Bosque County Community Plan 2012

What Is a Community Plan?

The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office (CJD) requires that each county in Texas have a Criminal Justice Community Plan in order to identify gaps in services regarding criminal justice issues.

This document reflects the efforts of Bosque County citizens concerned with assuring that any gaps in services that are addressed to the benefit of the entire county. The names of those involved in the process of developing this plan are listed in the following pages under "Community Planning Team."

Though the final draft of this plan was completed in November 2011, this is a work in progress. As new criminal justice goals are identified, the constituency of the planning team and priorities in the plan are subject to change. Such updates may be reported to the Bosque County Community Planning Coordinator throughout the year, and the plan amended accordingly.

If you are reading this plan and have not been involved in its development, you are invited to join in this ongoing effort. Any questions you may have can be addressed to the Criminal Justice Program of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. Contact information is provided within this document.

The Bosque County Commissioner's Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the Bosque County Community Plan. Additionally, the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) and the Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Governing Board (Executive Committee) invite grant applications from county departments, as well as, community organizations which address gaps in services identified in the Community Plan.

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

Walnut Springs	Morgan	Iredell	Meridian
Cranfills Gap	Clifton	Valley Mills	

School Districts:

Walnut Springs ISD	Valley Mills ISD
Clifton ISD	Morgan ISD
Meridian ISD	Iredell ISD
Kopperl ISD	Cranfills Gap ISD

Brief Description and History of Bosque County:

Nestled in oak-studded limestone hills and pecan covered river bottoms, Bosque County is one of the most beautiful awe-inspiring counties in the state of Texas. Residents from all over the state flock to the Top-of-the-Hill Country scenery every weekend. Whether staying at a lake or river front lodge or ranch house on the weekend or raising your family, Bosque County is surely a great place to be.

Much of the beauty and heritage of Bosque County is closely entwined with its abundant water-ways; the Bosque and Brazos Rivers and two lakes, Meridian and Whitney. The county's distinctive pathways reflect its history; the Cleng Peerson Memorial Highway, the Old Chisholm Trail, the Sante Fe Railroad, and the Texas Lakes Trail.

Early Spanish explorers bestowed the name Bosque (pronounced boss-kee) meaning "wooded." The first survey for land grants in the Bosque Valley came about in 1839. In 1849, a few years after Texas attained statehood, the first permanent settlers arrived to a territory still roamed by Native Americans. By 1854, the number of settlers living in Bosque Territory had increased, and Bosque County was created. Meridian was named the County seat.

Lured by fertile, inexpensive land, more settlers came, mostly Anglo-Americans moving west with the frontier, and Norwegian and German immigrants. The pioneer farmers and ranchers were industrious and creative. They built homes, churches and schools, mills for their wheat, gins for their cotton, and produced a thriving livestock business. Bustling communities sprang up, and small towns flourished through the turn of the century. As America changed, so did Bosque County.

http://users.htcomp.net/bosque

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Falls County: Cindy Rafter the Criminal Justice Planner for the Heart of Texas Council of Governments.

In developing this Community Plan, members of the team worked together to provide updates and changes to the previous plan. Many members serve in multiple capacities and categories.

Name	***Agency***
Cole Word	Bosque County Judge
Steve Adcock	Clifton PD
Martha Payne	Department of State Health Services
Charles McLean	City of Clifton
Bob Flood	Bosque Co. SO
Amy Perkins	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
Viviana Triana	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
Judy Chambers	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
Dewey Ratliff	Bosque County Emergency Management
Jacqueline Armstrong	Family Abuse Center
Doran Belknap	Bosque County Juvenile Probation
Angela Buck	Bosque Co SO

Identification of Community Problems

General Public Safety Needs and Issues

Crime is a complex and multifaceted problem, and crime control requires the constant and coordinated efforts of a wide range of public and private agencies. Countywide criminal justice planning is an essential precursor to the effective coordination of all varieties of crime amelioration activities in the county. The agencies that compose the Bosque County criminal justice system jointly strive to enforce lawful standards of conduct, protect individuals and communities, assist victims, improve institutional capabilities, and engage the community and its citizens in crime prevention while preserving individual civil liberties and protecting basic human rights.

It is necessary to strive toward these goals by helping to facilitate the collaboration of community groups, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts and correctional agencies throughout the County. A broad approach to defining the crime problem and designing methods for its control has been identified as a priority. Issues related to crime have been studied and analyzed on a continuum from the overall social environment to post-crime responses, including community structure and dynamics, crime prevention, early intervention, and various types of criminal and juvenile justice agency responses. Within these parameters, this planning process develops, implements and refines the community criminal justice plan to help meet the emerging needs of Bosque County. The goal of this planning process is to achieve a significant reduction in the frequency and severity of crime to facilitate a sense of pride, health and safety in all our communities by:

- Promoting the planning and implementation of comprehensive strategies to prevent and control crime in general and violence in particular, throughout the community;
- Identifying philosophical principles that will promote the participation of law enforcement, judiciary, prosecution, corrections, victims, treatment providers, educators, media, business and citizens throughout the community in the development of strategies to prevent, reduce and control crime and violence in the community;
- Promoting the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of all segments of the criminal and juvenile justice system.

PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

The building of assets in youth and the community is an important component of a community plan. Therefore, it is imperative that prevention issues take precedence over those based on incarceration and deterrence, if the long-term impact of crime control spending is to be maximized. Nonetheless, the control of known delinquents who present a clear threat to public safety must also remain an important strategy.

In each of the areas below, problems are identified and data is included that supports both the existence and severity of the problems as they are found in Bosque County. Below is a discussion of the problems, the manner in which the problems are being addressed, and strategically how responses to these community problems could be improved. In some problem areas identified, there is not current data to support the problem areas, due to the funding and program cuts taking effect within the last few months. The data collection will be added to the plan as the problem area statistics become available throughout the year.

Victim Issues **(listed in order of priority, greatest need first)**

1. **On-scene Victims Services**

   Data Collection:
   - Limited law enforcement and public awareness of services offered by agencies
   - Limited bi-lingual services
   - Develop volunteer program to assist in on-scene services

   Recommendations:
   - Increase law enforcement awareness of services and persons willing to respond to on-scene incidents
     - Provide localized training for law enforcement
   - Establishment of Memorandum of Understanding between the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children and law enforcement agencies to provide forensic interviews

   Resources:
   - Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
     - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) serves six-county area; satellite office serves Bosque County
   - Family Abuse Center
     - Bi-lingual legal advocates available

2. **Support Services**

   Data Collection:
   - Sexual assault, no SANE specifically provided in Bosque County
   - Family violence/Domestic violence
   - Child Abuse
   - Post suicide services for family members affected by suicide
   - Anger Management
   - Need for multidiscipline investigation and response to child abuse; Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
   - Need for suicide prevention program
   - Need for local volunteers
   - Need for training
   - Need for outreach
   - Need for counselors
   - Need for Sexual Assault Response Team with multi-disciplines

   Recommendations:
   - Continue to support programs that address support services for victims of violence and crime
   - Encourage collaboration of agencies in services provided

- Need for trained volunteers to escort victims to hospital; Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides training
- Transportation continues to be an issue
- Long-term counseling services are not available in Bosque County

Resources:

- Educational victim services programs available to schools
- MADD offers free victim services for those effected by drunk driving
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children has a bilingual counselor that is in Bosque Co. every Monday
- Family Abuse Center
    - Currently has one bi-lingual legal advocates on staff

3. Aftercare/Follow-up Care for Victims

Data Collection:

- Lack of long-term & short-term care

Recommendations:

- Support services that will allow for funding to continue services to victims that require a longer recovery time
- Coordination among services

Resources:

- MADD- Free services provided long term support for victims/survivors of Drunk Driving, Failure to Stop and Render Aid, and Child Endangerment
- Victims Services
- Advocacy Center
- Faith-based organizations
- Family Abuse Center

Juvenile Issues (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

1. Youth Substance Abuse

Data Collection:

- Lack of community based services for teen alcohol and drug abuse prevention or treatment programs
  - Need for in-house treatment
  - Need for follow-up care
  - Need for prevention alternatives and education

Recommendations:

- Support funding sources to allow for prevention, treatment and follow-up care for juveniles struggling with addictions and peer pressure
- Develop a tracking system to follow a child through juvenile justice, mental health and/or substance abuse treatment programs
- Develop programs that address Anger Management for children and adolescents
- Develop programs that address goal-setting for children and adolescents
- Develop early identification and intervention programs that can divert children and adolescents into treatment
- Survey schools to discover specific needs
- Collect statistics relating to substance abuse, where to send resources

Resources/Successes:

- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Teen Safe Program
- Hillcrest Reality Education for Drivers (RD) program
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- VOICES, Inc.
- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

2. Delinquent behavior, schools at risk

Truancy is one of the minor juvenile crimes and is often the least enforced in most communities within Bosque County. There is substantial evidence that youth who become truant will eventually dropout of school and put themselves at high risk of becoming disadvantaged unproductive citizens. The linkages between truancy, tobacco, alcohol and other drug use can lead to other chronic delinquent behaviors and possibly other violent behaviors. Truancy is the first sign of trouble. Coupled with academic failure, these two indicators may be the initial signs that a young person is giving up and dropping out. For example, according to the Department of Education/National Center for Education Statistics, over the past decade between 347,000 and 544,000, 10th through 12th grade students left school each year without a high school diploma. Status dropout rates for 16 to 24 year olds were reported at 11% nationally. (The Condition of Education 2001, National Center for Education Statistics.)

The high percentage of students dropping out of high school jeopardizes the future economic security of the target area, increases the number of individuals with low educational attainment levels and indicates a definite need for academic and prevention services.

Data Collection:

- Vandalism
- Truancy
- Theft
- Sexual aggression
- Date violence

- Aggression/Anger management
- Substance Abuse
- Possession of weapons

Schools are generally understaffed with regard to student-teacher and student-counselor ratio and find it difficult to address individual needs. Sometimes, students are able to establish a pattern of non-attendance and are no longer eligible for credit before anyone identifies the problem and takes action.

The school, family and community at large must continue to work together to tighten communication regarding the importance of school attendance, academic success and graduation.

There is limited focus on the importance of education and its life-long impact at the lower grade levels such as middle and junior high school.

First-generation citizens are unable to navigate the complex systems of barriers for attending school.
Communities need to provide the full range of services to youth. In order to meet needs of youth involved in the juvenile justice system, targeted mental health and substance services must be available at all levels of need. Services that target this population of youth, from early intervention and prevention programs, diversion programs, services in detention, and aftercare treatment need to be developed and implemented.

Risk factors in children should be identified as early as possible with services including evaluations in all domains.

Limited availability of intervention services for youth not involved with juvenile justice system.

No easily accessible and coordinated programs for youth experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Limited access to program and services for youth attending alternative schools

There is a lack of interim services for youth on waiting lists.

There is a lack of communication and coordination between the involved systems. The absence of good communication means restricted access to services and programs, duplication of services, missed identification of youth, philosophical barriers and ineffective intervention/treatment strategies.

Services are often provided in a piecemeal fashion or they address only a fragment of the problem. Strategies should include intensive service plan coordination as well as a "wrap around" approach that targets all domains (psychological, academic, physical, family, social, economic, mental health/substance abuse)

Problem - Instances of delinquency, violence, and persistent misbehaviors children and youth continue to increase.

Recommendations:

- Support a project/program that would allow for a Teen Court for first time offenders of non-violent issues and traffic violations
- Advertise available resources to schools, churches, youth organizations and other gathering points.
- Begin a youth mentoring program
- Coordination among services/agencies

- Explore the feasibility of a resource officer(s) for the school districts
- Provide training for youths in reference to the state laws concerning delinquent behavior
- Court Ordered Parenting Classes
- Support funding sources to allow for prevention, treatment and follow-up care for juveniles experiencing peer pressure and/or struggling with addictions
- Support a program/project for a Drug Court for first time offenders
- Educate youth and parents on the value of completing high school by exposing them to career opportunities related to school completion.
- Expand stay-in-school, after school and school appreciation activities.
- Expose youth to the value of pursuing higher education through college visit programs.
- Provide information to youth and parents regarding financial assistance for pursuing advance training opportunities or education.
- Continue programs that reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and strengthen protective factors that prevent such behavior; prevention programs addressing youth issues including a range of behaviors such as impulsivity, bullying, and racial name-calling and threats, as these are precursors to more violent and aggressive behaviors; prevention program addressing coping skills, social competency skills, and enhancement of personal responsibility and respect for others.
- Enhance availability of services, both inpatient and outpatient, for children and adolescents who have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder.
- Develop mechanisms for improving communication and collaboration among providers who serve juvenile offenders.
- Raise awareness among policy makers of funding needs to develop new services or enhance existing services.
- Educate the general public about the behavioral health needs of children and adolescents.
- Develop a tracking system to follow a child through juvenile justice, mental health and/or substance abuse treatment programs.
- Programs addressing Anger Management for children and adolescents
- Programs addressing goal setting for children and adolescents
- Outpatient counseling programs for children and adolescents
- Enforce curfew for juveniles (16 and under). Sunday through Thursday-10 p.m. Friday through Saturday- 12 a.m.
- Need for surveillance cameras for juvenile crime
- Develop Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)
- Encourage higher education in high schools
- Encourage involvement in school related activities

Resources/Successes:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children Satellite office in Bosque County; services only to crime victims
- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Teen Safe Program
- Clifton PD-surveillance involved in schools
    - County or DPS involvement needed
- Bosque County Higher Education Coalition
    - Sponsors Career Day
- Bosque County Juvenile Probation Office
    - Juvenile Probation Officer tracks juveniles through programs; however, it is limited to her office alone.
    - GPS ankle monitors are now in use for juveniles on probation
    - Meridian AEP Program

3. First Offenders Program

- Drug Court

Resources/Successes:

- Hillcrest Hospital Reality Education for Drivers (RED) program

4. Aftercare/Follow-up Programs

Data Collection:

- Limited aftercare services for victims and/or family members of domestic violence, suicide, homicide, sexual assault, child abuse, etc.
- Limited counseling services: has to travel out of area to receive counseling
- Referrals to MHMR
- Limited resources, if the juvenile doesn't qualify for MHMR services

Recommendations:

- Support programs that will allow for the aftercare services that provide extended support, treatment and prevention
- Counseling services are limited due to juvenile and/or family members having to travel out of area to receive counseling. Support for a local resource available more than just on call basis.
- Explore funding streams that will allow for treatment for those that do not qualify for MHMR
- Coordination among services

Resources:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- MHMR
- Family Abuse Center
- Faith-based organization that offer counseling services
- DSHS does free pregnancy, STD testing and treatment
- DSHS is able to collect DNA samples

5. Lack of role models/mentors and motivating factors for youth

Data Collection:

- Limited parental involvement – majority single parent families
- Generational issues – grandparents raising grandchildren
- Limited recreational/athletic facilities
- No after school programs
- Limited career/education exploration for general population – there is a CIS Workforce Program program, however, not all youth are eligible to participate

Recommendations:

- Continued support for funding agencies offering services
- Begin motivation and mentoring program
- Encourage involvement in school activities
- Start after school programs
- Motivational training for teachers and coaches
- Life skills training "Adulthood"

Resources/Successes:

- MCYC offers programs to children of incarcerated parents
- PACES offers counseling, case management and mentoring programs to youth that qualify for the program
- Meridian Lions' Park and Skate Park

- First Baptist Valley Mills Park
- Local Independent Schools Districts offer programs
    - Gear-Up Program available in Bosque County school districts – includes career and education exploration to all youth

6. Need for Vocational Training Program (VocaT)

Data Collection:

None available.

Resources:

- Texas State Technical College (TSTC)
- McLennan Community College (MCC)
- Hill County College
- Heart of Texas Workforce Center
- Bosque County Higher Education Coalition
- Bosque County Extension Agent
- Meridian ISD
    - Will provide campus site
    - Junior High students shadow employees at hospitals, banks, law offices

Law Enforcement Issues **(listed in order of priority, greatest need first)**

1. **Training and counseling services for law enforcement, fire, and EMS to include all first responders and first response teams.**

   Data Collection:

   - Training opportunities hindered due to not having backfill, or funds to travel to training.
   - State mandates for training – funding needed to bring training in locally and to accommodate shift personnel
     - Crisis Management
     - Mental Health Issues
     - Victims Assistance
     - Critical Incident & Stress Management
     - Emergency Pursuit Driving
     - Firearms Training
   - Need for Certified Trainers

   Recommendations:

   - Search for additional funding in the next grant period to allow for sufficient training of staff
   - Ideally, it would be beneficial to have trainers within the departments. The need is to provide reimbursement to jurisdictions to send officer(s) to Train-the-Trainer courses.
   - Need for centralized training facility
   - Debriefing capabilities

   Resources:

   - Heart of Texas Council of Governments Law Enforcement Training and Reimbursement Program has been in operation since 2006
   - Family Abuse Center provides training to law enforcement (to include TCLEOSE credits) and has agreed to schedule trainings around law enforcement schedules
   - Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children offers courses for TCLEOSE credits

2. **Specialized equipment for law enforcement and fire departments**

   There are significant pressures being placed on the Justice Information Systems in use by Federal, State and local governments. These pressures have resulted from the post-September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, which caused a major emphasis to be placed on sharing justice information, along with ongoing, significant changes in technology.

   Compounding the problem is that these pressures are being placed on systems that are old, have limited functionality, and lack the flexibility to address new functional or technical requirements. There is a major movement underway in Texas counties to improve their Justice Information Systems (JIS). The new generation of systems is frequently referred to as Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS).

   This integration works at two levels:

   1. A comprehensive system architecture that serves the needs of all justice related and law enforcement agencies with a county government
   2. The ability to integrate a county's justice information with other governments, including other local, State, and Federal agencies within that county. By the single entry of data in a county's IJIS system, the information is made available to all agencies within the county boundaries, and State and Federal government justice agencies.

For example, a police officer making a traffic stop in his own jurisdiction could have immediate access to the vehicle registration data, and determine if the driver is wanted within the county, in another city or county, or by state and federal agencies.

Problem Statement
Information systems operated by Texas justice agencies have been proprietary, and incapable of linking and exchanging information; consequently, the justice community must address new strategies to deliver effective and efficient information related services throughout the State of Texas. During the past year, federal and state agencies, urban counties, rural counties and municipalities from across Texas have been discussing the need to join together in the development of an integrated justice information system. Although justice agencies need the same information, they have historically been focused on capturing and using information necessary for their own processes – legacy systems.

Although Bosque County government and the majority of cities throughout Bosque County have justice information management systems, Bosque County is one of 254 Texas counties that does not have the resources currently available to develop an integrated justice information system that can effectively share information among the federal, state, county, and local governments and communities.

Data Collection:

- Out-dated equipment
- Insufficient funds to purchase basic law enforcement for smaller jurisdictions (i.e.: vests, weapons, vehicles, ppe, etc.)
- Limited thermal imaging equipment, which is a non-evasive way of finding or locating missing persons or fugitives

Recommendations:

- In some smaller areas existing equipment must be updated or replaced
- Surveillance cameras needed- only one officer on patrol per night (Clifton PD)
- Support and seek funding that will enable jurisdictions to purchase/replace basic equipment
    - Seek funding to provide a compact package for each patrol vehicle that includes biological protective clothing, hazardous materials information, etc.
- Seek funding for encrypted P25 compatible emergency police radios (mobile and handheld((BCSO)
- Annual replacement of Sheriff's Office Vehicles (BCSO)

Resources/Successes:

- Four Thermal Imaging Units are available to share among the agencies
- Five satellite repeaters are within the county for public safe and emergency management
- There is 70% radio operability coverage within the county

3. Insufficient funding for law enforcement and court personnel

Data Collection:

- Inadequate and outdated Bosque County Jail
- Not enough funded positions to meet the optimal needs of the community
- Not able to pay competitive wages for more qualified personnel
- No funds to create and operate specialized programs
- Drug task forces needed
- Investigation follow-up
    - Clifton PD will be certified to deal with methamphetamines lab in county

    - Transport of mental health individuals takes law enforcement out of pocket for hours; there's not enough personnel to transport
- Critical Incident and Stress Management debriefing for all first responders (law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, etc.)
    - DSHS in Temple set up teams

Recommendations:

Funding for qualified personnel as well as competitive pay for existing employees to reduced turnover rates inside departments/agencies.

- Recommended that the county hire person(s) for community grant writing to obtain grant funds. As well as exploring the possibilities of internship grant writers from the surrounding colleges and universities.
- Current financial burden as law enforcement continues to experience long processing times of individuals that are considered to have mental health issues. This processing and travel time takes some jurisdictions out of service for a number of hours.
- The need for more personnel and vehicles are great
- There is a need for counseling services and debriefing following a critical incident
- There is a need for immediate and individual follow-up with a licensed professional

Resources/Successes:

- MOU with HOTMHMR for contract transportation services

4. Substance Abuse – Adult and Juvenile

In recent years the overall crime rate has decreased; however, studies show that a record number of crimes being committed today are driven by drugs. Drug driven crimes can be defined as an offense committed for the sole purpose of obtaining monies for the purchase of illegal substances or the sale of such substances.

Data Collection:

In a study conducted by the Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice Statistics, 61,000 convicted prisoners reported that their offenses were committed in order to obtain money for drugs. The study also revealed that of 12,658 homicides committed, 4.5% of the homicides were related to narcotics. Since the mid 1980s, almost every state and federal court system has experienced an overload of drug offenses on its dockets.

The high recidivism rates associated with drug-related offenses has proven that prosecution and incarceration alone will not break the cycle of recurrence of drug related offenses. Based on the belief that drug abuse treatment is demonstrably more effective in reducing both drug addiction and drug-related crime, jurisdictions developed an alternative approach to the traditional adjudication process.

DUI/DWI

- High incident rates
- Insufficient law enforcement manpower to process within local jurisdictions, smaller departments have to use DPS services which may not be available
- Lack of urban and rural community awareness of increased use, manufacturing techniques, warning signs, and environmental concerns
- Methamphetamines
- Lack of partnership among the retail community enforcement and prevention efforts
- Lack of oversight in remediation (environmental response)
- Anhydrous ammonia theft

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were 1,569 total alcohol-related fatalities in the state of Texas in 2005.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety Web site, 9,212 juveniles and 120,484 adults were arrested in the state of Texas in 2005 for drug abuse. Recorded on the same Web site, 249 juveniles and 92,230 adults were arrested for driving under the influence in the same year.

Recommendations:

- Pursue funding streams and resources that offer local support groups, prevention and treatment

Resources/Successes:

- MADD – available to provide Victim Impact Panel for 1st and 2nd time DWI offenders, provision of community alcohol awareness, Free school programs and availability of speakers or presentations for various needs and events, Minor in Possession Classes held in some counties.
- VOICES, Inc.
- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Ministerial Alliance
- Texas Association of Counties
    - Bosque County is starting a DWI court program that will be used as a model for TAC – these court programs have been shown to drop recidivism rates
- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe Program

5. Increase in Domestic Violence Calls

Data Collection:

Domestic violence is the number one cause of injury to women in the U.S., more than muggings, rapes and auto accidents combined (Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence and Public Health). The escalation of violence in families has become a justice, public health and economic problem for the families themselves as well as society as a whole. Domestic violence and violence between intimate partners is a problem for Bosque County, because the county lacks a cohesive plan for reducing the number of incidents and the resources to mediate the damage done to the victim families. Domestic violence crosses all racial, ethnic, economic, social, and religious barriers. Violence between intimate partners continues to be a perpetual cycle leading victims into feelings of hopelessness and despair.

Gaps in the Community

The following issues require a concerted effort by all entities involved in the victim and criminal justice arena.

- Programs needed for outreach, local resources not easily accessible
- Lack of stable victim resource revenue threatens the ability of organizations to maintain core services
- Lack of resources and accessibility to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Lack of support groups for male victims
- Lack of standardized requirements for obtaining a protective order
- Lack of training for judges granting protective orders
- Lack of specialized services and awareness for elderly victims of domestic violence
- Lack of non-English speaking resources for victims of domestic violence
- Lack of awareness among minority groups, cultural groups, and immigrants
- Lack of awareness available resources in the community
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of affordable and accessible childcare
- Lack of awareness of cultural differences and needs
- Lack of comprehensive case management, job training, transportation, and job search services

- Lack of seamless continuum of care
- Need for improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement and other local agencies

Recommendations:

- Develop program to establish mandatory counseling sessions for family members involved in a domestic violence dispute.
- Begin a safe house in Bosque County
- Establish a program to provide transportation for victims of domestic violence.
- Need for Battered Intervention Program (BIP)
- Life Skills Class- include unacceptable behavior
    - Develop prevention campaign advertised in school
- Establish the VINES Program with Bosque County for Crime Victim notifications of offender release (BCSO)

Resources:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children will provide education and counseling to minority groups and immigrants
- Family Abuse Council – community based group
- Alternative for judges to refer individuals to the BIP Program
- Faith-based organizations that offer counseling

6. Sexual Abuse/Assault

Each year males and females fall prey to sexual abuse. This form of victimization often shames the victim and leads to emotional and psychological trauma.

Data Collection:

- Sexual assault referrals by juvenile offenders continues to be a major problem
- There are no services for juveniles that are sexual offenders available in Bosque County. Offenders are expected to go to Waco or Cleburne for services.
    - Currently, the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children has a satellite office in Bosque County. A counselor is at the Bosque location each Monday.

Many victims don't report forcible rape because of the stigma and fear of embarrassment. It has been reported that more than two-thirds of rape and sexual assaults were not reported.

Sexual assault is an extremely personal and potentially devastating form of victimization. It may take the victims of this type of crime many years to recover from the physical and emotional effects caused by the sexual assault. Many victims of rape experience the symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder and may exist in a psychological cycle of depression, fear, anger, shame, and secrecy.

The crime of rape may also greatly impact an entire community in a variety of ways. It can shatter the sense of safety and trust among citizens. A community may also experience both a psychological and financial toll as well.

Recommendations:

- Search and obtain grants that will provide local services for offenders and for treatment placement
- In response to these issues there is a need for the following:
    - Educate the public about acquaintance rape and sexual assault
    - Educate the public about resources available for rape and sexual assault victims

- Expand counseling and advocacy services for rape and sexual assault victims
- Expand services available to male victims of sexual assault
- Expand efforts to increase the reporting of rape and sexual assault incidents
- Expand services available to handicapped victims of rape and sexual assault
- Expand services available to non-English speaking victims of rape and sexual assault
- Develop danger, violence, or sexual assault prevention team

Resources:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides education on sexual assault prevention and rights for victims. Also, training for law enforcement. Bilingual services available.
- Family Abuse Center

Community Emergency Management Issues (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

1. Early Warning System

Data Collection:

- Need for Reverse 9-1-1 system
- Need for weather radio system
- No local TV or radio channels available

Recommendations:

- Need for local radio broadcast system
- Need for additional local outdoor warning systems

Resources/Successes:

- HOTCOG's Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (EPAC) allocated funds for Reverse 9-1-1 system
- All schools, hospitals, and the Emergency Operation Center in Bosque County will be receiving weather radios
- Channel 10 has a live weather feed through the internet

2. Community Emergency Management Training

Data Collection:

Educate citizens to aid understaffed law enforcement and emergency medical services

Recommendations:

- Promote and support local community volunteer programs such as:
  - Neighborhood Watch (NW)
  - Citizens on Patrol (COP)
  - Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
  - Fire Corps
  - Police Reserves
- Continue to provide training to volunteers to keep them active in the community.
- Combine all volunteer agencies and offer cross training to those who are interested.

Resources/Successes:

Two CERTs have been trained in Bosque County in 2006 – Clifton and Meridian.

Resources Available

Included below are resources identified by the Bosque County Community Planning Team that are available to provide services that could potentially help in closing criminal justice gaps:

Juvenile Justice:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
MADD	Victim Services	Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs to include Minor in Possession Classes, Youth in Action programs, Free school programs and provision of speakers for various needs or events.
The Freeman Center	Substance Abuse Treatment	Individual/Group counseling; relapse prevention, education and life skills training.
MCYC	School Social Work	Work with students in schools who are at-risk for dropping out. Also work with students who are in juvenile detention.
ESC Region 12	Education	College preparedness for students, student leadership forum
VOICE, Inc.		Substance abuse prevention services and curriculum for K-12; alcohol, tobacco, drugs. Spring break, after school and summer programs. La Voz Para La Familia program is parenting curriculum delivered to Hispanic families. John Goodnight, Program Director 903.872.0180 jgoodnight@voiceinc.org www.voiceinc.org
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	Substance Abuse Treatment	Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) provides alcohol and drug screenings, as well as assessments, referrals, crisis intervention, education, support, and case management. All services are free. Jamie Schmitt 254.297.7771 or 800-841-1255 jamie.schmitt@bbtrails.org
Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYS)		Provides full services to Bell, Coryell, Lampasas, Falls, McLennan, Milam, Limestone, and Freestone counties. Each county has local CTYS offices except Falls which is served from Waco and Freestone which is served from our Groesbeck office.
HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	Provide a full array of mental health services to children involved in the criminal justice system. Provide truancy court support, provide assessment and treatment services to children in detention facilities, provide cross referencing of all children booked into detention with the State data system, provide specialized intensive casework services to children on Probation in McLennan County.

Family Abuse Center	Non-Profit Domestic Violence Shelter	Counselors are made available for group and individual counseling. In servicing is also available to teachers and administrators.
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe	Hospital	The Teen Safe Youth Traffic Safety Educational program focuses on teen traffic safety, driving responsibility, underage drinking, substance abuse, and driving under the influence. The program also educates parents on the laws relating to teen traffic safety. This prevention program is a combination of videos, simulations and written materials along with computer-based simulations. This program is FREE.
Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children	501C3 Non-Profit	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides 24-hour hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, short-term counseling and case management, legal advocacy, and assistance in filing Crime Victims Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, and the Court Appointed Special Advocates program serves foster children in Hill and McLennan counties. Educational presentation on victim's issues and prevention are available. Office: 254.752.9330 Hotline: 254.752.7233 or 888.867.7233 www.advocacycntr.org
Hillcrest Hospital	Hospital	One day sentencing alternative for ages 15-19. A one day hospital based program covering risky behaviors (MIP, MIC, speeding, drugs) and driving and their effects.

Law Enforcement:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
TX Dept of Public Safety	Law Enforcement	All crime victims in region are eligible for services: crisis intervention; personal advocacy; assistance filing for crime victims compensation; court accompaniment;
VOICE, Inc.		Substance abuse prevention services and curriculum for K-12; alcohol, tobacco, drugs. Spring break, after school and summer programs. La Voz Para La Familia program is parenting curriculum delivered to Hispanic families. John Goodnight, Program Director 903.872.0180 jgoodnight@voiceinc.org www.voiceinc.org
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	Substance Abuse Treatment	Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) provides alcohol and drug screenings, as well as assessments, referrals, crisis intervention, education, support, and case management. All services are free. Jamie Schmitt 254.297.7771 or 800-841-1255 jamie.schmitt@bbtrails.org
HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	Provide training and consultation services for law

		enforcement through workshops, jail personnel training, academy trainings and through on-going discussions with line staff. Provide emergency services which include 24-hour crisis supports, inpatient services, evaluation unit placements, and information and referral. Work with jail staff in all six counties providing services to inmates while incarcerated who have mental health issues. Provide specialized intensive casework services in Hill and McLennan Counties pairing mental health staff with probation and parole officers. Provide regional screening and continuity of care services for all inmates in TDC in the Central Texas area.
Family Abuse Center	Domestic Violence Shelter	Domestic violence shelter, counseling services (short and long term), case management, advocacy, Legal advocacy, outreach, Educational presentations, On-scene crisis intervention, Crisis hotline, Law enforcement training, transitional housing, emergency cell phones, and other services.
HOTCOG LE Training Program		Provides 20 + LE training classes each year. Input on TCLEOSE classes offered comes from regional law enforcement agencies and the Law Enforcement Training Advisory Committee (LETAC).

Victim Services:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
MADD	Victim Services	Free Victims Services to those families who's loved one was killed or injured by an intoxicated driver including failure to stop and render aid & Child endangerment cases. Some services include crisis counseling, personal advocacy, help in finding financial assistance, assistance filing crime victims compensation, emotional support, resource and service referrals, court accompaniment, assistance through the legal process and support group.
TX Dept of Public Safety	Law Enforcement	All crime victims in region are eligible for services: crisis intervention; personal advocacy; assistance filing for crime victims compensation; court accompaniment;
Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children	501c3 non-profit organization	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides 24-hour hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, short-term counseling and case management, legal advocacy, and assistance in filing Crime Victims Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, and the Court Appointed Special Advocates program serves foster children in Hill and McLennan counties. Educational presentation on victim's issues and prevention are

		available. Office: 254.752.9330 Hotline: 254.752.7233 or 888.867.7233 www.advocacycntr.org
Area Agency on Aging HOT Benefits Counseling/Legal Awareness	HHSC	Educational events regarding prevention. Education regarding Texas Law and Elder Law Assistance with filing complaints and making reports to abuse. Links to Texas Legal Services Center and victims compensation.
HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	Full array of mental health services to people who have been victimized who fall into our targeted population identified by State Health Services which include individuals with a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder or Major Depression.
Family Abuse Center	Non-Profit Domestic Violence Shelter	Domestic violence shelter, counseling services (short and long term), case management, advocacy, Legal advocacy, outreach, Educational presentations, On-scene crisis intervention, Crisis hotline, Law enforcement training, Start First Violence Prevention program, transitional housing, emergency cell phones, and other services.
CASA for the Cross Timbers Area, Inc.	Non-Profit	Provide victims services.
Catholic Charities of Central Texas	Faith-based	Homeless prevent and rapid re-housing.

Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
MADD	Victim Services	Free victim services, free alcohol and drug prevention programs and presentations, victim impact panels, minor in possession classes.
The Freeman Center	Substance Abuse Treatment	Detoxification Services- Medically monitored detoxification, relapse prevention, education; individual counseling; referrals. Residential Services- gender specific counseling, relapse prevention, education and life skills training; referrals, supervised living. Outpatient services- Individual/Group counseling; relapse prevention, education and life skills training. COPSD services- individual/group counseling; referrals
Area Agency on Aging HOT Benefits Counseling/Legal Awareness	Health and Human Services	Educational events regarding health and wellness, public benefits, health insurance, prevention and resources in the HOT region. Legal documents to protect rights of health care choices
VOICE, Inc.		Substance abuse prevention services and curriculum for K-12; alcohol, tobacco, drugs. Spring break, after

		school and summer programs. La Voz Para La Familia program is parenting curriculum delivered to Hispanic families. John Goodnight, Program Director 903.872.0180 **jgoodnight@voiceinc.org** **www.voiceinc.org**
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	Substance Abuse Treatment	Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) provides alcohol and drug screenings, as well as assessments, referrals, crisis intervention, education, support, and case management. All services are free. Jamie Schmitt 254.297.7771 or 800-841-1255 jamie.schmitt@bbtrails.org
HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	Provide specialized substance abuse services to people who also have a co-occurring psychiatric disorder.
Waco-McLennan County Public Health District	Public Health	HIV/AIDS STD Clinic

Prevention / Intervention:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
MADD	Victim Services	Free Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs and Presentations, Victim Impact Panels, Minor in Possession Classes
ATIC Cooperative Ministries	Faith Based	Working toward coordinating local thrift stores to improve & expand services, reduce expenses and improve management to better serve indigent and low income families and many who fall through the cracks.
The Freeman Center	Substance Abuse Treatment	Provide drug/ alcohol education and intervention as needed.
Area Agency on Aging HOT Benefits Counseling/Legal Awareness	HHSC	Educational events regarding, Prevention of ID Theft, Scams, Financial Abuse. Education regarding Texas Law and Elder Law Assistance with filing consumer complaints and making reports to abuse.
Klara's Children's Center ECI	Early Childhood Intervention	Early intervention services to children ages birth to 3yrs who have developmental delays. Services are community based and family focused.
HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	Mental Retardation Services (254-757-3933) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (254-752-3451) Eligibility: Adults (18+) Serving persons w/ severe and persistent mental illnesses:

		• Schizophrenia • Schizoaffective • Bipolar and • Severe Major Depression Fee: Based on monthly maximum fee schedule; accepting insurance, Medicaid and Medicare Services: • Information/referral • Screening/assessment • Crisis services (day/night) • Crisis respite • Psychiatric/pharmacological • Jail-based assessment/ diversion services • Probation/Parole assessment and treatment • Case Management • Service Coordination • Supported Employment
MCYC-CIS, PACES	School Social Work	Work with students in schools who are at-risk for dropping out. Also work with students who are in juvenile detention.
VOICE, Inc.		Substance abuse prevention services and curriculum for K-12; alcohol, tobacco, drugs. Spring break, after school and summer programs. La Voz Para La Familia program is parenting curriculum delivered to Hispanic families. John Goodnight, Program Director 903.872.0180 **jgoodnight@voiceinc.org** **www.voiceinc.org**
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Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe	Hospital	The Teen Safe Youth Traffic Safety Educational program focuses on teen traffic safety, driving responsibility, underage drinking, substance abuse, and driving under the influence. The program also educates parents on the laws relating to teen traffic safety. This prevention program is a combination of videos, simulations and written materials along with computer-based simulations. This program is FREE.

Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Kid Safe	Hospital	The Kid Safe program is an injury prevention program sponsored by the Trauma Center at Hillcrest Hospital, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation. Kid Safe offers free educational classes and presentations to parents, caregivers, children, teenagers, and the community in general. Kid Safe also provides a child safety seat and booster seat distribution program. Currently, Kid Safe provides services to McLennan, Bosque, Hill, Falls, Limestone, Coryell, and Bell counties.
Department of State Health Services	Public Health	Health Service Region 7 is one of eleven health service regions of the Department of State Health Services, the state governmental agency responsible for bringing comprehensible public health services to the citizens of Texas. Health Service Region 7 serves a 30 county area in Central Texas. **Health Service Region 7 Mission Statement** It is our mission that we commit, through personal and organizational excellence, to be an agent of change dedicated to achieving a healthier Texas. **Programs and Services** *(please click on any of the links below to view information about those programs)* **1.** Birth Defects Monitoring Division 2. Children With Special Health Care Needs 3. Consumer Health Protection 4. Epidemiology 5. Field Office Locations 6. Immunization Program 7. Public Health Improvement 8. Public Health Nursing 9. Sexually Transmitted Diseases 10. Tobacco Prevention and Control 11. Tuberculosis Elimination Division 12. Vision and Hearing Services 13. Zoonosis Control Program **Public Health Improvement Program:** The mission of DSHS Division for Regional and Local Health Services is to serve the needs of Local Public Health Agencies, DSHS Health Service Regions, and local communities in building and maintaining capacity to provide essential public health services responsive to local needs. Cindy deSa, MPH, MSW Regional Coordinator Office of Tobacco Prevention & Control

		Phone: 254.771.6758 Cindy.desa@dshs.state.tx.us

Interagency Cooperation

The Bosque County Community Planning group was very involved in the planning process. All agencies were proactive in their approach to identifying the needs of the communities and by putting their own special interests aside, they succeeded in developing a strategic plan to aid in prioritizing and closing the identified gaps in the community.

The Planning Committee shared the different services they offered, as well as services offered by agencies/individuals that were unable to attend the planning meetings. The team met once to make updates and corrections to the previous year's plan. The cooperative working relationship is in place and functions well.

Law enforcement, juvenile justice, victims services, and social services groups agreed to continue to work together to reach the overall objectives of making the Bosque County communities a safer environment, as well as increasing awareness through intervention, prevention and education.

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Bosque County Community Planning Team works in conjunction with other planning groups in the county to ensure a regular exchange of ideas. Individuals active in the planning process generally serve on many of these committees and share mutual concerns.

The Bosque County Community Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the plan and make necessary additions and deletions. The planning team will meet each biennium but agency and community representatives may submit suggestions and changes via e-mail throughout the year to the Community Planning Coordinator.

Drafts and annual updates of the Community Plan are circulated by e-mail with requests for comments, updates and changes. Wherever possible, e-mail is used to reduce the need for meetings, printing, postage, etc.

It is the intent of the Community Planning Team to improve outcomes for Bosque County families struggling with problems described in the plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Bosque County agencies and organizations to address problems with local funds as well as grant funds from multiple state and federal sources. To the extent that these funds are available, the Community Planning Team will continue to urge agencies to provide programming that addresses the outlined focus areas.

Contact Information

Bosque County Community Planning Coordinator

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