



Blaine County Health Department  
Creating a State of Health

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### **Blaine County Health Department Celebrates Nurses**

*National Nurses Week is May 6-12.*

The Blaine County Health Department joins the American Nurses Association, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), health care professionals, patients and families, during *National Nurses Week, May 6-12*, in recognizing the important roles nurses have in providing direct personal health care for patients and families and providing leadership in forming public health policies to improve the quality of care and quality of life for Oklahomans of all ages.

The public health nurses in Blaine County help improve the health for entire populations by providing services like child screenings, immunizations, WIC, maternal and child health services and more.

“We want to thank our very own public health nurses at the Blaine County Health Department,” said Brandie O’Connor, regional health director. “Their diligence and efforts in providing quality care to our communities are invaluable.”

This year’s theme for National Nurses Week is *“Nursing: The Balance of Mind, Body and Spirit.”* The theme is an important part of the American Nurses Association’s 2017 Year of the Healthy Nurse outreach to encourage nurses to focus on their own balance of physical, intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual, personal and professional wellbeing.

The public holds nurses in high regard and trusts them to advocate for patients. They serve as role models, educators, leaders and advocates of public health.

Nurses practice diverse roles such as clinicians, administrators, researchers, educators, care coordinators, and policymakers. They help patients secure resources, obtain comprehensive care across many service areas, and develop healthy lifestyle practices to prevent sickness and diseases. Increasingly, nurses with advanced degrees, such as nurse practitioners, are providing primary care services, managing chronic illnesses, and experiencing positive outcomes.

The nurses serving the Blaine County Health Department are: Patti Chamberlain, ARNP, Fred Teply, RN, Lillie Taylor, RN, and Teresa Welge, PCA.

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