

**Wichita
Mountains
Prevention
Network**

Working Together

FALL 2006

Poll Finds Addiction has Impacted the Lives of 63

A majority of those surveyed (63 percent) said there had been a great deal or some impact on their own lives as a result of grappling with addiction, and for most of them (72 percent), the addiction was among a family member. "Breaking the cycle of addiction is critical to a healthy society," said Patricia Taylor, campaign coordinator for Faces & Voices of Recovery.

Faces & Voices of Recovery's outlines an agenda to reduce stigma and discrimination against those in recovery. Recommended actions include:

- Repealing the ban on federal financial aid to students with drug convictions under the Higher Education Act;
- Encouraging the Surgeon General to commission a report on addiction recovery;
- Improving Medicare and Medicaid to include addiction and recovery services;
- Honoring claims by insurers for the care of any injury sustained by an insured person while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs; and
- Ensuring that employees who seek treatment not be subject to discriminatory actions or termination and that past alcohol or drug use be considered only when relevant to the job.

Two thirds of the public believes that a stigma exists toward people in recovery from addiction to alcohol or other drugs after stigma is defined as "something that detracts from the character or reputation of a person, a mark of disgrace." This poll strongly illustrates the barriers and roadblocks that people face as they strive to improve their lives and participate in community life.

WMPN Receives 2006 SOAR AWARD

The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention named the Wichita Mountains Prevention

Thumbs Up

Survey Found Teens Hear Prevention Messages



SMHSA today released data showing that youth who reported talking to at least one parent about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol or drug use in the past year were significantly less likely to report past month binge alcohol use and other drug use. John Walters, Director of National Drug Control Policy, said: "It is crucial that our youth receive clear and consistent messages about the dangers of marijuana and other drugs. Research indicates the Media Campaign is moving in the right direction and that is good news for American teens and parents".

Thumbs Down



A new survey conducted for the American Medical Association by Northbrook, IL based Teenage Research Unlimited, says the **24 percent of teens say their parents have given them alcohol. Twenty-one percent say they've been to a party where kids drank alcohol supplied by parents.**

We know that underage drinking is the leading cause of death in teens, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. In the same AMA study, eighty percent of the teens say it's easy to get alcohol at parties, and two-thirds say it's easy to get alcohol from their home or other older siblings or other relatives. A clear message that the use of alcohol by teens is unacceptable anytime or anyplace must become the social norm.

Kids Making a Difference...The Lawton/Ft. Sill Youth Coalition

The purpose of the Lawton/Ft. Sill Youth Coalition (LFSYC) is to offer leadership, development and training opportunities to any resident of Comanche County in grades 9—12. The Coalition promotes positive change through activities and projects that seek to prevent substance abuse, violence and teen pregnancy in our community. Already this year the Youth Coalition members have been hard at work to make these changes in the community.

The LFSYC is making positive changes in the community through service projects and strategic planning. We just conclude the first phase of the "Got DRAMA?" service project. It is an awareness campaign that the LFSYC created to encourage safe choices and dreams of attaining future goals. The phrase "Got DRAMA?" is a play on words. DRAMA stands for Dreams Rising Above Momentary Actions.

The Coalition felt that youth are always being told what not to do, so they wanted to encourage youth to have dreams and put those future goals ahead of things that might get them off track. Coalition members promoted this idea by distributing ribbon kits that included a pledge card, narrative about having dreams and neon green awareness ribbons. These kits were distributed by LFSYC members in all three high schools as a part of their Homecoming awareness campaign.

In addition to this project the Coalition is very excited about working with other organizations to make an even greater impact in the community. Currently 20 members plan to volunteer with the YMCA on Halloween. We also have plans to work with Habitat for Humanity and hope to assist the Food Bank over the holidays. The goal for this year is to involve more youth that are interested and to explore ways they want to improve and impact the community. The Coalition currently meets once a week. Each meeting is progress toward strengthening the Coalition and moving through our strategic plan while searching for different ways to better the community (and as always have fun doing it.)

Call Ashley Herrin at 355-5246 x 102 to join.

Current and Upcoming Events

Road Kill Classic

October 21, 2006, 9:00 a.m.

Eastside Park

Red Ribbon Poster Contest Reception

October 23, 2006, 5:00 p.m.

Museum of the Great Plains

Youth Coalition participation in YMCA Haunted House

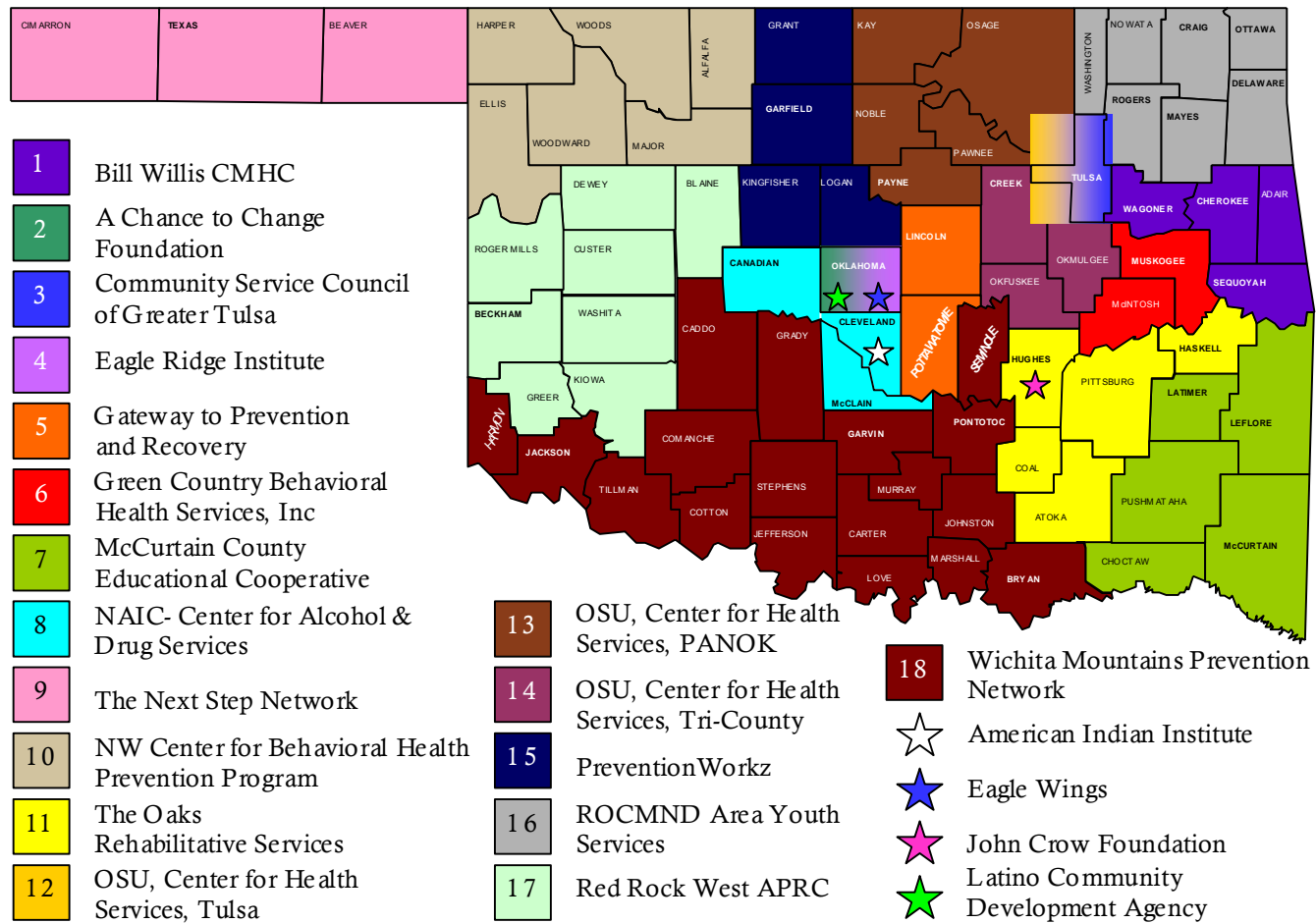
October 31, 2006, 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

YMCA Lawton

WMPN Region Expands to 18 Counties

The Wichita Mountains Prevention Network will now cover a larger region in southwest and south central Oklahoma. As of July 1, 2006, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services named WMPN as the new provider as the Ardmore Area Prevention Resource Center (APRC). The new region includes: Bryan, Carter, Garvin, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray, Pontotoc and Seminole Counties. The Lawton APRC also serves Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Harper, Jackson, Jefferson, Stephens and Tillman Counties. We will be working closely with existing community coalitions in the area and a satellite office has opened in Ardmore.

Oklahoma Prevention Network



Consultation Services

Teambuilding
1st Time Supervisors
Personality Styles
True Colors
Discover Your Strengths
Stress Management
Conflict Resolution



RoadKill Classic
October 21, 2006 9:00a.m. Eastsi de Park

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