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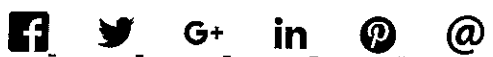
TOPICAL

## New safe prescription safe drop boxes debut at four pharmacies

Andy Morpew Oct 5, 2017



Andy Morpew/The Express-Star



Four area pharmacies have installed new prescription drug safe drop boxes thanks to a grant from the Partnership for Success (PFS) program and Red Rock Behavioral Health Services.

Along with two drop boxes that are currently serving the Grady County area at Chickasha Police Department and the Grady County Jail these four new boxes have been added and are in service.

Julia Cochran, PFS Coordinator said they received a grant a couple of years back and in working with a coalition and county they thought this was the next best step to help make people more comfortable disposing of their prescriptions.

"With the pharmacy idea, the coalition felt like, hey I think more of a lot of people will feel comfortable and it is more convenient to just drop them off at a pharmacy," Cochran said. "Prescription drug misuse is a huge epidemic in the state of Oklahoma. We are all trying to focus on getting the community aware of safe use and safe storage while also talking about safe disposal of their prescription drugs."

Some of the benefits that Cochran said these boxes will have will help keep the water clean while reducing the availability of the access to prescription drugs and will also help keep medications out of reach from children and pets.

Cochran said that products like unused or expired prescriptions including opioids, over-the-counter pills, capsules, ointments, creams, lotions, powders and liquid medicines—no more than four ounces—can be accepted in the boxes.

Every prescription must come in their original containers and sealed in a plastic bag before placing into the boxes and the boxes are only open when the pharmacy is open.

Items that are not acceptable in the drop boxes are: aerosol spray cans, alcohol or hydrogen peroxide, no illegal drugs, needles and syringes or sharp containers and medical devices, more than four ounces of liquid, trash and mercury thermometers, batteries and chemicals.

Cochran said the boxes at the Police Department and Jail are open 24/7 while the pharmacies will be open during their location hours.

Having talked with the owners of the pharmacies, Cochran said this is a free and easy way to dispose of prescriptions and she is hoping for great success.

"This is really focusing on keeping our water clean and reducing the availability and access to prescription drugs that can lead to overdoses," Cochran said. "It is free and anonymous and I think it is a great opportunity for the county and the pharmacies are excited about it."

The four locations are Cedar Springs Pharmacy in Tuttle, Chickasha Clinic Pharmacy, Grand Care Pharmacy and Liberty Drug Pharmacy.

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