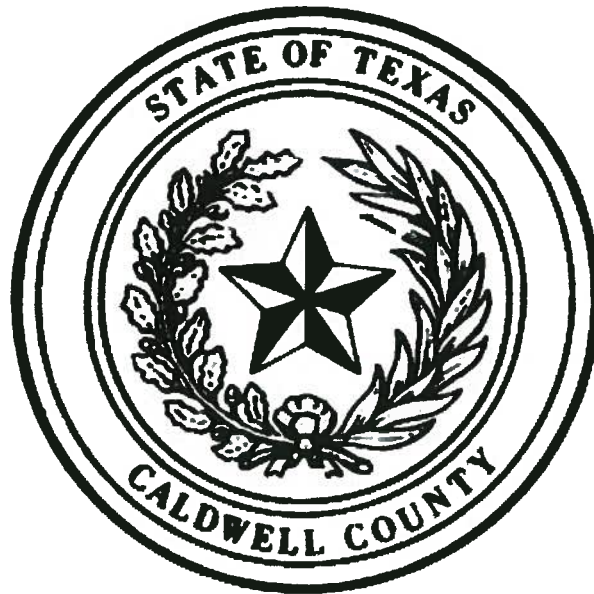


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Caldwell County Community Plan

For Coordination of Criminal Justice and Related
Activities

2011 - 2013

Date approved by Caldwell County Commissioner's Court:
December 20, 2010

Approved : *Ronnie Duesterheft*
Honorable Ronnie Duesterheft
County Judge
Caldwell County, Texas

12/20/10
Date

FILED this 30th day of Dec 2010
Nina S. Sells
NINA S. SELLS
COUNTY CLERK CALDWELL COUNTY, TEXAS

Mission Statement

The mission of the Caldwell County Community Planning Committee is to provide a venue for various agencies to communicate available services to other agencies and identify the lack of resources in our community.

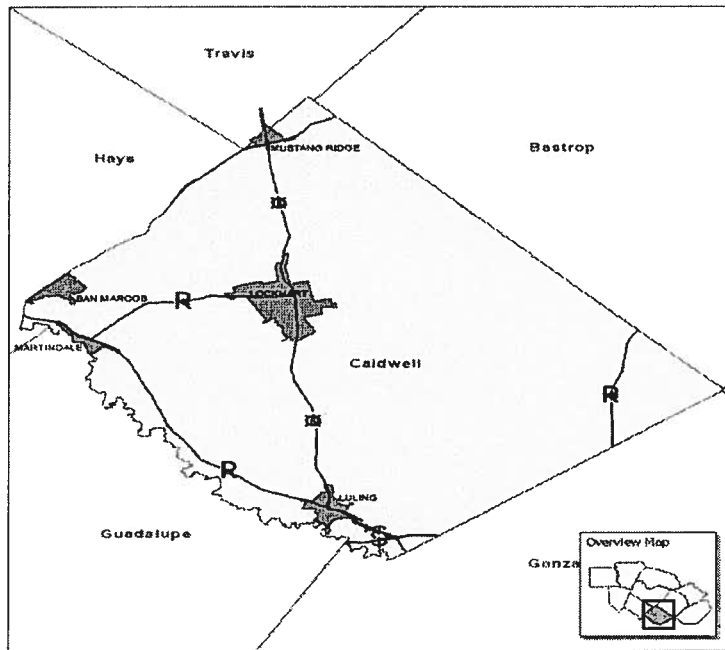
Goal Statement

The main goal of the Caldwell County Community Planning Committee is to follow the progress of current services and update the services as needed to address the changing needs of our population. By meeting yearly we are able to:

- Communicate existing services through resource reports and meetings.
- Address gaps in our community and work towards updating the plan as necessary to enhance current services.
- Continue to monitor programs for benchmarking purposes.
- Implement or modify current services to address gaps in services with or without additional funding

Geographic Areas Represented

This plan covers Caldwell County, including the municipalities of Lockhart, Luling and Martindale, the school districts of Lockhart, Luling and Prairie Lea and the organizations of the judicial district and region.



Caldwell County

Map Legend

— Major Roads
Travis City Limits

1 inch equals 5 miles
0 4 8



Mapdata © 2011 ESRI, Inc. Produced on 3/29/2011. This map data current as of November 2009. The additional information CONCERNING THIS MAP IS AS FOLLOWS: The Central Area Planning Council (CAPC) provides this map and/or data as a service and does not warrant its accuracy or completeness. This is provided as a general informational only and is not intended to be used as a basis for any decision.

General County Demographics

County Population Data

1980 Census	23,637
1990 Census	25,392
2000 Census	32,194
2008 estimate	36,899

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

City Population

	1990	2000	2008 est.
Lockhart	9,205	11,615	13,661
Luling	4,661	5,080	5,458
Martindale	904	953	1,148

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Age Composition (2006 – 2007)

	2006	2007	% Growth
Under 5 years	2,368	2,696	13.9%
5 to 9 years	2,453	2,171	-11.5%
10 to 14 years	2,620	3,072	17.3%
15 to 19 years	2,523	2,560	1.5%
20 to 24 years	1,893	2,860	51.1%
25 to 34 years	4,552	5,340	17.3%
35 to 44 years	5,056	5,221	3.3%
45 to 54 years	4,191	4,837	15.4%
55 to 59 years	1,340	1,927	43.8%
60 to 64 years	1,179	1,510	28.1%
65 to 74 years	2,064	1,973	-4.4%
75 to 84 years	1,351	1,392	3.0%
85 years and older	604	842	39.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Ethnicity Composition (2008)

White Alone	66.4%
Black Alone	8.3%
American Indian Alone	0.6%
Asian or Pacific Islander Alone	0.4%
Some Other Race Alone	21.1%
Two or More Races	3.1%
Hispanic Origin	47.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Labor Force Information (Dec. 2008)

Labor Force 15,995
 Unemployed 968
 Unemployment Rate 6.1%

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

Labor Force Information (Sept. 2005)

	2000	2003	%Growth
Average Wage per Job	21,380	23,879	11.7%

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

Caldwell County Income(2007)

Total households	11,287
Less than \$10,000	956
\$10,000 to \$14,999	747
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,600
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,469
\$35,000 to \$49,999	1,979
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2,227
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,346
\$100,000 to \$149,999	665
\$150,000 to \$199,999	174
\$200,000 or more	124

Uniform Crime Report- Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009
Family Violence	206	181	268
Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2	0	0
Forcible Rape	12	16	10
Robbery	5	18	10
Aggravated Assault	124	126	148
Burglary	249	212	246
Larceny	523	446	495
Motor Vehicle Theft	30	14	25
TOTAL	945	832	950

Community Planning Team

Community Planning Chairperson:

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
Jay Monkerud	Caldwell County Juvenile Probation	312 E. San Antonio St., Lockhart, TX 78644	monkerud@ccjpd.net	512-398-5400

Committee Participants:

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
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Marissa Mendez	Caldwell County Juvenile Probation	312 E. San Antonio St., Lockhart, TX 78644	mendez@ccjpd.net	512-398-5400
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Nicole Douglass	Casa of Central Texas	104 E. MLK Dr. San Marcos, TX 78666	kkey@casacentex.org	512-392-3578
Judge Todd Blomerth	421 st District Court Judge	201 E. San Antonio St., Lockhart, TX 78644	toddblomerth@austin.rr.com	512-398-1807
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Elva Gonzalez	Hays-Caldwell Women's Center	P.O. Box 234, San Marcos, TX 78667	egonzalez@hwc.org	512-396-3404
Melissa Contreras	Connections	215 Bufkin Ln., Lockhart, TX 78644	mcontreras@connectionsnonprofit.org	512-398-6833

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
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Ron Heggemeier	Caldwell County District Attorney	201 E. San Antonio St., Lockhart, TX 78644	rheggemeier@austin.rr.com	512-398-1811
Judy Thomas	Caldwell County District Attorney	P.O. Box 869, Lockhart, TX 78644	Judy.thomas@austin.rr.com	512-398-1811
Anita Deleon	Connections	215 Bufkin Ln., Lockhart, TX 78644	adeleon@connectionnonprofit.org	512-398-6833
Ted Crow	Caldwell County District Attorney	201 E. San Antonio St., Lockhart, TX 78644	tvcrow@gmail.com	512-398-1811
Denise Contreras	Hays-Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse	1901 Dutton Dr., San Marcos, TX 78666	denise@hayscaldwellcouncil.org	512-396-7695
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Identification of Community Priorities

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 the County. Below is a discussion of the identified needs, data and statistics that explain the manner in which the needs are being reported, and strategically how responses to these community issues could be improved.

Juvenile Issues

Identified Need 1

Maintain/Expand Support Services

Maintain and expand support services to include prevention and intervention programs for at-risk juveniles and families who demonstrate a need for such services to include counseling, tutoring, mentoring, character development, education and other social services. Safety and prevention programs to address mental illness, juvenile crime, family violence, substance abuse and teen pregnancy.

“At-risk” may include one or more of the following characteristics:

- Unsupervised youth
- Repeated disciplinary problems
- Repeated unexcused absences or withdraw from school
- The absence of one or both parents in the home
- Low self esteem and/or life-goal expectations
- Family violence/abuse victims
- History of substance abuse (by parent and/or youth)
- Economically disadvantaged

Supporting Data

Caldwell County is located in one of the fastest growing parts of Texas. According to US Census reports between 2000 and 2009, Caldwell County has seen a 17.5% increase in population. Williamson County (#9), Hays County (#15), Comal County (#37) and Guadalupe County (#77) all ranked in the top 100 of the fastest growing counties in the United States. Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau for growth between 2000 and 2009 for notable surrounding counties are as follows:

Williamson County – 64.3%
Hays County – 59.4%
Comal County – 46.8%
Guadalupe County – 36.4%
Bastrop County – 29.7%
Travis County – 26.3%

Lockhart Independent School District (LKT ISD) reports indicate that the student population during the 2009-2010 school year was 5,076 students.

The following provides a discipline data for LKT ISD for the 2009-2010 school year:

of students receiving discipline referrals – 996

Total # of discipline referrals – 4,584

of students expelled – 6

of students suspended in school (ISS) – 871

Total # of suspensions in school (ISS) – 3,406

of students suspended out of school – 305

Total # of suspensions out of school - 715

of students removed to DAEP – 142

Total # of DAEP removals – 175

Total # of truancy cases filed – 284

Luling Independent School District (LUL ISD) reports indicate that the student population during the 2009-2010 school year was 1,606 students.

The following provides a discipline data for LUL ISD for the 2009-2010 school year:

of students receiving discipline referrals – 365

Total # of discipline referrals – 1,067

of students expelled – 0

of students suspended in school (ISS) – 352

Total # of suspensions in school (ISS) – 791

of students suspended out of school – 67

Total # of suspensions out of school – 85

of students removed to DAEP – 25

Total # of DAEP removals – 30

Total # of truancy cases filed – 36

Prairie Lea Independent School District (PL ISD) reports indicate that the student population during the 2009-2010 school year was 282 students.

The following provides a discipline data for PL ISD for the 2009-2010 school year:

of students receiving discipline referrals – 43

Total # of discipline referrals – 99

of students expelled – n/a

of students suspended in school (ISS) – 40

Total # of suspensions in school (ISS) – 73

of students suspended out of school – 12

Total # of suspensions out of school - 17

of students removed to DAEP – 6

Total # of DAEP removals – 9

Total # of truancy cases filed – n/a

NOTE: All school district information obtained from Texas Education Agency PEIMS data.

Caldwell County Juvenile Probation Department (CCJPD) reports for calendar year 2009 that 137 juveniles were formally referred for a total of 213 referrals. Juveniles were placed in juvenile detention a total of 120 times. 51 juveniles were placed on Court ordered probation and 18 juveniles were placed on Deferred Adjudication probation. 48 probation orders were modified in 2009 and 2 juveniles were committed to the Texas Youth Commission (TYC).

CCJPD reports the following workload and programmatic data for 2009:

- Total number of referrals – 328
- Total # of juveniles referred – 204
- Total # of juveniles under supervision – 150

of juveniles enrolled in Program/Services:

- Intensive Supervision – 52
- Anger Management / Options – 39
- Substance Abuse through HCCADA – 80
- Individual / Family Counseling – 12
- Electronic Monitoring – 8
- Sex Offender Therapy – 4
- First/Minor Offender – 43
- Parenting (parents) – 22
- Community Service – 85 / 2,573 hours

CCJPD reports for 2009 that it transported 84 juveniles a total of 233 times to include transports to and from juvenile detention, placement facilities, court hearings, TYC, etc.

CCJPD also reports that 111 juveniles were drug tested a total of 552 times in 2009. 189 of these 552 drug tests were positive for illegal substances (34%). 48 of the 111 juveniles drug tested (43%) were positive for illegal substances and 31 juveniles tested positive more than

one time.

The Department of Family and Protective Services reports from Sept. 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009, there were 592 initial reports to the CPS hotline of alleged abuse/neglect. Of those reports, 462 investigations resulted in 348 cases being confirmed as child abuse/neglect. The confirmed child abuse/neglect cases per 1,000 rate for Caldwell County was 13.9 while the state average was 10.5. In Caldwell County, 150 children were in CPS custody and 34 children were removed. Rate of annual number of children in DFPS legal responsibility in Fiscal Year 2009 per 1,000 children in the child population for Caldwell County was 14.5% while the state average was 6.3.

The Hays-Caldwell Women’s Center (HCWC) provides services to victims of crime including support services to adolescents. Roxanne’s House is operated by HCWC and provides services to sexual assault victims.

Hays-Caldwell Women’s Center Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009	2010
Family Violence Victims Served	156	170	181	184
Sexual Assault Victims Served *	109	114	109	131
HELPLine calls **	2,365	2,824	2,716	2,082

*Includes adults molested as children and current sexual assaults

**HELPLine calls include both Hays and Caldwell Counties

Roxanne’s House Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of Forensic Interviews	37	41	34	48
Number of Child Victims Served	103	84	63	52
Number of Adult Victims Served	22	14	12	24
Parenting Program Participants *	79	85	41	30

* Parenting Program Participants include both Hays and Caldwell Counties

Violence prevention services are critical for children who have been abused or witnessed abuse to prevent them from becoming abusive to their intimate partners and to stop the cycle of abuse from continuing. HCWC clients reported that 49% of their batterer’s had been abused as children and 44% had witnessed abuse as children. Prevention services are also key in preventing youth at risk for alcohol, tobacco and drug use (abuse). Victims of abuse served at HCWC from 2000-2010 reported that 67% of their batterer’s abused alcohol and 48% abused drugs.

Hays-Caldwell Women’s Center Batterer’s Experiences Hays and Caldwell County Statistics	2000-2010
Abused as children	49%

Witnessed abuse as children	44%
Abused alcohol	67%
Abused drugs	48%
*As reported by their victims	

Prevention efforts for victims of abuse should be accelerated to reduce the chances for other victimizations or further victimization and target high-risk victim and perpetrator populations.

The Hays-Caldwell Women's Center Prevention Education Program provided 510 presentations in 2010. From 2007-2010, the Prevention Education Program reached 25,419 people in Hays and Caldwell Counties in an effort to prevent dating violence, family violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

HCWC Public Education Program Hays and Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009	2010
Presentations	387	415	619	510
People Reached	7,842	6,095	6,363	5,119
Newspaper Articles	67	75	39	25
TV/Radio Spots Aired	7	3	9	0

Connections is the current STAR contractor with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TXDFPS). Through contracts with community agencies, (TXDFPS) STAR offers family crisis intervention counseling, short-term emergency residential care, and individual and family counseling to youth up to age 17 who experience conflict at home, have been truant or delinquent, or have run away. STAR services are available in all 254 Texas counties. Each STAR contractor also provides universal child abuse prevention services, ranging from local media campaigns to informational brochures and parenting classes.

Connections-Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009	2010
Elementary School based Prevention Services for Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco	*	3002	2115	2532
STAR Counseling for At Risk students age 0-17				
Youth served	135	127	87	49
Parents served	73	59	39	16

Hays/Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (HCCADA) reports that they provided the following services in FY 2009 and FY 2010:

FY 2009

- Elementary Life Skills (classroom based) 108
- Middle School Life Skills (classroom based) 95
- Kids Connection Support Groups 91
- Youth Connection Support Groups 90
- Project Toward No Drug Abuse (classroom based) 107

FY 2010

- Middle School Life Skills (classroom based) 317
- Kids Connection Support Groups 61
- Youth Connection Support Groups 75
- Project Toward No Drug Abuse (classroom based) 172

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (BTCS) provides services for the following diagnoses:

- Bipolar Disorder
- Major Depression
- Schizophrenia
- Children with Psychiatric problems

The services provided by a doctor for these individuals are:

- Medications
- Case Management
- Counseling by a psychiatrist
- Community Clinics

Listed below are the numbers of individuals who have received these services:

Bluebonnet Trails- Caldwell County Statistics	2008	2009	2010
Crisis Services Total	169	175	183
Adults	127	136	119
Children	42	39	64
Screening Services Total	304	289	265
Adults	220	225	205
Children	84	64	60
*28 people are currently on the waiting list			

Casa of Central Texas offers one type of service, advocacy for children who have been abused or neglected and are under State care. In 2008, Casa reports that they served 31 children with 182 children in care. In 2009, 27 children were served with 182 children in care. CASA further reported that they had 18 volunteers in 2008 and 17 in 2009.

Lockhart Municipal Court reports there were 85 cases filed on juveniles in FY 2009 and 128 cases filed on juveniles in FY 2010. This represents an increase of 51% in juvenile cases filed at the Lockhart Municipal Court from FY 2009 to FY 2010.

Goals

Maintain and expand efforts to provide community support services to at-risk youth including programs in the school and in the community.

Strategies / Tasks

Develop guidelines for early identification of at-risk youth through collaboration with schools, parents, victim services, juvenile probation, law enforcement, courts and the community.

Refer at-risk youth and families to current available resources.

Expand upon resources as needed to meet needs of the community.

Continue to develop and expand Community Service Restitution activities for juveniles.

Outputs / Outcomes

Statistics provided in supporting data section will act as a benchmark and will be evaluated on a fiscal or calendar year basis.

Existing or Planned Efforts

Existing services are identified in supporting data section. All agencies involved indicated a desire to expand services but the priority at this time is to maintain existing service levels.

Priority Level

High

Implementation

All educational and social service related agencies dealing with juveniles in Caldwell County.

Identified Need 2

Truancy/Attendance in Public Schools

Truancy may be the beginning of a lifetime of problems for students who routinely skip school. Truancy is universally seen as a stepping stone to delinquency and criminal activity. Of the risk factors contributing to juvenile delinquency, chronic absences from school is one of the most powerful predictors of future delinquent behavior. Truant students are at a higher risk of being drawn into behavior involving drugs, alcohol, gangs, violence or early sexual activity resulting in teen pregnancies and/or sexually transmitted disease infections.

Supporting Data

Truancy is defined by law as either three unexcused absences in a four week period or 10 unexcused absences in a six month period.

Lockhart Independent School District (LKT ISD) reports indicate that 284 cases of truancy were filed in the 2009-2010 school year.

Luling Independent School District (LUL ISD) reports indicate that 36 cases of truancy were filed in the 2009-2010 school year.

Prairie Lea Independent School District (PL ISD) had no reportable data regarding truancy.

NOTE: All school district information obtained from Texas Education Agency PEIMS data.

Connections is the current STAR contractor with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TXDFPS). Through contracts with community agencies, (TXDFPS) STAR offers family crisis intervention counseling, short-term emergency residential care, and individual and family counseling to youth up to age 17 who experience conflict at home, have been truant or delinquent, or have run away. STAR services are available in all 254 Texas counties. Each STAR contractor also provides universal child abuse prevention services, ranging from local media campaigns to informational brochures and parenting classes.

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Parents served	73	59	39	16

Lockhart Municipal Court reports there were 85 cases filed on juveniles in FY 2009 and 128 cases filed on juveniles in FY 2010. This represents an increase of 51% in juvenile cases filed at the Lockhart Municipal Court from FY 2009 to FY 2010.

Caldwell County Justice of the Peace Precinct #1 is the primary court handling truancy (failure to attend school) cases for LKT ISD. No statistics were available from the Court.

Luling Municipal Court is the primary court handling truancy (failure to attend school) cases for LUL ISD. No statistics were available from the Court.

Caldwell County Juvenile Probation Department (CCJPD) reports that 18 truancy (failure to attend school) cases were waived from JP or Municipal Courts to the Caldwell County Juvenile Court in calendar year 2009.

Goals

Reduce truancy in our school districts. Identify truancy early on to prevent chronic behavior and drop out. Improve attendance and accountability. Public awareness to promote educational value with parents and students.

Strategies / Tasks

Develop network of positive communication between agencies and school districts in dealing with truancy issues. Joint meetings of agencies involved to discuss truancy issues and better coordinate plans to address.

Develop and implement programs that prevent truancy/dropping out of school and encourage graduation.

Look at possibly establishing student attendance review board.

Continue to develop and expand Community Service Restitution activities for juveniles

Outputs / Outcomes

Reduce truancy (failure to attend school) filings with Courts by 2% each year.

Existing or Planned Efforts

LKT ISD currently has one truancy officer for the district while the principals in LUL ISD and PL ISD deal with truancy issues as needed. CCJPD provides First-Minor Offender Program that is available but is limited and Connections provides some counseling to families based upon parent referral.

Priority Level

High

Implementation

Education agencies, court systems and social service agencies dealing with truancy issues.

Identified Need 3

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment

Children with mental health problems, including substance abuse, need access to medical care, psychiatric/psychological counseling and a secure living environment. For all populations, some form of case management and client advocacy services are needed, along with information and referral to programs that will help them to maintain independent living status. The number of service providers and their capacity to deal with the growing numbers of youth who are demonstrating mental health problems, including substance abuse, is insufficient.

Supporting Data

Research on mental illness in children and adolescents is challenging because of their ongoing development. "Given the process of development . . . disorders in some children improve as development unfolds, perhaps as a result of healthy influences impinging upon them. Other youth, formerly only "at risk," may develop full-blown forms of disorder, as severe and devastating in their impact on the youth and family as are the analogous conditions that affect adults. Characterizing such disorders as relatively unchangeable underestimates the potential beneficial influences that can redirect a child whose development has gone awry" (Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General).

A recent report by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), "Grading the States", found an apparent rise in the number of minorities self-reporting depression problems – bad news for a state in which the population is projected to soon become majority minority. Texas ranks 46th nationally in mental health spending per capita. Included in NAMI's assessment: "For a state that has one of the largest uninsured populations in the country and a large number of immigrants without access to health care, Texas hasn't invested enough in the system to meet minimum levels of need."

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (BTCS) is the primary agency providing mental health services to adolescents and youth in Caldwell County.

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (BTCS) provides services for the following diagnoses:

- Bipolar Disorder
- Major Depression
- Schizophrenia
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Listed below are the numbers of individuals who have received these services:

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Children	42	39	64
Screening Services Total	304	289	265
Adults	220	225	205
Children	84	64	60
*28 people are currently on the waiting list			

There are a limited number of private service providers for Mental Health services in Caldwell County. The majority of residents are referred to resources in San Marcos if residents aren't eligible to receive services at BTCS.

Turning to the institutionalized juvenile/youth population, a recent rigorous national study concluded that 70.4% of children in the juvenile justice system meet the criteria for at least one mental health disorder. Of these children, 79% had co-occurring mental health disorders, and 27% had a mental disorder severe enough to require significant and immediate treatment (Shufelt & Coccozza 2006).

The State of Texas has registered similar levels of prevalence to those found nationally. All children referred to juvenile probation departments are administered the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (MAYSI-2) pursuant to a state-wide initiative established by the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC). This screening tool is used to identify problems in seven subscales/categories as indicated in two levels of scoring: Caution and Warning. These levels roughly correspond to the meeting of criteria for a finding of having a mental health disorder or a severe mental health disorder, respectively. A comprehensive examination of the state data revealed the following levels: 60% achieved the caution cutoff in at least one subscale; 25% achieved the warning cutoff on at least one subscale; and girls scored higher proportions of warning and caution cutoffs on each and

every subscale (TJPC 2003).

Caldwell County Juvenile Probation Department (CCJPD) reports in calendar year 2009, of the total 198 MAYSI-2s administered to children referred to the CCJPD, 65% (128) achieved the caution cutoff in at least one subscale, and 28% (55) achieved the warning cutoff in at least one subscale. CCJPD also reports that 111 juveniles were drug tested in 2009 a total of 552 times. 189 of these 552 drug tests were positive for illegal substances (34%). 48 of the 111 juveniles drug tested (43%) were positive for illegal substances and 31 juveniles tested positive more than one time.

Hays/Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (HCCADA) is the primary substance abuse service provider for juveniles in Caldwell County. HCCADA reports that they provided the following services in FY 2009 and FY 2010:

FY 2009

- Elementary Life Skills (classroom based) 108
- Middle School Life Skills (classroom based) 95
- Kids Connection Support Groups 91
- Youth Connection Support Groups 90
- Project Toward No Drug Abuse (classroom based) 107

FY 2010

- Middle School Life Skills (classroom based) 317
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Connections is the current STAR contractor with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TXDFPS). Through contracts with community agencies, (TXDFPS) STAR offers family crisis intervention counseling, short-term emergency residential care, and individual and family counseling to youth up to age 17 who experience conflict at home, have been truant or delinquent, or have run away. STAR services are available in all 254 Texas counties. Each STAR contractor also provides universal child abuse prevention services, ranging from local media campaigns to informational brochures and parenting classes.

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STAR Counseling for At Risk students age 0-17				
Youth served	135	127	87	49
Parents served	73	59	39	16

Goals

Primary goal is to ensure that all youth demonstrating needs for mental health services, including substance abuse, are able to receive such services.

Strategies / Tasks

Education to help identify mental health problems including substance abuse in youth.

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Intervention strategies/programs for juveniles.

Family partner support services in the development of treatment decisions and plans for their children.

Collaborative efforts of multiple systems to bear responsibility for adolescents.

Strengthen mental health, juvenile justice, school and court systems to meet the needs of youth through treatment and identification.

Outputs / Outcomes

Statistics provided in supporting data section will act as a bench mark and will be evaluated individually on a fiscal or calendar year basis.

Existing or Planned Efforts

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services is the only public agency providing mental health services to adolescents while HCCADA is the primary agency providing substance abuse treatment.

Priority Level

High

Implementation

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services and Hays/Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse are the primary agencies treating mental/substance abuse issues with adolescents. Connections, Caldwell County Juvenile Probation Department and educational institutions provide support and referral services.

Victim Issues

Identified Need 1

Crisis/Intervention Services

The first priority for victims in Caldwell County is the immediate response after a crime has occurred to address the need for safety, legal protection, and resources to meet basic needs. Safety is imperative when abuse is occurring. Having crisis intervention services and hospital emergency response is critical. This is when victims are in the most danger and have immediate needs. The planning group agreed that decreases in governmental funding for these services during this economic down fall will greatly affect crisis intervention services and crisis counseling services in a community where there are very limited options. With funding losses there will be drastic cuts in services making it impossible for many victims to get immediate crisis assistance. Service providers are currently being stretched to meet needs due to the increased numbers and the seriousness of the violence and abuse. Family violence and abuse (including physical, sexual and verbal/emotional abuse of adults and/or children) is a community problem in Caldwell County and requires a coordinated community response.

Supporting Data

The Caldwell County Community Planning Group identified family violence and sexual assault as priority issues and identified the preservation of existing services to victims as a critical need. The number and severity of domestic violence incidents in Caldwell County continues to increase. The issues identified under the Victim Services section identify the challenges faced by social services agencies in maintaining adequate service levels because of increased population and decreases in government funding.

Hays-Caldwell Women's Center Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009	2010
Family Violence Victims Served	156	170	181	184
Sexual Assault Victims Served *	109	114	109	131
HELPLine calls **	2,365	2,824	2,716	2,082

*Includes adults molested as children and current sexual assaults

**HELPLine calls include both Hays and Caldwell Counties

The U.S. Census Bureau reports a 51% population increase Caldwell County from 2000 to 2007. This makes maintaining adequate levels of service challenging. Most problems cited are related to and/or affected by the issues of family violence and sexual assault in the county. In the very desperate current funding environment, the planning group prioritized maintaining existing funding levels to maintain existing services as well as seeking additional funds to increase service levels to meet growing population needs and add additional service components.

Hays-Caldwell Women's Center Program Increases Caldwell County Statistics	2007- 2010
Family Violence Victims Served	^ 17.9 %
Sexual Assault Victims Served	^ 20.1 %

Shelter space for those in abusive homes is becoming more limited in availability, especially now during spikes in demand and due to the lack of affordable housing options. This has caused a 21.7% increase in the number of shelter days provided to victims of domestic violence from Caldwell County from 2007 to 2009. From 2007-2009, 53.6% of those provided emergency shelter at the Hays Caldwell Women's Center from Caldwell County were children. Having an immediate response can sometimes prevent homelessness and the total disruption of a household if some critical services are available. Emergency shelter should also be available for those in the most dangerous situations and crisis services available for all victims who need them.

Hays Caldwell Women's Center Shelter Services- Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009
Adults Sheltered	22	24	23
Children Sheltered	35	26	19
Total Number of Victims Sheltered	57	50	42
Total Number of Shelter Days	730	1159	889

Since 2007, innocent children from Caldwell County have made up 23% of those whose lives have been personally impacted by family violence receiving services at the Hays Caldwell Women's Center. The Juvenile Justice System has identified that youth who experience or witness violence or abuse are more likely to experience future victimizations, become involved in the juvenile justice system, use substances and become perpetrators of violence and abuse towards others.

Hays Caldwell Women's Center Batterer's Experiences* Hays and Caldwell County Statistics	2000-2010
Abused as children	49%
Witnessed abuse as children	44%

*As reported by HCWC client victims of Family Violence or victims of both Family Violence and Sexual Assault/Abuse

The Caldwell County Community Planning Group identifies the need to be aware of State wide statistical data in the Criminal Justice System and Juvenile Justice System as it relates to victims of crime. The trends that can be observed when analyzing the information may be valuable to understanding what is happening on the local level. It is important to understand the local demand for services in the context of the statewide demand for services. This can indicate emerging trends and allow for better preparation locally.

Texas Council on Family Violence Statewide Statistics	2007	2008	2009
Number of Women Killed	104	136	111
Number of Family Violence Incidents	189,401	193,505	193,505
Number of Adults Sheltered	11,688	11,776	12,213
Number of Children Sheltered	15,445	15,591	15,905
Number of Adult Non-Resident Services	35,274	35,124	35,588
Number of Child Non-Resident Services	15,049	16,004	15,661
Number of Adults Denied Shelter (due to lack of space)	27.72%	22.63%	11.14%
Number of Hotline Calls Answered	175,836	200,258	179,434

**Texas Council on Family Violence and Texas Department of Public Safety
Statewide Statistics**

- In 2009, in 27 cases 1 or more children witnessed the death of their mother
- 38% of women were killed in a murder/suicide
- 110 children are now without a mother or orphaned
- The victims ages ranged from 13-83
- The majority of victims were between 20-40 years old
- From 2007-2009 the number of Family Violence incidents increased by 2%

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault- Statewide and National Statistics

- In Texas, more than 226,000 children and 104,000 adults are raped every year
- The United States has the highest rape rate of any industrialized nation
- 42% of rape victims in one survey reported that they had told no one about the assault and only 5% reported to the police
- In a survey of college men, 35% anonymously admitted they would commit rape if they knew they could get away with it
- 1 in every 5 college women reported being forced to have sexual intercourse
- 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused
- In the US, 683,000 women and 92,700 men are forcibly raped each year
- The most common victims of rape are females under 18 years old
- In the US today, 1.8 million teens have already been the victims of sexual assault
- Approximately 1/3 of all juvenile victims of sexual abuse are children younger than 6
- 39% of girls report being sexually harassed at school on a daily basis
- 82% of women report that they fear rape and or death more than anything else
- 82% of victims reported that rape permanently changed them
- The chances that a woman will develop PTSD after being raped are 50-95%
- Half of rape victims describe being fearful of serious injury or death during the event
- 13% of rape victims attempt suicide and 30% contemplate suicide

The incidence and effect of child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse continue to grow in Caldwell County. This has caused a 19% increase in the number of child abuse victims seeking crisis services at Roxanne's House, the children's advocacy center of Hays-Caldwell Women's Center, in the last five years. The total number of child abuse victims served at Roxanne's House increased 19% from 243 served in FY 2005 to 289 served in FY 2009. (HCWC Annual Reports)

Roxanne's House Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of Forensic Interviews	37	41	34	48
Number of Child Victims Served	103	84	63	52
Number of Adult Victims Served	22	14	12	24
Parenting Program Participants *	79	85	41	30

* Parenting Program Participants include both Hays and Caldwell Counties

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book- Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009
Child Population	9,986	10,169	10,356
Number of Initial Reports of Abuse and/or Neglect	491	519	592
Number of Confirmed CPS victims of Child Abuse and Neglect	177	173	144
Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse/Neglect per 1,000 Children	17.7	17.0	13.9
Total CPS Completed Investigations	388	363	395
Confirmed CPS Investigations	104	95	88
Percentage of Investigations Confirmed	26.8	26.2	22.3
Number of Children Removed From Home	57	44	37
Number of Child Abuse Fatalities	0	0	2

According to the Child Advocacy Center of Texas, 95% of children served by a CAC last year knew their perpetrator. Incest is considered by many experts to be a particularly damaging form of sexual abuse because it is perpetrated by individuals upon whom the victim trusts and depends. In addition, support can also be lacking and pressure to keep silent powerful as fear of the family breaking up can be overwhelming to other family members. (Source: Rape, Abuse & Incest. National Network and Texas Association Against Sexual Assault)

Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) of Texas- Statewide Statistics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today, 195 Texas children will be victims of abuse • In one year, more than 70,000 cases of child abuse were confirmed in Texas • 1 in 4 girls is sexually abused before her 18th birthday • 1 in 6 boys is sexually abused before his 18th birthday • 95% of children served by the CAC last year knew their perpetrator • Almost ¾ of the children served by CAC's in 2009 were under the age of 13 • 30% were not even old enough to attend kindergarten

Increased public awareness of family violence has led to increased calls to law enforcement (adults and juveniles), increased reports to Child Protective Services and in referrals to victim's service agencies. Response from community members indicate that victim services make a positive impact on the prosecution of these crimes. It is critical for victims of abuse to have victim services focusing on victim liaisons between the court and law enforcement. Increasing trust in the system and encouraging follow through is needed for the justice system to be effective and for victim legal protection.

These are the number of victims receiving services from the Caldwell County Victim's Services program:

District Attorney Victim Services- Caldwell County Statistics	2008	2009
Total Victims Served	1438	1885
New Victims Served	672	990
Family Violence Victims Served	213	377
Sexual Assault Adult Victims Served	14	13
Sexual Assault Child Victims Served	33	32

There was a 30% increase in family violence cases reported to law enforcement in Caldwell counties from 2007 to 2009 from 206 cases reported in 2007 to 268 reported in 2009. (UCR Statistics, Texas Department of Public Safety, 2004 - 2008). There were 38 rapes reported to law enforcement in Caldwell counties from 2007- 2009. (Uniform Crime Report) It is important to note that according to surveys done with HCWC clients; as few as one in ten incidents of abuse are reported to law enforcement. This is one reason why it is important for victims to get legal information and support from criminal justice, juvenile justice and victim's service provider's right after an incident of violence in order to quickly intervene and stop future and/or prevent on-going incidents of violence and abuse.

Uniform Crime Report- Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009
Family Violence	206	181	268
Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2	0	0
Forcible Rape	12	16	10
Robbery	5	18	10
Aggravated Assault	124	126	148
Burglary	249	212	246
Larceny	523	446	495
Motor Vehicle Theft	30	14	25
Total	945	832	950

For victims of crime in Caldwell County who also have a mental health diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder, Major Depression, Schizophrenia and for children with psychiatric problems, Bluebonnet Trails provides case management, community clinics, medication and psychiatric counseling.

Bluebonnet Trails- Caldwell County Statistics	2008	2009	2010
Crisis Services Total	169	175	183
Adults	127	136	119
Children	42	39	64
Screening Services Total	304	289	265
Adults	220	225	205
Children	84	64	60
*28 people are currently on the waiting list			

Goals

The goals of the proposed plan is to facilitate the healing of victims of family violence, sexual assault/abuse and child sexual/physical abuse victims by providing safe shelter and comprehensive services to those victims from Caldwell County.

The following are supportive services and activities are needed:

1. Crisis services;
2. Forensic interviews;
3. Legal Advocacy/Accompaniment
4. Multi-disciplinary teams, Task Forces and case coordination;
5. Peer support groups;
6. Professional therapy and counseling;
7. Protective Legal Services such as assistance with protective orders and Crime Victims Compensation;
8. Public presentations;
9. Shelter; and
10. Advocacy

Strategies / Tasks

The planning group agreed that it is essential to promote services and provide assistance directly to victims of crime to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice system.

Services may include the following:

- Responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims;
- Assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after victimization;
- Assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and providing

victims with safety and security.

These are the strategies identified by the Community Planning Group for dealing with these issues and problems in Caldwell County:

Culturally Competent Victim Restoration – A need to promote collaboration and coordination among local service systems that involve multiple disciplines and support a seamless delivery of a continuum of services that focus on each individuals return to full physical, mental, and emotional health while incorporating an emphasis on cultural competency in underserved populations. An example of this type of approach is advocacy, law enforcement, prosecution, and other government and non-government services working together in a professional environment of cooperation and respect among service providers.

Services to Victims of Crime – The types of services for victims of crime need to include: responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after victimization; assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and providing victims with safety and security.

Effective Services – Programs and services must demonstrate a record of providing effective services to crime victims.

Volunteers – Community support is needed and the use of volunteers to support either the services and/or programs to victims is one method in providing education and creating an informed community regarding victim issues and needs.

Community Efforts – Coordinated community efforts to aid crime victims need to be promoted within the community.

Crime Victims' Compensation – Assistance to crime victims in applying for crime victims' compensation benefits is a vital component to the restoration process.

Victims of Federal Crime – Ensure equal services to victims of federal crime. (Note: Victim of federal crime is a victim of an offense that violates a federal criminal statute or regulation; federal crimes also include crimes that occur in an area where the federal government has jurisdiction, such as Indian reservations, some national parks, some federal buildings, and military installations.

No Charge – There should be access to services at no charge to victims of crime.

Confidentiality – Maintaining victim confidentiality is important to victims of crime.

Discrimination – Every effort should be made to not to discriminate against victims because they disagree with the State's prosecution of the criminal case.

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
HELPLine	24- hour, confidential crisis and information line for victims of family violence or sexual assault seeking services, such as counseling, shelter or referrals to community resources.
HEARTeam	24- hour crisis hospital response for survivors of sexual assault and family violence and their supportive loved ones. HEARTeam advocates can help explain the evidence collection process, provide information on the effects of abuse and share information about other services HCWC provides to help during the recovery and healing process.
Shelter	24- hour access to a safe and confidential shelter for survivors of family violence for up to 30 days. Clients staying at the HCWC McCoy Family shelter are provided with food, clothing and other necessities and can receive safety planning services, peer counseling, support groups, information and referrals for other social services.
Children's Advocacy Centers	Children's Advocacy Centers are supported by a partnership among all the agencies working on child abuse cases. Together, they create a child-centered environment where children who have made an outcry of abuse come for a specialized forensic interview that is taped and used for the remainder of the investigation of the case. Children and non-offending family members are provided comprehensive services including counseling and advocacy designed to minimize the trauma to the child.
Crisis Counseling	Counseling services and support groups are provided to victims of family violence, sexual assault/abuse and adult survivors of sexual abuse who are in crisis. Counselors work with survivors to identify needs and explore options available, they can also connect clients with additional supportive services.

Outputs / Outcomes

HCWC clients demonstrated the following outcomes as a result of Center services received:

Outcomes	2007	2008	2009
Percent of personal goals achieved by adult clients after 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	73%	76%	73%
Percent of counseling goals achieved by adult clients after 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	73%	77%	76%
Percent of adult clients reporting that they experienced an increased feeling of safety due to the services provided by the Center.	89%	95%	92%
Percent of adult clients who have children reporting that their	79%	97%	94%

children's safety was increased due to services provided by the Center.			
Percent of adult clients reported that they were more aware of their rights, resources and options due to the services provided by the Center.	97%	92%	92%
Percent of adult clients reporting that they feel less isolated due to services provided by the Center.	62%	71%	90%
Percent of adult clients reporting that overall, they were satisfied with the services provided to them by the Center.	97%	99%	98%
Percent of children receiving services from an HCWC children's program who felt an increased sense of safety after approximately 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	84%	72%	85%
Percent of children receiving services from an HCWC children's program who report that they do not feel responsible for the abuse that occurred after approximately 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	86%	77%	84%
Percent of children receiving services from an HCWC children's program who report that they do not want to die after approximately 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	89%	94%	91%
Percent of children receiving services from an HCWC children's program who report that they do not want to hurt themselves on purpose after approximately 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	86%	87%	93%

Existing or Planned Efforts

The planning group emphasized that it is essential to maintain the following services:

The Hays-Caldwell Women's Center (HCWC) maintains critical existing victim's services, provides safe shelter and comprehensive direct services to victims of family violence, sexual assault/abuse and child abuse from Caldwell County. Services include: operation of a family violence shelter staffed 24-hours daily, 24-hour HELpline for victims of abuse; a Hospital Emergency Advocacy Response Team (HEARTeam); individual and group counseling; legal advocacy; assistance in filing Crime Victims Compensation; comprehensive information and referral services; and recruitment and training of volunteers to support services to victims of abuse. Services are provided to victims of all ages and genders including shelter for adult male victims of violence. Specialized services are available to underserved populations from rural areas, immigrants, and Spanish-speaking victims. All services are available in English and Spanish. HCWC is entering the 33rd year of comprehensive service provision to victims. In the fall of 2009, a new family violence shelter was completed to serve the community. The new facility provides more space and state-of-the-art safety features to meet the needs of our growing number of victims. In 2011, the HCWC non-residential sexual assault and family violence programs will move into updated and larger facilities which will support greatly enhanced services for victims.

HCWC participates in and supports all of the work of the task forces in Caldwell County; The Caldwell County Family Violence Task Force, the Hays-Caldwell Sexual Assault Task Force and the Child Advocacy Center Multi-disciplinary Team. HCWC also has several different working agreements with Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid in an effort to respond to emergency

critical safety and legal services needed by victims of abuse.

HCWC and Roxanne's House have a strong history of cultural awareness, sensitivity, and competence in serving a culturally, ethnically, racially, and geographically diverse population. This competence is reflected in attitudes, agency structure, and services provided. Over a third of HCWC staff and half of Roxanne's House staff are bilingual (English/Spanish) and the volunteer pool provides proficiency in other cultures and languages. Training is provided to all staff and volunteers regularly focusing on increasing cultural competency. All entities working on child abuse cases are represented on an active Multi-Disciplinary Team with one team serving Hays County and one serving Caldwell County. Representatives from the prosecutor's office, all law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and Roxanne's House (the children's advocacy center) meet monthly to staff all open child abuse cases in their respective county.

HCWC provides 24-hour/year around Crisis Hospital Response, Hotline Access, Shelter, Crisis Counseling, Advocacy and Protective Legal Services for victims of family violence, sexual assault/abuse and child abuse.

Caldwell County District Attorney's Office, Victim's Assistance Program is primarily responsible for assisting victims of crime as their cases are filed with the Criminal District Attorney's Office. The Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to advise crime victims of their rights, assist with Victim Impact Statements, Crime Victim Compensation and Crime Loss Forms. Crisis intervention, emotional support and guidance through the criminal justice system are also provided. Victims and their families are given referrals to other agencies depending on their immediate needs. Assisting with Protective Orders, calculating restitution and accompanying victims to court is also provided. The Victim Assistance Coordinator also maintains statistics and records on the types of crimes affecting our citizens.

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services in Caldwell County includes mental health services for adults and children, developmental disability services; autism services and an early childhood intervention program called PRIDE (Program Parent Resources for Infant Developmental Enrichment).

CONNECTIONS Individual and Family Services, Inc. offers four services in Caldwell County they are: the STAR Program (Services To At-Risk Youth Program) which helps youth 0 to 17 years and families reduce and prevent issues of runaway, truancy, delinquency and family conflict. Universal Child Abuse Prevention Program (UCAP) offers a one time presentation conducted in the community or in schools on child abuse prevention and information. They also offer weekly classes and workshops on subjects such as positive parenting, redirecting children's misbehavior, alternatives to spanking and baby sitter classes. They also offer access to emergency shelter in New Braunfels, Texas where they have a 16 bed facility for youth ages 5 to 17 years old. The program accepts youth referred due to runaway, family conflict, abuse and neglect or homelessness. The program also accepts youth referred by Child Protective Services and other agencies working with youth in need of supervision. Then there is the Transitional Living Program. This program assists youth ages 16 – 22 years old in the Connections service area to transition to productive independent living. It is a residential program which provides assistance in achieving educational goals and obtaining employment while teaching the life skills necessary to live independently.

Listed below are networks and/or task forces in Caldwell County that address issues associated to victims of abuse. They are made up of criminal justice representatives, juvenile justice representatives and victim advocate representatives and others.

The Caldwell County Family Violence Task Force (CCFVTF) – This Task Force was established in 1996. The agencies signing the agreement work together to address the problem of family violence in Caldwell County and have signed a protocol outlining the manner in which family violence cases will be handled by each agency. This network with local law enforcement officers, members of the judicial system, probation officers, medical providers, victim service providers, and other concerned citizens meets monthly and works together to make a positive impact against domestic violence in the community. In addition, this task force meets monthly and works together to increase public awareness and examines gaps in the criminal justice system related to family violence. Last year, the Task Force put on their ninth annual conference on family violence which was attended by about 110 local professionals.

Participating organizations include: Caldwell County Criminal District Attorney's Office, Caldwell County Sheriff's Office, Lockhart Police Department, Luling Police Department, Luling EMS, Martindale Police Department, Caldwell County Adult Probation, Caldwell County Juvenile Probation, CASA of Central Texas, TDFPS Child Protective Services, American Gateways (formerly Political Asylum Project of Austin), Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Bluebonnet Trails MHMR, National Association for Mental Illness, Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.), Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Seton Edgar B. Davis Hospital and the Hays-Caldwell Women's Center (HCWC).

Mission:

The Caldwell County Family Violence Task Force is a collective effort among local agencies and individuals dedicated to creating an environment where violence and abuse are not tolerated in our community. The Task Force works to promote activities in the areas of education, public awareness and coordination of services.

Philosophy:

Physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse of one human being by another is unacceptable. The Caldwell County Family Violence Task Force believes that all abuse diminishes or prohibits full expression of life and growth that is every person's right.

Protocol:

The re-signing ceremony event updating the protocol took place on April 26, 2007. Participating organizations include: Caldwell County Criminal District Attorney's Office, Caldwell County Sheriff's Office, Lockhart Police Department, Luling Police Department, Luling EMS, Martindale Police Department, Caldwell County Adult Probation, Caldwell County Juvenile Probation, CASA of Central Texas, TDFPS Child Protective Services, People Against Violent Crime, Political Asylum Project of Austin, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Lockhart Victims Assistance Team, Bluebonnet Trails MHMR, Gary Job Corps, National Association for Mental Illness, Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Seton Edgar B. Davis Hospital, Hays-Caldwell Women's Center, and Central Texas Medical Center. The plan is that it will be updated once every five years.

The Hays-Caldwell Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) – This network has been in place since 1993. Members of this team have signed an agreement outlining how they will work together to respond to sexual assaults. The group meets quarterly to discuss any problems in sexual assault response and to staff open cases to ensure that the case moves through the criminal justice system as smoothly as possible. This agreement will be updated when local nurses who are certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner's are able to provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at Central Texas Medical Center. Participating organization include: Hays County Criminal District Attorney's Office, Caldwell County Criminal District Attorney's Office, Caldwell County Sheriff's Office, Hays County Sheriff's Office, San Marcos Police Department, Texas State University Police Department, Kyle Police Department, Buda Police Department, Luling Police Department, Lockhart Police Department, Martindale Police Department, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, Hays-Caldwell Women's Center and Central Texas Medical Center.

Children's Advocacy Center Interagency Agreement (CAC) – The agencies signing this agreement are partners in the children's advocacy center. They have agreed to support an extensive protocol for addressing all child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, child death, domestic violence and criminal child neglect cases in the area. In addition, the teams meet monthly to staff all open cases and to address any problems in the community response to child sexual abuse. These agreements were updated and the current protocol was signed by all participating agencies in 2007. The protocol is scheduled for updating this year. Participating organizations include: Caldwell County Criminal District Attorney's Office, Caldwell County Sheriff's Office, Lockhart Police Department, Luling Police Department, Martindale Police Department, the Department of Family and Protective Services, CASA of Central Texas, Caldwell County Juvenile Probation, Caldwell County Victim's Services and Hays-Caldwell Women's Center (Roxanne's House).

Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (TRLA) Client Tracking System (CTS) – In June 2006, HCWC signed an agreement with Legal Aid which allows HCWC to fill out Legal Aid applications online with victims on their database allowing them to quickly review and assign cases to our area Legal Aid attorney. HCWC documents and provide services for the attorney and victims, advocate for the victim's needs and share their concerns, all in order to expedite emergency legal services for victims of family violence.

Memorandum of Understanding for Additional Legal Services – Through a grant with the Health and Human Services Commission, HCWC has entered into a contract with Legal Aid to provide one experienced part-time attorney dedicated exclusively to provide comprehensive legal services to victims of family violence from Hays and Caldwell counties. Legal services provided include securing protective orders, motions to quash, divorces, custody, child support and modifications of court orders.

Priority Level

High

Implementation

In addition to all of the implementation measures mentioned in the previous sections in this plan the goals, policies and programs identified in the Caldwell County Community Plan are implemented in a variety of ways. The implementation of this plan is a collective effort of the agencies and their services described above. The agencies within Caldwell County facilitate these efforts by providing services to translate the plan into reality. Continued focus on the critical victim services listed in the plan will benefit Caldwell County by making it a healthier and safer place to live.

Identified Need 2

Recovery Services

After crisis intervention, recovery and restorative services provide victims the necessary tools to establish the foundation for a life free of interpersonal violence.

Crime victims, including victims of family violence, sexual assault, juvenile crimes and crimes against children, the elderly and the disabled need continued access to intervention services, education and other support services to recover from the crime and resulting traumas. People in rural areas face additional barriers to identifying the availability of and accessing needed services, requiring outreach and information to assure utilization.

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The number of HCWC services provided for Caldwell County victims of family violence has increased by 17.9% from 2007 to 2010. In this same time period, HCWC services provided to sexual assault victims increased by 20.1%.

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HCWC Public Education Program Hays and Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009	2010
Presentations	387	415	619	510
People Reached	7,842	6,095	6,363	5,119
Newspaper Articles	67	75	39	25
TV/Radio Spots Aired	7	3	9	0

CASA-Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009
Number of children served	27	31	27
Number of children in care	190	182	150
Number of volunteers on Caldwell Co. cases	11	18	17
Reported volunteer mileage	7682	3859	8116

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Connections-Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009
Elementary School based Prevention Services for Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco	*	3002	2115
STAR Counseling for At Risk students age 0-17			
Youth served	135	127	87
Parents served	73	59	39

*The Program did not exist in 2007

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Number of Women Killed	104	136	111
Number of Family Violence Incidents	189,401	193,505	193,505
Number of Adults Sheltered	11,688	11,776	12,213
Number of Children Sheltered	15,445	15,591	15,905
Number of Adult Non-Resident Services	35,274	35,124	35,588
Number of Child Non-Resident Services	15,049	16,004	15,661
Number of Adults Denied Shelter (due to lack of space)	27.72%	22.63%	11.14%
Number of Hotline Calls Answered	175,836	200,258	179,434

Breakthecycle.org - National Statistics

- 31% of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend
- 8% of men have been victims of abuse
- 57% of American teens know peers who have been physically, sexually or verbally abused

Goals

The goal of the plan is to facilitate healing of domestic violence and sexual assault victims by providing counseling, legal advocacy, and comprehensive non-residential services to victims in Caldwell County and to promote comprehensive victim restoration while incorporating an emphasis on cultural competency in underserved populations.

The following supportive services and activities are needed:

1. Individual and Group Counseling Services;
2. Legal Advocacy and Accompaniment Services;
3. Information and Referral Services;
4. Child Care Services;
5. Transportation;
6. Financial Assistance;
7. Housing;
8. Medical Assistance;
9. Job Training and Placement;
10. Parenting Education and Training;
11. Independent Living Skills/Life Skills/Social Skills;
12. Mentoring and

13. Case Management

Strategies / Tasks

Programs that promote community outreach, education and training regarding abuse issues and violence prevention make an impact on every level. Advocacy and supportive services guiding victims in the direction of life-long changes from trauma into restoration are needed to navigate the complicated systems in place and allows victims the ability to take advantage of all the resources available to them.

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Advocacy Services	Advocacy services include an extensive resource library and providing assistance in accessing community resources and referrals including information about housing, child care, employment, transportation, medical and financial assistance, including applying for crime victim's compensation. Mentoring and case management are additional tools that can be used to assist victims during this stage of rebuilding their lives after the crisis.
Legal Advocacy	Assistance with filing for a protective order. Accompaniment to all meetings with law enforcement and to court. Advocates also provides legal advocacy for clients seeking an order of protection or divorce and will accompany clients through legal proceedings and to file a police report if desired.
Peer Support Groups	Peer support groups for adults victims to assist with their restoration to full physical, mental and emotional health.
Professional Therapy and Counseling	Counseling services and support groups are provided to victims of family violence, sexual assault/abuse and adult survivors of sexual abuse. Counselors work with survivors to identify needs and explore options available, they can also connect clients with additional supportive services.
Children's Advocacy Centers	Children's Advocacy Centers are supported by a partnership among all the agencies working on child abuse cases. Together, they create a child-centered environment where children who have made an outcry of abuse come for a specialized forensic interview that is taped and used for the remainder of the investigation of the case. Children and non-offending family members are provided comprehensive services including counseling and advocacy designed to minimize the trauma to the child.

Outputs / Outcomes

HCWC clients demonstrated the following outcomes as a result of Center services received:

Outcome	2007	2008	2009
Percent of personal goals achieved by adult clients after 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	73%	76%	73%
Percent of counseling goals achieved by adult clients after 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	73%	77%	76%
Percent of adult clients reporting that they experienced an increased feeling of safety due to the services provided by the Center.	89%	95%	92%
Percent of adult clients who have children reporting that their children's safety was increased due to services provided by the Center.	79%	97%	94%
Percent of adult clients reported that they were more aware of their rights, resources and options due to the services provided by the Center.	97%	92%	92%
Percent of adult clients reporting that they feel less isolated due to services provided by the Center.	62%	71%	90%
Percent of adult clients reporting that overall, they were satisfied with the services provided to them by the Center.	97%	99%	98%
Percent of children receiving services from an HCWC children's program who felt an increased sense of safety after approximately 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	84%	72%	85%
Percent of children receiving services from an HCWC children's program who report that they do not feel responsible for the abuse that occurred after approximately 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	86%	77%	84%
Percent of children receiving services from an HCWC children's program who report that they do not want to die after approximately 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	89%	94%	91%
Percent of children receiving services from an HCWC children's program who report that they do not want to hurt themselves on purpose after approximately 6 visits with HCWC staff/volunteers.	86%	87%	93%

Existing or Planned Efforts

The planning group emphasized that it is essential to maintain the following services:

The Hays-Caldwell Women's Center (HCWC) maintains critical existing victim's services, provides comprehensive direct services to victims of family violence, sexual assault/abuse from Caldwell County. Services include: individual and group counseling; legal advocacy; assistance in filing Crime Victims Compensation; comprehensive information and referral services including filling out applications to locate and qualify for child care services, transportation, financial assistance, housing, employment, education, medical assistance, parenting; and recruitment and training of volunteers to support services to victims of abuse.

Services are provided to victims of all ages and genders. Specialized services are available to underserved populations from rural areas, immigrants, and Spanish-speaking victims. All services are available in English and Spanish. HCWC is entering the 33rd year of comprehensive service provision to victims. In 2011, the HCWC non-residential sexual assault and family violence programs will move into updated and larger facilities which will support greatly enhanced services for victims. HCWC Outreach Programs provide free and confidential services to victims of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services in Caldwell County includes mental health services for adults and children, developmental disability services; autism services and an early childhood intervention program called PRIDE (Program Parent Resources for Infant Developmental Enrichment).

CONNECTIONS Individual and Family Services, Inc. offers four services in Caldwell County they are: the STAR Program (Services To At-Risk Youth Program) which helps youth 0 to 17 years and families reduce and prevent issues of runaway, truancy, delinquency and family conflict. Universal Child Abuse Prevention Program (UCAP) offers a one time presentation conducted in the community or in schools on child abuse prevention and information. They also offer weekly classes and workshops on subjects such as positive parenting, redirecting children’s misbehavior, alternatives to spanking and baby sitter classes. They also offer assess to emergency shelter in New Braunfels, Texas where they have a 16 bed facility for youth ages 5 to17 years old. The program accepts youth referred due to runaway, family conflict, abuse and neglect or homelessness. The program also accepts youth referred by Child Protective Services and other agencies working with youth in need of supervision. Then there is the Transitional Living Program. This program assists youth ages 16 – 22 years old in the Connections service area to transition to productive independent living. It is a residential program which provides assistance in achieving educational goals and obtaining employment while teaching the life skills necessary to live independently.

Priority Level

High

Implementation

In addition to the implementation measures mentioned in the previous sections in this plan the goals, policies and programs identified in the Caldwell County Community Plan are implemented in a variety of ways. The implementation of this plan is a collective effort of the agencies and their services described above. The agencies within Caldwell County facilitate these efforts by providing services to translate the plan into reality. Victims come to programs for services at different stages of healing. It is vital to provide a bridge of services so that victims are able to access services at every point on the continuum of recovery. Providing critical recovery and restorative services listed in the plan will benefit Caldwell County by helping victims achieve stability and reintegrating families from a life of violence to a stable, productive and peaceful existence in the community.

Identified Need 3

Prevention and Education Programs

Programs including dating violence, family violence and sexual assault prevention, bystander intervention and domestic violence education classes should be provided to inform the community of ways they can prevent future violence from occurring in Caldwell County. There is a need for local programs that provide parenting skills and training to adult and teen parents to prevent child abuse and neglect. Prevention and intervention programs that reach at-risk youth early and effectively are needed to combat alcohol, tobacco and drug use, runaway, truancy, delinquency and family conflict.

Supporting Data

Prevention efforts for victims of abuse should be accelerated to reduce the chances for other victimizations or further victimization and target high-risk victim and perpetrator populations.

The Hays-Caldwell Women’s Center Prevention Education Program provided 510 presentations in 2010. From 2007-2010, the Prevention Education Program reached 25,419 people in Hays and Caldwell Counties in an effort to prevent dating violence, family violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

HCWC Public Education Program Hays and Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009	2010
Presentations	387	415	619	510
People Reached	7,842	6,095	6,363	5,119
Newspaper Articles	67	75	39	25
TV/Radio Spots Aired	7	3	9	0

Roxanne’s House Parenting program is open to the community to enhance parenting skills. From 2007-2010, this program reached 235 parents in Hays and Caldwell Counties.

Roxanne’s House Hays and Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009	2010
Parenting Program Participants	79	85	41	30

HCWC Prevention Educators utilize many techniques to prevent violence including the three levels of prevention described below.

HCWC Prevention Education Program	Primary Prevention	Secondary Prevention	Tertiary Prevention
Approach:	Proactive	Reactive	Reactive
When:	Before a person has acquired risk factors for perpetrating	After a person has acquired risk factors for perpetrating violence	After a person has perpetrated sexual violence
Strategies:	Decrease risk-factors, increase protective factors, promote positive behaviors	Address risk factors, promote appropriate bystander behavior, share victim risk-reduction techniques	Sex offender prosecution and/or treatment, sexual assault crisis services
Focus On:	Individuals, families, communities, organizations, systems, societal norms	Potential perpetrators, potential bystanders, potential victims	Known sex offenders, known victims of sexual assault/abuse
Examples:	Respect campaigns, providing information about healthy relationships, anti-bullying campaigns	Rape whistles, watching your drink at a bar, self-defense classes	Crisis hotlines, victim services, legal advocacy, sex offender registries, prison sentences

Violence prevention services are critical for children who have been abused or witnessed abuse to prevent them from becoming abusive to their intimate partners and to stop the cycle of abuse from continuing. HCWC clients reported that 49% of their batterer's had been abused as children and 44% had witnessed abuse as children. Prevention services are also key in preventing youth at risk for alcohol, tobacco and drug use (abuse). Victims of abuse served at HCWC from 2000-2010 reported that 67% of their batterer's abused alcohol and 48% abused drugs.

Hays-Caldwell Women's Center Batterer's Experiences Hays and Caldwell County Statistics	2000-2010
Abused as children	49%
Witnessed abuse as children	44%
Abused alcohol	67%
Abused drugs	48%
*As reported by their victims	

From 2008-2009, Connections provided 5,117 Elementary school based alcohol, drugs and

tobacco prevention services. Additionally, they have reached a total of 520 youth and adults between 2007-2009 in their STAR Program (Services To At-Risk Youth) which helps youth 0 to 17 years and their families reduce and prevent issues of runaway, truancy, delinquency and family conflict.

Connections-Caldwell County Statistics	2007	2008	2009
Elementary School based Prevention Services for Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco	*	3002	2115
*The Program did not exist in 2007			
STAR Counseling for At Risk students age 0-17			
Youth served	135	127	87
Parents served	73	59	39

The State of Texas has demonstrated the importance of violence prevention and education by passing the following legislation:

- Texas House Bill 121 was passed in May 2007. This bill requires all schools to establish a dating violence policy including: a definition of dating violence, addressing safety planning, protective orders, trainings for teachers and administrators, counseling for affected students and awareness education for students and partners.
- Texas House Bill 3505 was passed in May 2007. This bill mandates that judges hearing child abuse and neglect cases receive at least 4 hours of training on issues related to child abuse and neglect during their term in office and 2 hours of training in subsequent terms or every 4 years.
- Senate Bill 1456 was passed in May 2007. This bill requires the Texas Education Agency to develop a child abuse prevention program for voluntary use in school district staff development.

Goals

The goal of the plan is to provide prevention education to members of the community to prevent family violence, sexual assault, child abuse from occurring in Caldwell County. Prevention works to mobilize the community to shift the focus off of the victims and onto to perpetrators to demonstrate that violence is a learned behavior and not tolerated in Caldwell County.

There is a need for local programs that provide:

1. Violence prevention and education to prevent dating violence, family violence and sexual assault;
2. Parenting skills and training to adult and teen parents to prevent child abuse and neglect;
3. Prevention programs are needed to combat alcohol, tobacco and drug use;
4. Prevention and intervention that reach at-risk youth to prevent runaway, truancy, delinquency and family conflict.

Strategies / Tasks

Provide Education, Training and Prevention Education to the Community, Schools, Clergy, Medical community and other professionals.

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Prevention Education	Comprehensive programs focusing on the prevention of sexual violence and/or sexual assault. These programs collaborate with community members, professionals and organizations to address the root causes of violence in order to prevent violence before it occurs. Prevention education programs also work within the schools to facilitate presentations and groups that focus on addressing some of the risk factors that lead to violence.
Primary Prevention	Primary Prevention is an approach in which the main goal is to provide services that prevent violence from occurring.
Psychosocial-Educational Groups	Psychosocial-Educational Groups are offered in schools, community youth programs, at universities and residential settings. These groups address topics such as; female empowerment, male violence prevention, healthy relationships and parenting.
Violence Prevention Workshops	Violence Prevention Workshops provide the opportunity for reflection on the root causes of violence. They enable attendees to gage how they and/or their agencies are doing on fostering a violence-free community in all aspects. These workshops are tailored specifically for professionals, faith-based organizations, volunteer organizations, educational staff and parents.
Community Partnerships	Community Partnerships are groups of invested community members that meet together on a regular basis to gather information on the effects of violence in the community and the resources that are in place. This group works to mobilize the community to shift the focus off of victims of violence to the perpetrators to demonstrate that violence is a learned behavior and not tolerated in the community.

Outputs / Outcomes

The following outcomes measures are being collected on the HCWC Prevention Program:

Fifth Grade Students

Participants in the program will exhibit an increased awareness of the problem of bullying in schools.

Participants in the program will exhibit an increased commitment to be a helpful bystander and try to stop bullying from happening.

Participants will demonstrate increased media literacy.

Middle School and High School Students

Participants in the program will exhibit an increased awareness of the problem of sexual harassment and violence at school.

Participants in the program will exhibit an increased commitment to be a helpful bystander and try to stop sexual harassment and violence from happening.

Participants will demonstrate increased media literacy.

Existing or Planned Efforts

HCWC Prevention Education Program Services – The educators provide presentations to businesses, churches, classrooms, service clubs and community organizations on a variety of topics related to family violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. The Primary Prevention team works within the community facilitating presentations and groups that focus on addressing some of the risk factors that lead to sexual violence. The Prevention Education Program is a comprehensive program which focuses on the prevention of sexual violence and/or sexual assault. This program collaborates with community members, professionals and organizations to address the root causes of violence in order to prevent violence before it occurs. The Prevention Education Program also works within the schools facilitating presentations and groups that focus on addressing some of the risk factors that lead to violence.

The Primary Prevention Education Program operates from a Primary Prevention approach. This means that our main goal is to provide services that prevent violence from occurring. The Prevention Education program offers psychosocial-educational groups in schools, community youth programs, at universities and residential settings. Female Empowerment Groups are all female support groups designed to explore healthy relationships, communication skills and the effects of traditional gender roles on behavior. Emphasis is placed upon peer support and self-esteem building. Group participants learn the skills to establish their personal boundaries and work to create safe schools and communities. Male Violence Prevention Groups are all male support groups designed to explore the roots of violence, anger management techniques, healthy relationships and communication skills. Emphasis is placed on building self-esteem and fostering peer support. Group participants learn the skills to support each other as they strive to create safe and violence-free communities. Healthy Relationships support groups provide male and female participants an opportunity to explore healthy relationships in a co-educational setting. Student participants discuss sexual and physical violence as well as safety tips and communication skills for dealing with problems in relationships.

Violence Prevention Workshops provide opportunity for reflection on the root causes of violence and enables participants to gauge how their agency is doing on fostering a violence-free community in all aspects of their organization, home or workplace. Violence Prevention Workshops are tailored specifically for professionals, faith-based organizations, educational staff and parents. The Prevention Education Program has formed a group of invested community members called the Primary Prevention Team. This group of individuals meets together on a regular basis to gather information on the effects of violence in the community as well as the resources that are in place. The ultimate goal of this team is to mobilize the community to shift the focus off of victims of violence to the perpetrators. This in turn will

demonstrate that violence is a learned behavior and is not tolerated in the community.

CONNECTIONS Individual and Family Services, Inc. offers prevention services in Caldwell County they are: the STAR Program (Services To At-Risk Youth Program) which helps youth 0 to 17 years and families reduce and prevent issues of runaway, truancy, delinquency and family conflict. Universal Child Abuse Prevention Program (UCAP) offers a one time presentation conducted in the community or in schools on child abuse prevention and information. They also offer weekly classes and workshops on subjects such as positive parenting, redirecting children's misbehavior, alternatives to spanking and baby sitter classes.

Priority Level

Medium

Implementation

In addition to the implementation measures mentioned in the previous sections in this plan, the goals, policies and programs identified in the Caldwell County Community Plan are implemented in a variety of ways. The implementation of this plan is a collective effort of the agencies and their services described above. The agencies within Caldwell County facilitate these efforts by providing services to translate the plan into reality. Communities that are educated and informed about these issues learn how they can better respond before an incident occurs so if they are confronted with this type of situation they are better prepared and take appropriate action. This type of community wide preparation also builds a unified front against violence and teaches bystanders how to safely intervene. Prevention education services listed in the plan will benefit Caldwell County by making it a healthier and safer place to live by preventing violence before it occurs and preventing violence from continuing once it has occurred.

Criminal Justice Issues (law enforcement, prosecution, courts)

Identified Need 1

Mental Health Services and Resources

In many instances crime and mental illness are so intertwined it is difficult, given limited resources, to deal with repeat criminal activity where mental illness is a contributing factor.

There is a lack of an effective means for Caldwell County law enforcement agencies to deal with mental health calls for service and mental health commitments. Court systems are recognizing an ever increasing number of offenders with mental health related issues.

Supporting Data

The State of the State (Texas):

Approximately 16.2% of the State Prison population is identified as mentally ill. Between 1970 and 1999 during the height of deinstitutionalization in Texas, the population of mental health institutions fell 81% while the population of Texas prisons increased by ten fold. (Texas Commission on Jail Standards (2005). Cited in: Turning the corner: Toward balance and reform in Texas mental health services. 5-16). Moreover, the State of Texas consistently ranks in the bottom 10% of the 50 states when looking at the per-capita spending for public mental health. (Mental Health Association in Texas. (2005). Turning the corner: Toward balance and reform in Texas mental health services. ES-2.)

A recent report by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), "Grading the States", found an apparent rise in the number of minorities self-reporting depression problems – bad news for a state in which the population is projected to soon become majority minority. Texas ranks 46th nationally in mental health spending per capita. Included in NAMI's assessment: "For a state that has one of the largest uninsured populations in the country and a large number of immigrants without access to health care, Texas hasn't invested enough in the system to meet minimum levels of need."

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (BTCS) provides services for the following diagnoses:

- Bipolar Disorder
- Major Depression
- Schizophrenia
- Children with Psychiatric problems

The services provided by a doctor for these individuals are:

- Medications
- Case Management
- Counseling by a psychiatrist
- Community Clinics

Listed below are the numbers of individuals who have received these services:

Bluebonnet Trails- Caldwell County Statistics	2008	2009	2010
Crisis Services Total	169	175	183
Adults	127	136	119
Children	42	39	64
Screening Services Total	304	289	265
Adults	220	225	205
Children	84	64	60
*28 people are currently on the waiting list			

Caldwell County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) reports they provided 61 transports of individuals to psychiatric hospitals in 2010. Statistics were not tracked prior to 2010. The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office reports that there is concern in taking deputies out of the community to provide these transports. It is the CCSOs responsibility for all transports as required.

BTCS staff has reported that there will be more transports required of law enforcement in the future due to law/policy changes made recently.

The Caldwell County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CCCSCD) reports the agency provides services to individuals placed on Community Supervision for crimes that are initially labeled and tracked as criminal activity, not as a mental health issue. The agency also provides services for substance abuse that is correlated to the individual's mental health issues (self-medication, etc.) Therefore, the report statistics for mental health are not fully represented in the tracking data by the agency.

Turning to the institutionalized juvenile/youth population, a recent rigorous national study concluded that 70.4% of children in the juvenile justice system meet the criteria for at least one mental health disorder. Of these children, 79% had co-occurring mental health disorders, and 27% had a mental disorder severe enough to require significant and immediate treatment (Shufelt & Coccozza 2006).

The State of Texas has registered similar levels of prevalence to those found nationally. All children referred to juvenile probation departments are administered the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (MAYSI-2) pursuant to a state-wide initiative established by the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC). This screening tool is used to identify problems in seven subscales/categories as indicated in two levels of scoring: Caution and Warning. These levels roughly correspond to the meeting of criteria for a finding of having a mental health disorder or a severe mental health disorder, respectively. A comprehensive examination of the state data revealed the following levels: 60% achieved the caution cutoff in at least one subscale; 25% achieved the warning cutoff on at least one subscale; and girls scored higher proportions of warning and caution cutoffs on each and every subscale (TJPC 2003).

Caldwell County Juvenile Probation Department (CCJPD) reports in calendar year 2009, of the total 198 MAYSI-2s administered to children referred to the Caldwell County Juvenile Probation Department 65% (128) achieved the caution cutoff in at least one subscale, and 28% (55) achieved the warning cutoff in at least one subscale.

Goals

Primary goal at this stage is to develop strategy in tracking and confirming the severity of the issue identified.

Strategies / Tasks

CCSO will continue to track data as it relates to transports provided for individuals to psychiatric institutions.

CCCSCD will formulate plan to track data as it relates to offenders under their supervision who have confirmed or suspected mental health issues. Identify whether there is need for specialized trained/certified officer to handle a mental health caseload.

Law Enforcement agencies will formulate plan to track data as it relates to offenders they come into contact with who have confirmed or suspected mental health issues.

Outputs / Outcomes

Local baseline data is minimal outside number services provided by BTCS and CCSO transport data. These are to be considered baseline data for evaluation purposes in the future. Additional data is needed to provide meaningful outputs and outcome measures in the future.

Existing or Planned Efforts

Currently only basic services are being provided.

The total extent of the problem that needs to be addressed has not been firmly identified through statistical data though some issues have been identified.

Priority Level

High

Implementation

All court systems, law enforcement agencies and social service agencies dealing with offenders with mental health issues.

Identified Need 2

“Colonias”

Caldwell County is experiencing a growing number of citizen complaints relating to “colonias”.

Supporting Data

The Texas legislature has defined *colonias* as: a) subdivisions, b) lacking essential elements of infrastructure, and c) near the Mexico border.

This material is from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Office of Community Affairs' publication found on the Texas Secretary of State website and is provided for background information.

"Texas Colonias: A Thumbnail Sketch of Conditions, Issues, Challenges and Opportunities"

Where are colonias found?

Colonias can be found in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, but Texas has both the largest number of colonias and the largest colonia population. Approximately 400,000 Texans live in colonias. Overall, the colonia population is predominately Hispanic; 64.4 percent of all colonia residents and 85 percent of those residents under 18 were born in the United States.

How were colonias developed?

The development of Texas colonias dates back to at least the 1950s. Using agriculturally worthless land, land that lay in floodplains or other rural properties, developers created unincorporated subdivisions. They divided the land into small lots, put in little or no infrastructure, then sold them to low-income individuals seeking affordable housing. Colonia residents generally have very low incomes. Per capita annual income for all Texas counties bordering Mexico-where most of the colonias are located-tends to be much lower than the state average of \$16,717. In border counties such as Starr, Maverick and Hidalgo, per capita annual incomes in 1994 were \$5,559, \$7,631 and \$8,899, respectively.

Why do people buy land in colonias?

A limited supply of adequate, affordable housing in cities and rural areas along the Texas- Mexico border, coupled with the rising need for such housing has contributed to the development of new colonias and the expansion of existing ones. People with low-incomes often buy the lots through a contract for deed, a property financing method whereby developers typically offer a low down payment and low monthly payments but no title to the property until the final payment is made. Houses in colonias are generally constructed in phases by their owners and may lack electricity, plumbing and other basic amenities. Colonia residents build homes as they can afford materials.

Why isn't more done to improve conditions in the colonias?

The colonias' growth has challenged residents, as well as county, state and federal governments and others, to seek ways to provide basic water and sewer services and to improve the quality of life in the colonias. Local public funds and other resources are often limited and unable to provide service to the current and growing colonia population. Hidalgo County, which has the most colonias and largest number of colonia residents in Texas, is typical of many border counties. For basic health and human services, environmental services and capital improvements, colonia residents must rely on an often confusing combination of local, state and federal programs, many of which come and go, depending on the political and economic climate.

What are some of the issues and challenges facing colonias?

Access to Water and Sewer Service. Because of the potentially serious consequences for public health and its effect on quality of life, one of the greatest concerns regarding the colonias is the lack of wastewater

infrastructure and potable water.

Many colonias do not have sewer systems. Instead, residents must rely on alternative, often inadequate wastewater disposal methods. Septic tank systems, which in some circumstances may provide adequate wastewater disposal, often pose problems because they are too small or improperly installed and can overflow. The problem is exacerbated by the poor quality of colonia roads, which are often unpaved and covered with caliche or their materials that prevent thorough drainage. During heavy rains, water collects because of inadequate drainage systems, elevation and topography. These conditions, combined with inadequate septic tanks, often result in sewage pooling on the ground.

Even if the colonias had adequate sewer systems, the border area lacks sufficient facilities to treat wastewater. In many places, there are no treatment facilities at all. Consequently, border communities often discharge untreated or inadequately treated wastewater into canals and arroyos (a creek or stream), which then flow into Rio Grande River or the Gulf of Mexico.

Securing potable water also presents a challenge to colonia residents. Many must buy water by the bucket or drum to meet their daily needs or use wells that may be contaminated.

Colonia residents often find themselves in a catch-22 situation. Even when water lines and sewer systems are in place, many cannot access the services because their homes do not meet county building codes. Many homes, built without regard for indoor bathrooms or plumbing, are treated as substandard or dilapidated by housing inspectors. These homes cannot pass inspection to qualify for hook up to water lines, and residents cannot afford the repairs or improvements necessary to bring them up to code.

Housing. Housing in the colonias is primarily constructed by residents little by little, using available materials. Professional builders are rarely used. Residents frequently start with tents or makeshift structures of wood, cardboard or other materials and, as their financial situation allows, continue to improve their homes. Housing in older colonias tends to be better developed because residents have had more time to make improvements.

Health. Dilapidated homes, a lack of potable water and sewer and drainage systems, and floodplain locations make many colonias an ideal place for the proliferation of disease. Texas Department of Health data show that hepatitis A, salmonellosis, dysentery, cholera and other diseases occur at much higher rates in colonias than in Texas as a whole. Tuberculosis is also a common health threat, occurring almost twice as frequently along the border than in Texas as a whole. A lack of medical services compounds health problems in the colonias. In addition to a shortage of primary care providers, colonia residents' difficulty in accessing health care is compounded by other factors, including having to travel long distances to health care facilities, fear of losing wages for time spent away from work, inconvenient health care facility hours, lack of awareness of available health care programs and no health insurance. As a result, many colonia residents' health care problems go unreported and untreated. For children, these barriers can be devastating and may result in slow growth and lower educational development rates.

Unemployment. The unemployment rate in some colonias is more than eight times the state rate. A 1993 Texas A&M study discovered that unemployment in five Lower Rio Grande Valley colonias ranged from 20 percent to 60 percent, compared with the overall Texas unemployment rate of 7 percent. In addition, many colonia residents often cannot find year-round work due to the seasonal nature of their primary occupations. Fieldwork represents 29.5 percent of their jobs, construction work, 24.4 percent, and factory work, 14.9 percent.

Contract for Deed. Since the 1950s, the contract for deed has been the most frequently used financing mechanism in the colonias because many individuals have neither a credit history nor the resources to qualify for traditional bank or credit union financing. A contract for deed is a financing arrangement, often at high interest rates, whereby land ownership often remains with the seller until the total purchase price is paid.

Traditionally, contracts for deed, unlike deeds of trust, were not recorded with the county clerk, making it easy for the developer to reclaim the property, as well as making it difficult to enforce any commitment of the developers' part to provide infrastructure. If the buyer fell behind in payments, the developer could repossess the property, often within 45 days, without going through the traditional foreclosure process. Developers also

could claim any improvements made on the property.

Steps are being taken to remedy some of the inequities inherent in contracts for deed. In 1995, Texas legislators passed the Colonias Fair Land Sales Act to protect those who must rely on contracts for deed to finance property. The legislation requires developers to record the contract and counties to keep a record of contracts for deed. It also requires developers to provide a statement of available services, such as water, wastewater and electricity, and whether the property is located in a floodplain. Developers must provide property buyers with an annual statement-including amount paid, amount owed, the number of payments remaining and the amount paid to taxing authorities on the purchaser's behalf.

Although the legislation sets a minimum standard for contract for deed land sales, other problems with this method of financing remain.

Contracts for deed make it difficult for home owners to secure financing to build a house or make home improvement. Because title to the land often does not transfer to the buyer until it is fully paid for, an applicant cannot use the property as collateral when applying for a loan. Therefore, financial institutions are reluctant to lend money to improve the property.

Caldwell County contains a total of 350,245 acres of land. There is a total of 9,095 acres of properly recorded subdivisions. In Caldwell County, according to the Caldwell County Appraisal District, there are 19,316 acres of unrecorded subdivisions which represents 5.5% of the total county acreage. The total acreage of unrecorded subdivisions is more than double (2.12 times) the amount of recorded subdivisions.

Unrecorded subdivisions represent a combination of (1) Approved, but not recorded subdivisions, (2) illegally divided parcels of land, and (3) "colonias".

Caldwell County is experiencing a growing number of citizen complaints relating to "colonias". Complaints include:

- (1) homes without a septic or sewer connection resulting in raw sewage being released directly on to the surface of the ground and into various water resources;
- (2) Limited or improper electrical and water utilities provided to homes;
- (3) Illegal dumping of household refuse; and
- (4) Nuisance issues (odors, insect control problems, vectors for various communicable disease transmission and child endangerment.)

Goals

The goal is to identify those unrecorded subdivisions that would be considered "colonias" which are endangering the occupants and causing environmental pollution of Caldwell County's land, air, and water. After identifying these unrecorded subdivisions, the County will investigate and abate the environmental impact and prosecute the responsible parties. In addition, through education and enforcement, reduce or remediate the number of future unrecorded subdivisions.

Strategies / Tasks

Create a working task force comprised of various county agencies with assistance from State agencies to identify and combat this problem. This group will consolidate various pieces of information to identify, investigate and prosecute potential “colonias” sites.

Outputs / Outcomes

To remediate existing “colonias” sites and prevent future “colonias” from occurring.

Existing or Planned Efforts

With the proper resources and coordination, the agencies can investigate and prosecute present “colonias” and environmental crimes, deter expansion of existing “colonias”, and prevent future “colonias” from being developed.

Priority Level

High

Implementation

Law Enforcement agencies and Caldwell County District Attorney’s Office will take the lead in establishing a working task force.

Identified Need 3

Unemployed Criminal Offenders

There are a disproportionate number of adult criminal offenders under community supervision whom are unemployed.

Supporting Data

There are numerous national studies that discuss the relationship of unemployment and crime. Some notable remarks from national researchers include:

Nobel Laureate Gary S. Becker from the University of Chicago explores the idea that the motivation for criminal behavior is rational and by no means any different than anyone else’s decision making. He explains the importance of studying crime with respect to unemployment because when faced with choices, criminals will weigh the benefits of illegal activity versus working, subject to the likelihood and severity of punishment, as well as financial benefits of the outcome.

Steven D. Levitt, author of the best-selling book "*Freakonomics*," provides insight on the reasons for the decline in crime in his article, "Understanding Why Crime Fell in the 1990s: Four Factors that Explain the Decline and Six that Do Not." He agrees with Becker that improvements in labor market opportunities have a relevant impact on crime when there is a financial incentive to commit. He adds that a "one percent increase in the unemployment rate accounts for a one percent increase in property crimes," indicating the common use of a double-log regression in past research.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Caldwell County Unemployment rate in September 2010 was 7.8% of the labor force.

The Caldwell County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CCCSCD) reports that of 736 new cases of supervision sampled during 2009, 229 (31.1%) of the offenders were unemployed.

Workforce Solutions provides no cost recruitment, employment services and information to businesses and job seekers. No statistics for Caldwell County were available at the time of the completion of the community plan.

Goals

Increase the employment rate of offenders under community supervision.

Strategies / Tasks

Establish strong relationships between all stakeholders including CCCSCD, Workforce Solutions, job seekers and job providers.

Establish additional services/resources to assist offenders under community supervision with job skills, job placement and transportation.

Additionally, provide for budgeting skills and further education needs such as General Equivalency diploma services.

Outputs / Outcomes

Decrease the percentage of adult offenders under community supervision unemployment by 2% annually.

Existing or Planned Efforts

Workforce Solutions is currently the only public (free) provider available to assist with job placement to adult offenders.

Priority Level

High

Implementation

CCCSCD and Workforce Solutions will be lead agencies

Identified Need 4

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

In many instances crime and drug and alcohol abuse are so intertwined it is difficult, given limited resources, to deal with repeat criminal activity where drugs and alcohol are a contributing factor. An increase in monitoring and treatment for alcohol and drug abusers who commit crimes will lower recidivism rates and create a lasting solution. Problem solving courts such as drug courts may be necessary to divert offenders from incarceration toward treatment. In not addressing issues of substance abuse in the community these crimes and dependencies go unchecked.

Supporting Data

The consequences of illicit drug use impact the entire criminal justice system, taxing resources at each stage of the arrest, adjudication, incarceration, and post-release supervision process.

The most recent annual data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) show that 12.2 percent of more than 14 million arrests in the United States in 2008 were for drug violations, the most common arrest crime category. The proportion of total drug arrests has increased over the past 20 years: in 1987, only 7.4 percent of all arrests were for drug violations.

The characteristics of populations under correctional supervision reflect these arrest patterns. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), in the United State, 20 percent of state prisoners and 53 percent of federal prisoners are incarcerated because of a drug offense. Moreover, 27 percent of individuals on probation and 37 percent of individuals on parole at the end of 2007 had committed a drug offense.

Caldwell County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CCCSCD) reports that in 2009, out of 736 new cases sampled, 315 offenders (42.7%) were under supervision for drug/alcohol related offenses. CCCSD reports that they have the following programs available to adult offenders but funding is limited and offenders are not able to access all services:

- Texas DWI Education Program

- Texas DWI Intervention Program
- Texas Drug Offender Education Program
- In House Outpatient Program
- Intensive Out-Patient Treatment
- Day Treatment Program
- Recovery Works
- Relapse Prevention
- DTP Relapse Management Group
- Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility (SAFPF)

Instruments, Assessments and Evaluations conducted on Substance Abusers:

- Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI)
- Mortimer-Filkins Questionnaire and Interview
- Numerical Drinking Profile
- Substance abuse evaluation

Caldwell County Juvenile Probation Department (CCJPD) reports that 111 juveniles were drug tested a total of 552 times in 2009. 189 of these 552 drug tests were positive for illegal substances (34%). 48 of the 111 juveniles drug tested (43%) were positive for illegal substances and 31 juveniles tested positive more than one time.

Hays/Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (HCCADA) reports that they provided the following services to juveniles in FY 2009 and FY 2010:

FY 2009

Elementary Life Skills (classroom based) 108
 Middle School Life Skills (classroom based) 95
 Kids Connection Support Groups 91
 Youth Connection Support Groups 90
 Project Toward No Drug Abuse (classroom based) 107

FY 2010

Middle School Life Skills (classroom based) 317
 Kids Connection Support Groups 61
 Youth Connection Support Groups 75
 Project Toward No Drug Abuse (classroom based) 172

Goals

Maintain and expand existing drug and alcohol services including residential and non-residential services.

Strategies / Tasks

The Court systems including the probation agencies in Caldwell County will continue to work

with local providers and public resources. Further data is needed to evaluate the local problem to ascertain the exact severity of the problem in relation to other surrounding counties. Both the juvenile and adult probation agencies will look to maintain or expand services in relation to substance abuse and treatment.

Analysis on whether a dedicated drug court in Caldwell County is needed or warranted.

Outputs / Outcomes

Outputs and Outcomes are somewhat un-measurable at this time until better baseline data may be established.

Existing or Planned Efforts

The Caldwell County CSCD reports the following programs for adult offender at this time :

- Texas DWI Education Program
- Texas DWI Intervention Program
- Texas Drug Offender Education Program
- In House Outpatient Program
- Intensive Out-Patient Treatment
- Day Treatment Program
- Recovery Works
- Relapse Prevention
- DTP Relapse Management Group
- Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility (SAFPF)

Instruments, Assessments and Evaluations conducted on Substance Abusers:

- Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI)
- Mortimer-Filkins Questionnaire and Interview
- Numerical Drinking Profile
- Substance Abuse Evaluation

The Hays-Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse is the primary agency providing direct services to juveniles. Connections also provides some services for substance abuse.

Priority Level

Medium

Implementation

All criminal justice agencies in Caldwell County and public substance abuse service providers.