

**Selective Summaries of 2007 TASK Group Activities  
from Smokeless Does Not Mean Harmless Mini Grants**

***Melvern Youth Pride (Melvern - Osage County)***

- Presented Communities That Care Data regarding data on both smokeless tobacco and cigarette use by youth in Osage County to the County Commissioners and the Melvern City Council
- Held a poster contest for grades K-6 with prizes awarded to the top 3 in 4 grade level groupings. The winning posters were displayed in store fronts of local businesses.
- Made presentations at two school assemblies that day on the dangers of using spit tobacco and encouraged students to sign tobacco-free pledge cards.
- Arranged for A “First Warning Sign of Cancer” billboard to be posted in Osage County near the county’s largest grocery store.
- Developed five television and radio PSA’s.

***STAY (Stop Tobacco among Youth) (Girard - Woodson & Allen County)***

- Distributed coasters and placemats to participating area restaurants to use during the fall/winter months. Printed message on coasters – “Don’t Be a Dip: Be Safe, Don’t Spit (Tobacco kills 1,200 people a day).
- Hosted a poster contest in each of the four middle schools located in Allen and Woodson Counties with the winner’s poster becoming a media ad in community newspapers as advertisement.
- Passed out Kansas Quitline information to patrons of home football games and placed half-page tobacco inserts in basketball programs for a local tournament.
- Designed smokeless tobacco advertisements that were placed in two local newspapers every other month for the duration of the grant.
- Researched tobacco use school policies and found school policies prohibited tobacco use in any school building, on school premises or at any school activities. Members then spread the word about the policy to their peers and also watched for anyone breaking the rules.

***Yes Barber County (Medicine Lodge - Barber County)***

- Set up an informational booth was set up at three rodeos and the county fair displaying the harmful effects of smokeless tobacco.
- Asked for a city proclamation honoring World No Tobacco Day – May 24 and arranged for it to be printed in the local paper.
- Held a tobacco free youth event to educate youth on the dangers of tobacco use.
- Arranged for World No Tobacco Day advertisements to be included with paychecks for all school and hospital employees and printed in the local paper the proclamation of the county commissioners making May 24 World No Tobacco Day in their community.
- Asked county commissioners to make all Barber County public buildings, property and vehicles tobacco free. Although buildings and vehicles are already tobacco free, setting up a tobacco free grounds policy still needs some work.

***Meade High School Key Club (Meade - Meade County)***

- Submitted a letter to the editor in the local newspaper discussing the harmful effects of smokeless tobacco.
- Worked to have several articles printed in the local newspaper about the Key Club’s involvement in TASK and their activities.
- Met with the local fair board to request a tobacco free fair grounds policy. The fair board agreed to a tobacco free building policy, but not a grounds policy.
- Conducted a “Smokeless does not mean harmless” presentation for the county commissioners. The presentation was a catalyst to the commissioners discussing a tobacco free grounds policy for Meade County buildings.

***Smoke Free Tiger Task Force (Stockton - Rooks County)***

- Set up a smokeless tobacco poster contest for kindergarten to third grade students in Palco and Stockton with photos of the top 3 posters in age categories printed in the local newspapers.
- Scheduled Rick Bender, a national speaker, to present to area schools on his story and suffering the consequences of using smokeless tobacco.
- Placed advertisements on the “big screen” at the local movie theater regarding smokeless tobacco.
- Mailed letters once a month to local policy makers detailing the task force’s planned activities in the upcoming month and what successes they had in the previous month and inviting them to attend their activities.

***Heartland Task (Great Bend - Barton County)***

- Organized and implemented Tobacco Free Kids Day activities at the Barton County Fair, including Mutton Bustin’, Kids Rodeo and a Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest for all ages. They also educated fair-goers with information about smokeless tobacco.
- Developed and implemented radio and print messages to educate children, youth and the public about the dangers of spit tobacco, the tobacco-free activities and policies in Barton County.
- Arranged for the city’s proclamation of Tobacco Free Kids Day to be printed in the local paper.
- Educated key policy makers with a packet of materials and encouraged the Fair Board to adopt a comprehensive tobacco free policy for the Fair and the Grounds in future years. They also got a commitment from the Fair Board Members that the Tobacco Free Kids Day would continue for years to come.

***Allen County 4-H Who’s Who (Iola - Allen County)***

- Worked through a variety of local youth initiatives, including Angel Food Ministries, Youth Leadership Events, 4-H Youth Day Camp, and Disaster Relief.
- The group hosted a Battle of the Bands event to draw the interest of local youth. Between band performances, smokeless tobacco information and the dangers of using spit tobacco were presented to the crowd by using multi-media, activities and a contest.
- Battle of the Bands articles were published in county newspapers. The event was also featured on an area-wide television station and radio stations along with PSA’s advertising the event.

***Cowley County Teens against Tobacco (Winfield - Cowley County)***

- Attended all county-wide events wearing their TAT t-shirts to raise awareness about tobacco use.
- Members were present at each of the county-wide events handing out brochures and information about spit tobacco. Events featured the message “Smokeless does not mean harmless” and brochures with graphical photos of cancer ridden mouths.
- Arranged for radio and newspaper ads spread their messages throughout the county about the Great American SmokeOut.
- Introduced the problems of having smokeless tobacco companies as sponsors to the Cowley County Fair Board members and other event programmers.

***Lane County TASK (Dighton - Lane County)***

- Coordinated a scavenger hunt for church youth groups to focus on smokeless tobacco advertisements and smokeless tobacco containers to start a discussion by the youth on the harmful effects of spit tobacco.
- Placed Kansas Quitline table tops on the tables at a community-wide covered dish supper and visited a local dentist office to learn more about harm spit tobacco has on teeth and gums.
- Designed a “smokeless does not mean harmless” booth to be set up at the county fair.
- TASK members attended the Dighton School Board Meeting to visit with the board about a possible tobacco free school grounds policy. Board members had questions about enforcement but promised to consider the proposal.

***Jackson County Youth Coalition (Hoyt – Jackson County)***

- Set up a display on the ingredients in chewing tobacco during the Middle and High School lunch hours and provided information to students about the dangers of chewing tobacco.
- Sponsored a dance for middle school students and featured a video of Gruen Von Behrens, a chew tobacco cancer survivor.
- Cooperated with the Great American SmokeOut by providing a table at the local grocery store displaying pamphlets and other information materials about the danger of spit tobacco and giving out gift cards to people who turned in cigarette packs or cans of chew. Through With Chew Night – Held a poster contest on the harmful effects of chew tobacco for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Jackson County. The winner who received a \$50 gift card to Wal-Mart was also featured in an article in the local paper, and the winning poster was displayed on a billboard along Highway 75 for several months.
- Held a Community Sharing Session to inform the community about the harmful effects of chewing tobacco with JCYC members giving a presentation about spit tobacco and showing the video of Gruen Von Behrens, a spit tobacco cancer survivor. Each attendee received a folder filled with brochures about spit tobacco.

#### ***Manhattan Teens Leading Teens (Manhattan – Riley County)***

- Developed a t-shirt with a spit tobacco message awareness fact and set up a Spring Fling dance, carnival, film festival and movie night events with prizes including spit tobacco prevention promotional items.
- Coordinated an informational packet and mailed it out to all attendees and community leaders who have been attending sharing sessions.
- Became actively involved in Clean Air Manhattan and local efforts to obtain a clean indoor air policy for the city.
- Placed a smokeless tobacco awareness advertisement in the local paper which ran for 10 days. The group also developed a radio advertisement about smokeless tobacco.
- Focused on policy change through their spit tobacco education booth at the local county fair to provide information on the importance of policies restricting spit tobacco use during the fair.

#### ***Hiawatha Task (Hiawatha – Brown County)***

- Held several spit tobacco education activities in the community, including a booth display at the county fair and at the school carnival, a tobacco free swim party, and an entry in a local parade.
- Sponsored Gruen Von Behrens, a spit tobacco cancer survivor, to speak to the middle and high school students about his life's story and using spit tobacco.
- Arranged for the local press to print articles about the Task activities and the local radio station to advertize the tobacco free swim party at no charge.
- Made a presentation to the local school board about their activities and the group's purpose of educating youth about the dangers of smokeless tobacco in order to stress the importance of a tobacco free school grounds policy.

#### ***Doniphan West Student Council (Troy –Doniphan County)***

- Worked with Doniphan West High School faculty to incorporate “Smokeless Does Not Mean Harmless” activities into classes with the freshman English class researching the hazards of smokeless tobacco and then making color posters which were distributed to area high, middle and elementary schools. The biology, family consumer, and journalism classes also focused on spit tobacco activities.
- Became active in working with the local school board to pass a tobacco free school ground policy, with the student council presenting their tobacco free school grounds policy information to other area schools in which some districts have adopted policies.
- Sponsored a poster contest for elementary and junior high students; sponsored a county-wide “Smokeless Does Not Mean Harmless” dance for high school students; held a “spew with chew” activity to handout smokeless tobacco information; and worked with Hiawatha Task to bring Gruen Von Behrens to the area to present his life's story.

- Because of the high level of interest, Local TV, radio and news media provided a great deal of coverage of the grant activities and featured council members about the changes in the tobacco free school grounds coverage.

***CYAT Team (Community & Youth Action Team) (Tribune - Greeley County)***

- Attended grant trainings where members were inspired to realize how they can make a difference in their community.
- Arranged articles about planned activities in the local newspaper.  
Set up a power point presentation about smokeless tobacco that was shown to youth attending a dance.
- Began working with their local coalition on a Chronic Disease Risk Reduction grant visit with the council about progress being made in our community with policies that restrict exposure to secondhand smoke.

***Cloud County Task Force (Concordia – Cloud County)***

- Helped plan a ‘super-nova’ type of tobacco use prevention training for junior high youth, with a special focus on spit tobacco, with one breakout on tobacco free school policies and violating school policies.
- As a flag sponsor of the county rodeo, displayed an anti-smokeless tobacco message on the flag throughout the arena between events. The message was also displayed in the program and on t-shirts worn by youth and the rodeo clown.
- Worked with a mud race event at the Fair with the same message displayed at the entrance of the building and on t-shirts worn by youth.
- During the Fall Fest parade, walked in the parade delivering gum to youngsters with an anti-smokeless tobacco message attached.

***Youth United (Salina – Saline County)***

- Educated the community with events on World No Tobacco Day, Back to School Bash, Rock-N-Bowl Blowout with booths set-up at all three events to include visual displays, tobacco information and cessation information. Kansas Kansas Quitline information was also given out at the World No Tobacco Day event.
- Researched the Smokey Hill River Festival on June 8<sup>th</sup> to observe the crowd for youth and adult smoking or chewing and to determine if tobacco advertisements or vendors were present.
- For World No Tobacco Day, worked with the hometown paper and the Spanish language paper to feature ads geared to youth as well as current and past spit tobacco users about the effects of using spit tobacco.
- Placed an ad featuring an athlete and the Kanas Quitline phone number in the Sacred Heart High School Sports program. Policy Activities:
- Participated in Operation Storefront to examine the amounts of tobacco advertising and the placement of ads and products in stores that sell tobacco products and visited 44 tobacco retailers in Salina to determine the level and the focus of tobacco advertising.