

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

Though the final draft of this plan was completed in December 2009, this is a work in progress. As new criminal justice goals are identified, the constituency of the Planning Group and requirements of the plan are subject to change. Thus, updates to the plan may occur from time to time.

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 McLennan County Commissioners Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the McLennan 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 and Unincorporated Communities:

Axtell	Bellmead	Bruceville	China Spring
Crawford	Eddy	Elm Mott	Hewitt
Lorena	Mart	McGregor	Moody
Riesel	Robinson	Speegleville	Waco
Gholson	Ross	Lacy-Lakeview	Leroy
Beverly Hills	Hallsburg	West	Woodway

School Districts:

Axtell ISD	Bosqueville ISD
Bruceville-Eddy ISD	China Spring ISD
Connally ISD	Crawford ISD
Gholson ISD	Hallsburg ISD
LaVega ISD	Lorena ISD
Mart ISD	McGregor ISD
Midway ISD	Moody ISD
Oglesby ISD	Riesel ISD
Robinson ISD	Valley Mills ISD
Waco ISD	West ISD

Brief Description and History of McLennan County:

McLennan County is in east central Texas, 230 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico, bordered by Hill, Limestone, Falls, Bell, Coryell, and Bosque counties. Waco, the county seat, is on the Brazos River at the intersection of Interstate Highway 35 and U.S. Highway 84, ninety miles south of Dallas and 100 miles north of Austin.

McLennan County was established by the Texas legislature on January 22, 1850, and named for Neil McLennan, one of the early settlers. The county government was organized in August 1850 with Waco as its county seat. The county originally included its present area, as well as the land to the northwest as far as the northern boundary of the Robertson colony; it was reduced to its present size in 1854, when Bosque County was established. Although McLennan County was organized too late to be included in the

1850 census, its population at that time has been estimated at several hundred. Rapid growth was possible because within two years of the establishment of Waco Village, the frontier was pushed well to the northwest of the area. The Indians who had lived there were moved to a Texas reservation in 1854 and then to Oklahoma in 1859. Aside from Waco, the earliest communities in the county were at Bosqueville and Bold Springs (later called West).

Cotton was the dominant feature of McLennan County agriculture from the 1880s to the 1950s. As the cotton market recovered after Reconstruction, farmers new to the McLennan County area began cultivating the black, waxy soil in the eastern sections and found that cotton grew well there. In the years following World War II Waco and McLennan County experienced a resurgence of population growth, and the transition to a peacetime economy went fairly smoothly. In 1950 130,194 people resided in McLennan County; 65 percent of that total lived in Waco. The county, and especially Waco, experienced a serious setback in May 1953, when a tornado struck the downtown area. Several city blocks were flattened, leaving 144 people dead and 1,097 injured. Several hundred homes, cars, and businesses were damaged or completely destroyed, and many buildings had to be razed.

A new interest in local history prompted the reconstruction of Fort Fisher as the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and the renovation of the suspension bridge. In the early 1980s 76 percent of the land in the county was devoted to agriculture. Cotton, corn, oats, and wheat were the primary crops, accounting for 90 percent of the 310,000 acres harvested; other crops were sorghum, hay, potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelon. Nearly 60 percent of the county's agricultural receipts came from livestock and livestock products, the most important ones being turkeys, cattle, milk, sheep, wool, angora goats, mohair, and hogs. Industries in the county surpassed agriculture in terms of income and number of people employed, but the two spheres were closely interrelated. Poultry processing, manufacture of prepared feeds, and dairy production were among the county's important businesses. Other large employers included professional and related services, wholesale and retail trade, finance, insurance, and real estate.

McLennan County has a very diverse population with rapidly changing demographics. While agricultural production and marketing remain a major contributor to the region's economy, industrial development along the Interstate 35 corridor is making a significant contribution to economic stability and growth. Societal and family stability issues have also become increasingly important as our population changes. Research shows that young people who participate in organized youth clubs are 85 percent less likely to end up in jail. For over 90 years, the 4-H program of the Texas Agri-life Extension Service has been helping youth reach positive goals. Food safety, healthy living principles, child safety, and pressures on families remain critical programming areas of Texas Agri-life Extension Service in McLennan County.

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

A portion of this information comes from the Texas State Historical Association
Handbook of Texas Online.

<http://www.co.mclennan.tx.us/>

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for McLennan County: Cindy Rafter , the Criminal Justice Planner with the Heart of Texas Council of Governments

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Bobby Campos	McLennan County Juvenile Probation
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Regan Copeland	McLennan County
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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. 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 McLennan 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 McLennan 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 McLennan 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.

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

1. Transport of Mental Health Individuals

Data Collection:

Transport of mental health patients is consuming large amounts of officers' time due to lack of staff, placement, patrol cars, and other resources. Officers need to stay with mental health patients as there are a limited number of locked beds.

Recommendations:

- Consider adding a crisis residential facility at local hospital to take in patients brought in by law enforcement agencies – only a 15-20 minute stop would be required for law enforcement.
- Develop multi-agency crisis center (outpatient services) – the clinic would function as a minor emergency room at night and a medical clinic from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.
- Change transportation policy to reduce transportation time and time officers must remain on scene
- Training
- Consider writing a regional/collaborative grant to pay officers O.T and vehicle expense
- Contract with private agency to set fees to pay O.T. for MHMR transport

Resources/Successes:

- MHMR

2. Lack of Manpower for Law Enforcement – programs and grant funds being cut

Data Collection:

- Regional warrant database with mobile statewide query ability
- Federal funding, such as COPS
- Need for increase in recruitment on an annual basis

Recommendations:

- Funding issue: search for grants and other funding streams to allow for hiring.
- LE Regional recruitment day

Resources/Successes:

- McLennan County grant writer
- HOTCOG grant workshop

3. Limited Training Opportunities for Law Enforcement Personnel

Data Collection:

- Lack of mental health training
- Emergency disaster/response training for 1st line officers
- Insufficient firing range
- Computer Crimes
- Background investigation/Interview Techniques
- Field Training Officers
- Firearms Instructor

Recommendations:

- Search for sources of funding to help with training costs
- Need for local training with less time out of service and scheduled for accommodate shift personnel.
- Support funding streams that will allow for the construction of a new firing range and driving range in the county to be utilized by all agencies within McLennan County.
- Have trainings at the P.D. locations
- Coordinate training for law enforcement from MHMR/Alzheimer's Foundation, in dealing with the safe return of the elderly, reported missing or wandering about the community with the diseases of Alzheimer's or dementia

Resources/Successes:

- MHMR held Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement personnel
- Advocacy Center provides TCLEOSE training for sexual assault issues
- Family Abuse Center training for domestic violence
- CJD funded courses through HOTCOG
- Adult Protective Services to provide class on elder abuse

4. Equipment Deficiencies

Jurisdictions across the HOTCOG region are faced with lack of equipment. There are significant pressures being placed on the Justice Information Systems in use by Federal, State, and local governments. These pressures have resulted from the post September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, which caused a major emphasis to be placed on sharing justice information, along with ongoing, significant changes in technology. Compounding the problem is that these pressures are being placed on systems that are frequently old, have limited functionality, and lack the flexibility to address new functional or technical requirements. There is a major movement underway in Texas counties to improve their Justice Information Systems (JIS). The new generation of systems is frequently referred to as Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS). The 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 that integrate within that county. By the single entry of data in a county's IJIS system, the information is made available to all agencies within the county boundaries, and state and federal government justice agencies.

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

Data Collection:

- Lack of necessary equipment
- Regional radio trunking system
- 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. Recently, federal and state agencies, urban counties, rural counties and municipalities from across Texas have been discussing the need to join together in the development of an integrated justice information system. Although justice agencies need the same information, they have historically been focused on capturing and using information necessary for its own processes-legacy system.

Recommendations:

- Funding issue: search for jurisdictions to purchase and maintain equipment
- Mobile Data Terminals
- Radio trunking system
- GPS tracking in each car to provide efficient response to emergency calls

Resources:

- Bureau of Justice Assistance
- Texas 1033 Community Facilities Grant Program
- HOTCOG Homeland Security department – Regional radio trunking system

5. Crime Prevention

Data Collection:

- Fraud
- Identity theft
- Increase frequency of National Night Out Program events

Recommendations:

- Need to provide awareness classes to elderly
- Computer crime awareness

Resources:

- Benefits Counselor II/Legal Awareness
- Area Agency on Aging of the Heart of Texas
- Hillcrest Trauma Services Outreach Coordination
- Alzheimer’s Association
- Crime Stoppers
- Texas Crime Prevention Association
- Institute of Criminal Justice Studies

6. Illegal Substance “Labs”

Data Collection:

- Users are setting up their own labs per instructions available on the Internet
 - Some of the labs created are portable
- Transportation of illegal substances
- Increases need for forensic equipment – both one-time use and permanent equipment
- Increased manpower needs to process and preserve crime scene, requiring additional training and certifications
- Creates need for hazardous waste disposal for labs and on road

Recommendations:

- Hazardous materials training
- Conference among different authorities
- Incorporate environmental control officer
- Funding issue: search for grants and other funding streams

Resources/Successes:

- Brazos River Authority
- Drug Endangered Children Initiative (DEC)

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

1. Need for intensive family intervention

Data Collection:

- Work with families on case management basis to address juvenile issues
- Shortage of case managers due to lack of funding
- Address poverty cycle and economic responsibility/independence in programs
- Push truancy issues
- Transition-17 year olds

Recommendations:

- Develop a collaborated effort among agencies.
- Establish Family Drug Court-Drug court for CPS cases and offenders
- Family counseling

Resources:

- MHMR
- Juvenile Probation
- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau
- McLennan County Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)

2. Substance Abuse

In recent years the overall crime rate has decreased; however, studies show that a record number of crimes 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.

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.
- According to the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were 1,569 total alcohol-related fatalities in the state of Texas in 2005.
- According to the Texas Department of Public Safety Web site, 9,212 juveniles and 120,484 adults were arrested in the state of Texas in 2005 for drug abuse. Recorded on the same Web site, 249 juveniles and 92,230 adults were arrested for driving under the influence in the same year.

Recommendations:

- Pursue funding streams and resources 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
- Work toward affordable residential and supportive outpatient services for offenders needing longer term care
- Gang Resistant Education and Training (GREAT)
- Drug Court for families involved in CPS and Juvenile cases

Resources:

- MADD
- McLennan County adult and juvenile drug court program
- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau
- Heart of Texas Council on Alcohol, Drug Addiction (HOTCADA)
- Shattered Dreams program
- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Teen Safe
- DARE program
- Gang Resistant Education And Training (GREAT)
- Freeman Center

3. Need for Juvenile Mental Health Services

Data Collection:

- Gap in services – no school-based mental health day treatment for kids
- Limited bi-lingual counselors
- Recidivism

Recommendations:

- Collaboration among agencies

Resources:

- CARE system
- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYSB)
- MHMR
- Klara's Center for Families

4. Lack of Aftercare and Educational Services

Data Collection:

- Need for transitional programs
- School failure, truancy and dropout
- Low reading skills among juvenile delinquents
- Grade level is not the same as age level in many juveniles requiring services
- Anger management classes
- Due to the high correlation between reading skills and truancy, there is a need for prevention programs
- There are some existing services, however transportation remains an issue
- Recidivism
- Undiagnosed learning disabilities and students with learning disabilities not receiving appropriate services

Recommendations:

- Programs providing preparations and support for re-entry in schools and community
- Specialized school-based programs designed to prevent school failure, truancy, and dropout
- Reading remediation
- After hour counseling needed, but public transportation doesn't run after 6 p.m.
- Develop more vocational training programs in high schools
- Collaborate with TSTC, MCC, and Region 12

Resources:

- Bill Logue JJ Center
- Grand Central Station for academically at-risk learners is on 8 McLennan County Campuses
- Rally to Read, a research-based reading remediation program designed by BHI

- Texas Workforce Center
- Region 12
- Mission Waco
- McLennan Community College
- Community Training Center

5. School Disciplinary Problem

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

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

Data Collection:

- Anger management classes
- Dropouts/truancy
- Bullying
- Sexual aggression
- Substance abuse
- Because of the high correlation between reading skills and truancy, there is a need for remediation and prevention programs.
- There are some existing services, however transportation remains an issue.
- After hour counseling needed, but public transportation doesn't run after 6 p.m.
- Recidivism

Recommendations:

- Resource officers in school districts. Not only for truancy issues but problematic juveniles as well.
- Case manager for each Justice of the Peace
- Increased training for school staff

Resources:

- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau, Project Safe Place/Street Outreach
- Advocacy Center – Outreach and prevention services
- Family Abuse Center – Start First Program
- Region 12 Education Service Center
- Heart of Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (HOTCADA)
- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Teen Safe
- Klara's Center for Families
- Mentoring programs

6. Transitional Programs Including Drug and Alcohol Treatment

Data Collection:

- Need of transitional programs within McLennan County
- Recidivism

Recommendations:

- Need for transitional housing for youth returning to the community
- Housing is hard to find for 17 year olds, due to juvenile facilities not wanting to accept them and adult facilities don't want to take them due to their age.

Resources:

- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau provides Project Future, a transitional program for 16-21 year old youth including those in successful recovery and able/willing to work the program.
- Lone Star Legal – Greater Waco Youth Advocate Project
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7. Lack of Communication of Available Programs to the Public

Data Collection:

- Continuous strides to increase the awareness of agencies and their services to local agencies and jurisdictions.

Recommendations:

- Updated manual for social services in the area
- Updated Web site for social services in area with links to individual organizations

Resources:

- United Way
- HOTRAS
- HOTCOG
- Guide to Helpful Resources and Information
- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Teen Safe program
- 2-1-1
- Community Resource and Coordination Groups (CRCG)

8. More Residential Programs

Data Collection:

- For drug treatment and mental health and/or dual diagnosis. Some referrals can be made through the Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG); however, very limited for non-insured and/or low income families.

Recommendations:

- Funding needed to have designated beds reserved for this region for drug treatment, mental health and dual diagnosis.
- Need for additional in-house treatment (long and short term) programs

Resources:

- Waco Center for Youth
- DePaul
- Methodist Home
- Brookhaven
- Avalon Center for Girls

9. Emergency Shelters/Assessment Center for Victims of Abuse

Data Collection:

- No emergency shelters for youth within McLennan County
- Children come from around two regions within Central Texas with no place to go.
- Lack of funding for a shelter

Recommendations:

- Collaborative effort among agencies designated specifically

Resources:

- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYSB)
- Methodist Home (limited services)
- Child Protective Services
- Family Abuse Center

10. Need for Sexual Offender Treatment for Juveniles

Data Collection:

- Existing programs very limited – gap in treatment

Recommendations:

- Promote public awareness of treatment providers and treatment needs.

Resources:

- Brookhaven
- Licensed sex offender treatment providers

11. Need for Transportation for Juveniles and Their Families

Data Collection:

- Available services cannot be utilized as public transportation is limited

Recommendations:

- Seek additional methods to address the transportation limitations
- Seek funding for bus passes
- Bus services need to be more user-friendly with extended hours and stops

Resources:

- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYSB)
 - Project Safe Place/Street Outreach

12. Lack of Qualified Personnel and Mentors

Data Collection:

- Volunteer/employee burnout
- People too busy to volunteer
- Limited pool of qualified volunteers stretched too far
- Existing programs cannot expand due to lack of qualified volunteers and counselors

Recommendations:

- Coordinate recruitment efforts between agencies that deliver the same or closely related services. The problem lies with the level of training/certifications required by different agencies.
- Due to the limited number of qualified volunteers, they are often exhausted.

Resources:

- Local Churches
- Community Youth Development
- Mission Waco
- McLennan County Youth Collaboration (MCYC)
- Communities in Schools (CIS)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters

13. Limited Job Opportunities for Youth

Data Collection:

- Limited opportunities for youth with criminal background

Recommendations:

- Develop incentive program that will entice business owners to employ teens that are already in the system for tax credit.
- Develop additional program that develops job skills such as interviewing, resume writing, etc.

Resources:

- Mission Waco
- Project Future with Central Texas Youth Services Bureau
- Texas Workforce Center
- Job Corps

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

1. Victims Services

Data Collection:

- Child Abuse
 - Find funding for the program
 - Increase outreach, access and availability of services to rural areas
 - Family Drug Court
 - Fund CASA, volunteer recruitment program
 - Need multi-discipline investigation and response to child abuse; Children's Advocacy Center
- Rape/sexual assault/stalking
 - On-scene crisis intervention, including continuing and expanding collaboration with law enforcement
 - Crisis transportation is major issue
 - Need for hospital intervention and follow-up
 - Need for forensic medical exams (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners SANE)
 - Need for local volunteers
 - Need for training
 - Need for outreach
 - Need for counselors and case management
 - Need for Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
- Domestic violence
 - On-scene crisis intervention, including continuing and expanding collaboration with law enforcement
 - Crisis transportation is major issue
 - Protective Orders
- Victims of violent crime, urban and rural
 - On-scene crisis intervention, including continuing and expanding collaboration with law enforcement
 - Services to family members affected by suicide and homicide
- Alcohol/substance abuse related crimes
 - Victims of intoxicated drivers
 - Killed/injured/child endangerment/failure to stop and render aid
- Elder abuse/vulnerable adults
- Aftercare for victims
 - Need for suicide prevention program
 - Increase law enforcement awareness of services and persons willing to respond to ongoing incidents
- Spanish speaking services
- Resources and accessibility to resources
- Transportation

Recommendations:

- Identify funding sources for joint projects
- Lack of counselors to respond to on-scene intervention
- Increase outreach, access and availability of services to rural areas
- Lack of counselors to respond due to funding issues
- Transportation to shelters, counseling and other appointments is not always feasible for nontraditional hours
- Lack of counselors to respond due to funding issues
- Develop Spanish Language Hotline for domestic violence, sexual abuse, and children

Resources:

- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYSB)
- Waco Police Department Victims Services Unit

- Adult Protective Services
- Attorney General's Office – Crime Victims Compensation
- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center
- District Attorney's Office
- Department of Public Safety – Victim Services
- MADD
- Waco PD Family Violence Unit
- Sexual Assault Response Team
- Child Protective Services
- Rural Transit District – 4 contractors in 6 county region
- McLennan County Juvenile Probation Department

2. Increase Awareness of Available Services for Victims

Data Collection:

- Communication barriers
- Increase education/training for law enforcement officers
- Lack of qualified volunteers
- Lack of prevention education

Recommendations:

- Team up with other agencies
- Develop information and material in a variety of languages
- Victims services groups to team up with other groups/agencies for possibility to split costs associated with a subscription for inter-lingual services
- Co-sponsor/collaborate to provide training to staff, volunteers, and community
- Caregiver Development program for the underserved rural areas
- Change the community perception of child abuse and rape culture through a community-wide child abuse prevention campaign
- Increase knowledge and use of community protocols for crimes against children
 - Involve schools and churches

Resources/Successes:

- 211 system assists in making information available
- Collaborate on annual victim's awareness events
- There are some translator services available through 800 numbers, etc.
- City of Waco has a subscription for all language services through Inter-Lingual Services
- Provide tours of agencies to service providers, law enforcement, and others.
- Suicide Coalition
- Advocacy Center
- Family Abuse Center
- Adult Protective Services

3. Delayed Compensation from Crime Victims Fund and Medicaid

Data Collection:

- Loss of providers due to slow pay
- Change providers if Medicaid approved
- Providers pull out due to slow pay.
- Speed up process for CVC for domestic violence victims-application process

Recommendations:

- None available
- Increase the network size of private practitioners able to take crime victims' compensation
- Outreach/Recruitment

- Access to police reports

Resources/Successes:

- Advocacy Center
- Family Abuse Center
- District Attorney's Office
- MADD

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

1. Mental Health Issues

Data Collection:

- Limited beds for short/long term in-patient services – people are returning to society too soon
- Persons on Medicare have harder time receiving care
- MHMR has clientele restricted services
- Need for indigent services, or funding to assist with those counselors offering services on a sliding scale based on income

Recommendations:

- More local inpatient beds
- More civil beds in State hospitals
- Transportation for mental health clients

Resources/Successes:

- MHMR - Crisis Care Center
- Family and Children Counseling Center
- FHC – to add a mental health clinic w/psychiatrist and child psychiatrist on staff
- Communities in Schools/MCYC

2. Sexually Active Minors

Data Collection:

- High teen pregnancy rate – one of the highest in the state
- Increase in juveniles with sexually transmitted disease
- Gap between Planned Parenthood and MCCAP
- Gang initiation factor – multiple partners on same day

Recommendations:

- Education and awareness with parents
- Outreach in schools
- Prevention efforts
- Collaboration among agencies

Resources/Successes:

- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau
- Waco-McLennan county Public Health District
- Carenet – pregnancy center
- Planned Parenthood – Nobody's Fool program
- McCAP

3. Difficulty for persons in rural areas to access transportation to services offered in City of Waco

Data Collection:

- Transportation remains to be a problematic area.
- Support grants and funding streams that offer these services, as well as for those nontraditional hours

Recommendations:

- Public awareness on existing programs
- Marketing existing services

Resources/Successes:

- Waco Transit
- Rural Transit District Contractors

4. Chronic Homelessness

Data Collection:

- A study done on the Waco homeless population found that there are 600 homeless individuals in Waco, 90 of which are chronic homeless.
- July 2005 the City of Waco adopted a 10-year plan called Opening Doors, Unlocking Potential – a plan to help get the chronic homeless off the streets.
- Lack of adequate health and mental health services
- Primary need of permanent housing
- Last year, the Central Texas Homeless Alliance (a networking organization serving six counties including McLennan) reported identifying 8,304 runaway, homeless and at-risk youth ages 10-17 in need of services.
- Local statistics reveal that arrests of runaway and homeless youth (under 18 years of age) increased significantly from 2000 to 2007.

Recommendations:

- Develop permanent housing for individuals
- Get homeless individuals into ongoing services
- Develop a street outreach program to address the homelessness issues of street youth by building trusting relationships with them, encouraging them to leave the streets, and providing assistance for them to move and adjust to safe and appropriate living arrangements.
- Provide a network of services to runaway and homeless youth that include outreach education, intervention and prevention services, counseling, shelter and related services.

Resources/Successes:

- City of Waco
- Mission Waco
- My Brother's Keeper (Emergency Shelter)
- Myers Centers
- Compassion Ministries
- Homeless Coalition – 30 agencies
- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau – Safe Place/Street Outreach Program

5. Lack of Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Data Collection:

- Lack of access to employment
- Lack of awareness of employment opportunities

Recommendations:

- Education and awareness to disabled population
- Increase services to assist with employment – develop competitive employment program

Resources/Successes:

- HOCTILC
- MHMR
- DARS
- DADS
- The Arc of McLennan County
- Mayor's Committee
- Mental Health – NAMI

6. Lack of Adequate Bi-Lingual Services

Data Collection:

- Lack of translators
- Cultural barriers
- Fear of using services
- Confusion to seeking and receiving services

Recommendations:

- Funding of translators
- More bi-lingual literature
- More culturally sensitive literature

Resources:

- AVANCE
- Department of State Health Services
- Waco-McLennan County Public Health District

7. Lack of Communication of Available Programs/Services to the Public and Providers

Data Collection:

- Lack of “one-stop shop” to find services
- Lack of seamless referral system or network

Recommendations:

- Manual for health & social services
- Forum for regular communication networking
- General quality health education

Resources:

- 211
- McLennan County Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)

8. Need to address chronic diseases in the community

Data Collection:

- Limited resources to provide education
- Lack of awareness
- Need more prevention education
- High rates of chronic diseases in our community (HIV, STD, Diabetes, Stroke)

Recommendations:

- More disease education and prevention
- Promote more intervention services and programs

Resources:

- Waco-McLennan County Public Health District
- Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- Hillcrest Trauma Center

Resources Available

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

Juvenile Justice:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
MADD	Victim Services	Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs, to include Minor in Possession (MIP) classes, outlet for those needing to do community service, youth in action programs, free school programs and provision of speakers for various needs or events.
The Freeman Center	Substance Abuse Treatment	Individual/Group counseling; relapse prevention, education and life skills training.
MCYC	School Social Work	Work with students in schools who are at-risk for dropping out. Also work with students who are in juvenile detention.
Waco Fire Department	City	Response to emergencies involving hazardous materials, medical emergencies, accidents, and fires. Conducts fire and arson investigations and provides public safety education. Works with Juvenile fire-setters.
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
Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYS)	Non-profit, 501 (C)(3) State and Federal grant funded	The mission of assisting troubled children, youth, and families is implemented through a multi-program continuum of care which includes Project Safe Place and Street Outreach, Option House Emergency Shelter and Assessment Center, Project FUTURE, and Community Youth Development project.
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.
Waco ISD	Public School	<p>Waco ISD works to ensure the success of all students. Through our collaborative Student Assistance Teams at all campuses WISD will maximize the normal resources of the school and, as needed, reach out to the community agencies to provide support to students and their families in need of “extra help” from additional community resource support.</p> <p>Waco ISD works in cooperation with the juvenile justice system to ensure students are successful with grades, attendance, and behavior.</p>
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe	Hospital	The Teen Safe Youth Traffic Safety Educational program focuses on teen traffic safety, driving responsibility, underage drinking, substance abuse, and driving under the influence. The program also educates parents on the laws relating to teen traffic safety. This prevention program is a combination of videos, simulations and written materials along with computer-based simulations. This program is FREE.
Advocacy Center	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;
Waco PD	Law Enforcement	Victims of Crime/Death Notifications/Transportation
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	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.
McLennan County	District Attorney	Prosecute criminal offenders and provide services to crime victims
Waco ISD PD	School Police	Full Service Police Agency
City of Hewitt PD	Municipal	Law Enforcement Services
Lacy-Lakeview PD	Municipal PD	Serves City of Lacy-Lakeview
Crawford PD	Municipal PD	Serves City of Crawford
Waco ISD	Public School	<p>Waco ISD works to ensure the success of all students. Through our collaborative Student Assistance Teams at all campuses WISD will maximize the normal resources of the school and, as needed, reach out to the community agencies to provide support to students and their families in need of “extra help” from additional community resource support.</p> <p>Waco ISD works in cooperation with the juvenile justice system to ensure students are successful with grades, attendance, and behavior.</p>

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;
Waco PD	Law Enforcement	Victims of Crime/Death Notifications/Transportation
Advocacy Center for Crime	501c3 non-profit	Advocacy Center provides 24 hour hotline services,

Victims and Children	organization	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.
McLennan County	District Attorney	Prosecute criminal offenders and provide services to crime victims
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.
Waco ISD	Public School	Waco ISD works to ensure the success of all students. Through our collaborative Student Assistance Teams at all campuses WISD will maximize the normal resources of the school and, as needed, reach out to the community agencies to provide support to students and their families in need of “extra help” from additional community resource support. Waco ISD works in cooperation with the juvenile justice system to ensure students are successful with grades, attendance, and behavior.
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	Free Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs
The Freeman Center	Substance Abuse	Detoxification Services- Medically monitored

	Treatment	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
Waco ISD	Public School	Waco ISD works to ensure the success of all students. Through our collaborative Student Assistance Teams at all campuses WISD will maximize the normal resources of the school and, as needed, reach out to the community agencies to provide support to students and their families in need of “extra help” from additional community resource support. Waco ISD works in cooperation with the juvenile justice system to ensure students are successful with grades, attendance, and behavior.
Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYS)	Non-profit, 501 (C)(3) State and Federal grant funded	The mission of assisting troubled children, youth, and families is implemented through a multi-program continuum of care which includes Project Safe Place and Street Outreach, Option House Emergency Shelter and Assessment Center, Project FUTURE, and Community Youth Development project.
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	Free Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs
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.
Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYS)	Non-profit, 501 (C)(3) State and Federal grant funded	The mission of assisting troubled children, youth, and families is implemented through a multi-program continuum of care which includes Project Safe Place and Street Outreach, Option House Emergency Shelter and Assessment Center, Project FUTURE, and Community Youth Development project.
HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	<p>Mental Retardation Services (254-757-3933) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (254-752-3451) Eligibility: Adults (18+) 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 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, counseling services (short

	Domestic Violence Shelter	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.
Waco ISD PD	Police	Truancy Prevention
Waco ISD	Public School	<p>Waco ISD works to ensure the success of all students. Through our collaborative Student Assistance Teams at all campuses WISD will maximize the normal resources of the school and, as needed, reach out to the community agencies to provide support to students and their families in need of “extra help” from additional community resource support.</p> <p>Waco ISD works in cooperation with the juvenile justice system to ensure students are successful with grades, attendance, and behavior.</p>
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe 254.202.8575	Hospital, Non-profit 501c3, grant-funded	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 254.202.8591 254.202.8986	Hospital, Non-profit 501c3, grant-funded	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 <u>free</u> educational classes and presentations to parents, caregivers, children, teenagers, and the community in general regarding child passenger safety and vehicle safety. 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. Kid Safe sponsors child safety seat check-up events and permanent fitting stations within its seven county service area.
Department of State Health Services	Public Health	<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.</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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Interagency Cooperation

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

The Planning Committee shared the different services they offered, as well as services offered by agencies and individuals that were unable to attend the planning meeting.

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

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The McLennan 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 McLennan 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, 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 McLennan County families struggling with problems described in the plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many McLennan 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 the issues in the outlined focus areas.

Contact Information

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