

Southeast Region HHI Report for September 2011

Arkansas County: The LHU is networking with the THRIVE initiative which will be following pregnant teens and women up to age 23.

Ashley County: The HHI coalition celebrated 6 years of serving the residents of Ashley County. The LHU administrator went over the successes of the last 6 years including bicycle safety, Drug and Alcohol awareness, community gardens and success of tobacco free worksites. Binders were given to all members to keep up with minutes and activities of the coalition.

ATV safety and injury prevention presentation was given to 20 participants as part of the hunter education class in Crossett. About 62 participants received the same information in Hamburg at the hunter's education class there.

Cleveland County: The 2011 MATCH data on Cleveland County was presented at the Cleveland County HHI meeting to about 17 people by Emily Harris, ADH. Preparedness materials were also distributed as part of September is National Preparedness Month.

Desha County: D-HHIP (Desha Hometown Health Improvement Project) celebrated its 9th year as an active coalition, improving hometown health for all Desha citizens. D-HHIP has 45 active partners and 45 stakeholders (those that can't come to all meetings, but are great supporters). Partners/Stakeholders shared many success stories and appreciation for this ongoing, strong, dedicated coalition. Kaye Murry, SE HHI Manager, gave the presentation on the MATCH data to the group. The group was entertained by a DVD playing activities they had done throughout the year with the administrator going over the outcomes of events. They also announced they have a fall Community Garden in McGehee called the GREEN patch.

Drew County: The University of Arkansas at Monticello and Drew H.E.A.L.T.H. Coalition partnered once again to receive an Arkansas Department of Health Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program Community Grant. The funds, in excess of \$53,000, will be used for tobacco prevention, education, cessation and advocacy efforts in Drew County.

The Drew County H.E.A.L.T.H coalition celebrated the 11 year anniversary of this coalition. This was the first coalition started in SE region in June 2000. The acronym is for Helping Educate, Advocate and Lead Towards Health. The coalitions focus for the last few years has been sustaining the RX Drug Assistance program.

Jefferson County: The HHI Youth Committee had a presentation by Rosemary Withers, CHPS, on Diabetes. The staff at the Jefferson County LHU has started doing Zumba after hours, it started off as 3 days a week and they have added another day as the staff is really enjoying this.

Lee County: The HHI Coalition has done a Know Your Numbers campaign for the last year. Quarterly they have set up at the local Fitness Center and had BP checks, glucose, Cholesterol

and HIV testing; and anyone that came to the Fitness Center on this day could use the Fitness Center for free. 19 participants for September event.

Monroe County: Held their 7 year HHI Coalition Celebration by hosting a Health Fair in Clarendon as a way of doing outreach in more of the rural part of Monroe County. 20 vendor booths were set up that included free health screenings.

St. Francis County: Senior Health Expo was held with approximately 80 people. Kaye Murry gave a presentation on Physical Activity for Seniors which was followed by Zumba lessons and dancing led by an employee of the Office of Aging/

Community Health Nurses/Promotion Specialist

Arkansas Education River Education Cooperative Hippy Programs learned about the New Trends in tobacco. 42 people were in attendance at two different sessions.

There is a new Nurse, Juanita Buckmaster, who is stationed at the Arkansas Education River Educational Cooperative.

Lisa England, CHNS, for the Southeast Educational Cooperative has secured 18 AmeriCorps to work in the schools on tobacco prevention/Smoke free home pledge/ACT 811 and physical activity.

Healthy Community/Built Environment Workshops hosted in SE Region

The Southeast Region HHI Support Staff worked with the Arkansas Department of Health Lifestages Branch to host two Healthy Community Workshops. The focus of the workshop was to educate mayors, judges, local decision makers on how with little to no funding they could improve their communities to impact economic development and revitalization. Policies and ordinances were shared that can be created at the local level to ensure a healthier lifestyle for people in the community. Chip Johnson, Mayor of Hernando, Mississippi was the guest speaker on both days sharing the policy changes he made requiring little or no money, how to gain community buy in for making these policy changes, and the growth he has seen in his community since making it a healthier place to live. The Lifestages Branch shared resources they have and how to get community involved in the process. Communities brainstormed areas they needed assistance with and shared all the positive activities already in place. Communities are writing grants to get walking trails and lights on the trails and encouraging people to exercise. Community gardens are cropping up and expanding Farmers Markets to make fresh fruit and vegetables available are also projects being done through many of the local HHI coalitions. The workshop in Monticello included community decision makers from Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha, Drew and Lincoln Counties. The workshop in Stuttgart included community decision makers from Jefferson, Arkansas and Prairie Counties.

