



YOUTH
CARES



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News Release

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Concho Valley CARES Coalition Announce Chair and Vice Chair

The Concho Valley CARES Coalition is proud to announce the election of **Dr. Kenneth Stewart** as **Chair** and **Mr. Sammy Sablan** as **Vice Chair**.

Dr. Stewart joined the **Angelo State University (ASU)** faculty in 1975 as an Instructor. He worked his way up the ranks to full Professor. He teaches university courses in Social Problems, Social Change, Social Diversity, American Political Culture, Social Theory, and Community Development. Professor Stewart is the author or co-author of six books and more than fifteen scholarly journal articles. He has made numerous presentations in venues ranging from the Texas State Historical Association to the American Sociological Association and the Oxford Round Table at England's Oxford University. He served as Department Head of Psychology and Sociology at ASU for 10 years, 1984-94. Professor Stewart also served as Chair of the 2010 Census Complete Count Committee for the City of San Angelo and Tom Green County and he is Founder and Director of **Community Development Initiatives (CDI)** at the **ASU Center for Community Wellness, Engagement and Development (WED)**. Professor Stewart is the primary author for the annual publication of the San Angelo Social Health Index which tracks the local quality of life in our community.

When Professor Stewart was asked why he is interested in working with CARES, he replied, **"I am extremely excited to serve as Chair of the CV CARES coalition. I have admired the coalition effort from its inception because I know how important it is for community-based organizations and agencies to form partnerships and share resources in order to effectively address community problems. The big challenges in today's communities surpass the abilities of single agencies or organizations acting on their own, so coalitions are the wave of future progress and I want to be part of that. The fact that CV CARES is focused on substance abuse excites me too because this is a problem that fundamentally crosscuts physical and mental health, the workforce, personal safety and security, crime and law enforcement, schools and education, the quality of family life, and so many other facets of the community. To improve the substance abuse situation in the community is to make progress on so many other challenges at the same time."**

Sammy Sablan is employed with **MHMR Services for the Concho Valley** and operates the **Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical/Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) Programs** for both Adult and Juvenile Behavioral Health Services. He has worked in the field of Behavioral Health for over 17 years at MHMR Services for The Concho Valley. Mr. Sablan also participates in several community coalitions and committees that deal with youth and/or criminal offender issues. Mr. Sablan currently serves as the Program Director for TCOOMMI services and the interim Director of Child & Adolescent Services at MHMR Services for The Concho Valley.

The Concho Valley CARES Coalition's mission is to eliminate substance abuse through community effort.



Mr. Sablan added, "In all my work experiences, there is none more rewarding than working with youth. Being part of the CV CARES Coalition allows me the opportunity to share some of the knowledge and skills that I have acquired over the years and helps bring about more awareness/education that the COMMUNITY is responsible for our youth. If our community is not involved with our youth at a deeper level than just our families, then we are responsible for leaving a future of little rewards and opportunities for our youth. As a community, we need to listen to our younger citizens and invest in them so as to create a culture of youth that desire to be drug-free and lead productive lives as citizens of this community. We want to be a community invested in our youth, not a community that invests in sending them through the court systems, jails or prisons. Let's create a legacy of care and concern about our youth, as well as show them that we do want to listen to them and hear their voice."

In **March 2007**, **Bishop Michael Pfeifer** founded the Concho Valley CARES. The CARES mission is to eliminate substance abuse through community effort. Now a coalition of the **Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council for the Concho Valley**, Concho Valley CARES boasts a collaboration of over 40 agencies and individuals that crosses nearly all sectors of our community.

For those interested in attending, the next coalition meeting takes place on **Thursday, June 10th at 12:00pm**. The meeting will take place at **Angelo State University's Center for Wellness, Engagement, and Development** located at **5301 Knickerbocker Rd** in the **Bentwood Building**. Lunch is provided so attendees are asked to RSVP to ensure plenty of food is provided. RSVP's can be made to JoElla Mendez at joellam@adaccv.org or 325-224-3481.

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