

## NEW ADMINISTRATOR JOINS COALITION



Katherine Fields-Smith of Guthrie has been selected to provide administrative services for the Oklahoma Women's Coalition, a statewide group of women's organizations and individuals who advocate on behalf of women and girls in Oklahoma.

Smith has worked in the administrative field for more than 25 years, most recently overseeing operations in the commercial real estate industry before transitioning into providing administrative and operational support for non-profit organizations.

"As part of her services contract with OWC, Katherine brings her experience in operational management, process implementation, convention and event coordination, and graphics/marketing production to the Oklahoma Women's Coalition," said OWC Chair Donna Lawrence of Oklahoma City. "We are excited to have Katherine's services help us reach all Oklahomans with our mission of supporting legislative actions and policies that advance the issues affecting women and girls in our state."

Before contracting with OWC, Katherine did administrative contract work for the Oklahoma Land Title Association, as well as working with Trammell Crow Company in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, and Intel Corporation in Colorado.

"I look forward to helping grow the Coalition. We want more people to get involved to improve the lives of Oklahoma women and girls," said Fields-Smith.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Coalition members and supporters,

What an exciting time for Oklahoma women! Whether the Governor's race is won by a Democrat or Republican, all Oklahoma women will be winners as we elect our first female governor. We are also pleased that an increased number of women are running for the State Legislature. Oklahoma ranks 49th in the percentage of female state lawmakers. States with higher numbers of women in their governing bodies pass more legislation that is favorable to women and girls. We are on the verge of a turning point in Oklahoma!

In the coming weeks, we encourage you to contact those in your district who are running for office. Ask them specifically what they will do to help improve the status of women and girls in Oklahoma. For example, how will they help reduce incarceration of women, reduce violence against women and girls, improve women's health, and strengthen our educational system? Try to get their commitment to work on these issues and others of importance to women and girls. And, tell them about the Oklahoma Women's Coalition.

The Coalition is excited about the momentum that will be created by the elections and we look forward to continuing our work with all elected officials and policy makers. Our Issues Committees are already developing plans in these areas: Aging, Education, Girls, Health, Incarceration, Violence, and Work & Family. You will hear more as we move forward with specific initiatives.

After just two short years, the Coalition has grown to nearly 500 individual members and almost 40 organizational members. As our membership numbers grow, so does our influence. Keep spreading the word about this dynamic organization! Our remarkable successful years would not have been possible without our committed members and donors – THANK YOU.

## COALITION MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

The Oklahoma Women's Coalition is now located in the Chesapeake Community Plaza at 720 W. Wilshire - Suite 101 D in Oklahoma City. The Chesapeake Community Plaza houses non-profit organizations and includes a large conference room for meetings. The Coalition's phone number remains the same (405) 286-0356.

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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Oklahomans will gather for a ceremony at the State Capitol on Wednesday, October 6 at 6:30 p.m. in recognition of victims and survivors of domestic violence. October has been designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Supporters are encouraged to wear purple on this day in honor of victims.

The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed in October 1987. The first national toll-free domestic violence hotline was started that same year. The National Association of Social Workers says nearly 25 percent of women will experience some sort of abuse in an intimate relationship. Ten percent of those women will suffer from severe abuse.

There are things you can do to help raise and support awareness:

Click [here](#) to learn more about "Paint it Purple" -- a world-wide effort to increase domestic violence awareness.

Donate your used cell phones to help women and families of domestic violence. Click on this [link](#) to learn how:

Cell Phone Donations

Victims of domestic violence can call the following numbers in Oklahoma for help:

Domestic Violence Hotline 917-YWCA (9922)  
Rape Crisis Hotlines 943-RAPE (7273)  
Oklahoma Statewide Safeline  
800-522-7233

We are determined to create positive change that will impact the lives of Oklahoma women and girls for many generations.

Together, we will succeed!

Warm regards,

Donna Lawrence  
Board Chair  
Oklahoma Women's Coalition

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### UPDATE:

Reducing the Incarceration of Women in Oklahoma



At the end of April 2010 the Oklahoma Women's Coalition, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections and the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women hosted the Oklahoma Solutions Initiative Summit (Oklahoma SIS). The Summit brought together many state leaders, representatives of various organizations and individuals concerned with the goal of the Summit to reduce the incarceration rate of Oklahoma women to less than the national average by 2020. Prior to the Summit, the Blue Ribbon Committee met to review and coordinate recommendations for evidence-based practices and policies into one comprehensive plan of action. A public agenda action plan for Oklahoma has been developed and will be available online shortly at the Oklahoma SIS Web site: [www.oklahomasis.com](http://www.oklahomasis.com).

The Oklahoma Women's Coalition Incarceration Issues Committee continues to participate in a partnership of organizations whose purpose is to cooperate and work collectively to interrupt the pathways to incarceration; expand and implement new forms of lower cost alternatives to incarceration while continuing to ensure public safety; and remove barriers and provide support for successful reentry from incarceration to society. The organizational partnership includes: The George Kaiser Family Foundation, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women, the Oklahoma Academy, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, Oklahoma Christian University Academy of Leadership and Liberty, and the Oklahoma Women's Coalition.

## 2010 ELECTIONS LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

The Coalition encourages you to visit with the candidates in your area about their commitment to women and girls. Consider this question to pose to them:

Oklahoma has been ranked the third worst state for women. We are in the top 10 for incarceration, violence against women, overall health, teen births, and low earnings for women. If elected, what are specific things you will do to improve the lives of women and girls in Oklahoma?

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### LEARN ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS!

Visit the Coalition's Web site often to learn about Coalition activities and events relating to women and girls. Let us know about an upcoming event! If it meets the following guidelines, you may request a posting on the Coalition's event page:

- \* Open to the public
- \* Non-profit and non-partisan
- \* Non-fundraiser
- \* Addresses one of seven Coalition focused-issues: Aging, Education, Girls, Health, Incarceration, Violence, Work & Family

Submissions must be sent in Word format or in the body of an email message. The information must include the event title, date and time, location, contact information, and Web link for the event if available. Send potential submissions to [katherine@oklahomawomenscoaliton.org](mailto:katherine@oklahomawomenscoaliton.org).

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### Thank you to our Corporate Partners!



Our new address:  
720 W. Wilshire, Suite 101-D  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

The first meeting of the partnership was held August 25th and hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. Director of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Justin Jones, kicked off the inaugural meeting by outlining many of the unique challenges now facing the Department of Corrections due to unprecedented funding reductions and financial adjustments totaling \$87.7 million, yet net offender growth continues to increase.

The partnership will continue to meet monthly to identify specific initiatives derived from the work of the 2008 Oklahoma Academy Town Hall, the 2010 Complex Dialogues conference and the 2010 Oklahoma SIS summit. Methods to ensure active member participation and information dissemination for each organization and event participants are under review.

With your help as members of the Oklahoma Women's Coalition we can eliminate pathways to incarceration and create a healthier Oklahoma for women and their families.

The Coalition's Issues Committee on Incarceration is hard at work -- join us to help reduce the incarceration rate by serving on one of the subcommittees (Prevention, Intervention/Diversion, Re-entry/Recidivism). Stay Connected and Stay Tuned!

If you'd like to join the Issues Committee on Incarceration, send an e-mail to Pam Richardson: [Pamela@resonancetulsa.org](mailto:Pamela@resonancetulsa.org)

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### BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

For only \$25/year, you can help women and girls across the state. Student memberships are only \$10/year. Click here to join now!

### DONATE NOW!

Help the Oklahoma Women's Coalition achieve our goals by making a donation. Click here to make your tax-deductible donation now. Your contribution will make a difference in improving the lives of Oklahoma women and girls.

JOIN, RENEW, DONATE -- You can do it all now online!

Visit [www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org](http://www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org) to join or donate to the Coalition today!