

Community Connections

Local People Solving Local Problems

Upcoming Events

- July 24th – 28th CADCA Mid-year Training
- July 25th – 29th Youth Leadership Training
- July 30th Back to School Block Party
- July 30th OKC Indian Clinic POW- WOW
- August 8th Crooked Oak Health Fair

Our Staff:

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Community Liaison,
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Community Liaison,
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Eagle Ridge Institute- Area Prevention Resource Center and Metro OKC Coalition

OKC's S.W.A.T. Team Takes Action

On Friday, June 24th 2011, the Oklahoma City/Memorial Park S.W.A.T team held two informative sessions to increase awareness of underage tobacco use among their peers.

Xavier Wilson and Keante' Cooks, S.W.A.T President and Vice-President, discussed the activities of S.W.A.T. to motivate their peers to take action in their community.

Over 50 youth were in attendance, joined by Jane Sutter, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club;

Tanya Mendoza, the S.W.A.T coordinator for Oklahoma County; Hiawatha Bouldin, Eagle Ridge APRC; Linda Bell, Eagle Ridge APRC/DFC; and LaTrice Warrior, Metro OKC Coalition/DFC.

Bouldin addressed the risk and protective factors in our communities that lead to tobacco use; while Wilson and Cooks spoke on the importance of joining the S.W.A.T team.

This event marked the initial stages of the action plan that Eagle Ridge, Metro OKC Coalition and S.W.A.T

leadership members previously discussed; setting goals for the upcoming year at the Oklahoma Youth 2 Youth conference.

While attending the conference, the S.W.A.T. leadership team presented a workshop on the risk and protective factors and marketing schemes related to underage tobacco use.

The S.W.A.T. leadership team wants to increase active membership, while continuing to promote awareness for prevention of underage tobacco use among their peers.

HB: 1211 "Cody's Law" Passes

In June, Oklahoma legislation passed a more stringent state law for Social Host, ensuring that adults will be held more responsible for hosting parties where alcohol is available and served to those under the legal drinking age of 21.

HB 1211 is referred to as "Cody's Law", named after 16 year-old teen Cody Greenhaw who died in 2004 from an alcohol and drug overdose after attending a party at a friend's home.

The revision states that no person shall knowingly or willfully permit anyone under

the age of 21 to consume or possess any alcoholic beverage or any controlled dangerous substance on any property owned or leased by said person. The new changes go into effect on November, 1st 2011.

Any person convicted of a first violation shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined up to \$500. A second violation within 10 years could lead to up to \$1,000 in fines.

Further violations within 10 years of the first misdemeanor will be deemed

a felony and can result in a fine up to \$2,500 and/or up to five years in prison.

The city of Edmond has shown that they are willing to enforce the law, making three recent arrests in June. Each arrest resulted from private parties where minors were provided with alcohol.

References:

**The Edmond Sun
<http://www.edmondsun.com/local/x1625123752/Police-log-social-host-arrest>

<http://www.edmondsun.com/local/x539966983/6-28-Police-crime-news>

**Beaumont Enterprises
<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/article/Ceremony-marks-signing-of-Cody-s-Law-1416474.php>

**KOCO News
<http://www.koco.com/news/28170105/detail.html#ixzz1Qs1g7nkX>

**HB 1211
<http://webservice1.lsb.state.ok.us/cf/2011-12%20ENR/hb/HB1211%20ENR.DOC>

Eagle Ridge Institute

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Communities-DFC)

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Getting to Know: Elton Horton

To get our coalition members more acquainted with each other, we will be featuring an interview with one of our MOC members. This quarter, we have selected to spotlight one of our newer Metro OKC Coalition members: Mr. Elton Horton.

Question: *Elton, since you've joined our team, you've "hit the ground running". What made you want to join our coalition, partnering with us as an active volunteer?*

Elton: *Once getting the idea of what you all do, working with the community and youth, I have a passion for working in that type of arena as well.*

Question: *You've been very active as a volunteer in our community through organizations such as APRC and MOC. Can you describe some of the positive changes you've observed in your community (as a result)?*

Elton: *I look at what you do in terms of offering service. Hopefully, someone does benefit from it; I just try to help out. In "Project Alert", obviously that was to get teens not to use drugs and alcohol.*



Elton joined MOC in October of 2010 and has become one of our most active members- participating in trainings, facilitating youth outreach through "Project Alert", and serving our community in many other areas. We appreciate his commitment to helping prevent the underage access to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Question: *What effect has serving your community had on you? How has becoming more active in your community affected your life?*

Elton: *It's helping me grow. It's helping areas in my spirit develop and continue to develop. I want to alert other people in our community who are in position to make a difference.*

Question: *How we can continue to develop and grow our partnership?*

Elton: *I would like to see you guys continue to get the word out about the services you provide. There are many people who are not aware of your services.*

Hoop Fest 2011

During the summer, the Family Awareness and Community Teamwork (FACT) and community members work together to sponsor "Hoop Fest". FACT aims to prevent gang involvement and crime among youth.

Organizations such as Timmons and Associates Law Office, Eagle Ridge Institute, Oklahoma County Sheriff Department, and OU Trauma Center join together to aid in prevention and life skills training for participants ages 8 to 18.

Each week, participants are treated to guest speakers. They were recently visited by Grant Long (OKC Thunder Broadcaster and former NBA player) and the OKC Thunder Drum line.

The program is located at the Northeast Recreation Center, and has recently opened a new facility in southeast Oklahoma City.

Police officers and community volunteers assist in volunteering their time for security and serve as mentors for the youth, helping to create a positive change in our community.

**References

CNN iReport

<http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-629439>

Oklahoma City Thunder Official Website

http://www.nba.com/thunder/news/fact_grant_110701.html

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