buyers' ID.

Store owners were not pleased when their employees sold alcohol to minors, Brooks said. In some case employees lost their jobs.

All the people who sold alcohol to minors were cited and face a criminal charge.

"The store owners I've talked to want to stay in compliance," the sheriff said. In fact, he said some claimed to "preach" to their staff to check IDs when selling alcohol.

And some owners say they remind their employees that people must be at least 18 years old to buy tobacco products.

"We're not out to destroy anyone's life or destroy a business. We want them to flourish," Brooks said. "This is about kids being intoxicated. This is about the kids, period."

The results from the monitored buys also show the need to continue checking on stores and the need to better educate the kids, Brooks said.

"The sheriff's office wants to get a program going here geared at better educating the kids on the effects of alcohol," he said.

"If the stores remain in compliance then it's harder for these kids to get the alcohol. Compliance is the beginning."

He wants to work with schools and school resource officers, other law enforcement agencies, mental health and substance abuse agencies, churches and anyone else who wants to help.

"Anybody that wants to get on board with this should come on down and we'll talk about how you can be involved," Brooks said.

Reality Party, cont'd.

"One of the main reasons we chose to conduct the party in Ardmore is because Ardmore has not passed a Social Host ordinance," Busby said.

When asked what parents and adults can do to combat underage drinking in our region, Busby said, "Pass a Social Host ordinance, encourage your community to enforce it, and report underage drinking when you know about it."

To report underage drinking, call the Too Much To Lose tip line at 1-866-94-2MUCH.