

Falls County Community Plan 2010

What Is a Community Plan?

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

This document reflects the efforts of many in Falls County that are concerned with assuring that any gaps in services that are identified are closed in a way that will both solve the problem and provide as great a benefit to the community as possible. It is with grateful acknowledgement that 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 December of 2009, this is a work in progress. As new criminal justice goals and needs are identified, the constituency of the planning team and priorities in the plan are subject to change. Such updates may be reported to the Falls 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 Falls County Commissioners Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the Falls County Community Plan. Additionally, the Commissioner's Court, Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) and the Heart of Texas Council of Government's Executive Committee supports grant applications from county departments as well as community organizations that address gaps in services identified in the Community Plan.

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

Bruceville-Eddy	Golinda	Marlin	Lott
Rosebud	Chilton	Westphalia	

School Districts:

Rosebud-Lott ISD	Westphalia ISD
Chilton ISD	Marlin ISD

Brief Description and History of Falls County:

Falls County, a rectangle of 765 square miles located in Central Texas near Waco and Temple, was established in 1850 and named for the *falls* on the Brazos River. The county's approximately 17,000 citizens are chiefly tied to the land with 55% of the total county economy dependent on agriculture. The remaining 45% of the economy is derived primarily from local and county government, correctional institutions, educational institutions, nursing homes, hospitals, small businesses, and independent manufacturers.

Texas Cooperative Extension in Falls County reaches out to adults and youth, males and females of all ethnic backgrounds to help individuals and families improve their lives, properties, economic status and self-sufficiency. By conducting seminars, workshops, demonstrations and camps, County Extension Agents provide educational tools and information to the diverse peoples of Falls County to better manage their farms, ranches, businesses, health, animals, financial security and family relationships. Working through and with volunteers, Agents extend their knowledge and expertise into every corner and village in the county.

<http://falls-tx.tamu.edu>

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, team members met and discussed each of the sections within the plan that reflected areas in which their agency serves. Some agencies serve in multiple capacities, therefore, there are overlaps in services. In such cases, agencies collaborated in updating the plan.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Judge Sharp	Falls County Judge
Jerry Kindred	Emergency Management Coordinator
Rebecca Carlson	Family Abuse Center
Brenda Bradford	Falls County District Attorney's Office
Judy Chambers	Advocacy Center
Nita Wuebker	Falls County Juvenile Probation
Wanda Bricker	HOTCADA
Joy Borjes	Family Abuse Center
Nancy Allen	TDFPS-Adult Protective Services
Alfornette Timms	Catholic Charities of Central Texas
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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. County-wide 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 Falls 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 Falls 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 issue 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 Falls 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 identified problem areas there is not current data to support them, due to recent program funding cuts. The data collection will be added to the plan as the problem area statistics become available throughout the year.

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

1. Delinquent behavior, schools at risk

Truancy is one of the minor juvenile crimes and is often the least enforced in most communities within Falls 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.

- Vandalism
- Truancy
- Sexual aggression
- Date violence
- Bullying in schools
- Anger management
- Need for parenting class/support group
- Increase in juveniles selling drugs
- Substance Abuse
 - Need for in-house treatment
 - Need for follow-up care
 - Need for prevention alternatives and education
 - Need for coordination of services
 - Need transportation from Lott
 - Need for out-patient treatment

Schools are generally understaffed with regard to student-teacher and student-counselor ration 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

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:

- Resource officer
- 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
- Support a project/program that would allow for a Teen Court for first time offenders of non-violent issues and traffic violations
- Court Ordered and Non-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
- Assign an assistant district attorney to handle the juvenile case load
- Local counselor needed for court-mandated counseling
- Support behavior intervention classes/programs for parents to address identified delinquency issues
- Need for access to counseling services locally to treat delinquency issues.

Resources:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center
 - Education Outreach
 - Counseling
 - Start First Program
- First Christians Community Learning Center provides case management, laws and education
- MCYC has two Communities in Schools (CIS) programs
- Booker T. Washington Boys & Girls Club
- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Teen Safe program
- Heart of Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction (HOTCADA)
- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau – Family Counseling Services
- MADD
 - Alcohol and drug prevention programs
 - Educational programs

2. Lack of role models/mentors for juveniles as well as lack of motivating factors for youth

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

Recommendations:

- Continued support for funding agencies offering services
- Violence prevention/parenting classes
 - Start “survivors” group for children
 - Fatherhood Initiative – parent support group

Resources:

- MCYC offers programs to children of incarcerated parents

- PACES offers counseling, case management and mentoring programs to youth
- Faith Hope and Charity
- Booker T. Washington Boys & Girls Club
- Communities in Schools (CIS)
- After school programs at Rosebud Lott and Chilton ISDs

3. First Offenders Program

- This program is a delinquency prevention program that both parents and children are involved in. The program works to inform parents and children how crime can build from a minor offense to major offenses if nothing is done in the beginning stages of criminal activity.
- This program is currently running but is limited in scope – the parent and child attend court for delinquency behavior prevention.

Recommendations:

- Support funding for programs that provide education and skills to first time offenders in order to prevent entering further into the criminal justice system
- Drug Court
- Teen Court
- Leadership Marlin – youth leadership group
- Need to expand court focus to address drug issues and other specific delinquency issues

Resources:

- None available

4. Aftercare/Follow-up Programs

- Limited counseling services; out-of-area travel is required to receive counseling
- Limited aftercare services for victims and/or family members of domestic violence, suicide, homicide, sexual assault, child abuse, etc.

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.

Resources:

- HOTCADA
- Advocacy Center
- MHMR
- Family Abuse Center
- Library
- Falls County Victim Advocates

5. Referrals for Treatment

- Limited resources, if the juvenile doesn't qualify for MHMR services
- Residential for mental health and substance abuse
- Long-term
- Short-term

Recommendations:

- Support programs that will allow for treatment facilities to operate and support beds for in-house treatment. Currently, there are waiting lists.
- Funding of additional staff and mental health resources to be supported as well as resources for those individuals that do not qualify for MHMR. Recent mandated state laws limit person(s) that qualify for services under MHMR.
- Need for Medicaid private practitioner.
- Local counselor needed for court mandated-counseling

Resources:

- Heart of Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction (HOTCADA)

6. Transportation

- Transport of adolescents for counseling/juvenile sentencing and local general access for juveniles.
- Need transportation from Lott for juveniles to access counseling

Recommendations:

- Need for more public transit
- Need for more personnel and vehicles
- Coordination among services
- Need for city transportation

Resources:

- Waco Transit

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

1. Limited Support Services

Primary and Secondary Victims

Services for secondary victims affected by all crime. Secondary victims of crime often go unnoticed. However, they may experience severe trauma as a result of the crimes. Identified needs include the following:

- Services specific to dealing with traumatic grief
- Education and intervention services concerning traumatic grief
- Resources for adults dealing with issues of grief, etc.
- Services for mental health and substance abuse issues
- Organized, identified emergency response team
- Specific training for service providers in trauma issues
- Services to non-English speaking populations
- Awareness of services to address victim rights
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement and other local agencies
- Need for suicide prevention program

Child Abuse

- Limited foster and adoptive parents
- Shortage of mental health services reasonably accessed/sliding scale
- Limited number of police, social workers, etc. with second language capabilities for intervention
- Resources and accessibility to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Affordable childcare, adult daycare
- Comprehensive mental health case management services for child victims
- Programs for children who witness violence
- Need multidiscipline investigation and response to child abuse; Children's Advocacy Center

Domestic Violence

- Stable victim resource revenues to enable organizations to maintain core services
- Resources and accessibility to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Support groups for male victims, as well as awareness
- Non-English speaking resources for victims of domestic violence
- Awareness of available resources in the community
- Transportation
- Services specific to lesbian/gay population within community and schools, support and awareness
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement and other local agencies and continuum of care
- Services for substance abuse issues

Sexual Violence

- Lack of SANE response
- Need for local volunteers
- Need for training
- Need for outreach
- Need for counselor/case management
- Need for multidisciplinary Sexual Assault Response Team

Aftercare for victims

- Increase law enforcement awareness of services and persons willing to respond to on-scene incidents
- Agencies that provide these types of services are encouraged to bridge the gaps between their services and law enforcement, to ensure law enforcement is well aware of the agencies' services to assist law enforcement as well as the victims

- Need for suicide prevention program

Elder Abuse and Care

- Need for home health care
- Need for adult day care

Recommendations:

- Continue to support programs that address support services for victims of violence and crime
- Continue collaboration of agencies in services provided. Agencies are encouraged to network and bridge the gaps that exist between the agencies that provide services for victim support, prevention and treatment
- Transportation continues to be an issue
- Develop emergency response team
- Local counselor needed for court-mandated counseling
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)³
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)
- Explore development of CAC and development of SANE programs
- Develop a program to assist the elderly with home healthcare issues

Resources:

- Advocacy Center
 - Victim Assistance Coordinator
- Family Abuse Center
 - Bi-lingual legal advocate available
- Educational victim services programs available to schools
- HOTCADA
- Transit System
- Child Protective Services
- Adult Protective Services
- Workforce Commission

2. On-Scene Victims Services

- Limited law enforcement and public awareness of services offered by agencies
- Limited bi-lingual services

Recommendations:

- Increase law enforcement awareness of services and persons willing to respond to on-scene incidents
- Agencies that provide these services are encouraged to bridge the gaps between their services and law enforcement, to ensure law enforcement and schools are well aware of the agencies' services to assist law enforcement and schools, as well as the victims.
- Transportation
- Coordination among services
- Safe houses
- Develop a team of trained on-scene volunteers

Resources:

- Falls County Advocates
- Department of Public Safety
- Advocacy Center
- Falls County District Attorney's Office
- Family Abuse Center
- Adult Protective Services
- Child Protective Services

3. Aftercare/Follow-up Care for Victims

- Long-term
- Short-term
- Transportation from Lott

Recommendations:

- Support services that will allow for funding to continue services to victims that require a longer recovery time
- Local counselor needed for court-mandated counseling

Resources:

- Advocacy Center
- Family Abuse Center
- MADD
- Child Protective Services
- Adult Protective Services
- HOTCADA

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

1. Substance Abuse

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 and/or alcohol. 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.

In a study conducted by the Department of Justice – Bureau of 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.

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

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. Support Drug/Alcohol court Programs with mandatory participation.
- Medically supervised alcohol detoxification services for offenders suffering from acute alcohol abuse
- Affordable residential and supportive outpatient services for offenders needing longer term care
- Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) that provide affordable and appropriate treatment services for employees with alcohol problems
- Supervision of all DWI offenders who are required by law to have an ignition interlock
- Assign assistant district attorney to alleviate case load

Resources:

- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe Coordinator
- MADD – failure to stop and render aid program
- HOTCADA – prevention and presentations for schools, adults, providing assessments and referrals, outreach and screenings
- Bibleway Community Development Academy offers awareness, prevention and support groups

2. Insufficient Funding for Law Enforcement, Fire Departments and Court Personnel

Significant pressures are being placed on the Justice Information Systems, resulting from the post-September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Information-sharing and new technologies are emphasized at all levels of federal, state and local government.

Compounding the problem, these pressures are being placed on systems that are old, have limited functionality, and lack the flexibility to address new functional or technical requirements.

Texas counties are striving to improve their Justice Information Systems (JIS) and adopt a new generation of systems referred to as Integrated Justice Systems (IJS). This integration occurs at two levels:

1. A comprehensive system architecture that serves the needs of all justice related and law enforcement agencies within 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. A single data entry into a county's IJS system will enable the information to be made available to all agencies within the county boundaries, as well as state and federal government justice agencies.

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

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 collaborate on development of an integrated justice information system. Although justice agencies require the same information, they have historically focused on capturing only that information necessary for their own processes legacy systems.

Although Falls County government and the majority of its communities have justice information management systems, Falls County is one of 254 Texas counties which have inadequate resources to develop an integrated justice information system that can effectively share information with federal, state, county, local governments.

Funding Issues

- 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
 - Investigation follow-up
 - No specialized unit to respond to the manufacturing of illegal drugs

Training for Law Enforcement

- Training opportunities hindered due to not having backfill, or funds to travel to training
- Mandates for training coming from state. Funding needed to bring training in locally and to accommodate shift personnel.
 - Crisis management
 - Mental health issues
 - Victims assistance

Specialized Equipment

- Radio communication interoperability
- Insufficient funds to purchase basic law enforcement equipment for smaller jurisdictions (i.e. vests, weapons, vehicles, etc.)
- Thermal imaging equipment

Recommendations:

- Search for additional funding in the next grant period to allow for sufficient training for 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.
- In some smaller areas, the need is great to update existing equipment and replace broken/outdated equipment
- Support and search for funding that will allow jurisdictions to purchase/replace basic equipment.
- Thermal Imaging- A non-evasive way of finding or locating missing persons or fugitives.
- Funding for qualified personnel, as well as competitive pay for existing employees to reduce turn over rate 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. (Volunteer organizations or Americorp)
- Agriplex Drug Task Force was dissolved by the Office of the Governor, after budgets were submitted for approval. The Drug Task force had been in existence for 18 years, and no money was set aside by the region to absorb the costs of this specialized training.

Resources:

- Heart of Texas Council of Governments along with the Regional Criminal Justice Committee
- Radio communications are in the regional homeland security plan. Once this system is up and running, it will accommodate all jurisdictions to be able to communicate.
- Advocacy Center – Court Accompaniment and Law Enforcement Training

3. Increase in Domestic Violence Calls

Domestic violence is the number one cause of injury to women in the U.S. – more than mugging, rapes, and auto accidents combined, according to the 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 Falls 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, 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 revenues 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 of 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:

- Establish safety zones in the county (for instance in the hospital) where victims can stay until victims services can come to transport them to shelter
- Need for CASA program
- Need for BIP program
- Local counselor needed for court-mandated counseling

Resources:

- Advocacy Center
- Family Abuse Center

4. Training and Awareness for County Residents Needed

Educate citizens to aid understaffed law enforcement

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.
- Monthly parent education classes

Resources:

- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Kid Safe Program
- Advocacy Center
- Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)

5. Transportation

Transport of mental health individuals takes law enforcement out-of-pocket for hours. There is a current financial burden due to law enforcement continuing to experience long processing times of individuals that are considered mental health patients. The processing and travel time take some jurisdictions out of service for a number of hours.

Recommendations:

- Need for more personnel and vehicles
- Coordination among services
- Need for city transportation

Resources:

- Central Texas Senior Ministries

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

1. Homeland Security Strategic Plan includes private citizens' involvement in emergency response and assisting in public needs

Including, but not limited to:

- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Neighborhood Watch
- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)
- Protect Texas

Recommendations:

The HOTCOG will work with jurisdictions and the County Emergency Management Coordinator to develop and/or build upon programs in all areas of the region.

Resources:

- Heart of Texas Council of Governments
- Department of State Health Services

2. Mandates to school districts concerning emergency management and response.

Needs:

- NIMS compliant emergency management plans
- Various agency involvement in drills and actual events

Recommendations:

The school districts have begun and will continue to work with the County Emergency Management Coordinator as well as law enforcement and other first responders to prepare the school and school aged children for potential catastrophic events.

Work with school districts that do not have NIMS compliant plans. Coordinate multi-agency involvement in drills and incidents.

Resources Available

Included below are resources identified by the Falls 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 that focus on underage drinking, substance abuse, and driving under the influence. There are also several FREE school programs, provisions of speaker for various needs or events and an educational.
The Freeman Center	Substance Abuse Treatment	Individual/Group counseling; relapse prevention, education and life skills training. Residential and out-patient treatment.
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
Heart of Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	Non-profit, 501 C-3, State/Grant Funded	HOTCADA provides outreach, screening, assessment, referral and short-term counseling services for pre and adjudicated adolescents and their families. Also, alcohol, drug and tobacco prevention programs and monitors crisis hotline.
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	Start First Violence Prevention Program available to all school districts within the counties. 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 responsibly, 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	501C3 Non-Profit	Advocacy Center provides 24-hour hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, 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 Limestone counties.

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;
Heart of Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	Non-profit, 501 C-3, State/Grant Funded	HOTCADA provides outreach, screening, assessment, referral services for individuals with pending charges or currently incarcerated
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, Start First Violence Prevention program, transitional housing, emergency cell phones, and other services.

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 finding financial assistance, assistance filing crime victim's 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 provides 24 hour hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, 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 Limestone counties.
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.
Catholic Charities of Central Texas	Faith-based	Homeless prevention and rapid re-housing, application assistance with state benefits

Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
MADD	Victim Services	Alcohol and drug prevention and intervention programs for juveniles and adults
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 and group counseling, relapse prevention, education and life skills training COPSD Services- individual/group counseling, referrals Also, provides family services and has women and children's program.
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
Heart of Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	Non-profit 501 C-3, State/Grant Funded	HOTCADA provides outreach, screening, assessment, referral services for individuals (including those dual-diagnosed, Child Protective Services clients) and short-term counseling services,
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
Catholic Charities of Central Texas	Faith-based	Homeless prevention and rapid re-housing, application assistance with state benefits

Prevention / Intervention:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
MADD	Victim Services	Alcohol and drug prevention and Intervention programs for juveniles and adults
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.
Klaras 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)

		<p>MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (254-752-3451)</p> <p>Eligibility:</p> <p>Adults (18+)</p> <p>Serving persons w/ severe and persistent mental illnesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schizophrenia • Schizoaffective • Bipolar and • Severe Major Depression <p>Fee: Based on monthly maximum fee schedule; accepting insurance, Medicaid and Medicare</p> <p>Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Heart of Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	Non-profit 501 C-3, State/Grant Funded	HOTCADA provides evidenced based prevention/intervention programs, family counseling and outreach services to promote community and family involvement in the reduction of substance abuse
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.
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.

<p>Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Kid Safe</p>	<p>Hospital</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Department of State Health Services</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Health Service Region 7 Mission Statement</p> <p>It is our mission that we commit, through personal and organizational excellence, to be an agent of change dedicated to achieving a healthier Texas.</p> <p>Programs and Services</p> <p><i>(please click on any of the links below to view information about those programs)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 14. Nutrition <p>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. Contact: JoLeen Eiklenborg Program Specialist III Public Health Improvement Program</p>

		Phone: 254-771-6716 joleen.eiklenborg@dshs.state.tx.us
Advocacy Center	501c3 non-profit organization	21 st Century After School Program-prevention education available in schools and on request

Emergency Management

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
Falls County Emergency Management Office: EMC is Jerry Kindred	Emergency Management	The Falls County Emergency Management Office plans for disasters that may occur in the area and coordinates with other emergency management offices regionally to ensure the safety of the county.

Interagency Cooperation

The Falls County Community Planning team 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 plan to aid in prioritizing and closing the identified gaps in the community.

The Planning Team shared the different services they offer, as well as services offered by agencies and individuals that were unable to attend the planning meeting. The team met to make updates and corrections to the previous year's plan, and the working relationship was cooperative and productive.

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

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Falls 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 Falls County Community Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the plan and make necessary additions and deletions. Currently one formal meeting of the team is held each fall, but agency and community representatives may submit suggestions and changes via telephone and e-mail throughout the year to the Community Planning Coordinator.

Drafts and annual updates of the Community Plan are circulated via 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 Falls County families struggling with problems described in the plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Falls 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 programs that address issues in the outlined focus areas.

Contact Information

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