



Expanding OSDH reach through *Communication*

The Oklahoma State Health Department (OSDH) provides continuing education to partners, health professionals and public groups through our statewide video conferencing system that allows everyone across the state to access key information immediately and reduces travel.

OSDH has 68 county health departments across Oklahoma and works with additional departments in the two major cities of Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The distance between some of the rural offices and our central office in the state's capitol is as much as five to six hours, which would make continuing training and education a day long and possibly a two-day trip, taking away from resources needed to serve the public in these areas.

By providing a statewide video network, the need for travel is eliminated and immediate training and information can be conveyed to those who need it the most.

With resources available through our PHHSBG grant, our staff has been able to expand the network by installing upgraded systems in county health departments and adding an additional five county health departments that previously did not have these systems. Those counties had been sending their personnel as far as 100 miles to attend trainings in other counties to access information.

Our cloud based system now allows video conferences and trainings to be recorded and played back at times more suitable for viewers. In some instances, personnel were not allowed to attend trainings since that would reduce resources to the public.

Now, they can schedule viewing of trainings and information without impacting services to clients.

Additionally, the upgrading of our video conference system has provided the Office of Communications with additional resources to **provide more health education information directly to the public** at our central offices. Television monitors are placed in all public areas for viewing of health messages and information on a constant basis, giving our clients answers to questions about services that OSDH provides.

These services, in combination with our social media platforms, allow OSDH to interact with our clients, health providers, partners, and other public health groups in presenting a coordinated message to all the residents of our state. **Working together on these communications efforts provides consistent information to educate and inform the public of our work.**

