



Unplanned Programs

Issue

In an effort to focus multi-disciplinary efforts on problems with a Family and Consumer Sciences focus, statewide issue teams have been created for Oklahoma. These issue teams bring together Extension personnel, both at the state and county level, and resident faculty partners at Oklahoma State University to focus on the areas of food, nutrition and health; and families, youth and communities. The teams are working to provide educational programs and activities that focus on the following diverse issues facing Oklahomans:

As many as one in five Oklahoma children are at-risk of being overweight or obese. Among children and adolescents, overweight increases the risk of type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and cardiovascular disease. The health of Oklahoma youth can be improved by increasing knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors related to food and physical activity.

Approximately 9% of Americans suffer from some form of serious physical disability. It is estimated that between 15 and 30 percent of American farm operators and farm workers have physical disabilities, many of them sustained on the farm.

During times of adversity, the ability to effectively respond to life's challenges is critical. Financial struggles to make ends meet, job loss, military deployment, substance abuse, and family separation or divorce are just a few of the events that can negatively impact all Oklahomans from infants to adults. How parents respond to life's challenges can have a lasting effect on their children.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Oklahoma currently ranks third in the nation for the number of disaster declarations. Oklahoma is vulnerable to many natural disasters each year such as tornadoes, ice storms, floods and wildfires. These disasters can cause significant financial loss by destroying homes and businesses.

What Has Been Done

Child Nutrition Program Standards

On January 26, 2012 USDA released updated standards for Child Nutrition Programs in school settings, with the expectation that states would train schools and the lunch standards implemented by July 1, 2012. To meet the training needs, the Oklahoma State Department of Education Child Nutrition Services (OSDE CN) and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Services entered into a contractual agreement. As a result of the agreement, OCES developed training curricula that was peer reviewed by OSDE CN and USDA Southwest Regional Office and provided training to FCS educators and OSDE CN administrators and area consultants. The OCES educators in turn provided training to school nutrition personnel.

Oklahoma AgrAbility

The Oklahoma AgrAbility Project provides direct service, education and networking to support the rehabilitation and assistive technology needs of Oklahoma farmers, ranchers and their family members impacted by a disabling condition.

Active Parenting Now

Oklahoma has adopted Active Parenting Now and Active Parenting of Teens as the parenting skills and parent-child relationship program for Oklahoma families. These curricula are listed on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP). Outcomes improved by these programs include: parental attitudes and beliefs, parent-child relationship problems, and positive and negative child behaviors.

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Family Preparedness

OCES is in the process of piloting the new EDEN Family Preparedness curriculum in eight counties across the state. Focus groups were held with residents, local organizations, and community leaders, including law enforcement and fire protection, social services providers, and county commissioners. These focus groups revealed that families are not adequately prepared for disasters for reasons including financial uncertainty, lack of motivation, age, and lack of time.

Impact

In 2012 28 FCS extension educators and 19 OSDE CN administrators and consultants were trained to meet the new Child Nutrition Program Standards. **Subsequently FCS educators conducted 28 regional workshops and trained 1,001 school nutrition personnel.**

In 2012 AgrAbility information and resources were delivered to 82 people in 33 counties. Presentations and exhibits occurred at 98 Agriculture and Disability related events impacting 81,948 citizens.

Fourteen educators have completed training as leaders of Active Parenting Now and are eligible for certification.

OCES educators are employing novel techniques to help Oklahomans prepare for disasters, including teaching consumers to shop in their own homes and prepare disaster kits from items already on hand; and encouraging communities to hold drives to collect donated items for disaster kits. Consumers will also be encouraged to identify a safe place in or near their home where they can take shelter before emergency conditions arrive and stay until danger has passed.

Scope of Impact: State

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