

Hill County Community Plan 2010

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 Hill County community agencies concerned with assuring that any gaps in services are addressed and needs are documented to the benefit the 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 December 2009, 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 Hill 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 Planner of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. Contact information is provided within this document.

The Hill County Commissioner's Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the Hill 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:

Abbott	Aquilla	Blum	Bynum
Carl's Corner	Covington	Hillsboro	Hubbard
Itasca	Malone	Mertens	Mount Calm
Penelope	Whitney		

School Districts:

Abbott ISD	Hubbard ISD
Aquilla ISD	Itasca ISD
Blum ISD	Malone ISD
Bynum ISD	Mt. Calm ISD
Covington ISD	Penelope ISD
Hillsboro ISD	Whitney ISD

Brief Description and History of Hill County:

Hill County, home to 34,321 residents and comprised of 657,452 acres of land, is located in the Central Texas Blacklands, approximately 60 miles south of the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth.

The first settlers of Hill County were attracted to its rolling prairie land because of the rich soil and abundance of timber and artesian wells. With the arrival of the MKT railroad, Hillsboro became a commercial cross-road for Texas and by the turn of the century, Hill County was the second largest cotton producer in the state.

Agriculture still remains the leading industry today, with agricultural commodities sales averaging about \$70,000,000 annually. Average 2007 yields for wheat, cotton, corn, and grain sorghum were 25 bushels/acre, 750 pounds – 1.5 bale/acre, 80 bushels/acre, and 54 bushels/acre, respectively. Other than agriculture, Hill County is economically driven by light industry and retail outlets.

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Hill 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. Some members serve in multiple capacities and categories.

Juvenile Services, Victims Services & Law Enforcement:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Justin Lewis	Hill County Judge
Marty Penney	OEM, Hillsboro
Beverly Gerke	Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator
Tina Lincoln	Hill County Juvenile Probation
Tom Hemrick	OEM, Hill County
Rachel Bettinger-Cooney	Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center – Kid Safe
Peggy Lisster	Hillsboro Fire and Rescue
Tony Cain	Hillsboro PD
Dorthy Jackson	City of Hubbard
Judy Chambers	Advocacy Center
David Davis	Advocacy Center
Joy Borjes	Family Abuse Center
Deborah Pruitt	Adult Probation
JoLeen Eiklenborg	DSHS Region 7
Rachel Bruton	Hill County 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 Hill 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 Hill 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 Hill 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.

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

1. Juvenile Crime

Data Collection:

1. Truancy
2. Substance Abuse
3. Gang Activity
4. Sexual Offenses
5. Theft
6. Vandalism
7. Anger Management
8. Date Violence

Schools are generally understaffed with regard to student-teacher and student-counselor ratios and find it difficult to address individual needs. At risk students may be overlooked and behind academically and unable to catch up before anyone identifies the problem and takes action.

The school, family, and community at large must continue to work together to strengthen awareness and support students' attendance, academic success and graduation.

Greater awareness on the importance of education and its lifelong impact, must be provided to middle and junior high school youth.

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 include early intervention and prevention programs, diversion programs, services in detention, and aftercare treatment.

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

Intervention services, as needed should be available to all children.

There are currently no easily accessible and coordinated programs for youth experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Access to program and services for youth attending alternative schools submitted.

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

There is a lack of communication and coordination between the involved systems which results in uneven access to services and programs, duplication of services, missed identification of at-risk youth, philosophical barriers and ineffective intervention/treatment strategies.

Services are often provided in a piecemeal fashion or 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.) In 2009, 110 youths were placed out of their homes due to lack of services within the community.

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

Referrals to the Juvenile Probation Department continue to be high numbers. There were approximately 91 referrals in 2009, and an increase is projected in 2010.

Recommendations:

- Search and obtain grants that will provide local services
- Support programs that will allow for the aftercare services that provide extended support, treatment, and prevention.
- 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
- 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.
- Create programs addressing Anger Management for children and adolescents.
- Provide programs addressing goal-setting for children and adolescents
- Outpatient counseling programs for children and adolescents.

Resources/Successes:

- Funding from CJD for accountability projects have proven to be successful however, juvenile crime continues with new offenders, while funding is decreasing.
- Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator provides services to victims of assault
- Hill County Drug Court Program serves pre and post adjudicated youth with substance abuse issues. Funding provided through CJD Grant.

2. Truancy and School Dropouts

Truancy is often the least enforced juvenile crime in most communities within Hill County. There is substantial evidence that youth who become truant will eventually drop out of school.

Truancy, tobacco, alcohol and other drug use are often linked and can lead to other chronic delinquent behaviors. Coupled with academic failure, truancy is an early warning sign of an “at risk” youth. 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 having earned a high school diploma. Dropout rates for 16 to 24 year olds were reported 11% nationally. (The Condition of Education 2001, National Center for Education Statistics). The high percentage of students dropping out of high school threatens the overall well being of the community.

Data Collection:

There is a need to continue to the efforts of the Juvenile Probation Department through the Hill County Juvenile Resource Officer to decrease truancy and promote completion of high school in Hill County.

- Schools are generally understaffed with regard to student-teacher and student counselor ratio and find it difficult to address individual needs. At-risk students may be overlooked and behind academically and unable to catch up before anyone identifies the problem and takes action.
- The school, family and community at large must continue to work together to strengthen awareness and support students attendance, academic success and graduation.
- Greater awareness on the importance of education and its life long impact must be provided to middle and junior high school youth.
- 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 include early intervention and prevention programs, diversion programs, services in detention, and aftercare treatment.
- Risk factors in children should be identified as early as possible with services to include evaluations in all domains.
- Intervention services, as needed should be available to all children.
- There are currently no easily accessible and coordinated programs for youth experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- Access to program and services for youth attending alternative schools submitted.
- Interim services for youth on waiting lists is lacking.
- There is a lack of communication and coordination between the involved systems which results in uneven access to services and programs, duplication of services, missed identification of at-risk youth, philosophical barriers and ineffective intervention/treatment strategies.
- Services are often provided in a piecemeal fashion or 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).
- Instances of delinquency, violence, and persistent misbehaviors children and youth continue to increase.

Recommendations:

- Support programs that will allow for the aftercare services that provide extended support, treatment, and prevention.
- Expand stay-in-school, after school and school appreciation activities.
- Expose youth to the value of pursuing higher education through college visitation programs.
- Provide information to youth and parents regarding financial assistance for pursuing advanced training opportunities or education.

- Educate youth and parents on the value of graduation from high school; expose them to career opportunities or education.
- Educate youth and parents on the value of graduation from high school; expose them to career opportunities related to school completion and advanced education.
- Continue programs that reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and emphasize protective factors that prevent such behavior. Supportive prevention programs should address issues of impulsivity, bullying, and racial name-calling and threats, as these are precursors to more violent and aggressive behaviors. Coping, social competency skills, enhancement of personal responsibility, and respect for others must be included in the curricula.
- Ensure 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 improve 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.
- Foster outpatient counseling programs for children and adolescents.

Resources/Successes:

- The Hill County Juvenile Resource Officer helps reduce truancy by intervention, filing cases and education to school districts.
- Family Abuse Center provides services to at-risk youth through the Start First program, which also provides group and individual counseling to youth at no cost.
- Advocacy Center services and master level counseling are available to juveniles referred for issues related to victimization at no cost.
- All Church Homes, formally the Bridge, provides a first offender program for truancy offenders.

3. Juvenile Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Data Collection:

- Drug and alcohol abuse continues to be a problem, as substances are easily accessed.
 - In 2009, 18% of supervised youth tested positive for illegal substances (reference Hill County Juvenile probation records)
- There are limited youth substance abuse programs in Hill County. The juvenile has to enter the system before he/she can access these programs.
- Creation of “preventive programs” for alcohol and/or drug use intervention services are needed.

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

Resources/Successes:

- HOTCADA provides assessment and referral services for juvenile offenders identified as having substance abuse issues

- Hill County Juvenile Drug Court Program offers a pre and post adjudicated non-residential program for drug offenders
- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe Program - Education for Drivers (RED) Program- juvenile offenders can be referred to attend the one day program.

4. No Juvenile Detention Center

Currently the Juvenile Probation Department pays Limestone County \$85 per day to house juvenile offenders. In 2009, the number of days youth from Hill County were detained was a total of 446.

Data Collection:

Recommendations:

- None.

Resources:

- The current detention facility in Hill County has been re-opened for adult offenders.

5. Increase in Sexual Assault

As reported in 2001 by the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, every two minutes someone is sexually assaulted in Texas. In addition, A Health Survey of Texans (2002) found that nearly two million adults in Texas had been sexually assaulted. Amazingly, 58% of Texans are unaware that a rape crisis center exists in their own community according to a Survey on Sexual Assault in Texas, 2002. Each year males and females are victims of sexual abuse, which often leads to shame and emotional and psychological trauma.

The definition of rape used by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program is: "The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will (2000 Crime in Texas, Texas Department of Public Safety, page 23). This definition excludes statutory rape and sexual assault on males.

The definition makes it difficult for males to report sexual assault and to receive services.

Data Collection:

- Sexual assault by juvenile offenders continues to be a major problem in Hill County
 - 4 in 2009
- There are no services for juveniles that are sexual offenders available in Hill County. Offenders are expected to go to Waco or Cleburne for services.
- According to the Crime in Texas 2000 report many victims do not report forcible rape because of the stigma and fear of embarrassment. The crime report also states that in Texas the number of persons arrested for forcible rape has decreased. The National Crime Victimization Survey found that in 1996 more than two-thirds of rape/sexual assaults were not reported.
- Sexual assault is an extremely personal and potentially devastating form of victimization. Many require years to recover from the physical and emotional effects caused by the sexual assault. Many rape 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.
- Based on the work of Robin Warshaw (1994), 82% of rape victims reported that the assault had permanently changed their lives. According to the National Crime Victim Survey conducted in 1992, 30% of rape victims contemplate suicide, with 13% making an actual attempt.
- 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 the citizens. A community may also

experience both a psychological and financial toll as well. Because of its far-reaching effects, this is truly a crime with no boundaries.

Recommendations:

Seek and obtain grants for local treatment services for offenders and for treatment placement. The following services are needed:

- Education of the public about acquaintance rape and sexual assault.
- Education of the public about resources available for rape and sexual assault victims.
- Expansion of counseling and advocacy services for rape and sexual assault victims.
- Expansion of services available to male victims of sexual assault.
- Expansion of efforts to increase the reporting of rape and sexual assault incidents.
- Expansion of services available to handicapped victims of rape and sexual assault.
- Expansion of services available to non-English speaking victims of rape & sexual assault and the elderly.

Resources/Successes:

- Family Crisis Center
- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center/MDT/Prevention Coordinator
- Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator

6. Increasing Gang Activity

Data Collection:

- Gang activity has been recognized as a problem in Hill County schools and in the community

Recommendations:

- Provide gang prevention training to all teachers, law enforcement, school administrators, and juvenile probation officers. Gang Violence Intervention & Prevention training was conducted and hosted by Dallas Police Department, Hillsboro Police Department and Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator in 2008.

Resources:

- Being provided through Victims Assistance, Juvenile Probation Department, and Hillsboro P.D.
- Bullying prevention training is provided to local schools by the Juvenile Probation Department
- Gang prevention training is offered to local schools upon request.

7. Lack of Youth Services

Data Collection:

- Lack of mentoring programs
- Lack of services for first offender youth
 - First offender programs are needed to divert youth from the juvenile justice system
- Lack of leadership and mentorship training for youth

Recommendations:

Seek grant funding for juvenile resource officer (JRO), programs and drug court programs.

Resources:

- Drug court offers an alternative to court for first misdemeanor offence. JRO programs provide intervention through truancy referral.

- Current successful programs include: Hill County Youth Collaboration—Jon Ben Sheppard Leadership Training

8. Lack of Viable Youth Activities

Data Collection:

- There are limited programs available to the youth of Hill County for after school or summers.
- There are limited public recreational facilities for youth.
- There are limited on-going youth leadership programs available to all youth.

Recommendations:

- Continue with the County Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)

Resources/Successes:

- Hill College continues to sponsor summer programs for youth.
- Fort Graham Baptist Church After School Program
- Kids Under Construction (KUC) Monday-Friday at First United Methodist Church at a minimal fee
- Kids Kollege offered by Hill Community College in Hillsboro
- Boys and Girls Club

9. Lack of Job Skills for Youth

Data Collection:

Per the Hill County Education Forum held in February 2004, suggested strategies are as follows:

- Develop age appropriate in-school programs for schools that focus on career options, job readiness, interview and work-related skills.
- Develop a speakers' bureau of county business persons willing to give presentations to students.
- Develop strategies to utilize the distance learning facilities at Harris Education Center and Hill County schools to be used in speakers' bureau events, career awareness, day events, etc.
- Develop parent education programs and implement in Hill County schools.
- Develop mentoring programs to provide 1:1 partnering with students and representatives from the community/workplace.
- Develop additional General Education Degree (GED) and English as Second Language (ESL) classes and make available to the public.
- Develop community volunteer program to help staff mentoring and parent education programs, etc.
- Develop strategies to promote Partnership in Community Supervision (PACES) in all Hill County high schools; target at-risk students.

Recommendations:

None.

Resources/Successes:

- PACES Program through Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
- Parenting classes offered through All Church Home in Hillsboro ISD
- GED and ESL: offered through All Church Home, Hillsboro ISD, Hill College, Hill Education Center, Texas Workforce Commission

10. Lack of Transitional Services for Special Needs Youth Exiting Public School

Data Collection:

- Mental health

- Education

Recommendations:

- Cooperative Team Building programs are needed.

Resources/Successes:

- Independent Living Center and Adult Rehabilitation Center (Arc) of Texas
- Heart of Texas Transitional Council offers a 2 hour training for parents
- Lake Whitney Medical Clinic Behavioral Center

11. Insufficient Facilities for Existing and New Programming for Youth, Including Region 12, and Juvenile Probation

Data Collection:

None

Recommendations:

- Explore resources for juvenile services

Resources/Successes

- HOTCADA can provide short term intervention counseling for substance-abusing youth and their families.

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

1. Lack of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program

Data Collection:

- Advocacy Center, Family Abuse Center, VAC will collect data regarding this issue. Feasibility of having the program brought to the county will be determined.
- Increase in sexual assaults

Recommendations:

- Explore and support projects to obtain a SANE Nurse program in hospitals
- Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG) in Hill County.

Resources:

- The Advocacy Center has developed a multi-discipline team with a forensic interviewer. The Advocacy Center currently offers a 52 hour SANE certification program.
- The Advocacy Center also provides similar training on sexual assault and child abuse. It has provided crisis response, advocacy and professional counseling to residents victimized by sexual assault and other violent crimes.
- Hospital administrators are informed about pending SANE classes and indicate staff participation. Continued follow-up by the Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator will explore availability of a SANE nurse.

2. Limited Services for Domestic Violence Victims

Data Collection

Family violence and domestic sexual assault continue to rise

- Stable victim resource revenues to enable organizations to maintain core services
- Resources and accessibility to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Identify and outreach to male victims
- Standardized requirements and easier facilitation for obtaining a protective order
- Specialized services and awareness for elderly victims of domestic violence
- Non-English speaking resources for victims of domestic violence
- Outreach and awareness to various cultures represented in the community
- Awareness of available resources in the community
- Transportation to shelter
- Outreach to lesbian/gay population
- Comprehensive case management, transportation, and job search services
- Seamless continuum of care
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement and other local agencies
- Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) for repeat Family Violence offenders.
- Need Education and Counseling for the perpetrators
- Need for local emergency shelter
- Need for primary prevention programming

3. Crimes Against Children and Child Abuse

Data Collection

- Needs of children are complex and varied
- Need for a multi-discipline investigation of crimes against children and child abuse.
- There is currently a lack of resources for foster children. Trained volunteers, more foster homes, and emergency shelters are needed in Hill County.
- Need for education and prevention programming

- Counseling and support for secondary victims

Recommendations:

- Funds and support programs that will provide for recruitment of volunteers, training, and education for foster care parents and volunteers

Resources:

- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Program
- The Advocacy Center's Hill County CASA program currently employs one full time supervisor in Hill County for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. CASA is currently recruiting volunteers to assist with this program to ensure that children do not become "lost" in the system.
- Child Advocacy Center
- Family Abuse Center
- Victim Assistance Coordinator

4. Limited Victim Services for Family Members Affected by Homicide and Suicide

Data Collection:

Secondary victims

Services for family members affected by suicide or homicide

- Counseling and support
- Education and intervention services concerning traumatic grief
- Resources for adults and children dealing with issues of grief
- Services for mental health issues
- Services to non-English speaking populations
- Awareness of services to address victim rights
- Continue collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement and other local agencies

Recommendations:

- Support projects that expand services to secondary victims of violent crimes.

Resources:

- Advocacy Center
- Family Abuse Center
- Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator
- Hill County Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)

5. Limited Accommodations for Special Need Populations

Data Collection:

Defined as -

- People with physical and mental disability
- Older adults
- Language barriers
- Undocumented status

Recommendations:

- Support groups and projects that provide needed services to county residents.

Resources/Successes:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center

- Adult Protective Services
- Hill County Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator

6. DWI Incidents Involving Victims Services for Intoxicated Injury and Death

Effective and consistent monitoring of DWI offenders is necessary to ensure that offenders are attending and completing court-ordered alcohol education classes, counseling, and other treatment regularly, and are complying with all other conditions of supervision. Monitoring is also critical in determining whether offenders' alcohol-related problems/issues are being addressed effectively.

Data Collection:

Source: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse

- In 1999, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimated average alcohol-related fatality due to a motor vehicle accident in Texas cost \$1.1 - \$3.3 million in monetary costs and \$2.2 million in quality of life losses.
- The estimated cost per injured survivor of an alcohol-related crash averaged \$96,000 in monetary costs and \$48,000 in quality of life losses.
- NHTSA estimates that alcohol is a factor in 25% of the costs associated with motor vehicle crashes in Texas. In 1999, alcohol-related crashes in Texas cost the public an estimated \$10.3 billion, including \$4.5 billion in monetary costs and almost \$5.8 billion in quality of life losses. People other than the driver paid \$6.3 billion of the alcohol-related crash cost.
- In 2000, Texas motor vehicle crash costs due to alcohol totaled over \$390 million in legal/court costs, insurance administration, and vehicle damage alone.

Recommendations:

- Support groups and projects that provide these services to the county
- Pursue funding streams and resources to support prevention and treatment programs. Support Drug/Alcohol Court Programs with mandatory participation.
- Seek medically supervised alcohol detoxification services for offenders suffering from acute alcohol abuse, and
- Affordable residential and supportive outpatient services for offenders needing longer term care
- Utilize Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) that provide affordable and appropriate treatment services for employees with alcohol problems
- Ensure supervision of all DWI offenders who are required by law to have an ignition interlock
- Victim Impact Panel may be added through County Attorney's Office
- Counseling and support services for family members and friends

Resources:

- Advocacy Center
- MADD
- Victim Assistance Coordinator

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

1. Equipment

Data Collection

- Communication
 - Radios
 - Communication Centers
 - Repeaters
 - Mobile Data Terminals
 - RMS and CAD
 - Telephone/Telephone Service (PDA)
- Vehicles and Associated Equipment
 - K-9 Units
 - Support Vehicles for Special Usage
 - Juvenile Probation
 - Adult Probation
 - Tactical Unit

2. Funding Shortages

Data Collection:

- Limited salaries/benefits for attraction and retention of quality law enforcement personnel.
 - No available funds for new personnel.
- No funds to create and operate task-specific programs
 - Drug task forces
 - Investigation follow-up
 - Gang/juvenile crime
- Limited law enforcement issue-specific training
 - Victims' assistance
 - Crisis management
 - Mental health issues
 - Training in child passenger safety issues - KidSafe
- Small cities' police departments constrained in size and funding
 - Note: Population of Whitney increases by 30,000 to 50,000 from Friday to Sunday due to recreational facilities. This creates issues for Whitney and other Hill County communities as this generates unusual levels of traffic and an increase in criminal activity overall.
 - Need for emergency assistance for displaced/homeless/indigent individuals
- RMS and CAD

Recommendations:

- Search and obtain grants/funding sources to support personnel and trainings.
- Need for treatment within Criminal Justice System.
- Develop agreements with local vendors to provide services
- Training in crisis intervention for sexual assault and domestic violence

Resources:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center
- Hill County Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator
- Family Crisis Center, Johnson County
- KidSafe Program at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center

3. Victims Services

Child Abuse

- 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
- Comprehensive mental health case management services for child victims
- Programs for children who witness violence
- Supervised visitation and exchange center for children to safely visit their parents without repercussions of violence in their homes
- Need children's advocacy center locally

Domestic Violence

- Stable victim resource revenues to enable organizations to maintain core services
- Resources and accessibility to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Identify and outreach to male victims
- Standardized requirements and easier facilitation for obtaining a protective order
- Specialized services and awareness for elderly victims of domestic violence
- Non-English speaking resources for victims of domestic violence
- Outreach and awareness to various cultures represented in the community
- Awareness of available resources in the community
- Transportation to shelter
- Outreach to lesbian/gay population
- Comprehensive case management, transportation, and job search services
- Seamless continuum of care
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement and other local agencies
- Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) for repeat Family Violence offenders.
- Need Education and Counseling for the perpetrators
- Need for local emergency shelter
- Need for primary prevention programming

Secondary victims

Post suicide services for family members affected by suicide or homicide.

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
- Services for mental health 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 supervised visitation and exchange center

Recommendations:

- Support projects that provide outreach and support for victims of violent crimes.
- Establish a supervised visitation/safe exchange center for the HOTCOG geographical area.

- Need children's Advocacy Center locally
- Need Batterer's Intervention Program

Resources/Successes:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Family Abuse Center
- Hill County Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator
- Family Crisis Center, Johnson Center

3. 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

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:

- Seek and obtain grants/funding sources to support additional personnel
- Petition the Governor's Office to support programs like the Methamphetamine program in the HOTCOG region.

Resources/Successes:

- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe
- Heart of Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (HOTCADA)
- State certified DWI and Drug Education and substance abuse counseling for adults through the Hill County Community Supervisions and Corrections Department (CSCD).
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Victim Impact Panels are put on twice a year for first and second time DWIs.
- Hill County MHMR for Dual Diagnosis clients

- Hill County Supervision's and Corrections Department (Adult Probation) alcohol and drug education for adults

4. Enforcement, Education, and Prevention Issues Relating to Methamphetamines

Data Collection:

- Lack of urban and rural community awareness of increased use, manufacturing techniques, warning signs, and environmental concerns
- Lack of partnership among the retail community enforcement and prevention efforts
- Lack of oversight in remediation (environmental response)
- Anhydrous ammonia theft
- Lack of treatment resources available to identify and treat methamphetamine abuse

Recommendations:

- Establish a resource list with contacts for local agencies to access information and services in their areas.
 - Need up-to-date list of contacts and resources
 - Needs to be updated regularly
 - Develop resource list per county to be distributed to all local agencies.

Resources:

- None currently available

5. Animal Control Problems

Data Collection:

- Limited animal sheltering facilities throughout county
- Limited animal control officers due to lack of funding

Recommendations:

- Obtain funding for personnel and equipment

Resources:

- PAW PALS of Hill County

Health and Social Services Issues (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

1. Limited Services for Individuals with Mental Health Issues

Data Collection:

- Severe eligibility limitations for services. MHMR can only service a specific population.
- Lack of counseling services for individuals with mental health problems
- Lack of out-patient services, especially for youth

Recommendations:

- Search and obtain funding streams that will allow for more services to be provided for persons with mental health issues
- Transportation from rural areas to city where services are provided

Resources/Successes:

- Lake Whitney Medical Clinic Senior Care
- Family Abuse Center
- Heart of Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction (HOCADA)
- Advocacy Center
- Hill County Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator
- Hill County MHMR

2. Accessing Healthcare and Dental Services for the Indigent, or the Disabled

Data Collection:

- Transportation from rural areas to the city where the services are provided continues to be a problem.
- Lack of education and accessibility to Medicaid and CHIPS systems.

Recommendation:

- Support projects that will allow for transportation to be provided for persons who have appointments during “non-traditional” hours. Public Health Clinic has been a success in the past; however, due to recent program cuts, not all services needed are being provided to the rural community.

Resources:

- Hill County Indigent Healthcare

3. Substance Abuse – Adult and Juvenile

Data Collection:

- Lack of local resources and limited support groups
- School awareness, prevention and intervention
- Family involvement
- Residential treatment facility

Recommendations:

- Support projects that can bring the needed resources into the area, as well to the rural communities

Resources:

- The Heart of Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (HOTCADA) provides assessment, referral services, evidence based prevention programs, intervention and family counseling, outreach to promote community and family involvement in the reduction of substance abuse.
- Hill County Juvenile Drug Court Program

- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe Program
- Hill County Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator

4. Crisis Management

Data Collection:

- Many individuals with mental health issues go untreated until in a crisis or when they come into contact with law enforcement. Recent legislative cuts in Medicaid funding have increased the likelihood of individuals being unable to seek mental health services until they are in crisis.
 - Law enforcement needs training in identifying and dealing with mental health related incidents.
- Accessing health care in general is an issue.
- Issues of teen pregnancy continue to be a concern.
- Under-educated population
- Juvenile gang activity on the rise.

Recommendations:

- Support projects that can bring the needed resources into the area, as well as to the rural communities.

Resources:

- Lake Whitney Medical Clinic Behavioral Center 24 hour on call
- Advocacy Center maintains 24-hour hotline for crisis intervention and coordinated response to Sexual Assault and other violent crime.
- The Hill County Victims Assistance Program maintains a 24-hour hotline and provides on-scene investigation and transportation to a safe shelter.

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

1. County-wide Transportation System
 - a. HOTRIDE available but is limited.
 - b. Stations are needed in Hillsboro, Itasca, Whitney, Hubbard, and possibly a link to Waco.
 - c. People cannot get to where the services are.
 - d. Need buses that run from each station and back to make it easier to get to the services.
 - e. Expand access to services to areas in Hill County other than just Hillsboro.
2. Child Passenger Safety
 - a. New CPS Law requiring children up to age 8, unless they are 4 foot 9 inches tall, to ride in a child safety seat.
 - b. County child restraint usage rate is lower than national and state average.
 - c. Need for more educational services.
 - d. Need for a greater number of no cost or low cost child safety seats for families in need.
RESOURCES- KidSafe Program at Hillcrest.
3. Teen Drivers Education & Alcohol/Drug Awareness
 - a. 75% of all fatal crashes occur in rural counties in Texas.
 - b. Need for expanded educational services beyond school system and drivers education.
 - c. Need for greater awareness within the community that teen driving safety and use of alcohol and drugs is a problem.
RESOURCES- TeenSafe Program at Hillcrest
4. Bicycle & Pedestrian Issues
 - a. Limited safe riding routes for bicyclist.
 - b. Limited safe sidewalks and pedestrian walking trails.
 - c. Low bicycle helmet usage rate in Hill County.
 - d. Limited educational services provided on bicycle and pedestrian safety issues.
 - e. Need for expanded sidewalks and repair of existing sidewalks. Need for safe bicycling routes and trails.
RESOURCES- Generations In Motion Program at Hillcrest.
5. Senior Driving Safety
 - a. High number of senior drivers in Hill County.
 - b. High overtly level for residents ages 65 and older.

- c. Limited transportation options for older drivers.
- d. Need for driving awareness and education for older drivers and their families.
- e. Need for intervention services for older drivers and their families.

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

1. Emergency Management Training

Data Collection:

- Emergency management training needed for residents
- VIPS and Neighborhood watch programs
- Community Emergency Response Teams
- “Are you Okay?” programs for the elderly and disabled
- Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator

Recommendations:

- Support funding and programs to train the community in emergency response and homeland security issues
- Table top exercise involving all cities within the county

Resources/Successes:

- Local jurisdictions oversee community programs. The Heart of Texas Council of Governments helps to facilitate trainings and distribute educational/training supplies
- Heart of Texas Council of Governments 2-1-1 provides a number of services and information to the public

2. Mandates to School Districts Concerning Emergency Planning

Data Collection:

- School emergency plans completed

Recommendations:

- The school districts have begun and will continue to work with the Office of Emergency Management as well as, Law Enforcement and other first responders to prepare the school and school-aged children for potential catastrophic events.

Resources/Successes:

Office of Emergency Management

3. Need for HazMat team

Data Collection:

- Due to the legislation dissolving the Regional Drug Task Force, extensive training and education, as well as equipment for responders and law enforcement will be needed in the counties to safely break down Meth. labs, as well as responding to chemical hazards and spills caused by transportation accidents and accidental releases.
- There are some individuals specifically trained in Hazardous Materials in Hill County; however, there isn't an organized team.

Recommendations:

- Support programs and funding that will allow for the training and equipment to all first responders and law enforcement in the county.

Resources:

Regional C.B.R.N.E. Response Team

Resources Available

Included below are resources identified by the Hill 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 “Minor in Possession” class available for juvenile offenders.
The Freeman Center	Substance Abuse Treatment	Individual/Group counseling; relapse prevention, education and life skills training.
Amie Cheek, MSSW	Private Provider	Provides counseling services for families and youth as well as individual and group counseling.
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 screening, assessment, referral and short-term counseling services for pre and adjudicated adolescents and their families
Hill County Juvenile Probation Department	Juvenile Probation	Supervises youth and provides services (or referrals) for youth that are placed under supervision in Hill County.
Hill County Drug Court Program (Juvenile)	Juvenile Drug Court	A voluntary program that provides intensive services to youth that are using illegal substances and alcohol.
Hill County S.O., Hubbard P.D. Itasca P.D., Covington P.D., Hubbard P.D., Hillsboro PD	Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement Agency
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.
The Family Crisis Center	Nonprofit DV shelter	Domestic violence shelter, counseling services (short and long term), case management, advocacy, Legal advocacy, outreach, educational presentations, on-scene crisis intervention, crisis hotline, transitional housing, emergency cell phones, and other services.
Boys & Girls Club	Nonprofit	Provides after school and summer activities for youth.
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. Offers juvenile offenders the Reality

		Education for Drivers (RED) program.
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 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 501c3 non-profit	Domestic violence shelter, counseling services (short and long term), case management, advocacy, Legal advocacy, outreach, Educational presentations, Crisis hotline, Law enforcement training, Start First Violence Prevention program, transitional housing, emergency cell phones, and other services.
Hill County S.O., Hubbard P.D. Itasca P.D., Covington P.D., Hubbard P.D., Hillsboro PD	Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement Agency
The Family Crisis Center	Nonprofit DV shelter	Domestic violence shelter, counseling services (short and long term), case management, advocacy, Legal advocacy, outreach, educational presentations, on-scene crisis intervention, crisis hotline, transitional housing, emergency cell phones, and other services.
Boys & Girls Club	Nonprofit	Provides after school and summer activity for youth.
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.
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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;' compensation, emotional support, resource and service referrals, court accompaniment, assistance through the legal process, and support group.
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.
Hearts of Hope	Non-resident Center	Services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
Hill County Victims Assistance	Victim Services	Services to victims of all violent crimes.
Family Crisis Center	Nonprofit DV shelter	Domestic violence shelter, counseling services (short and long term), case management, advocacy, Legal advocacy, outreach, educational presentations, on-scene crisis intervention, crisis hotline, transitional housing, emergency cell phones, and other services.
Hill County Victims Assistance	Victim Services	Services to victims of all violent crimes that include but are not limited to emergency protective orders, legal advocacy, on-scene

		intervention, transportation, 911 safety phones, information and referrals, legal options for victims of family violence.
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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/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
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
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. 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: <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

		<p>14. Nutrition</p> <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.</p> <p>Contact: JoLeen Eiklenborg Program Specialist III Public Health Improvement Program Phone: 254-771-6716 joleen.eiklenborg@dshs.state.tx.us</p>
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Prevention / Intervention:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
MADD	Victim Services	Alcohol and drug prevention and intervention programs for juveniles and adults.
Hill County Supervision's and Corrections	Adult Probation	Alcohol and drug education for 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.
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	<p>Mental Retardation Services (254-757-3933)</p> <p>MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (254-752-3451)</p> <p>Eligibility-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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 school-based, evidence-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.
Hearts of Hope	Non-resident Center	Services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
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. Kid Safe provides services to McLennan, Bosque, Hill, Falls, Limestone, Coryell, and Bell counties. Currently has a monthly child safety seat fitting station at Hillsboro P.D.
Hill County Victims Assistance	Victims Services	Services to victims of all violent crimes that include but are not limited to emergency protective orders, legal advocacy, on-scene intervention, transportation, 911 safety phones, information and referrals, legal options for victims of family violence.
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. It is our mission that we commit, through personal and organizational excellence, to be an agent of change dedicated to achieving a healthier Texas.

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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.
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Generations in Motion	Hospital	The Generations in Motion Programs is an injury prevention program sponsored by the Trauma Center at Hillcrest Hospital in cooperation with TXDOT. Generations in Motion offers free educational classes and presentations to child, youth and adults on bicycle and pedestrian safety issues.
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center SeniorSafe	Hospital	The SeniorSafe program is an injury prevention program sponsored by the Trauma Center at Hillcrest Hospital in cooperation with TXDOT. SeniorSafe offers free education presentations to adults ages 55 and older on driving safety issues, as well as, family members of older drivers.

Provides Assistance for the Economically High Risk Populations:

Lake Whitney Ministerial Alliance	Food Bank & other	Provides food, clothing, and other needed assistance
Hill County Salvation Army	Local unit	Provides temporary housing, medical, and transportation
TXU Energy Aid	Part of Hill County Salvation Army	Provides utility assistance to TXU customers
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Government funding	Provides utility and housing assistance
Potter's Vessel: Hillsboro & Whitney	Pharmaceutical Assistance Program	Provides assistance with long term medication assistance
Heart of Hope of Hill County	Non-resident shelter	Provides temporary housing, utility assistance, medical assistance and relocation to victims of family violence
Hillsboro Interfaith Ministries	Food Bank & other	Provides food and clothing and access to other agencies

Interagency Cooperation

The Hill 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 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 maintains a cooperative working relationship.

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

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Hill 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 other committees that share mutual concerns.

The Hill County Community Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the plan and make necessary additions and deletions. At least one formal meeting of the entire group is held each fall. 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 Hill County families struggling with problems described in the plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Hill 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 outlined by the focus areas.

Contact Information

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