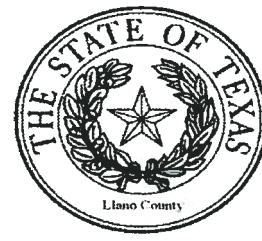


RECEIVED

FEB 11 2011

CAPCOG

**FY 2011 to 2013**  
**Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties**



**COMMUNITY PLAN**  
**FOR COORDINATION OF**  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND RELATED**  
**ACTIVITIES**

Approved by the Burnet County Commissioner's Court:

*DKlaeger*

Donna Klaeger  
Burnet County Judge

*2/8/11*

Date

## INTRODUCTION

The Burnet, Blanco and Llano Counties Community Plan for the Coordination of Criminal Justice and Related Activities is the culmination of many hours of work by representatives of the community planning participating agencies. It includes identified needs for the following criminal justice related issues:

- Law Enforcement
- Victims Services
- Prosecution/Courts
- Juvenile Services
- Substance Abuse/Mental Health

## COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTICIPANTS

Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center	Llano County Sheriff's Office
Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center	Burnet County Sheriff's Office
CASA for the Highland Lakes	Burnet County SO/Special Operations Unit
Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes	Marble Falls Police Department
33 <sup>rd</sup> /424 Juvenile Probation Department	Burnet County Constable Precinct 4
K-Star Youth Services	Horseshoe Bay Police Department
33 <sup>rd</sup> /424 <sup>th</sup> Drug Court Program	Cottonwood Shores Police Department
33 <sup>rd</sup> /424 <sup>th</sup> Adult Probation	Llano Police Department
33 <sup>rd</sup> /424 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Courts	Llano County Attorney Victims Services
33 <sup>rd</sup> /424 <sup>th</sup> District Attorney Victims Services	Burnet County Attorney Victims Services
Phoenix House	Granite Shoals Police Department
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (MHMR)	Blanco Police Department
Llano Alliance for Drug Intervention (LADI)	Johnson City Police Department
Heart of Hope Counseling Center	Blanco County Sheriff's Office
<b><u>County Liaisons</u></b>	<b><u>County Liaison Contact Information</u></b>
Burnet County-Debbie M. Carter	(512)-715-5229 <a href="mailto:grantadmin@burnetcountytexas.org">grantadmin@burnetcountytexas.org</a>
Llano County-Ron Wilson	(325) 247-7733 <a href="mailto:ron.wilson@co.llano.tx.us">ron.wilson@co.llano.tx.us</a>
Blanco County-Dean Myane	(830)-868-4447 <a href="mailto:coatty@co.blanco.tx.us">coatty@co.blanco.tx.us</a>

## PLAN SUMMARY

The 2011-2013 Criminal Justice Related Community Plan for Burnet, Llano and Blanco counties provides information and supporting data for the criminal justice related community priorities for five subject areas, including: Law Enforcement, Victims Services, Prosecution/Courts, Juvenile Services, and Substance Abuse/Mental Health. This plan is the culmination of about 50 area professional's work that involved months of planning, numerous meetings, emails, and phone calls.

## GEOGRAPHIC AREA COVERED

This plan covers Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties.

## GENERAL STATISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Burnet County is approximately 50 miles west of Austin and 75 miles north of San Antonio with a January 2010 estimated population of 44,560 (Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer). The majority of citizens identify as White (82%), with Hispanic (14%), Black (1.5%) and 2.5% identifying as mixed or other races. The 2008 median household income is \$48,321 and approximately 13% of the population lives below the poverty level. Major employers in Burnet County include local governments, school districts (2), and several large retail stores.

Llano County is located west of Austin and slightly northwest of San Antonio with a January 2010 estimated population of 19,324. The majority of citizens are White (93%), with Hispanic (5%) and Black (1%) and the remaining 1% identifying as mixed race or other races. The 2008 median household income is \$44,370 and approximately 13% of the population lives below the poverty level. Major employers in Llano County include local governments and the Llano Independent School District.

Blanco County is located about 40 miles west of Austin and 40 miles north of San Antonio with a January 2010 estimated population of 9,487. Blanco County is among the 88 Texas counties with less than 10,000 in population with the majority of citizens identifying as White (96%), with Black citizens comprising less than 1% and 3% identifying as mixed race or other races. The 2008 median household income is \$49,446 and approximately 11% of the population lives below the poverty level. Major employers in Blanco County include local governments, school districts (2) and Pedernales Electric Cooperative.

## AREAS ADDRESSED

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 1:

Reducing drug related criminal activity including, methamphetamine use, manufacturing, and trafficking.

#### Supporting Data:

- From 2009 to 2010 there has been a 350% increase in meth lab seizures (Burnet County Special Operations Unit (SOU)).

- Approximately 25 % of 2010 criminal cases in Burnet County Court and over 30% of criminal cases in District Court are directly drug or alcohol related (Office of Court Administration).
- Local law enforcement agencies estimate as much as 80% of all other criminal activity is drug and alcohol related. (Law enforcement and district judge estimate).

**Goals:**

Reduce drug trafficking, manufacturing, and related crimes by increasing patrol and investigative staff personnel.

**Strategies/Tasks:**

- Aggressive investigations and arrests.
- Increase Sheriff’s Departments patrol staff to ensure 24/7 coverage throughout the tri-county area.
- Increase small communities police department’s patrol staff to ensure 24/7 coverage and reduce the need for SO patrol deputies to respond to calls in those smaller communities.
- Increase cooperation and information sharing between all law enforcement agencies.

**Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Increase drug arrests by 10% in order to decrease other crimes being committed by drug abusers.
- Hire additional patrol officers to ensure 24/7 coverage in all communities.

Outcomes:

- Increased officer and community safety.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

Burnet County SOU currently investigates and seizes meth labs and has a mobile crime scene response/command center available to law enforcement in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

Burnet County Special Operations Unit (SOU) will be the leader in this effort with assistance from all other area law enforcement agencies. The strategies and tasks will be implemented by seeking additional funding for more patrol officers, increasing investigations and arrests and increasing cooperation and information sharing between area law enforcement agencies.

**IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 2:**

Dedicated Mental Health Officer (s) to transport citizens to in-patient mental health facilities when they have been deemed a danger to themselves or others due to mental health issues.

**Supporting Data:**

- In 2010, Burnet and Llano County Sheriff’s Deputies transported 130 MHMR patients in need of immediate in-patient assessment or treatment (Burnet/Llano SO data).
- Each transport takes a minimum of 4 hours and reduces the number of deputies on patrol. In 2009 the result was 540 patrol hours lost due to MHMR transports. (Burnet/Llano SO data)

**Goals:**

- To eliminate the need to take patrol deputies off patrol in order to transport MHMR patients.
- Maintain full patrol capabilities.

**Strategies/Tasks:**

- Hire dedicated MHMR law enforcement personnel.

**Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Reduce by 60% the patrol hours lost due to MHMR transports.
- Hire at least one dedicated MHMR law enforcement transport officer with specialized training in mental health issues.

Outcomes:

- Maintain full patrol capabilities.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

The Sheriff’s Departments are statutorily required to transport emergency MHMR patients to Austin for assessment and treatment. There has been much discussion about the need for a dedicated transport officer in Burnet, Blanco and Llano Counties but no funding has been available.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

The Burnet County Sheriff’s Department will be the leader in this effort with assistance from Llano and Blanco Counties. Burnet is the largest of the three counties and has the highest number of calls for emergency transport. The strategies and tasks will be implemented by seeking additional funding for dedicated transport officers through grants and/or county commissioner’s courts.

**IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 3:**

Safe and proper destruction of illegal narcotics, drug paraphernalia, biological materials and other hazardous material evidence post adjudication.

**Supporting Data:**

- Federal law (EPA) requires that hazardous material including narcotics and drug paraphernalia, be incinerated in compliance with established environmental protocols.
- The nearest incinerator stations are located in Dallas, Houston, and Beaumont.
- Texas Department of Public Safety no longer accepts items in need of incineration from other law enforcement agencies.

**Goals:**

- To provide a legal, safe and economical way to dispose of hazardous material evidence post adjudication.

**Strategies/Tasks:**

- Look for funding to acquire an incinerator for use by law enforcement agencies in Burnet, Blanco and Llano counties as well as any law enforcement agency within the CAPCOG region.
- Look for funding for training on proper use of the incinerator.

**Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Acquire an incinerator.

Outcomes:

- Decrease the cost of transporting hazardous materials
- Decrease the amount of hazardous materials being stored in law enforcement evidence rooms.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

Existing protocols require the materials to be transported to Dallas, Houston, or Beaumont for destruction because there is not an approved incinerator in the CAPCOG region.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

The Marble Falls Police Department will be the leader in this effort with assistance from other law enforcement agencies in Burnet, Llano, and Blanco Counties. The strategies and tasks will be implemented by seeking additional funding for a hazardous materials incinerator and training on its proper use.

#### **IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 4:**

Additional equipment, tools, and technology and personnel in order to investigate crimes, apprehend suspects and analyze evidence quickly and locally.

#### **Supporting Data:**

- The City of Marble Falls has the highest percentage of criminal activity in Burnet County and is home to the largest retailer in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties (Marble Falls Police Department).
- Thefts, assaults and hit and run collisions are very difficult to solve due to the poor quality of companies' surveillance images (Marble Falls Police Department).
- Burnet County and Llano County Sheriff's Offices report that due to the rural area and limited lighting, numerous suspects in the past year have evaded detection by hiding in dark, wooded areas.
- In 2010, one Warrant Officer in Burnet County processed 6,105 warrants with 2,868 being issued and 3,237 were closed (recalled, served or offender detained elsewhere) (Burnet Co Sheriff's Office).
- Burnet County Sheriff's Office manages warrants issued by their department as well as, 4 municipalities, 4 Justices of the Peace, the District Court and the County Court.
- Sheriff's Office staff report needing additional staff as they work through thousands of new warrants and a backlog of un-served warrants left from the previous administration (Burnet County Sheriff's Office).
- The Burnet County Sheriff's Office is responsible for every bond posted at the Burnet County Jail and must be in possession of the actual paper bond and must review each one by hand before it can be approved. (Burnet Co Sheriff's Office).

#### **Goals:**

- Serve warrants and apprehend suspects in a timely manner.
- Solve crimes quickly and locally.
- Increase officer and community safety.

#### **Strategies/Tasks:**

- Acquire a forensic video/still imagery enhancement system with video editing capability.
- Acquire thermal imaging and night vision technologies for area law enforcement agencies.
- Acquire other technologies and tools to help reduce crime and improve the criminal justice system.
- Expand the Bond/Warrant Division at the Sheriff's Offices to include an additional deputy.

#### **Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Acquire at least one forensic video/still imagery enhancement system for use throughout the three county areas.

- Outfit all night patrol vehicles with thermal imagers and night vision technology.
- Hire at least 1 additional deputy for the Bond/Warrant Division at the Sheriff's Office.

Outcomes:

- Increase the likelihood of successful apprehension and prosecution of offenders.
- Decrease the likelihood that suspects will evade detection and apprehension at night.
- Increase the usefulness of video and still surveillance images.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

Existing protocol is to send the poor quality video/still images to the DPS lab in Austin to be enhanced. This results in a several month delay in identifying and arresting the offenders. The Burnet County Sheriff's Office currently has one thermal imager for use by one night patrol deputy.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

The Marble Falls Police Department will be the leader in this effort with assistance from other law enforcement agencies in Burnet, Llano, and Blanco Counties. The strategies and tasks will be implemented by seeking additional funding for specialized image enhancement system, thermal imaging and night vision technologies as well as other tools and equipment to apprehend suspects and solve crimes. The Burnet County Sheriff's Office will be the leader in the expansion of a bond/warrant division.

**IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 5:**

Patrol cars for the Sheriff's Departments in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties as well as, municipal police departments within the counties.

**Supporting Data:**

- The oldest vehicle in Llano County SO fleet has 150,000 miles on it and is constantly down for repairs (Llano Co SO).
- In March 2011, as a result of additional hiring, Llano Co deputies will have to share vehicles as a result of fleet repairs (Llano Co SO)
- There are approx 35 vehicles in the Llano County SO fleet and ten (10) patrol vehicles have over 100,000 miles. (Llano Co SO)
- Burnet County has 27 patrol vehicles with mileage ranging from 25,000 miles to 155,000 miles. (Burnet Co SO).
- When a patrol deputy's vehicle breaks down they must use a "back-up" vehicle that has over 160,000 miles on it. (Burnet Co SO)
- Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties have a total of 2,612 square miles of land and 58 square miles of water. (U.S. Census Bureau).
- In Burnet and Llano Counties, over half of the county population lives in the county and the other half in municipalities. (U.S. Census Bureau).

**Goals:**

- To obtain lower mileage/reliable/safe vehicles to meet the needs of each law enforcement agency.
- Increase the reliability and safety of law enforcement vehicles.
- To replace vehicles at 100,000 miles rather than the current practice of 150,000 miles or more.

**Strategies/Tasks:**

- Acquire new patrol vehicles for sheriff’s departments and police departments in Burnet, Blanco and Llano Counties.

**Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Purchase 1-2 additional vehicles each year.

Outcomes:

- Increase officer safety.
- Decrease patrol vehicles that are out of service due to repairs related to high mileage.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

Llano County and Burnet SOs purchase 3 to 4 new vehicles each year to replace their oldest /highest mileage cars subject to the approval of their respective Commissioner’s Court, but generally need more cars than are approved.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

The Burnet County Sheriff’s Department will be the leader in this effort with assistance as needed from Blanco and Llano Sheriff’s Departments and municipal police departments. The strategies and tasks will be implemented by seeking additional funding for patrol vehicles.

## **PROSECUTION/COURTS**

### **IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 1:**

Adult Drug Court

#### **Supporting Data:**

- 25% of criminal cases in the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts is drug or alcohol related (Office of Court Administration)
- Current capacity of the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Drug Court program is only 45 (Drug Court Program)
- Current Drug Court capacity is limited due to having only one Drug Court Officer and one Drug Court Judge for the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts (Drug Court Program)
- Approximately 25% of drug court participants are not getting treatment services due to their inability to pay (Drug Court Program).

#### **Goals:**

- Hold drug and alcohol offenders legally accountable while diverting them from incarceration to treatment.
- Consider expanding the capacity of the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Drug Court Program.
- Provide drug court participants with support to remain drug free by using hair follicle testing, SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring) units and GPS ankle monitors.

#### **Strategies/Tasks:**

- Apply for federal drug court grant funds.
- Apply for other drug court funding.
- Identify sliding fee/free drug and alcohol treatment providers.

#### **Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Provide drug court services to at least 45 drug/alcohol offenders a year.
- Hire at least one additional Drug Court Officer.
- Hire at least one additional Drug Court Judicial Officer.

Outcomes:

- Divert drug and alcohol offenders from incarceration to treatment.
- Increase accountability of drug court participants by using higher levels of drug testing and electronic monitoring.
- Provide funding for treatment when the offenders are unable to pay.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

There is currently a Drug Court Program for the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts that can accept up to 45 offenders a year. Previous efforts to expand the program capacity by applying for federal drug court funds have been made, but not successful. Program will continue to look for additional funding sources.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

The 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Adult Probation Department (oversees Drug Court) will be the leader in this effort, with assistance from the Burnet County Grants Department. The strategies and tasks will be implemented by seeking additional funding for drug court program expansion through grants and/or commissioner’s courts within the districts.

**VICTIM SERVICES**

**IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 1:**

Additional therapy and counseling support services for victims of crime.

**Supporting Data:**

- In 2009 the District Attorney’s Victim Services provided victim services to 423 victims (7.5% increase over 2008) that included 2,325 (5.4% increase over 2008) different types of services (advocacy, referral, court notification, crime victim’s compensation, etc.).
- In 2010, 1759 domestic violence and sexual assault related crisis calls answered by Crisis Center staff and volunteers representing a 29% increase over 2009 calls.
- In FY 2010, Three (3) counselors provided 4,500 counseling hours to 729 adults and children This is a very large caseload per counselor at an average of 243 clients each and 1,500 counseling hours each. (Family Crisis Center).
- In 2010, one (1) counselor at The Hill Country Children’s Advocacy (HCCAC) center provided 713 counseling hours on site and in other counties as well as spending over 300 hours traveling in order to provide counseling and extended assessments of child abuse victims.

**Goals:**

- Provide additional counselors in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties for victims of crime.
- Enhance current counseling services by contracting with specialized therapeutic service providers.

**Strategies/Tasks:**

- Increase the number of counselors available for victims of crime.
- Increase the number of counselors skilled in treating victims of crime with other issues (substance abuse, mental health, etc.)

**Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Hire at least two (2) additional counselors to provide services to victims involved with the Crisis Center and Children’s Advocacy Center.
- Identify at least one (1) private counselor, skilled in the dynamics of criminal victimization, contract with victim’s services agencies to provide services.

Outcomes:

- Decrease fear associated with victimization related to violent crimes.
- Increase in knowledge and understanding of crime victim rights.
- Increase in feelings of safety as a result of individual and group counseling services.
- Increase understanding of the court process related to victimization.
- Reduction in trauma, crisis, stress, and/or anxiety of child victims and/or protective family member.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center 4.5 counseling staff that currently offer individual and group counseling to adult and child victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual abuse and sexual assault. Maintaining current levels of counseling services is paramount; however more assistance is needed to serve this population. Counselors travel over 5000 miles to provide counseling services to victims and survivors within their communities due to barriers experienced by families related to transportation and financial limitations. Additional need exists as the increase in acute or chronic mental health issues and/or substance abuse issues continues to rise requiring specialized therapeutic approaches for some victims and survivors.

The Hill Country Advocacy Center employees 2 counseling staff that currently offer individual and group counseling to children and their families who have experience all forms of child abuse. Counselors also travel within Burnet, Blanco and Llano counties offering counseling services to child victims and their families.

These two agencies are the primary agencies addressing these issues within this three county region of Burnet, Blanco and Llano counties.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center and the Hill Country Advocacy Center will maintain and enhance current level of counseling service provision by supporting current counseling staff and increasing number of counseling staffing to meet the needs of victims and survivors of violent crime as well as secondary victims. Crimes include but are not limited to child abuse, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault. Utilize contract-counseling professionals to supplement and enhance current counseling program services to meet the unique needs of victims experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and child abuse within the communities located in community plan service counties.

Collaboration of victim services providers does and will continue to occur to avoid possible duplication of victim related services. This will be accomplished through participation in Child Protective Team meetings, Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) meetings, and memorandums of understanding.

## **IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 2:**

Crisis Intervention, including emergency shelter and support services for victims of family violence and sexual assault.

### **Supporting Data:**

- 235 victims of domestic violence receiving emergency shelter at the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center .While this is a decrease from 2009, the acuity of their needs has increased, particularly in finding permanent, safe and affordable housing (FY 2010 HLFCC).
- 245 victims of sexual assault receiving services from the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center, representing a 10% increase over 2009. (FY 2010 HLFCC)
- 713 direct service counseling hours were provided by the Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center and 1,198 primary and secondary victims were provided services. (FY 2010 HCCAC)
- 164 child victims of abuse from Blanco, Burnet & Llano Counties were interviewed at the Hill County Children's Advocacy Center as part of the crisis intervention process involved in the investigation of child sexual/physical abuse and/or traumatic events to children.
- The Hill Country CAC provided crisis intervention services to 582 secondary (non-offending) family members, through family intakes, family/peer support groups, assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation, follow-up services through referrals to outside agencies to meet the needs of the family.
- Crisis intervention is also provided by coordinating case management, MDT meetings. In the past year 264 cases were reviewed, with multiple agencies involved in all phases of the victim's case from crisis intervention, case investigation, prosecution, and continued services to help with the healing process, i.e., counseling and follow-up. (HCCAC )
- Crisis intervention is also provided through the ability to provide on-site sexual abuse/assault medical exams, 37 in the past twelve months, for child victims.(HCCAC)
- 10 % of felony aggravated assault cases involved family violence.( 2009-33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Victim's Services Division)
- From 2008 to 2009, there was a 22% increase in the number of felony child physical abuse cases and a 13% increase in felony child sexual abuse cases (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Victim's Services Division)

### **Goals:**

- Provide 24-hour emergency shelter services for victims of family violence, 24-hour crisis hotline for victims of family violence and sexual assault and 24-hour access to emergency response, assistance, and support.
- Provide crisis intervention and support through-out the criminal legal process.
- Provide emergency food, clothing and financial assistance to victims of family violence and sexual assault.
- Provide forensic interviews for child victims of abuse.

- HCCAC will continue to coordinate MDT meetings and even plans are underway to establish a team meeting specific to Blanco County, held in Blanco County, to encourage participation by all agencies involved in the investigation of child sexual abuse/assault cases.
- Continue to provide qualified personnel the space and equipment for sexual assault exams and the collection of forensic evidence in child sexual abuse/assault cases.

**Strategies/Tasks:**

- Maintain current level of emergency and crisis support services for victims of family violence and sexual assault.

**Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Maintain currently levels of personnel who offer 24-hour emergency shelter services, 24-hour crisis hotline response and 24-hour access to emergency response, assistance, and support.
- Maintain emergency food, clothing and financial assistance to victims of family violence and sexual assault.

Outcomes:

- Reduction in trauma, crisis, stress, and/or anxiety of child victims and/or protective family member.
- Increase in knowledge and understanding of crime victim rights and the criminal legal process.
- Increased feelings of safety as a result of receiving emergency shelter and support services.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center offers access to a 24 hour emergency shelter for victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The facility is located within Burnet County and services three other counties including Blanco, Llano, and Lampasas. Ensuring the availability of this life saving program is essential since this facility is the only emergency shelter dedicated to this service within this service area.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center will continue to maintain the only 24-hour family violence emergency shelter available for Burnet, Blanco Llano, and Lampasas Counties. Additional services will include a 24-hour crisis hotline and 24-hour emergency response and crisis intervention services for victims of family violence and sexual assault.

### **IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 3:**

Education, training, and awareness programs focused on reducing family violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

#### **Supporting Data:**

- From 2008 to 2009, there was a 22% increase in the number of felony child physical abuse cases and a 13% increase in felony child sexual abuse cases (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Victim's Services Division)
- Yello Dyno-the child abuse prevention program provided education to over 2,000 children in Burnet, Blanco and Llano school districts (HCCAC, 2010).
- In 2010, the need for more Yello Dyno classes has grown, but have not been met because of restraints on HCCAC personnel to train, monitor, and coordinate the current schedule of school districts, 5 and number of schools, 11 in Blanco, Burnet, and Llano counties. The child population of these counties totals 14,709 and we have only provided educational and awareness programs to 2, 087 children or approximately 14% (HCCAC).
- Over 200 professional and community members received free training from the Bridging the Gap training series in 2009-2010. (HCCAC)
- In FY 2010, Over 2500 middle and high school students were provided with the Primary Prevention Healthy Relationship Curriculum and five (5) schools had their requests for turned down due to lack of resources (HLFCC, 2010)

#### **Goals:**

Provide awareness presentations and events that educate the general public about violent crime statistics, the effects on victims and survivors, cost to the community and reduction of risk. Violent crime includes domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse (including physical & sexual abuse), and drug and alcohol related crimes.

#### **Strategies/Tasks:**

- Continue to provide Yello Dyno and Bridging the Gap professional and community trainings (HCCAC).
- Continue to provide Healthy Relationship Curriculum presentations in area Middle and High Schools (HLFCC).
- Community education presentations to parent groups, community members and professionals (HLFCC).

#### **Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Hire at least one additional Violence Prevention Educator.
- Train at least two volunteers to present the healthy relationships curriculum in area schools.
- Maintain current level of crisis intervention services and coordinated response to child victims and their non-offending family members.
- Conduct forensic interviews to approximately 300 children alleged victims of abuse.
- Maintain crisis intervention services to child victims and their non-offending family members.

Outcomes:

- Increase in knowledge of the factors that allow family violence, sexual assault, dating violence and child abuse to occur.
- Increase in knowledge of strategies that help reduce or eliminate violence within communities located in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties.
- Increase awareness and education to adults and children in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties to help reduce child victimization.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center currently offers a Healthy Relationship Curriculum in area middle and high schools located in Burnet, Blanco, Llano, and Lampasas counties. This 8-week curriculum is focused on root cause effects that sustain violence and risk factors that may lead to intimate partner violence. This curriculum is offered in area schools but is currently limited due to funding. Only one Prevention Educator is currently available to administer the program. Additional Educators could expand this further into other area schools.

HCCAC continues to offer Yello Dyno classes and will look to expand volunteer network to provide more classes. HCCAC has plans to go to the communities it serves to provide Bridging the Gap training with plans underway to conduct its first training, 2011, in Blanco County.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center (HLFCC) and the Hill Country Children’s Advocacy Center (HCCAC) will both take the lead in this area. The HLFCC will focus on teaching youth about healthy relationships and how to avoid abusive ones and the HCCAC will focus on teaching children about how to avoid and/or report physical and sexual abuse.

**JUVENILE SERVICES**

**IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 1:**

Mental Health Services

**Supporting Data:**

- 95 % of children in the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA ) program need mental health services and few are receiving them (HL CASA). All children who are removed from their families because of neglect or abuse need, at a minimum, assessment and counseling. The 5% not acknowledged here are too young for either.
- Less than 10% of juveniles on probation in FY 2008 received mental health services due to lack of providers. (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department).

- School Individual Education Plans (IEP) are not adequately addressing the needs of individual children, especially children with mental health issues. Section 504 of the Civil Rights Act requires that students with special needs be assessed and an educational plan be designed and implemented to meet the educational needs of the student, but does not address the needs of a student outside the educational framework (area youth services providers)
- The 2009 juvenile probation activity referral rate, in comparison to the juvenile population (ages 10-17) is 11% for Blanco County, 37% for Burnet County and 30% for Llano County (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department).

**Goals:**

- To expand the capacity of local out-patient, mental health services available to juveniles and their families.
- To provide local youth residential treatment facilities so that the families can be actively involved in the treatment process.

**Strategies/Tasks:**

- To encourage local implementation of mental health services.
- To continue working through the planning consortium to meet the critical needs for mental health needs.

**Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Identify at least one additional agency or service provider to provide free or sliding scale services.

Outcomes:

- To prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.
- To provide mental health services to juveniles already involved in the juvenile justice system to help break the cycle of criminal behavior.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

K' Star Youth and Family Services have one Youth and Family Services Specialist for Burnet County and one for Blanco and Llano counties. There is an office in Marble Falls and they offer extended office hours if needed and K' Star does not charge for services. There are a few private practice counselors/therapists within the three counties that provide individual services for juveniles with insurance. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services also provides some mental health services for children.

**Priority Level:**    High       Medium        Low

### **Implementation:**

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services will take the lead on implementing this identified need with assistance from other area youth services providers as needed.

### **IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 2:**

Juvenile drug and alcohol treatment programs.

### **Supporting Data:**

- In FY 09 there were 187 referrals (offense reports) to Juvenile Probation and 22% were for drug/alcohol offenses. 75% of the referrals were from Burnet County, 6% from Blanco County, and 19% from Llano County (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department).
- In FY 2010 there were 156 referrals to Juvenile Probation and 24% were for drug/alcohol offenses. 72% of the referrals were from Burnet County, 6% from Blanco County, and 22% from Llano County (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department).
- The 2009 juvenile probation activity referral rate, in comparison to the juvenile population (ages 10-17) is 11% for Blanco County, 37% for Burnet County and 30% for Llano County (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department).

### **Goals:**

- To encourage and support efforts for local residential and out-patient drug/alcohol treatment for juveniles and their families.
- To encourage and support drug and alcohol prevention programs to prevent youth from becoming drug/alcohol abusers.

### **Strategies/Tasks:**

- Explore the possibility of establishing a juvenile drug court to divert juveniles to treatment rather than incarceration.
- To address the fact that juvenile drug/alcohol abuse is a family problem and make sure that families are involved in the process.

### **Outputs/Outcomes:**

#### Outputs:

- Increase the availability of drug and alcohol support services for juveniles already in the juvenile justice system and those with a high probability of future involvement.

#### Outcomes:

- To reduce and/or prevent juvenile drug and alcohol use by all juveniles.
- To reduce drug and alcohol use by juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

K'Star Youth and Family Services provide some individual and family drug counseling services in Burnet, Blanco and Llano Counties. Llano Alliance for Drug Intervention (LADI) provides individual and group counseling services in Llano County and several private practice counselors and therapists provide services.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

Implementation will be a collaborative effort between Boys and Girls Club, Juvenile Probation, school districts and other professionals with specific knowledge about juvenile alcohol and drug use and abuse.

**IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 3:**

Juvenile justice prevention programs

**Supporting Data:**

- The 2009 juvenile probation activity referral rate, in comparison to the juvenile population (ages 10-17) is 11% for Blanco County, 37% for Burnet County and 30% for Llano County (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department).

**Goals:**

- To decrease youth involvement in the criminal justice system.

**Strategies/Tasks:**

- To support agencies providing character building and prevention & intervention programs.

**Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- To provide liaisons between school, family, and program
  - a. for drug/alcohol prevention
  - b. character building
  - c. positive peer interaction
  - d. team building
  - e. success in school
  - f. increased physical activity

Outcomes:

- To prevent increasing the number of youth involved in juvenile justice system even with the increase in population
- Increased graduation percentages
- drug/alcohol Education for families
- Positive peer interaction – anti-bullying

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

The Boys & Girls Club of the Highland Lakes provides intervention services in Burnet County. The 33<sup>rd</sup> and 424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts have a mentorship/intervention program that works with some of the juvenile probationers.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Highland Lakes will take the lead on this issue with assistance from other area youth services providers and the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department as needed.

**IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 4:**

Vocational/GED training for youth who will not be attending college.

**Supporting Data:**

- There are no vocational training programs in the area, other than those available in the public schools, to train youth who will not be attending college for skilled, higher wage jobs (Workforce Solutions of the Rural Capital Area).

**Goals:**

- To provide youth with training opportunities to get jobs that will provide living wages.
- To reduce the likelihood that youth will participate in criminal behavior to increase their income.

**Strategies/Tasks:**

- To support the creation of a vocational training center.

**Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Open a vocational training center in the Highland Lakes area.

Outcomes:

- Increase training opportunities for youth who will not be attending college.
- Decrease the likelihood that youth not attending college will become involved in the juvenile justice system.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

Literacy Highland Lakes offers GED classes and support to pay for the test and a few area churches also offer this service. The Marble Falls ISD, the Marble Falls Economic Development Corporation, Central Texas College, and other entities are working to create a regional vocational center in order to provide locally based vocational training opportunities.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

The Marble Falls Economic Development Corporation is currently leading the process of bringing vocational training to the area and will continue to do so in coordination with Central Texas College and the Marble Falls Independent School District.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE/MENTAL HEALTH**

**IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 1:**

Specialized drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, and support services for victims of crime.

**Supporting Data:**

- Victims of crime, particularly family violence, child abuse and sexual assault often have issues with drugs and alcohol (Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center).

**Goals:**

- Provide specialized therapeutic services to assist victims and survivors of violent crimes (including child abuse, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual violence, etc.) experiencing mental illness or substance abuse issues.

**Strategies/Tasks:**

- Increase the number of counselors skilled in treating victims of crime with other issues (substance abuse, mental health, etc.)

**Outputs/Outcomes:**

Outputs:

- Hire at least two (2) additional counselors to provide services to victims involved with the Crisis Center and Children’s Advocacy Center.
- Identify at least one (1) private counselor, skilled in the dynamics of criminal victimization, contract with victim’s services agencies to provide services.
- Identify and provide cross training with potential contract counselors and specialty agencies located within the service area.

Outcomes:

- Decrease barriers to counseling and service provision attributable to mental illness and/or substance abuse issues.
- Victims of violent crime will have access and receive counseling services within their communities.
- Victims of violent crime will receive specialized mental health interventions.
- Group counseling sessions will be available to victims of violent crime within their communities.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

Victims and survivors experiencing acute or chronic mental illness have limited resources. Local community mental health service providers appear to be understaffed and unavailable due to a reduced workforce and funding for services. Substance abuse treatment services are limited and costly.

The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center and the Hill Country Advocacy Center will maintain and enhance current level of counseling service provision by supporting current counseling staff and increasing number of counseling staffing to meet the needs of victims and survivors of violent crime as well as secondary victims. Crimes include but are not limited to child abuse, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault. An emphasis will be placed on securing counselors with experience in dealing with acute and/or chronic mental illness and/or substance abuse issues.

Utilize contract-counseling professionals to supplement and enhance current counseling program services to meet the unique needs of victims experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and child abuse within the communities located in community plan service counties.

Collaboration of victim services providers does and will continue to occur to avoid possible duplication of victim related services. This will be accomplished through participation in Child Protective Team meetings, SART meetings, and mutual memorandums of understanding.

**Priority Level:** High  Medium  Low

**Implementation:**

The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center and the Hill Country Children’s Advocacy Center will collaborate to take the lead on this issue with assistance from other victim’s services providers as needed.