

Priorities:

1. Teen Pregnancy Prevention
2. Substance Abuse Prevention
3. Physical Activity and Nutrition

Partners

- MCYS (Multi-County Youth Services)
- APRC (Area Prevention Resource Center) Red Rock West
- Custer County Health Department
- Custer County Department of Human Services



Major Outcomes:

- TPA Teen Leaders - Under the supervision of the Coordinator, 68 high school students from each of the seven schools, trained to be TPA (Teens Promoting Abstinence) Teen Leaders who assist in the presenting of the seventh grade program. The teens stress the importance of staying abstinent and provide a positive role model for the younger students.
- Town Hall Outcome: The community created 3 solutions to the problems addressed: Clinton High School adopted Project Under 21 and have been actively working in environmental prevention strategies along with addressing peer pressure. The school created "Empowering Families to Succeed", a support/educational group that has monthly meetings open to parents to address drug and other risky behaviors. The APRC along with Proj. Picket Fences have partnered with law enforcement who will be sending staff to Project Under 21 training and have agreed to increase the number of compliance checks yearly.
- Girl Power- The Girl Power targeted over 150 5th grade girls in Custer County. The students participated in work groups to help improve or prevent unhealthy behaviors. The students received valuable information on healthy lifestyles and prevention.



Key Activities

- Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Presented program during the fall semester to seventh grader in seven schools in an attempt to lower teen pregnancy rates. The program uses the 8-lesson abstinence until marriage course from "Choosing the Best Path" which encourages responsible behavior.
- Town Hall meeting held in Clinton to focus on underage drinking in the community. The community addressed 3 major issues: Peer pressure in schools, increase parenting education on underage alcohol use, and law enforcement increasing compliance checks at local outlets that serve alcohol.
- Girl Power- focused on several topics including: Physical Health and Nutrition, Substance Abuse Prevention, Pregnancy Prevention/Healthy Relationships, & Careers/Social Skills Building.

A Lil' Bit About Us....

Project Picket Fences, the coalition for Teen Pregnancy Prevention and the Area Prevention Resource Center, has begun a local movement to collaborate with other coalitions/teams to provide a stronger voice for the Custer/Washita communities. Although in it's infancy this collaborative effort has met with great support. Those looking to join forces are Project Picket Fences, Community Council and Systems of Care Custer/Washita Community Team. Although all three movements have different goals all have the same vision; to strengthen the community.

Project Picket Fences is a prevention piece that targets underage drinking/tobacco and the prevention of teen pregnancy. Project Picket Fences targets these areas both legislatively and also in the schools. This coalition was responsible for the local town hall meetings to discuss underage drinking in our community. Teen Pregnancy Prevention is an abstinence program presented in seven local schools. Project Picket Fences is also a Turning Point Partnership. Community Council is a networking meeting designed to give local providers more information to pass on to the clients they serve. Each month at these meetings an agency is spotlighted and makes a presentation on their services. Systems of Care Custer/Washita Community Team is team of community members who are interested in assisting local children with mental health issues. Some of those involved include schools, Juvenile Services Unit, Red Rock, those from the faith based community, Department of Human Services, mental health providers, Parents and Youth and CASA.

These three teams/coalitions have met several times and have come to the conclusion that joining forces will only strengthen each coalition's effectiveness. At the last meeting the group arrived at the name Custer-Washita Health Action Team (C-WHAT). A strategic planning meeting is set for October 23, 2006. C-WHAT hopes to further develop connections in the Custer/Washita counties and create a collaborative force that will both create positive change and actively strengthen local communities.

Project Picket Fences

Custer County