



About Us...

The Coalition, citizen-led from 1991 to the present, initially brought together Love County citizens and agencies to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect, educate the public to report suspicions of harm, and advocate for intervention resources.

As helping agencies continued to join the Coalition, and as research-based programs and initiatives in the related areas of domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health, and wellness and fitness for life and work came into being, the citizens' group expanded its scope beyond child abuse prevention.

The leadership came to view the Coalition as a means to bring to

the table all government and non-profit agencies dealing with children, youth, women, seniors, and families to work compatibly with Love County people and each other to improve the health and social well-being of our 9,000 citizens. Agencies, enjoying the cooperation, were quick to target Love County for pilot projects.

In 2009, the Coalition, with assistance from the Turning Point initiative, engaged in strategic planning. The result was a name change to the Love County Community Coalition to reflect the expanding number of interests taken on by the original Child Advocacy Task Force. The group adopted bylaws and mission and vision statements. Also, the

functionality of the organization underwent realignment. A system of committees replaced the former "forum" nature of the group, with an eye on working subgroups that would be active outside the once-a-month meetings.

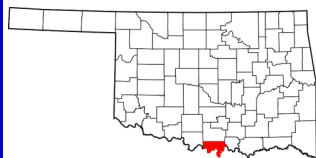


A healthy lunch and a quality presentation typify a monthly Coalition meeting. Here, Scott Cartwright, child welfare supervisor, explains the priority response for child abuse reports from the public during the Child Abuse Prevention-Blue Ribbon Day meeting in April



Partnership Priorities

- Community Health and Fitness
- Violence Prevention
- Healthy Families
- Community Collaboration and Vitality



Community Profile: Strengths and Challenges

“As a Coalition, our leadership contribution to the people of Love County has been to elicit, adopt, and appreciate the best work our public servants can put forth. The Coalition meets monthly, serves food, has a detailed program of presentations by agencies and volunteers, brings in experts, has working committees, and communicates to members and the public between meetings. This opens the way for the serendipity of advances beyond what one had dreamed. ”

*Barbara Sessions, Chair
Love County Community
Coalition*

In a joint initiative around health and fitness, the Love Community Coalition and the Tishomingo Development Team representing Johnston County were awarded a TSET Community of Excellence

Nutrition and Fitness grant. The newly formed consortium includes half its members from each county and a Nutrition and Fitness Coordinator who will facilitate

grant activities that will include making both counties more conducive to healthy lifestyle change.



Description of Assessments

Annually, the community participates in the Mercy Community Assessment led by Mercy Health Center and facilitated by the Office of Rural Health.

Local schools participate in the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment conducted by the Oklahoma Department of

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The Love County Health Department conducts routine assessments to determine gaps in services.

The coalition participates in a biennial coalition satisfaction survey and subsequent strategic planning session to assess

productivity and structure. The coalition will participate in the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships model in alignment with the recently awarded Nutrition and Fitness grant awarded by the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust.

Featured Intervention / Project

In a joint initiative around health and fitness, the Love Community Coalition and the Tishomingo Development Team representing Johnston County were awarded a TSET Community of Excellence in Nutrition and Fitness grant.

The newly formed consortium includes half its members from each county and a Nutrition and Fitness Coordinator who will facilitate grant activities that will include making both counties more conducive to healthy lifestyle change.



Marietta Superintendent Joe Neely and Marietta Daycare director Chad Robinson usher children through the summer feeding program at Marietta school cafeteria. Summer Playground, a health and fitness day camp, led by Thom Maier of Falconhead Resort, coordinated with the school to keep its cafeteria open in summer for the first time.

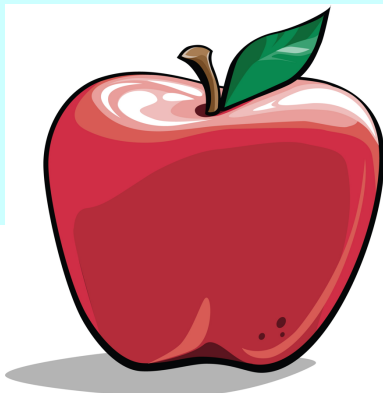
Funding

Communities of Excellence Fitness and Nutrition Grant

Purpose: Fund systemic changes around fitness and nutrition for Love and Johnston counties.

Funding Period: July 2011—September 2012

Funder: Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust



Impact

The Coalition has gradually shifted from a focus on child abuse prevention to encompass a more comprehensive perspective that includes community members focused on a variety of issues.



Eyvonna Lemons, director of Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Marietta was honored by DHS for heading the volunteer organization of 2011 in Oklahoma. Coalition chair Barbara Sessions also paid tribute to Lemons' leadership in children's initiatives with the Coalition.

Partners

Love County
Community Coalition
Meets 1st Monday, 12-1 p.m.
County Library, Marietta

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Committees:

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Collaboration
(580) 223-2537
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(580) 427-4121
Katie Pranger, Healthy Families
(580) 276-5443
Yolanda Gay, Violence Prevention
(580) 276-2042
Mendy Spohn, Health and Fitness
(580) 223-9705

First Christian Church
Bethel Union Baptist Church
First United Methodist Church
Good Shepherd Catholic
Church
Covenant of Grace Church
Enville Community Church
Marietta Church of Christ
Dorcas Ministry, Marietta's
First Baptist Church
Mercy Health/Love County
Hospital, Clinic, EMS, Food
Pantry
C-SARA Foundation
Child Advocacy Center
Support Group - Adult Survi-
vors of Childhood Sexual
Abuse
211 of Southeastern Oklahoma
Sooner Start
Leadership Love County
Community Children's Shelter

CASA of Southern Oklahoma
Department of Human Services
Office of Juvenile Affairs
Family Shelter of Southern
Oklahoma
Greenville, Marietta, Thacker-
ville, Turner School Systems
Summer Playground
Big 5 Community Services
Falconhead Resort
Lake Country Manor Nursing
Home
Love County Children's Re-
view Board
District Attorney Multidiscipli-
nary Team
Love County Health Depart-
ment
Love County Sheriff & Com-
missioners
Love County Systems of Care

Partnership Outcomes



Ron Beach of Marietta, principal of Ardmore Middle School, joins Pam Kerkstra, director of System of Care, in a television interview by KXII's Keith Moon promoting the mental health initiative in Love County.

- Banded together with surrounding communities to address tobacco control issues
- Joined Johnston County in comprehensive nutrition and fitness initiative
- Sustained attention to child abuse and domestic violence
- Sustained broad-based coalition
- Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2011