

FUTURE PLANNING

The Lewis County Health Council is a well-organized, community-owned and directed group. The Council has written their own mission statement and bylaws, and operates effectively under local leadership.

It is the goal of the Lewis County Health Council to be an advocate of healthy lifestyles. The main focus of the group is alcohol, tobacco, and drug use prevention. The Council has received funding from the State for tobacco prevention. One Health Council member has attended a national conference on community advocacy for tobacco prevention. The Council is taking the lead in the county for tobacco education and is presently staffing tobacco education programs in the schools and community. Some of the activities the Council has sponsored over the past two years include:

Health In The High Forrest- an annual community event that promotes healthy lifestyle choices such as regular exercise, abstaining from alcohol, drugs, and tobacco use, and health education. This year the event included an essay contest with cash prizes.

Creating and stocking a library of educational aides for tobacco prevention. The library is housed at the Board of Education and includes videos, pamphlets, visual aides, and curricula. The school personnel, public health educator, and trained Health Council volunteers will be allowed to check out materials for school-based or community-based health education activities.

The Lewis County Health Council has been invited to present at the 1999 Rural Health Association's conference.