

**2009 AND 2010 COMMUNITY PLAN FOR THE COORDINATION OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES
SUBMISSION FORM**

Submitting County(s) Williamson County

Areas Represented:

Incorporated Communities (includes cities): Georgetown, Round Rock, Hutto, Taylor, Cedar Park, Leander, Liberty Hill, Thrall, Weir, Jarrell, Granger, Bartlett, Thrall

Unincorporated Communities: All other areas not within the above city limits

School Districts: Georgetown ISD, Leander ISD, Liberty Hill ISD, Taylor ISD, Jarrell ISD, Granger ISD, Round Rock ISD, Thrall ISD, Bartlett ISD, and multiple private and parochial schools

Date(s) of Community Planning Meetings: December 18, 2008 and February 6, 2009

Please check-off each of the following required attachments:

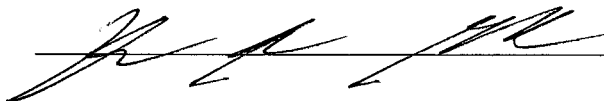
- Community Planning Leadership Team Form
- List of Community Planning Participants (including agency name; agency address, phone number, and fax number)
- Copies of Community Planning Meeting Sign-in Sheets
- Copies of Community Planning Meeting Minutes, if applicable
- Survey Results, if applicable
- Identified Funding Priorities Matrix

Date Community Plan was presented to Commissioners Court:

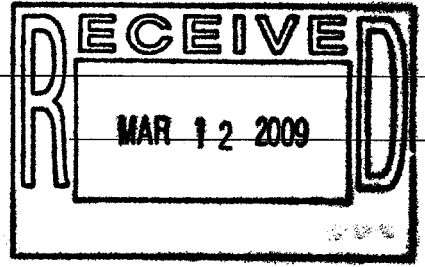
Name of Authoring Official/Entity:

Signature of Authorized Official:

Tuesday, February 17th, 2009
DAN A. GATTIS, Williamson Co. Judge



Date Received by CAPCOG:



Community Planning Leadership Team Form

Effective community planning requires gathering information through focus groups for the purpose of narrowing the scope of research and data that are incorporated into the Plan. Please list the names of participating members below.

Community Planning Members:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone/Fax</i>
Kathy Grimes	Commissioners Court	350 Discovery Boulevard, Suite 201, Cedar Park, 78613	kgrimes@wilco.org	260-4280 /260-4284
Shelly James	Sheriff's Office/Victims Assistance	508 Rock Street, Georgetown, 78626	sjames@wilco.org	943-1373/
Leo Dela Garza	Bluebonnet Trails MHMR	1009 N. Georgetown Street, Round Rock	leo.delagarza@bluebonnetmhm.org	244-8259/
Brenda Staples	Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center	1811 S. E. Inner Loop, Georgetown, 78626	Director@wilcoCAC.org	(512) 943-3701/8668-3970
LeAnn Powers	United Way of Williamson County	1111 North IH-35, Suite 220, Round Rock, 78664	leann@unitedway-wc.org	255-6799/238-9822
Bebe Johnson	Life Steps/Coalition on Underage Drinking	311 South Main Street, Georgetown, 78626	bebej@lifestepsCouncil.org	819-4200/930-5351
Willa Rosen	Round Rock ISD	3111 Round Rock Avenue, Round Rock, 78681	willa_rosen@roundrockisd.org	464-5466/
Marty Griffith	Community Supervision & Correction Department	301 S. E. Inner Loop, Georgetown, 78626	mgriffith@adultprobation.net	943-3502/930-6072
Cynthia Guerrero	Williamson County & Cities Health District	211 Commerce Cove, Round Rock, 78664	cguerrero@wcchd.org	248-3252/
Anita Martinez	Williamson County & Cities Health District	100 3rd Street, Georgetown, 78626	amartinez@wcchd.org	943-3607/
Patty Conner	Crisis Center (dba Hope Alliance)	1011 Gattis School Road, Suite 106, Round Rock, 78664	patty.conner@hopealliancetxt.org	255-1212/255-7331
Becky Harris	Crisis Center (dba Hope	1011 Gattis School Road,	beckyhwwwcc@yahoo.com	255-1212/255-7331

Community Overview

In the space below write a description of the County(s):

Williamson County is a central Texas county, just north of Travis County which contains the state capitol of Austin. The City of Georgetown lies along the IH-35 corridor and is the county seat. Physically, the eastern part of the county is level black land soil and the western part is rolling limestone hills, all drained by the San Gabriel River and tributaries. The county was organized in 1848 and named for Robert M. Williamson, pioneer leader and veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto. The county has a lively history including Comanche's, outlaws, Texas Rangers, the Chisholm Trail, cowboys, and sturdy pioneers. Today the county is a center for agribusiness, education and high-tech industry. The county hosts five major hospitals and four universities, including Southwestern University, Texas State University, Concordia University, and the Texas A & M Health Science Center College of Medicine in Round Rock.

Williamson County has 2,856 acres of parkland to handle the varied recreational interests of its citizens, including a substantial amount of miles of hike and bike trails. There are approximately 70 tennis courts, 69 soccer fields, 57 baseball fields, 64 softball fields, 20 football fields, 20 basketball courts, and 20 volleyball courts. In addition, there are numerous golf courses, city recreation centers and YMCA's to encourage healthy lifestyles.

The county covers 1,135 square miles and is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. The 2000 U. S. Census showed that the county population was 249,967 which reflected a 79% growth during the previous decade. In the 2000 census, the US Census Bureau reported numbers were comprised of 86,893 households, and 67,512 families in the county, with a population density of 220 people per square mile. The total housing units in Williamson County in 2000 was 90,325, with an average density of 79.5 per square mile. There are 50,796 households with one or more people under 18 years and 18,550 households with one or more people 65 years and over. The phenomenal growth continues as the estimated population in 2007 was 359,979, or 220,428 more residents having moved into the county since the 1990 census. The cities that comprise the population are Bartlett, Cedar Park, Florence, Georgetown, Granger, Hutto, Jarrell, Leander, Liberty Hill, Round Rock, Taylor Thrall and Weir. Round Rock is the largest city in the county with 95,992 population estimated in 2007.

Williamson County has a large group of working age adults (218,420) from 20-64 year of age, with the largest group being the 25-54 year old group. In 2006 the median age in the county was 33.6 years. The US Bureau of Census estimates that the ethnicity of the county in 2007 was comprised of 79.3% White Alone, 21.5% Hispanic Origin, 5.4% Black Alone, 0.5% American Indian Alone, 3.3% Asian or Pacific Islander Alone, 9.1% Some Other Race Alone, and 2.5% Two or More Races.

In 2006, 90.6% of Williamson County residents had attained a high school diploma or higher education level, with 37.1% having earned a bachelor's degree or higher. Occupations in the county include management, professional, and related (74,001); sales and office (50,452); service (22,993); construction, extraction, maintenance and repair (16,686); production, transportation and material moving (14,573); and farming, fishing, and forestry (70). The Texas Workforce Commission in 2007 estimated 5,919 firms in the county, with the majority being in professional/business services (1,219) and trade, transportation and utilities (1,181). Of the labor force of 193,072, there were 185,884 employed, with an unemployment rate of 3.7% (Dec. 2007). The per capita income in the

county is \$31,933 and the average wage per job is \$40,782. The median household income from the US Census Bureau in 2006 was \$62,494.

Identified Funding Priorities Matrix

	PRIORITIES	SUBSTANTIATING DATA
<p>Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Court and Training Programs Targeting Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program:</p> <p>Priority #1</p>		<p>Goals of pre-trial services are to maintain and improve professional liaisons with other law enforcement and social service agencies and to provide effective programs and sentencing alternatives to minimize the cost of the criminal justice system without increasing the risk to the community. State funding for the Pre-Trial Services and the Electronic Monitoring Program was eliminated. Program costs have been absorbed by the department in order to continue these programs.</p> <p>While Williamson County had an active Court Watch program, it has recently ended its efforts such that there is not a tool for monitoring the performance of the court system on an ongoing basis. Prior to ending its ongoing monitoring, the Court Watch group published a report of its experiences and observations which included comments related to possible improvements, investigations and training.</p>
<p>Priority #2</p>	<p>Court services/improvements (including specialized courts except drug courts)</p> <p>Investigation</p>	<p>The Williamson County Sheriff's office has one staff person providing computer analysis despite the increase in computer-related crimes.</p> <p>Having identified need for additional training by law enforcement and advocate organizations, the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center (WCCAC) is hosting the 2nd annual Central Texas Crimes Against Children Conference on April 9, 2009 at the Baca Center.</p>

		<p>Domestic violence incidents continue to be one of the most dangerous calls for law enforcement. Based upon the complex nature of this crime, it requires specialized training for proper investigation. These crimes are best handled by a specialized Domestic Crimes Unit with the goals of the unit being to decrease the chances of repeat victimization and, if future incidences occur, reduce the number and severity of harm perpetrated (Friday, Lord, Hartman, 2006).</p> <p>The Domestic Violence Unit significantly impacts whether suspects have new domestic violence incidents as reported to the police. Despite being a greater risk for recidivism because of the seriousness of the initial incident and prior domestic violence charges, Domestic Violence Unit suspects have lower offending prevalence in the future- 29% versus 37%. Suspects processed through the Domestic Violence Unit have fewer future incidents than suspects processed through regular patrol procedures (Friday, Lord, Hartman, 2006).</p> <p>Despite their proven effectiveness, currently, these specialized units are almost nonexistent in Williamson County.</p> <p>While Williamson County had an active Court Watch program, the effort has recently dwindled such that there is not a tool for monitoring the performance of the court system on an ongoing basis. Prior to ending its ongoing monitoring, the Court Watch group published a report of its experiences and observations which included comments on investigation, follow-up and training.</p>
<p>Priority #3</p>	<p>Training and Technology</p>	<p>Law enforcement officers encounter technology in every type of case. Technology usually presents itself in law enforcement cases in one of two ways. The first way it presents itself is when a computer or technical</p>

devices used to commit a crime. In these cases, the computer or device is an instrumentality of the crime as well as a possible storage location for evidence. Examples include online child exploitation, identity theft, online auction fraud, threats/harassment, and theft of intellectual property. The second way technology presents in criminal cases is when evidence in a case that is not a hi-tech offense, must be collected and analyzed. Examples include homicide cases where suspects exchange emails about a case, theft cases where stolen items are sold online, or robbery cases where the suspects use technology to plan and coordinate a heist. Local law enforcement are currently receiving limited ongoing training related to cyber crimes despite its increase and have identified the following training needs: Forensics; Online Solicitation of Minors; Computer Crimes; and Cell-Phone Tracking.

Specialized training and resources help judges "ensure that their own staff treat victims fairly and compassionately to help victims regain control over their lives, and to hold violators accountable (National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women paper on NAWA, 2005). Currently, this training is not provided in Williamson County in a structured, scheduled and ongoing fashion.

The local family violence and sexual assault center, The Williamson County Crisis Center (WCCC) has historically provided training to law enforcement officers on topics related to domestic violence and sexual assault. With the change in priorities of this funding source, the agency will no longer be able to provide this critical training in a formal way because it was being provided by a victim advocate. The only other formal training offered on topics related to family violence is the Sexual Assault and Family Violence Investigators Course offered once a year.

		<p>In order to maintain certification, a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) must complete the following requirements for re-certification: 1) complete 6 hours of continuing education regarding adult sexual assault survivors; 2) complete 6 hours of continuing education regarding pediatric sexual assault survivors; 3) complete 8 hours of pediatric sexual assault case/slide peer review that includes discussion of individual pediatric sexual assault cases and slides taken at the time of examination; 4) conduct eight adult sexual assault examinations using medical/forensic kit; and 5) complete ten pediatric sexual assault examinations.</p>
<p>Priority #4</p>	<p>The law enforcement system often depends on the voluntary participation of crime victims in order to investigate and prosecute criminals successfully. (Elias, 1986).</p> <p>The willingness of victims to come forward is vital to successful prosecution of criminals. Without assistance maneuvering through the legal system, more crime effectively will go unpunished, as the criminal justice system is "absolutely dependent upon victim cooperation" (Kennard, 1992).</p> <p>Victims who contact rape crisis centers or domestic violence shelters are often in need of immediate legal assistance or advice. The local center in Williamson County (WCCC) has been able to establish legal assistance with only one properly trained legal organization. This organization is only able to serve 20% of its' clients needs.</p> <p>Legal Advocacy</p>	<p>The law enforcement system often depends on the voluntary participation of crime victims in order to investigate and prosecute criminals successfully. (Elias, 1986).</p> <p>The willingness of victims to come forward is vital to successful prosecution of criminals. Without assistance maneuvering through the legal system, more crime effectively will go unpunished, as the criminal justice system is "absolutely dependent upon victim cooperation" (Kennard, 1992).</p> <p>Victims who contact rape crisis centers or domestic violence shelters are often in need of immediate legal assistance or advice. The local center in Williamson County (WCCC) has been able to establish legal assistance with only one properly trained legal organization. This organization is only able to serve 20% of its' clients needs.</p>
<p>Priority #5</p>	<p>Protective order assistance</p>	<p>In spite of the effective relationship between law enforcement and victim services in Williamson County, there is still need to improve the enforcement of protection orders especially in cross jurisdictional</p>

		<p>situations.</p> <p>The Williamson County magistrate issued 571 emergency protective orders in 2008 which is slightly down from 601 in 2007. The county attorney issued only 33 protective orders in 2008. This is despite the fact the number of incidences of family violence have increased.</p> <p>There is not a shared policy on the eligibility requirements for protective orders. Clients referred by the local family violence program are often discouraged by the county attorney's office from applying for protective orders despite the fact that the victim advocate has determined there is a high degree of lethality.</p> <p>There are 13 law enforcement agencies in Williamson County. Of these 13 agencies, only 4 have victim service assistants or coordinators. All of the other law enforcement agencies rely on the WCCC advocates to provide the liaison work between victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Even the agencies with a victim service coordinator rely heavily upon the WCCC advocates to provide assistance in these areas because employee's work load can be monopolized by other victim type cases.</p>
<p>General Victims Assistance – Direct Services</p> <p>Priority #1</p>	<p>Crisis services</p>	<p>During 2008, the local family and sexual violence program (Williamson County Crisis Center) provided crisis assistance to 4,460 survivors of these crimes and accompanied more than 30 sexual assault victims to the hospital. The number of survivors requesting assistance via the agency's 24-hour hotline has increased 46% (HHSC, 2008).</p>

		<p>Six out of ten cities in the county reported increased incidences of domestic and sexual violence (CAPCOG, Statistical Overview of Criminal Justice Related Activities, FY2009).</p> <p>Six hundred Forty Seven (647) children were provided forensic interviews through the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center, an 84% increase since 2005 (WCCAC, 2008).</p>
<p>Priority #2</p>	<p>Shelter</p>	<p>Victims typically have three immediate needs after experiencing the crime: 1) the need to be and feel safe, 2) the need to express their emotions; and 3) the need to know "what comes next" (US Department of Justice, First Response to Victims of Crime: A Guidebook for Law Enforcement Officers, April 2008).</p> <p>There is only one agency in Williamson County providing comprehensive services to victims of family and sexual violence. The Williamson County Crisis Center (WCCC) has documented a 29% increase in the number of family and sexual violence victims that were provided shelter over the last 12 months and for the last 22 months has had to find alternative refuge for 10-15 families every month. During 2008, WCCC provided 9,725 nights of safety to 441 women and children(HHSC, 2008).</p> <p>Of the 10 cities in Williamson County that reported, six indicated significant increases in the number of family violence incidences reported to law enforcement in 2006 when compared to previous years (Williamson County Statistical Overview of Criminal Justice Related Activities, CAPCOG, 2008).</p> <p>These increases can be, in part, explained by the fact</p>

		<p>that Williamson County remains one of the fastest growing counties in the United States (sixteenth) and includes 4 of the fastest growing cities in Texas (CAPCOG). Hutto has experienced a 665% increase in population between 2000 and 2006. Cedar Park, Georgetown and Round Rock are also among the 25 fastest growing Texas cities (US Census Bureau).</p> <p>It should be noted that although the number of family violence incidences reported to law enforcement has increased, "family violence and sexual assault continue to be very underreported crimes" (Williamson County Statistical Overview of Criminal Justice Related Activities, CAPCOG, 2008).</p>
<p>Priority #3</p>	<p>Multi-disciplinary teams and case coordination</p>	<p>Collaboration between the courts, attorneys, law enforcement and victim service providers improves court responses to domestic violence (National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women Paper, NAWA, 2005).</p> <p>The Williamson County Crisis Center (WCCC) facilitates the county's Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) which is made up of representatives from law enforcement, hospitals, victim services, county attorney's office, courts, the Children's Advocacy Center, CPS and APS. The number of cases coordinated by the SART has increased from an average of 2 per week to an average of 3 per week (Office of Attorney General, 2008). In 2008, more than 54 sexual assault exams were provided to child and adult victims of sexual assault in Williamson County (V. Barefoot, SANE).</p> <p>The SART members are currently exploring the possibility of creating an equivalent team for family violence cases, currently there is only informal collaboration.</p>

		<p>The Child Protection Team (CPT) is comprised of all of the entities that investigate and provide intervention for child abuse victims and their families in Williamson County. These entities include Child Protective Services, law enforcement, Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center staff, victims' advocates, and prosecution. In 2008, 200 cases were reviewed during 15 CPT meetings. (WCCAC, 2008)</p> <p>The Drug Endangered Children Team (DEC), consisting of Child Protective Services, law enforcement, prosecution, and the WCCAC, works in collaboration to investigate criminal cases involving children exposed to the manufacture and sale of illegal drugs. In 2008, the DEC team responded to two calls, and 18 children were interviewed at the WCCAC for DEC involvement. (WCCAC, 2008)</p>
<p>Priority #4</p>	<p>Professional therapy and counseling</p>	<p>Victims of domestic violence have higher rates of major depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and drug and alcohol problems than non-victims (Schechter, "Expanding Solutions for Domestic Violence and Poverty", 2000).</p> <p>According to a recent study of intimate partner violence, victims often develop psychiatric disorders - 68.2% suffered from major depressive disorders and 50% suffered from PTSD (Journal of Affective Disorders, Volume 66, Issue 2-3, Pages 133-138, M. Stein).</p> <p>The National Institute of Health Co-Morbidity Study found that 12.2% of men and 26.5% of women who were molested developed PTSD (Kilpatrick, Dean and Acierno, Journal of Traumatic Stress, 2003).</p> <p>The following studies have found the following mental health problems as a result of criminal victimization:</p>

		<p>-Thoughts of suicide (Kilpatrick, et al. 1992)</p> <p>-Attempting suicide (Kilpatrick, et al. 1985)</p> <p>-Developing alcohol or other drug abuse problems (Cottler et al. 1992)</p> <p>-Anxiety disorders such as panic disorder, agoraphobia, obsessive compulsive disorder (Saunders, 1992).</p> <p>The state and local Mental Health Mental Retardation (MHMR) system provides priority services to persons primarily diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depression, thus making many crime victims ineligible for available counseling services (Bluebonnet Trails MHMR, 2009).</p> <p>During 2008, Williamson County Crisis Center provided counseling to 1,367 survivors and had a wait list of more than 30 individuals throughout the year. (HHSC, 2008)</p> <p>The Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center provided 725 hours of counseling to 45 child victims of abuse with in 2008. The agency typically has a waiting list of 20 clients throughout the year (WCCAC, 2008).</p>
<p>Priority #5</p>	<p>Peer support groups</p>	<p>Peer support groups have long been recognized as an effective way to assist participants dealing with the after-effects of trauma. Peer support groups are empowering and provide participants with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A way to break down barriers of isolation; -A safe, confidential atmosphere for women or teens to express what is happening in their lives without having to fear the negative consequences of those revelations; -A naturally empathetic space, free from criticism and prejudice, which facilitates reflection and introspection.

		<p>The non-judgmental atmosphere of the group diminishes feelings of guilt, as well as defensive reactions such as justification. Women and teens are free to understand themselves better, identify their feelings, rescue their values and reconstruct their own identities.</p> <p>-A way of socializing participants' experiences through identification with other women. Peer support strengthens positive female role models, provides a sense of identity as women, and offers a space for identifying and transforming traditional roles and values.</p> <p>-A place where participants are able to work towards personal growth and change, but where individual choices and rhythms are respected.</p> <p>Williamson County Crisis Center facilitated 2,606.7 support group hours (386 sessions) for 306 family and sexual assault survivors. This included support group services for 20 parents of children who had been sexually assaulted, a fraction of the parents who were eligible for such services, based on the number of children who completed forensic interviews at the children's advocacy center. An additional 50 survivors were on a wait list for support group services. (HHSC, 2008)</p>
<p>Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Priority #1</p>	<p>Aftercare/Reentry</p>	<p>A comprehensive system of reentry and aftercare services makes a critical difference for youth leaving institutional confinement (US Department of Justice, Statistical Briefing).</p> <p>Youth who are released from institutional confinement are more likely to succeed if they have access to services that can help them thrive in a noninstitutional environment. When high-quality reentry and aftercare</p>

		<p>services are available, youth need to spend less time in confinement, and the overall cost of juvenile corrections can be reduced (US Department of Justice, Statistical Briefing)..</p> <p>Effective reentry/aftercare programs begin before a youth leaves a facility and involve the family and the community. Developing and testing new models of juvenile reentry/aftercare services is a major focus of the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).</p> <p>The total number of juveniles referred to probation in Williamson County increased 12% from 2003 to 2005 (CAPCOG, 2008).</p> <p>36% of the youth referred to the Texas Youth Commission were chemically dependent and 38% had serious mental health problems. (CAPCOG, 2008)</p>
<p>Priority #2</p>	<p>Mental Health Services</p>	<p>Williamson County has no public transportation system and many of our mental health consumers live in rural areas. Other consumers suffer from mental health disorders that make social gatherings or meetings difficult and some consumers and family members are unable to attend support groups due to scheduling conflicts. Web-based support serves all of these groups by bringing the support to the person instead of the person having to travel outside the home for support. A survey of teens and young adults (age 13-30) show the web is their primary source of information and assistance (Office of the Attorney General, 2008). The WCCC staffs the only local web based sexual assault hotline. (Rape & Incest National Network, 2008)</p>

		<p>Researchers estimate between 10% and 20% of American children are exposed to adult domestic violence every year (CAPCOG, 2008). A wide range of studies indicate that, on average, children who experience domestic violence exhibit higher levels of childhood behavior, social, and emotional problems than children who have not witnessed such violence. (United States Department of Justice – Office of Violence against Women).</p> <p>36% of the youth referred to the Texas Youth Commission were chemically dependent and 38% had serious mental health problems. 72% of these youth came from chaotic environments (CAPCOG, 2008)</p>
<p>Priority #3</p>	<p>Mentoring</p>	<p>2300 youth in Williamson County participated in drug prevention education, counseling and/or intervention programs. (United Way, 2009)</p> <p>72% of the youth referred to the Texas Youth Commission came from chaotic environments. 79% had parents who were never married or who divorced or separated (CAPCOG, 2008).</p> <p>Mentors offer students ongoing guidance, helping students improve self-esteem, improve academically, and understand the relevance of their school work to their daily lives and explore opportunities for the future. At any time, Big Brothers Big Sisters has a waiting list of 250 children to be matched. Girls can wait several months for a mentor. Because of the shortage of male volunteers, boys wait one to three years (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas, 2009).</p>
<p>Priority #4</p>	<p>Substance Abuse</p>	<p>Hutto High School students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program for 643 total incidents from 8-15-2006 to 4-05-2007. Included in this</p>

total were 205 referrals for possession, use, or sale of controlled substances. 104 were referrals for possession, use or sale of alcoholic beverages. Hutto middle school students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program for 289 total incidents from 8-15-2006 to 4-05-2007. Included in this total were 165 referrals for possession, use, or sales of controlled substances. (Hutto ISD, 2007)

Taylor Independent School District students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program 42 times for possession, sale or use of controlled substances during 2008. (Taylor ISD, 2008)

In Taylor, students are self-reporting alcohol use at alarming rates. 13% of 4th graders report using at some point in their lifetimes; 20.4% of 4th, 5th and 6th graders report having used drugs during the school year; 71.5% of Taylor youth, grades 7-12, report having used alcohol. 17.6% of these same youth report having had 5 or more beers at a time (LifeSteps Coalition on Underage Drinking, 2008).

According to 2006 Texas Student Survey (TSS) results, of the Williamson County elementary students who had been offered alcohol, a full 23% had "ever" tried alcohol, another 15% has used alcohol in the last year and 7% believed that alcohol was not dangerous or did not know if alcohol was dangerous.

According to 2006 TSS results, more than 62% of Williamson County high school youth had used alcohol "ever"; and 42% used in the last year. 6.7% said they had driven drunk between 1-10 times.

According to 2007 results on adults' perspectives in

		<p>Williamson Co., 45% report underage drinking as a "major" problem and 45% report underage drinking as a "moderate" problem.</p> <p>According to the 2004-2006 National Survey on Drug Use & Health Trends in Texas 2008, Region 7 (which includes Williamson Co.) has the lowest perception of great risk in drinking 5 or more drinks, once or twice a week. (binge drinking) (LifeSteps, 2008).</p>
<p>Priority #5</p>	<p>School Programs</p>	<p>A major new study reveals that students who participate in school-based programming, including counseling and mentoring, profit in multiple ways. Compared to students who do not experience these services in the school setting, they improve significantly with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Social and emotional skills, -Attitudes about themselves, others, and school, -Social and classroom behavior, -Conduct problems such as classroom misbehavior and aggression, -Emotional distress such as stress and depression and, -Achievement test scores and school grades. <p>Moreover, these positive results do not come at the expense of performance in core academic skills, but rather enhance academic achievement (Collaboration for Academic, Social, & Emotional Learning Update, 2007)</p>
<p>Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC)</p> <p>Priority #1</p>	<p><u>Substance Abuse Early Intervention and Prevention</u>. Programs or other initiatives designed to address the use and abuse of illegal and prescription and non-prescription drugs and the use of alcohol. Programs or other initiatives include control, prevention,</p>	<p>Hutto High School students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program for 643 total incidents from 8-15-2006 to 4-05-2007. Included in this total were 205 referrals for possession, use, or sale of controlled substances. 104 were referrals for possession, use or sale of alcoholic beverages. Hutto middle school</p>

	<p>and treatment.</p>	<p>students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program for 289 total incidents from 8-15-2006 to 4-05-2007. Included in this total were 165 referrals for possession, use, or sales of controlled substances. (Hutto ISD, 2008)</p> <p>Taylor Independent School District students were suspended or sent to the District Alternative Education Program 42 times for possession, sale or use of controlled substances during 2008. (Taylor ISD, 2008)</p>
<p>Priority #2</p>	<p><u>Rural Access.</u> Programs or other initiatives designed to provide prevention, intervention, and treatment services located outside a metropolitan area.</p>	<p>In 2007, 108 children were referred to the Williamson County Crisis Center (WCCC) for counseling, with a consistent 8-12 week wait time. Of those 108 children, only 62 had face-to-face contact with a counselor. During 2008, the wait list was reduced by 50% because of services offered by a counselor funded by a Safe & Drug Free Schools grant. The counselor was able to provide services to children at school negating the lack of public transportation or parents' inability to transport children during the work day. (WCCC, 2008)</p> <p>The Williamson County community has been exploring the possibility of a centralized, one-stop shop approach to serving crime victims in a largely rural community without public transportation. At this time such a system is not in place.</p>
<p>Priority #3</p>	<p><u>Family Stability.</u> Programs or other initiatives designed to strengthen family support systems in an effort to positively impact the lives of youth and divert them from a path of serious, violent, and chronic delinquency.</p>	<p>Hutto High School students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program for 643 total incidents from 8-15-2006 to 4-05-2007. 271 of these referrals were for fighting or violence against students. 63 referrals were for assault against a school employee, volunteer or other person. Hutto middle school students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program for 289 total incidents from 8-15-2006 to 4-05-2007. Included in this total were 124 referrals were for violations of the student code of conduct. Hutto elementary school students were</p>

		<p>suspended or sent to the on campus district alternative education program for 75 total incidents from 8-15-2006 to 4-05-2007. All of the 75 incidents resulted from violations of the student code of conduct. In speaking with the school academic counselors, more than 50% of the above referrals involved a student who had a history of family violence, teen dating violence, or sexual assault or who was identified as "at risk" for the same. (Hutto Independent School District, 2008)</p> <p>During 2008, the local family violence shelter provided safety to more than 240 children and their mothers, all of whom are at risk for further victimization and/or perpetration of violence. (HHSC, 2008)</p>
<p>Priority #4</p>	<p>Training. Programs or other initiatives designed to offer specialized training for staff working directly with "at-risk" youth or juvenile offenders that can positively impact the quality of the services, staff turnover rates, and program stability.</p>	<p>97% of school personnel that participated in the training program provided by the local family violence program, with the Safe & Drug Free School funds, felt that they were better equipped to serve children and teen survivors of family and sexual violence in the classroom as a result of the training. These trainings are provided only in the Hutto and Taylor school districts. (WCCC, 2008)</p>
<p>Priority #5</p>	<p>Justice System Impact. Programs or other initiatives designed to impact offender accountability and/or improve the practice, policies, or procedures within the juvenile justice system.</p>	<p>Williamson County has the second highest high school dropout rate and the 2nd highest juvenile crime rate in the 10 County Texas Region. (A profile of the Capital Area Community: Regional Summary 2006 and The Texas Kids Count Project, Austin, TX.)</p> <p>Youth who are released from the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) back to family residing in Williamson County are supervised by a Williamson County Juvenile Services via contract with the TYC. Current data on these TYC youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth on parole supervision at the start of 2007: 33 • Youth successfully discharged from parole in 2007 18 • Youth unsuccessfully discharged from parole in 2007: 15 • Youth returned to TYC for technical parole violations:

		<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth returned to TYC for new offense(s) committed: 0 • Youth on supervision at end of 2007: 15 • Parole supervision caseload monthly average in 2007: 27 • Formal referrals to Williamson County Juvenile Services in 2007: 1,251 - Approximately 78% of the formal referrals were juveniles between the ages of 14 – 16 (20 % 14 yrs old, 25 % 15 yrs old, 33 % 16 yrs old) - Approximately 62% of the formal referrals were males and 38% were females - In 2007, approximately 20% of the formal referrals were – FELONY offenses - In 2007, approximately 69% of the formal referrals were – MISDEMEANOR A or B offenses - In 2007, approximately 11% of the formal referrals were – MISDEMEANOR C & STATUS offenses
<p>State Fund 421</p> <p>Priority #1</p>	<p><u>Substance Abuse Early Intervention and Prevention.</u> Programs or other initiatives designed to address the use and abuse of illegal and other prescription and non-prescription drugs and the abuse of alcohol. Programs or other initiatives include control, prevention, and treatment.</p>	<p>Hutto high school students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program for 643 total incidents from 8-15-2006 to 4-05-2007. Included in this total were 205 referrals for possession, use, or sale of controlled substances. 104 were referrals for possession, use or sale of alcoholic beverages. Hutto middle school students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program for 289 total incidents from 8-15-2006 to 4-05-2007. Included in this total were 165 referrals for possession, use, or sales of controlled substances. (Hutto Independent School District, 2008).</p> <p>Taylor Independent School District students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program 42 times for possession, sale or use of</p>

controlled substances during 2008. (Taylor ISD, 2008)
In Taylor, students are self reporting alcohol use at alarming rates. 13% of 4th graders report lifetime alcohol use; 20.4% of grades 4, 5, and 6 report alcohol use during the school year; 71.5% of Taylor youth, grades 7-12, report having used alcohol; 17.6% of these same youth report drinking 5 or more beers at a time (Texas Student Survey, 2006).

According to 2006 Texas Student Survey (TSS) , of the Williamson County elementary students who had been offered alcohol, a full 23% had "ever" tried alcohol, another 15% has used alcohol in the last year and 7% believed that alcohol was not dangerous or did not know if alcohol was dangerous.

According to 2006 TSS results, more than 62% of Williamson County High School youth had used alcohol ever; and 42% used in the last year. The report also states 6.7% of young people, in Williamson Co., said they had driven drunk between 1-10 times.

According to 2007 results on adult's perspectives in Williamson Co., 45% report that underage drinking is a "major" problem and 45% report that underage drinking is a "moderate" problem.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use & Health Trends in Texas 2008, Region 7 (which includes Williamson Co.), has the lowest perception of great risk in drinking 5 or more drinks, once or twice a week. (binge drinking).

According to 2007 TSS results, both Georgetown and Round Rock youth report a lower perception of risk in using Marijuana than the rest of the State.

Family Stability. Programs or other initiatives designed to strengthen family

Hutto High School students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program for 643 total

Priority #2

support systems in an effort positively impact the lives of youth and divert them from a path of serious, violent, and chronic delinquency.

incidents from 8-15-2006 to 4-05-2007. 271 of these referrals were for fighting or violence against other students. 63 referrals were for assault against a school employee, volunteer or other person. Hutto middle school students were suspended or sent to the district alternative education program for 289 total incidents from 8-15-2006 to 4-05-2007. Included in this total were 124 referrals were for violations of the student code of conduct. Hutto elementary school students were suspended or sent to the on campus district alternative education program for 75 total incidents from 8-15-2007 to 4-05-2008. All of the 75 incidents resulted from violations of the student code of conduct. In speaking with the school academic counselors, more than 50% of the above referrals involved a student who had a history of family violence, teen dating violence, or sexual assault or who was identified as "at risk" for the same. (Hutto Independent School District, 2008)

During 2008, the local family violence shelter (WCCC) provided safety to more than 240 children and their mothers, all of whom are at risk for further victimization and/or perpetration of violence.

The Region 7 2002 assessment completed by Williamson County Health District revealed that this region, which includes Williamson Co. has the highest level of alcohol use in the state.

Priority #3

In 2007, 108 children were referred to the Williamson County Crisis Center (WCCC) for counseling, with a consistent 8-12 week wait time. Of those 108 children, only 62 had face-to-face contact with a counselor. During 2008, the wait list was reduced by 50% because of services offered by a counselor funded by a Safe & Drug Free Schools grant The counselor was able to provide services to children at school, overcoming the lack of public transportation and/or parents' inability to transport children during the work day. (WCCC, 2008)

Rural Access. Programs or other initiatives designed to provide prevention, intervention, and treatment services located outside a metropolitan area.

<p>Priority #4</p>	<p>Justice System Impact. Programs or other initiatives designed to impact offender accountability and/or improve the practices, policies, or procedures within the juvenile justice system.</p>	<p>The Williamson County community has been exploring the possibility of a centralized, one-stop shop approach to serving crime victims in a largely rural community without public transportation. At this time such a system is not in place.</p>
		<p>Williamson County has the second highest dropout rate and the 2nd highest juvenile crime rate in the 10 County Texas Region. (A profile of the Capital Area Community : Regional Summary 2006 and The Texas Kids Count Project, Austin, TX)</p> <p>Youth who are released from the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) back to family residing in Williamson County are supervised by Williamson County Juvenile Services via contract with the TYC. The TYC Parole Supervision Team is comprised of two full-time staff, a certified Juvenile Probation Officer and a Parole Aid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth on parole supervision at the start of 2007: 33 • Youth successfully discharged from parole in 2007: 18 • Youth unsuccessfully discharged from parole in 2007: 15 • Youth returned to TYC for technical parole violations: 12 • Youth returned to TYC for new offense(s) committed: 0 • Youth on supervision at end of 2007: 15 • Parole supervision caseload monthly average in 2007: 27 <p>Formal referrals to Williamson County Juvenile Services in 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Williamson County Juvenile Services handled 1,251

		<p>formal referrals in calendar year 2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 78% of the formal referrals were juveniles between the ages of 14 – 16 (20 % 14 yrs old, 25 % 15 yrs old, 33 % 16 yrs old) • Approximately 62% of the formal referrals were males and 38% were females • In 2007, approximately 20% of the formal referrals were – FELONY offenses • In 2007, approximately 69% of the formal referrals were – MISDEMEANOR A or B offenses • In 2007, approximately 11% of the formal referrals were – MISDEMEANOR C & STATUS offenses.
<p>Priority #5</p>	<p><u>Gang Prevention</u>. Programs or other initiatives designed to address issues related to juvenile gang activity, including prevention and intervention efforts directed at reducing gang-related activities.</p>	<p>The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force in Round Rock identified gang activity and prevention as a priority for the city in 2007. The Task Force identified the following statistics and needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The City of Round Rock Police Department has over 200 documented gang members, 75% of which are in high school. -A major indicator of gang related activity is graffiti. Graffiti on top of graffiti is a sign of rival gangs competing with each other. In 2004 there were 32 cases of graffiti, 2005 40 cases, 2006 over 100 documented cases of graffiti. -Other signs of increase: outward tattoos, clothes and middle school students with tattoos. -Action items include providing Safe Havens from 4:00pm - 7:00pm; increased parent involvement; and increased number of volunteers trained to work with youth