

Oklahoma Turning Point Council

Oklahoma Turning Point Council Resolution

Providing Active Living Through Community Design

Let it be known that:

Whereas, less than 1/3 of American adults engage in the recommended amount of leisure time activity and 43 percent of adolescents watch more than two hours of television each day.

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Transportation reports the number of trips the average American adult takes on foot each year dropped 42 percent between 1975 and 1995.

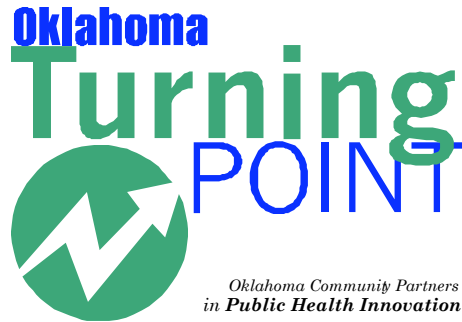
Whereas, the increase in obesity follows a decline in walking and bicycling as Americans use the automobile for trips that are less than one mile in length, accounting for 25 percent of all trips made in the United States.

Whereas, motor vehicles are the leading cause of death for children 4-14 years old (2,197 fatalities and 267,000 injuries in the U.S. in 2001).

Whereas, many of the communities in Oklahoma have invested in master design plans that will promote smart growth strategies that will allow for more pedestrian friendly communities.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Oklahoma Turning Point Council *strongly* encourages that the policy be presented to all public and private entities that strengthens Transportation Enhancements through the reauthorization of TEA-3 funds, promotes pedestrian and bicycle friendly transportation systems at a local level, and provides safe routes to school in all communities.

In addition, the Oklahoma Turning Point Council strongly encourages that this policy be presented to the Oklahoma State Board of Health, Oklahoma Legislature, Oklahoma Congressional Delegates in Washington D.C., Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Oklahoma State Medical Association, State Chamber of Commerce, and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.



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Arthritis Prevention and Education

Let it be known that:

Whereas, arthritis affects nearly 70 million Americans, or one in every three adults with 936,000 Oklahomans affected; and

Whereas, nearly two-thirds of people with arthritis are younger than 65 years; and

Whereas, arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States; and

Whereas, a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention projects that the number of Americans over 65 who suffer from osteoarthritis will double to 41 million by 2030; and

Whereas, adults whose arthritis restricts their activity incur medical costs that are 12.4 percent (\$1,250) higher each year than adults who remain active; and

Whereas, education programs such as the Arthritis Self-Help Course have been shown to reduce doctor visits to arthritis patients by 40 percent with an estimated savings of \$320 per person over four years*; and

Whereas, arthritis costs Americans nearly \$125 billion a year; an estimated \$42.6 billion in direct medical costs such as hospitalization and \$82.2 billion for indirect costs such as lost productivity**; and

Whereas, annual health care costs for disabled employees with rheumatoid arthritis are \$17,822, almost three times more than non-disabled employees with rheumatoid arthritis (\$6,131)***; and

Whereas, the Oklahoma Arthritis Network's mission is to increase public awareness about arthritis and over 100 related rheumatic conditions and to maximize the quality of life for Oklahomans affected by these conditions through the development of resources, promotion of access to appropriate health care management, and provision of education; and

Whereas, the Oklahoma Turning Point Council fully supports the Oklahoma Arthritis Network in accomplishing its goals, objectives and strategies as reflected in the Oklahoma Arthritis Action Plan; and

Whereas, Oklahoma Turning Point Council strongly endorses arthritis evidence-based programs and other education promoted by the Oklahoma Arthritis Network.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Oklahoma Turning Point Council *strongly* endorses the goals and objectives reflected in the Oklahoma Arthritis Action Plan and will encourage and recommend the statewide participation in community based arthritis evidence-based programs.

In addition, the Oklahoma Turning Point Council *strongly* encourages that this policy be presented to the Oklahoma Legislature, Oklahoma State Medical Association, the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, the Oklahoma Hospital Association, the Oklahoma Primary Care Association, the Oklahoma Rural Health Association, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and other appropriate organizations.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov), Arthritis Foundation (www.arthritis.org), National Institute for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (www.niams.nih.org)

*TAYLOR, PC, CURR PHARM DES, 203

**WANG, G, ET.AL., ARTHRITIS RHEUM, 2001

***BIRNBAUM, HG, ET.AL., J OCCUP ENVIRON MED, 2000



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Secondhand Smoke

Let it be known that:

Whereas, tobacco use is the most important, preventable cause of premature morbidity and mortality in the United States and its use kills 6,000 Oklahomans per year.

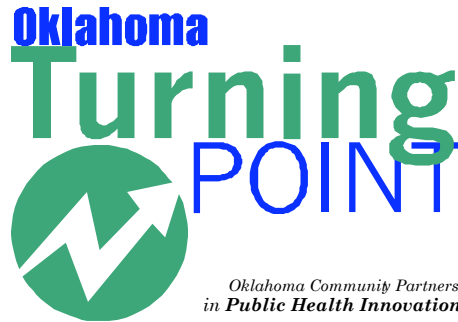
Whereas, secondhand smoke is a known human carcinogen and persistent exposure to secondhand smoke is associated with an increased risk for lung cancer, other disease, and even death.

Whereas, children are at particular risk from secondhand smoke, which may exacerbate allergies and asthma in susceptible children and also greatly increase the risk for lower respiratory tract illnesses such as bronchitis and pneumonia among young children.

Whereas, thousands of Oklahomans are unable to go safely to many public places because of the risk of acute reactions to secondhand smoke, including asthma attacks.

Whereas, Oklahoma Smoke-free laws became effective September 1, 2003, which prohibit smoking in most public places and workplaces, and allows the restaurants an extra 30 months to comply.

Now therefore be it resolved, the Oklahoma Turning Point Council, along with health officials and many state leaders, strongly urges these restaurants to also go smoke-free immediately.



Oklahoma Turning Point Council

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Support the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy 2004 Legislative Agenda for Children and Youth

Let it be known that:

Whereas, the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy holds an annual citizens forum to establish the policy priorities facing the children and youth of Oklahoma.

Whereas, the 2004 Legislative Agenda was created by over 300 child advocates from across the State of Oklahoma.

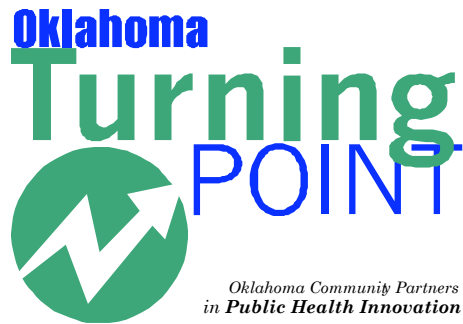
Whereas, the critical areas of concern included: Covering the Uninsured; Programs for Young Children and Families; Youth Development/Juvenile Justice; Maternal and Child Health; Children's Mental Health; Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs; and Family Economic Success.

Whereas, the top ten priorities selected by the child advocates for the 2004 Legislative Agenda include:

- Increasing the number of Medicaid providers through liability exemptions and higher rates of reimbursement for those providers by raising the tobacco tax or through other state revenues.
- Supporting state agency funding requests for programs that support families of young children to ensure a seamless and comprehensive early childhood education, prenatal to school entry, and require collaboration between programs, building on the strength of each. Programs include Children First, Oklahoma Parents as Teachers, Child Guidance, Office of Child Abuse Prevention and the High-Risk Families pilot project at OK State Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Providing state funding so that the current structure and benefits of the DHS Child Care Subsidy Program are maintained for low-income working families and their employers. Ensure that the progress made in improving rates and incentives for higher quality child care is maintained.
- Correcting the provision in state law that allows for the jailing of youth on the second violation of county-established curfews.

- Supporting the provision of after-care services to youth leaving juvenile facilities and other out-of-home care, and transitioning to independence, including those provided by the Office of Juvenile Affairs, Community Opportunities for Youth, and secondary/post secondary educational opportunities. Explore funding strategies such as the 15 percent of the Governor's discretionary funds from the Workforce Investment Act.
- Exempting breastfeeding mothers from public indecency statutes. Support legislation to address the needs of breastfeeding mothers in the workplace and public places in order to prevent harassment and discrimination.
- Expanding the Systems of Care Model and its principles statewide through expanded dollars, coordinated by families and child-serving agencies.
- Completing the Tobacco Use Reduction Initiative, to include: increasing the tax on tobacco products by \$1 to be used for health-related issues, and strengthening laws to reduce youth access to tobacco.
- Increasing the tax on alcohol products by a nickel per drink and direct the resulting revenues for alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, enforcement and related health care issues.
- Prohibit exploitative lending practices that drain assets and create unmanageable debt loads for low-income families; i.e. pay day lending, predatory lending and Refund Anticipation Loans.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Oklahoma Turning Point Council *strongly* endorses the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy's 2004 Legislative Agenda for Children and Youth and that this agenda be present to all public and private entities that strengthens the resolve to support policy that ensures the children and youth in Oklahoma are able to reach their full potential.



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Physical Fitness and Nutrition

Amended: December 5, 2003

Let it be known that:

Whereas, the purpose of Turning Point is to collaborate at a community level in order to improve the quality of life for all residents of Oklahoma; and

Whereas, nationally, 15 percent of children and adolescents are overweight, which represents a 100 percent increase in obesity among children and adolescents between 1980 and 1994 (US Surgeon General's report); and

Whereas, 27 percent of first graders and 54 percent of fifth graders in Oklahoma report having less than one hour of daily physical activity (Oklahoma State Department of Health); and

Whereas, 44 percent of first graders and 54 percent of fifth graders report spending more than two hours daily watching television, playing video games, or using a computer (Oklahoma State Department of Health); and

Whereas, one in three deaths in Oklahoma is caused by heart disease (State of the State's Report); and

Whereas, at least three of the 10 leading causes of death in Oklahoma, such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes are greatly reduced and are preventable by proper nutrition and exercise;

Whereas, one in three Oklahomans report having arthritis or chronic joint symptoms – 68.5 percent with arthritis are overweight, 28 percent are inactive (no non-occupational moderate or vigorous physical activity). Source: CDC, BRFSS, 2001

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Oklahoma Turning Point Council strongly encourages the Oklahoma State Board of Health to develop and implement statewide policy which will encourage and recommend physical fitness programs and proper nutritional awareness in schools to all Oklahoma residents.

In addition, the Oklahoma Turning Point Council strongly encourages that this policy be presented to the Oklahoma Department of Education, the Oklahoma Legislature, the Oklahoma State Medical Association, the Oklahoma Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation

and Dance, the Oklahoma Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the Osteopathic Association, the State Hospital Association and the Primary Care Association.



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Community Transportation Systems

Let it be known that:

Transportation is key to generating and enabling Oklahoma's economic growth, key to economic success, and to quality of life. Lack of transportation has reached a critical point in Oklahoma for many, seniors, citizens needing medical care, those living in isolated rural communities and for people who depend on getting a ride and for whom there is no other way to go.

Whereas, businesses consider transit systems, the ability to get employees to and from work and customer access, before locating in Oklahoma and/or choosing community business locations.

- In the competitive market of attracting new businesses surrounding states spend considerably more on transit systems, Oklahoma City spending \$9 to \$10 per person on public transportation, a quarter of Austin, Texas expenditures.

Whereas, transportation can be a major barrier to independent living and service access for the half million Oklahomans over 65, almost 50 percent reporting some kind of disability with many unable to drive.

- As Baby Boomers age over the next twenty years, this population and the need for transportation can be expected to double.

Whereas, lack of access to public transportation is a key reason why people with disabilities are unable to work, shop, attend medical appointments or otherwise participate in their communities.

- One fifth of Oklahomans between birth and age 65 (over 700,000 people) have some kind of disability; equaling the combined populations of Oklahoma City Proper, Lawton, Edmond and Muskogee; and, exceeding the total number of children enrolled in Oklahoma public schools in the 2000–2001 school year.

Now therefore be it resolved, the Oklahoma Turning Point Council strongly encourages collaboration with the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Oklahoma Legislature, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Oklahoma Department of Education, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the Oklahoma Transportation Coalition to form a master plan that combines resources to address expanding and enhancing transportation services and pedestrian access throughout the State of Oklahoma.