Title: Rolling Plains Rural Health Partnership

Program Outline:

A. Description of Community Partnership

The Rolling Plains Rural Health Partnership was founded in 2005 with the assistance of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Region 2/3 Public Health Improvement Team, in collaboration with Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service to address diabetes education in rural counties due to the shortage of health services and providers in rural areas. Since that time the Partnership has grown to include over 20 agencies and organizations covering Knox, Baylor, Haskell, Throckmorton and Foard counties who have come together to address issues related to total wellness and safety through community educational programs. The Partnership meets monthly to plan and implement programs twice a year, share resources and assess rural community needs. Rolling Plains Rural Health Partners include: the county judges of Baylor, Foard, Haskell, Knox and Throckmorton; representatives from Noah Project North, which advocates for victims and works to end family violence; Big County Area Health Education Center (AHEC), which addresses the health care provider shortage and improve health care access in West Texas through education and development of the health care work force; Abilene Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ARCADA), enhances the effectiveness and visibility of local efforts in preventing the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and inhalants within the region by providing quality, prevention-related materials, community education, and identification of training resources and best practices in prevention; Helen Farabee Regional MHMR Centers- Baylor and Haskell counties.
specializing in providing access to community-based treatment and support services for persons with severe, persistent forms of mental illness and persons with mental retardation or other related developmental disabilities; Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service-Baylor/Haskell/Knox Counties, which offers practical, how-to education based on university research; Throckmorton County Memorial Hospital; Knox County Hospital; Haskell County Hospital; Texas Department of Rural Affairs, created by the 77th Legislature to facilitate and focus the State’s health, community development, economic development and disaster relief programs targeting rural communities in Texas; Prevention Resource Center, a clearinghouse for printed material and curricula related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; Texas Department of Family and Protective Services/Adult Protective Services, whose mission is to protect older adults and persons with disabilities from abuse, neglect and exploitation by investigating and providing or arranging for services as necessary to alleviate or prevent further maltreatment; and DSHS, who promotes optimal health for individuals and communities while providing effective health, mental health and substance abuse services to Texans.

B. Program Description

The Rolling Plains Rural Health Partnership has worked collaboratively with Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service to conduct the following multi-county educational programs:

The Risk Factors of Diabetes
Fall Prevention
The Dangers of Sleep Apnea
C. Accomplishments/Impacts

For the child safety seat checkup event in 2009:

- 46 child safety seats inspected
- 0 children arrived correctly restrained
- 37 new child safety seats were distributed
- 25 old/unsafe seats were collected
- 15 children arrived totally unrestrained or inappropriately in safety belts

For the 46 seats inspected on May 14th the total economic benefit to the community is an estimated $59,944.

As a result of the program in October 2010 on the dangers of sexting and social networking, one of Knox County’s area high schools requested further in depth training to students on the topic which led to a semester long series being implemented. 83 students and community members became aware of the legal ramifications of sexting, how to be safe when on social networking sites and general on-line safety.

The program on sleep apnea prompted 10 people to undergo a sleep study, 4 of which required further intervention and treatment.
Since its beginning in 2005 the Rolling Plains Rural Health Partnership has provided educational material and information to over 3000 people.

D. Role of NEAFCS Applicants in Partnership

Lorrie Coop, CEA-FCS Knox County, has served as secretary and Vice Chairman since 2005, and is the current Chairman of the Partnership.

Jane Rowan, CEA-FCS in Haskell County, has been a member of the Partnership since 2005.

Penny Warren, CEA-FCS Young County, became a member in 2007 and served in that role through 2010.

All three agents assist with the planning, marketing, implementation and evaluation of all programs.

E. Future Implications

The Rolling Plains Rural Health Partnership continues to increase its membership and alliances with schools and community members. After the program in the fall of 2010, the Partnership gained new membership from five new agencies wanting to participate. This will allow the Partnership to reach even more people in populations that are typically underserved and/or underrepresented. The Partnership is planning to host a child safety seat checkup event in the spring of 2011 and a teen dating violence program in the fall of 2012.