



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2021 Nation Prevention Week to Be Celebrated in Wagoner, Oklahoma

City of Wagoner Mayor Albert Jones, Wagoner Community Hospital CEO Jimmy Leopard, and other community stakeholders will gather this Monday, as Mayor Jones proclaims the week of May 10th as Prevention Week in Wagoner, Oklahoma. The proclamation will be presented on Monday, May 10, 2021, 2:30 p.m., in front of the main entrance of the Wagoner Community Hospital, 1200 W. Cherokee Street, in Wagoner, Oklahoma. Other prevention activities will take place throughout the week.

National Prevention Week (NPW) is a public education platform that promotes prevention year-round through providing ideas, capacity building, tools, and resources to help individuals and communities make substance use prevention happen every day. NPW culminates in May recognizing the important work that has been done in communities throughout the year to inspire action and prevent substance use and mental disorders. Each year around this observance, communities and organizations across the country come together to raise awareness about the importance of substance use prevention and positive mental health. This national effort is coordinated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). To learn more about SAMHSA and NPW, please visit the following website – <http://www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week>.

Prevention is an important component of the work being done by Wagoner Community Hospital and the Wagoner County Substance Use Consortium as part of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. The purpose of the grant, which was awarded to Wagoner Community Hospital in 2020, is to expand the capacity of rural communities to engage high risk populations and provide Substance Use Disorder (SUD) prevention, treatment, and recovery services. Primary partners for this grant include Cherokee Nation Behavioral Health, Creeks Health Services, the Wagoner County Family Service Council, and the Reckless Saints of Nowhere.

“We are excited to collaborate with our RCORP Grant partners, providers, and community stakeholders to provide substance use prevention information and services in Wagoner County. We encourage the community to get involved and help promote the important message of substance use prevention and positive behavioral health this week and throughout the year,” said Dr. Suzanne M. Salichs, Grant Director, Wagoner Community Hospital.

If you are interested in getting involved, or for additional information, please contact Dr. Salichs at (918) 614-5523.

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