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2012 to 2014

BASTROP, FAYETTE, AND LEE COUNTIES



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

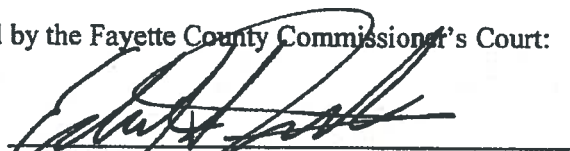
Approved by the Bastrop County Commissioner's Court:



Honorable Ronnie McDonald
Bastrop County Judge

01/23/12
Date

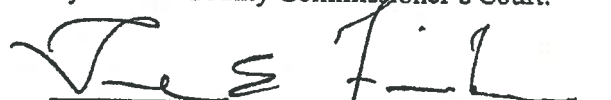
Approved by the Fayette County Commissioner's Court:



Honorable Edward Janecka
Fayette County Judge

1-23-12
Date

Approved by the Lee County Commissioner's Court:



Honorable Paul Fischer
Lee County Judge

1/23/2012
Date

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BASTROP, FAYETTE, AND LEE COUNTIES

FY 2012 to FY 2014 COMMUNITY PLAN FOR COORDINATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

The Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties' Community Plan for the Coordination of Criminal Justice and Related Activities was directed through the leadership of the following individuals that serve on the Capital Area Planning Council of Governments (CAPCOG) Executive Committee:

Bastrop County Judge Ronnie McDonald
 Fayette County Judge Edward Janecka
 Lee County Commissioner Pct. 1, Maurice Pitts

Administrative support for the planning process was provided by: Gayle Wilhelm, Assistant to Judge McDonald; Babette Skalka, Assistant to Judge Janecka; Hilary Kieschnick, Assistant to Lee County Judge Paul Fischer; and Sherry Murphy, Community Planning Liaison for Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee County.

This plan is the culmination of many hours of work by representatives from various criminal justice related agencies and organizations throughout the multicounty area. This plan focuses on the needs, goals, strategies and efforts of area law enforcement, prosecution/courts, victim services, and juvenile services.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTICIPANTS

Focus Group Representatives: Law Enforcement	
Chris Bratton	Elgin Police Department-Police Chief
Cathy Henzen	Family Crisis Center
Terry Pickering	Bastrop County Sheriff's Office-Sheriff
Philip Taylor	Elgin Police Department-Assistant Police Chief
Matthew Wagner	Bastrop Police Department-Assistant Police Chief
Focus Group Representatives: Prosecution/Courts	
Latreese Cooke	MEEELJ
James Herbrich	Fayette County District Attorney's Office-ADA
Al Hoerig	Grace Lutheran Church
Lauren Jones	Family Crisis Center
Melissa Kincaid	Bastrop County Auditor's Office
Lisa Smith	Bastrop County Auditor's Office
Lynn Sorrells	Workforce Solutions

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTICIPANTS - continued**Focus Group Representatives: Victim Services**

Julia Dunn	CASA
Amanda Homesley	CASA
Lisa Jackson	Bastrop County Sheriff's Department-Victim Services
Lynn Kirby	Children's Advocacy Center
Sherry Murphy	Family Crisis Center
Coreen Schmidt	Children's Advocacy Center

Focus Group Representatives: Juvenile Services

LaDonna Boyd	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
Heather Eilers	SWIFT-Schulenburg & Weimar In Focus
Debbie Fowlkes	Schulenburg ISD
Jaimie Gilbreath	Youth & Family Services
Leisa Kolton	Connections
Crystal Relf	Juvenile Probation
Anthony Robles	Boys & Girls Club-Bastrop County
Sylvan Rossi	SWIFT-Schulenburg & Weimar In Focus
Kay Shaver	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
Staci Ulrich	Juvenile Probation

Other Participants in the Community Planning Process

Hollie Barrett	Department of Family and Protective Services
Michael Blake	Bastrop Police Department-Police Chief
Kathleen Boettcher	Lexington ISD
Barbara Bogart	Bastrop County District Attorney's Office-ADA
Troy Brenek	Schulenburg Police Department-Police Chief
Debra Byler	Fayette County Juvenile Probation
Kim Cabazos	Family Crisis Center
Twyla Dodson	Youth & Family Services
Julie Elliott	Children's Advocacy Center
Celina Estrada Thomas	Bastrop ISD
Susan Farris	Family Crisis Center
Paul Fischer	Lee County Judge
Cidneye Godkin	Advocacy Outreach

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTICIPANTS – continued

Jeff Goff	Bastrop County Sheriff's Office
Mindy Graber	Children's Advocacy Center
Stacey Helm	Children's Advocacy Center
Randy Hensley	Elgin Police Department
Charlotte Hinds	City of Bastrop Municipal Judge
Lisa Houston	Department of Family and Protective Services
Bernie Jackson	Bastrop County Ministerial Alliance
Charles Jobb	Fayette County Sheriff's Office-Sergeant
Veronica Jordan	Family Crisis Center
Gerry Lee	Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
Milca Lemelle	Family Crisis Center
Phyllis Mathison	Bastrop Municipal Court Administrator
Kristin Metcalf	Bastrop County District Attorney's Office-ADA
Tex Middlebrook	Smithville City Manager
Janice Motal	Fayetteville ISD
Dan Mueller	Fayette County Justice of the Peace Precinct 4
Don Nichols	Family Crisis Center
Randy Noviskie	Fayette County Sheriff's Office-Chief Deputy
Terry Orr	City of Bastrop-Mayor
Angela Pardo	Fayette County Sheriff's Office-Investigator
Scott Parker	Fayette County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1
Daniel Peevy	Youth & Family Services
Earl Pence	Giddings Police Department-Captain
Martin Placke	Lee County Attorney's Office-County Attorney
Shawn Raborn	City of LaGrange-City Manager
Dennis Rhoten	Giddings Police Department-Police Chief
David Sager	Bastrop County Adult Probation
Jessica Sanchez	Department of Family and Protective Services
Babette Skalka	Fayette County Judge's Office
Jackie Skelton	La Grange Police Department-Police Chief
Bobbie Smith	Department of Family and Protective Services
Lisa Snyder	Community Action, Inc.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTICIPANTS - continued

Amy Streit	La Grange Middle School
Teresa Strong	Department of Family & Protective Services
Rudy Supak	Smithville Police Department-Police Chief
Peggy Supak	Fayette County District Attorney's Office-DA
Reva L. Towslee Corbett	335 th District Court Judge
Sheryl Tumlinson	City of Bastrop-Juvenile Case Manager
Martha Upchurch	Family Crisis Center
Brian Webb	Department of Family and Protective Services
Kathy Weishuhn	Department of Family and Protective Services
Gayle Wilhelm	Bastrop County Judge's Office
Robin Williams	Department of Family and Protective Services
Danny Wofford	Bastrop County Sheriff's Office-Investigator
Maria Rangel	Family Crisis Center

PLAN SUMMARY

The 2012-2014 Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties' Community Plan for the Coordination of Criminal Justice Related Activities provides information and supporting data for the criminal justice related community priorities focused on the areas of Law Enforcement, Victim Services, Prosecution/Courts, and Juvenile Services. This plan is the culmination of input from approximately 85 area professionals who aided in the various steps of the planning process. Through the planning process, information was compiled to help participants recognize and list community assets; identify area needs, gaps, and trends; prioritize the identified needs; and formulate goals, strategies and tasks to help guide the future efforts of criminal justice related systems in the multi-county area covered by the plan.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA COVERED

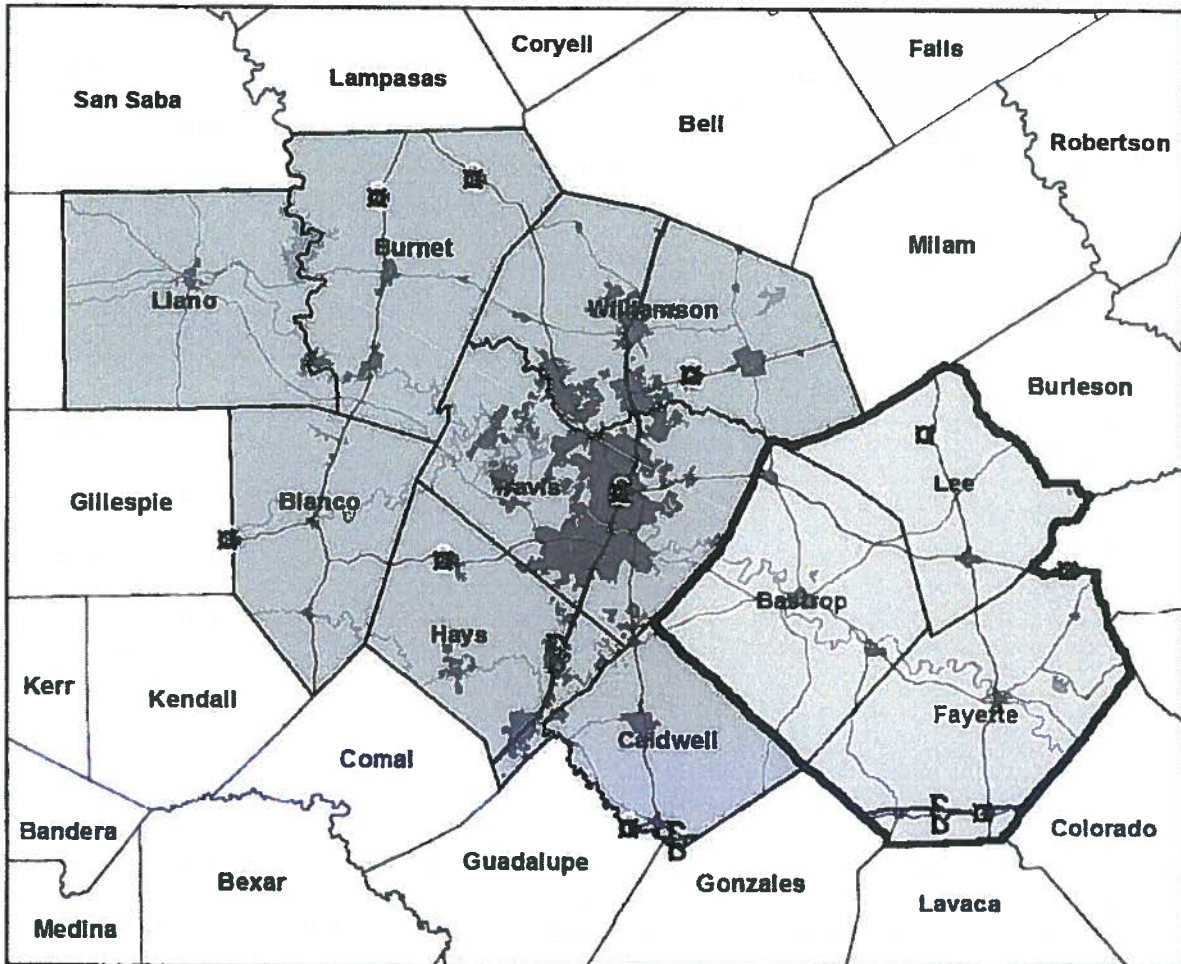
This plan covers the three-county area of Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties of the Capital Area Regional Council of Governments in Central Texas, which encompasses the incorporated communities of Bastrop, Elgin, Smithville, La Grange, Carmine, Fayetteville, Flatonia, Round Top, Schulenburg, Giddings, and Lexington.

Bastrop County covers a total area of 896 square miles with a portion of the county still considered rural in nature. The county is networked by four major thoroughfares which include US Highway 290 and State Highways 71, 95 and 21.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA COVERED – continued

Fayette County covers a total area of 960 square miles and is considered rural in nature. The county is networked by eight major roadways which include US Interstate 10, US Highways 77, 90, and 290 and State Highways 71, 95, 159, and 237.

Lee County covers a total area of 634 square miles and is also considered rural in nature. The county is networked by three major roadways which include US Highways 77 and 290 and State Highway 21.



GENERAL STATISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Bastrop County

Bastrop County is located directly east of the state capital, Austin (Travis County), which has in recent years become part of the Austin-Round Rock metropolitan area. According to the 2010 US Census, the population of Bastrop County is 74,171, which is a 28.5% increase from the 2000 US Census of 57,733. The majority of citizens in Bastrop County identify as White-Non Hispanic, 60.2%; with 29.7% identifying as White-Hispanic; 7.9% as Black; 1.2% identifying of mixed races; 0.7% as Asian or Pacific Islander; and 0.4% as American Indian. In 2009, the median household income for the Bastrop County was \$47,788 with the local economy fueled by government services, tourism, Agri-business, biotechnology research, computer related industries

GENERAL STATISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS - continued

and commuters to Austin. The county's major employers include: area ISD's, Lost Pines Hyatt Regency Resort & Spa, WalMart, County and Municipal government, University of Texas Research Facility, and Bastrop Federal Correctional Institute. The City of Bastrop is the county seat and the two other municipalities in the county are Elgin and Smithville.

Bastrop County was founded in 1836 and is named for Felipe Enrique Neri, Baron de Bastrop who was actually a commoner named Philip Hendrik Nering Bogel who was wanted for embezzlement in his native country of the Netherlands. As the Baron de Bastrop, he became an early Dutch settler and assisted Stephen F. Austin in obtaining land grants in Texas.

Fayette County

Fayette County is located east, southeast of Bastrop County, approximately 45 miles east of Austin. According to the 2010 US Census, the population of Fayette County is 24,554, which is a 12.6% increase from the 2000 US Census of 21,804. The majority of citizens in Fayette County identify as White-Non Hispanic, 74.9%; with 17.5% identifying as White-Hispanic; 6.5% as Black; 0.5% identifying of mixed races; 0.3% as Asian or Pacific Islander; and 0.3% as American Indian. In 2009, the median household income for the Fayette County was \$46,036 with the local economy fueled by agribusiness, production of electricity, mineral production, government services, small manufacturing, and tourism. The county's major employers include: Lower Colorado River Authority, St. Mark's Medical Center, area ISD's, and County and Municipal government. La Grange is the county seat of Fayette County and there are five other municipalities in the county which include Carmine, Fayetteville, Flatonia, Round Top and Schulenburg.

Fayette County was the first settled by German immigrants followed by Czechs and Moravians a few years later. The county was founded December 14, 1837 and was named for the Marquis de la Fayette, a French nobleman who became an American Revolutionary War hero.

Lee County

Lee County is located directly east northeast of Bastrop County approximately 45 miles east of Austin. According to the 2010 US Census, the population of Lee County is 16,612, which is a 6.1% increase from the 2000 US Census of 15,657. The majority of citizens in Lee County identify as White-Non Hispanic, 65.5%; with 22.1% identifying as White-Hispanic; 11% as Black; 0.8% identifying of mixed races; 0.3% as Asian or Pacific Islander; and 0.3% as American Indian. In 2009, the median household income for the Lee County was \$46,757 with the local economy fueled by varied manufacturing, agribusiness, gas and oil production, and government services. The county's major employers include: Color Star Growers, area ISD's, Giddings State School, and County and Municipal government. Giddings is the county seat with one other incorporated municipality in the county which is Lexington.

Lee County, named for General Robert E. Lee, C.S.A., was carved from the surrounding counties of Burleson, Washington, Fayette, and Bastrop Counties in April of 1874. Though small in size, the county is big in history. The area played an important part in Spanish and Mexican history as well as in the development of the Republic (1836-1846) and later, the State of Texas.

AREAS ADDRESSED

LAW ENFORCEMENT

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 1:

Additional personnel to maintain/expand detection, curtailment, and apprehension of criminal activities, investigate crimes, and process cases more efficiently.

Supporting Data:

- Call volume continues to increase in the majority of departments in the three county area (see chart below) with no or limited increase in hiring of officers. Bastrop Police Department has not hired a new officer in 6 years. Elgin Police Department lost one officer position due to funding 4 years ago and has not been able catch up. Meanwhile, the area's overall population grew between 2000 and 2010 by 21.2%.

TRENDS IN TOTAL CRIMES KNOWN/REPORTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT 2007 - 2009												
BASTROP COUNTY	Bastrop Co SO			Bastrop PD			Elgin PD			Smithville PD		
	Pop.	#	Rate	Pop.	#	Rate	Pop.	#	Rate	Pop.	#	Rate
2007	51648	1089	2108.5	7966	572	7180.5	9951	356	3577.4	4543	150	3301.7
2008	51404	1071	2083.6	8190	410	5006.1	10486	292	2784.6	4501	104	2310.6
2009	52003	1234	2372.9	8792	449	5106.9	10525	341	3327.3	4534	96	2117.3
TRENDS	√	√	↑	!	!	↑	√	√	↑	√	√	↓

FAYETTE COUNTY	Fayette SO			La Grange PD			Flatonia PD		
	Pop.	# Offenses	Rate/ 100,000	Pop.	# Offenses	Rate/ 100,000	Pop.	# Offenses	Rate/ 100,000
2007	16522	151	914.0	4669	74	1585.0	1423	19	1335.2
2008	16507	165	999.6	4690	95	2025.6	1432	11	768.1
2009	13961	156	1117.4	4733	52	1098.7	1437	19	1322.2
TRENDS	√	√	↑	√	√	↓	√	√	↑

LEE COUNTY	Lee Co SO			Giddings PD			Lexington PD		
	Pop.	# Offenses	Rate/ 100,000	Pop.	# Offenses	Rate/ 100,000	Pop.	# Offenses	Rate/ 100,000
2007	9909	103	1039.5	5517	209	3788.4	1265	44	3478.2
2008	9729	109	1120.3	5470	236	4314.5	1238	10	807.8
2009	9799	99	1010.3	5455	232	4253	1241	34	2739.8
TRENDS	√	√	↓	!	!	↓	√	√	↑

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation & Texas Department of Public Safety

√ = Indicates that agency rate is lower than the average rate for cities with same population range.

! = Indicates that the agency rate is higher than the average rate for cities with the same population range.

↑ = Indicates that the agency crime rate has increased in comparison to the past year.

↓ = Indicates that the agency crime rate has decreased in comparison to the past year.

POPULATION GROWTH DATA	Bastrop	Fayette	Lee	Total
Population 2000	57,733	21,804	15,657	95,194
Population 2010	74,171	24,554	16,612	115,337
Population % Change 2000 to 2010	+28.5	+12.6	+6.1	+21.2

Source: Quickfacts.census.gov

- According to FBI.com statistics, the south part of the United States has 2.6 officers per 1,000 inhabitants compared to other regions with 3 to 4 officer per inhabitants. In rural areas and in small towns, the number of officers may be lower than 2.6 per inhabitant. This can affect how efficiently departments do their jobs.

Goal:

Effectively detect, curtail and investigate criminal activity and apprehend offenders.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Continued dialogue about additional funding with county/city governments for an increase in law enforcement personnel.
- Apply for all available federal and state funding. For some departments that don't have access to a grant writer, pursue volunteer grant writers to help with grant writing.
- More discussion/lobbying at the State Legislature, the Governor's office, and Congress to re-identify and prioritize the need for increased personnel from state and national law enforcement organizations.

Outputs/Outcomes:

Output

- Increase the number of officers hired to correspond with the increase in population growth over the next 3 years.

Outcome

- Increase the area law enforcement arrest rates.
- Increase the response rates to 911 calls.
- Increase productivity of law enforcement investigations.

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

Continue ongoing efforts to identify and seek funding opportunities to support the hiring of additional personnel.

Continue to dialogue with county and municipal entities regarding needed resources.

Continue to make community safer and more attractive to business and tourism which can translate into strengthening the sales tax base and other revenue streams.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

Department heads of each law enforcement agency continue to work to identify additional and continued funding avenues. Grant funding opportunities should be shared among all agencies even if everyone applies for the same funding. It is better to have something compared to nothing in the community.

Department heads will continue to provide state and national associations with current information and dialogue for lobbying the legislature. Many of these changes can only occur at the state/national level.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 2:

Specialized training and education for law enforcement and the community.

Supporting Data:

- To provide training, an officer needs to be replaced for coverage and there is not enough staff to go around or overtime will have to be paid to make up the difference. This prohibits seeking out additional training due to staffing shortages.
- There is an overall increase in specialized crimes (identity theft, terrorism, cyber crime) and not enough officers being trained to work with specialized crimes. Officers get behind and can't keep up with specialized demands without training. Local departments report an average of a 50% increase in specialized crimes.
- All area law enforcement departments are dealing with budget challenges. When budgets are tight, training and training related costs tend to be one of the first areas trimmed.
- Departments find that the community in general does not understand the criminal justice process and expect/demand results that may not be attainable. Departments are finding they have to explain the process to the community due to the misinformation of the process shown on television programs. This creates more frustration for both parties and takes additional time from investigations.

Goals:

Law enforcement personnel receive ongoing specialized training effectively do their jobs. Community has a better understanding of law enforcement processes.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Expand training opportunities for area law enforcement personnel.
- Area law enforcement agencies combine training resources, both locally and regionally, to more effectively train personnel.
- Establish a training plan at the beginning of each fiscal year when budgets are being negotiated and approved.
- Organize and facilitate one training per quarter.
- Identify agencies such as MADD, FBI, Attorney General's Office, and other agencies with the expertise to provide free training for members of the community regarding law enforcement process and specialized crimes (identity theft, terrorism, cyber crime).
- Continue community Citizen's Academies and promote dialogue about creating a regional academy.

Outputs/Outcomes:

Outputs

- Increase the number of law enforcement personnel that receive ongoing training and education on specialized crimes.
- Improve community partnerships with law enforcement due to the increased knowledge of law enforcement systems. The community will help lower the overall number of victimizations because they will be more aware of crime in general and how to prevent it. The number of calls may increase due to knowledge, but crime will also decrease.
- Increase the number of opportunities to educate the community regarding law enforcement processes.
- Decrease the number of inappropriate calls made to 911.

Outcomes

- Increase productivity of law enforcement investigations of specialized crimes.
- Increase the area law enforcement arrest rates related to specialized crimes.
- Decrease crime victim rates through community awareness.
- Community members receiving training and/or partnering with law enforcement will have an increased understanding of law enforcement processes and criminal activity.

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

Currently area law enforcement receives a minimum level of training every two years for officers.

Area law enforcement officers currently receive little or no training related to specialized crimes (identity theft, terrorism, cyber crimes).

Bastrop County Sheriff's Department, Bastrop Police Department and LaGrange Police Department have an active Citizen's Academy program.

Some area law enforcement departments offer Crime Prevention training for the community upon request and sponsor public safety fairs in their service area.

In Bastrop County, law enforcement and senior citizen groups are working together to train seniors on crimes that effect that population.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

All agency department heads will meet to set up a local/regional training calendar.

Department heads implement local/regional trainings each quarter.

Department heads will dialogue about creating a regional Citizen's Academy to see if it would benefit the area. The regional academy would provide additional training to more community individuals.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 3:

Additional mental health resources including personnel, access to psychiatric trained staff, access to more local mental health facility bed space, and other resources necessary to support law enforcement with the increase in mental health crisis calls. Mental health crisis calls are calls defined as an individual that is in danger of harming them self or others, but they are not “bad” enough to be sent away in an ambulance.

Supporting Data:

- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (formerly Bluebonnet Trails MHMR) estimates that in 2011 law enforcement in the three (3) county area provided 207 out of county mental health transports; Bastrop County 137, Fayette County 39, and Lee County 31.
- Approximately 16.2% of the Texas State Prison population is identified as mentally ill. Between 1970 and 1999, during the height of de-institutionalization in Texas, the population of mental health institutions fell 81% while the population of Texas prison increased tenfold. (Texas Commission on Jail Standards 2005).
- The State of Texas consistently ranks in the bottom 10% of all 50 states when looking at the per-capita spending for public mental health. (Mental Health Association in Texas 2005).
- Area law enforcement entities report a marked increase in mental health calls and officer encounters with mentally ill patients in the community.
- In past years, when law enforcement officers were required to transport the mentally ill to a mental health facility, it would be to the State Mental Health facility in Austin. Due to the frequent lack of space at the Austin facility, local law enforcement has experienced a substantial increase in mental health transports to San Antonio, Temple, and even Wichita Falls to find bed space. This increased the time spent transporting mental health patients from 2 ½ hours per patient to anywhere from 5 to 12 hours.
- The number of hours spent transporting mental health patients equals local patrol hours lost that could be better spent addressing and minimizing crime in the local community.

Goal:

Availability of mental health resources to support law enforcement.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Investigate ways to decrease or eliminate the need to take patrol deputies off patrol to transport mental health patients.
- Foster dialogue between law enforcement and local community partners to develop strategies to help decrease the need for law enforcement officers to transport mental health patients outside the region. Lack of funding for all parties involved is an ongoing problem that must be addressed not only locally and regionally, but more importantly, on a State level.
- Identify and enlist community partners who can help convey the impact of mental health issues on local law enforcement and help lobby the legislature for legislation and funding that will help decrease the drain placed on local law enforcement resources by mental health crisis calls and mental health transports.

- Bed space desperately needs to be increased in Mental Health facilities across the State to take help take the burden off of law enforcement. Strategize ways to convey this need to state legislators.

Outputs/Outcomes:

Outputs

- Increase mental health bed space to free more officers in order to have a faster response time to other crimes/calls.
- Increase bed space to lower the number of mental health patients that may sit in jail waiting for transport to a mental health facility.
- Decrease the number of mental health transports to mental health facilities outside the region.
- Decrease the hours spent by area law enforcement on mental health crisis calls.

Outcomes

- Lessen law enforcement response time by keeping more officers on the street and not on mental health crisis calls or mental health transports.
- Quicker response times from officers and more officers on the streets.
- Increased local participation in efforts to educate and lobby state legislators on the impact of MHMR patients on law enforcement.

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

Minimal mental health training is provided for law enforcement officers on the local level. Bastrop County has developed a strong partnership with Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (the local MHMR service provider). Currently, Bastrop County law enforcement has partnership with Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (BTCS) in which BTCS provides a trained officer to help address part of the problem, but no resources exist in the other counties. Funding to state mental health service providers has been drastically cut over the past years and the outlook for future funding is bleak.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

Area law enforcement department heads create partnerships within the community for all involved to provide information to lobby the legislature.

Area law enforcement department heads will continue to work with state associations to communicate the severity of impact of mental health calls and transports within our region.

Prosecution/Courts

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 1:

Adequate resources necessary to prepare, prosecute, and provide follow-up services related to criminal cases. These resources may include but are not limited to additional personnel, equipment, and information technology related to addressing criminal cases in Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties and coordinating information between prosecution/courts and system partners.

Supporting Data:

- Texas Office of Court Administration data demonstrate court felony caseloads and felony rate for the area, which exceeded felony rate per 1,000 individuals statewide for the 2011 calendar year.

District Courts Reported Criminal Activity by County					
District & Statutory County Courts Felony Case Activity	Bastrop	Fayette	Lee	Area Totals /Average	Statewide
Felony Cases Pending (1/1/2011 for State, Bastrop & Lee; 1/1/2009 for Fayette)	576	304	278	1,158	158,535
Cases Added	514	251	223	988	272,106
TOTAL	1090	555	501	2,146	430,641
Population (2010 Census)	74,171	24,544	16,612	115,327	25,145,561
Felony Rate/1,000	14.7	22.6	30.2	22.5	17.1
Number of Prosecutors	8	3	1	12	Unknown
Average Felony Caseload/Prosecutor	136	185	501	274	Unknown
<i>*Data reflects 2011 Calendar Year (1/1/11 – 12/31/11) with the exception of Fayette County. Fayette County data reflects most recent complete calendar year data: 1/1/09 – 12/31/09.</i>					

- Texas Department of Public Safety – Uniform Crime Reporting statistics demonstrate reported index crimes by county. Despite index crimes decreasing statewide from 2009 to 2010 (-4.6% overall: -7% in violent crimes and -4.3% property crimes), crimes increased in the area by 14% overall during the same period.

Index Crimes by County									
	Bastrop 2009	Fayette 2009	Lee 2009	Total 2009	Bastrop 2010	Fayette 2010	Lee 2010	Total 2010	% Change
Murder	4	0	0	4	3	2	1	6	+50
Rape	28	1	8	37	22	4	10	36	-3
Robbery	26	3	2	31	25	5	6	36	+16
Aggravated Assault	298	18	48	364	336	17	48	401	+10
Violent Crime Total	356	22	58	436	386	28	65	479	+10
Burglary	508	75	80	663	612	117	102	831	+25
Larceny Theft	1151	192	215	1558	1313	263	178	1754	+13
Motor Vehicle Theft	105	13	12	130	91	17	12	120	-8
Property Crime Total	1764	280	307	2351	2016	397	292	2705	+15
GRAND TOTAL	2120	302	365	2787	2402	425	357	3184	+14

- Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics data demonstrate population growth from the 2000 Census to the 2010 Census (21.2% increase), which exceeded the statewide percentage of growth (20.6% increase), and growth of poverty and unemployment rates in the area.

Population, Poverty, & Unemployment by County					
	Bastrop	Fayette	Lee	Total/Avg.	State
Population 2000 Census	57,733	21,804	15,657	95,194	20,851,820
Population 2010 Census	74,171	24,554	16,612	115,337	25,145,561
% Change	+28.5	+12.6	+6.1	+21.2	+20.6
Poverty 2009	14.6%	12.1%	10.7%	12.5%	17.3%
Poverty 2010	15.5%	13.0%	13.1%	13.9%	17.9%
Unemployment 2009	7.8%	5.6%	6.8%	6.7%	7.6%
Unemployment 2010	8.4%	5.9%	6.7%	7.0%	8.2%

Goals:

Area prosecution/courts will handle criminal cases efficiently in Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties and will maintain offender accountability with support from system partners including correctional departments, probation departments, and other partner agencies.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Identify specific areas of need by county and prioritize needs related to personnel, equipment, and information technology with a focus on victim safety. *Examples: support staff to communicate bond conditions to system partners and victims; additional security personnel in courthouses; transition to electronic data tracking systems and communication; update and maintain the area Family Violence Information System (FVIS).*
- Prepare for future needs of growing community by supplementing existing prosecution/courts systems and personnel.
- Research and collaborate with system partners on new funding opportunities in order to support area prosecution/courts.
- Recruit, train, and utilize volunteers and interns in order to support prosecution/courts.
- Maintain open communication with system partners in order to implement new policies and develop innovative approaches to address crime in Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties.
- Revisit the Community Plan in 2014 in order to evaluate progress and develop new short and long-term goals as needed.

Outputs/Outcomes:

- Increase in participation in the Family Violence Information System (FVIS), a web-based system used to track offenders that includes information related to reported incidents of family violence, arrests, charges filed, disposition of cases, and violations of parole/probation.
- Decrease in length of time required to obtain temporary and final protective orders.
- Increase in safety measures taken to protect victims participating in criminal justice system process, including meeting with prosecution/courts staff, hearings, and criminal cases.

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

- Participation in community planning efforts and ongoing dialogue with system partners in order to enhance service to the community.
- Volunteer and internship programs in area prosecution/courts.
- Bastrop County Court Watch Program conducted in 2010-2011 in order to evaluate processes and cases involving family violence and sexual assault.
- Collaborative relationships and programs to support prosecution/courts and partner victim service agencies.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

Prosecution/courts in Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties will work to research and identify opportunities to secure the necessary resources to meet this goal. Governmental funding opportunities will be explored as will opportunities to work with community partners in order to secure funding, recruit volunteers, and obtain the resources required.

Prosecution/Courts

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 2:

Ongoing training for prosecution/courts personnel. Training areas may include but are not limited to providing referrals for additional services to meet the needs of victims of crime and support their recovery and safety; family violence and sexual assault issues and available community resources; child abuse and children exposed to violence issues and available community resources; substance abuse issues and available community resources; mental health issues and available community resources; and issues related to at-risk youth, diversion programs, and available community resources.

Supporting Data:

- Texas Office of Court Administration data demonstrates the breakdown of criminal cases handled by area prosecution/courts and percentage of felony cases that were drug-related, sexual assault-related, and family violence-related. *See chart on following page.*

District Courts Reported Criminal Activity by County							
District & Statutory County Courts Felony Case Activity	Bastrop Cases Pending 1/1/2011	Bastrop Cases Added	Fayette Cases Pending 1/1/2009	Fayette Cases Added	Lee Cases Pending 1/1/2011	Lee Cases Added	Total Cases on Docket
Capital Murder	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Murder	5	0	4	3	0	1	13
Other Homicide	5	2	-	-	5	1	13
Aggravated Assault or Attempted Murder	37	24	11	7	32	22	133
Sexual Assault of Adult	6	3	10	8	1	2	30
Indecency With or Sexual Assault of Child	36	23	16	5	16	4	100
Subtotal SA Cases: 130	68 or 6%		39 or 7%		23 or 5%		6%
Family Violence Assault	13	22	-	-	6	11	52
Subtotal FV Cases: 52	35 or 3%		-		17 or 3%		2%
Aggravated Robbery or Robbery	9	8	3	6	9	2	37
Burglary	40	46	29	18	13	11	157
Theft	45	37	22	22	28	20	174
Auto Theft	18	5	4	9	6	3	45
Drug Sale or Manufacture	21	37	26	31	2	0	117
Drug Possession	113	124	37	50	31	38	393
Felony DWI	67	60	24	11	16	25	203
Subtotal Drug & Alcohol-related Cases: 713	422 or 39%		179 or 32%		112 or 22%		33%
Other Felony	159	123	118	81	113	83	677
Total Cases	576	514	304	251	278	223	2146
TOTAL	1090		555		501		2146

**Data reflects 2011 Calendar Year (1/1/11 – 12/31/11) with the exception of Fayette County. Fayette County data reflects most recent complete calendar year data: 1/1/09 – 12/31/09.*

Goals:

Area prosecution/courts will effectively promote community safety in Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties and will provide support and referral services.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Identify opportunities and implement ongoing training for prosecution/courts personnel related to relevant community health and safety issues: family violence, sexual assault, drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse, mental health needs, and juvenile delinquency.
- Partner with agencies and departments specializing in providing services related to these community issues in order to connect individuals with appropriate resources and strengthen community relationships.
- Enhance long-term safety for victims of crime and promote their recovery through referrals for services including housing services, education services, employment services, legal services related to immigration and civil matters, etc.

Outputs/Outcomes:

- Increase in knowledge of issues relevant to current trends in criminal cases and community health and safety issues.
- Increase in referrals for victims of crime to available community resources.

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

- Past trainings and conferences attended by area prosecutors and judges.
- Collaborative relationships and programs to support prosecution/courts and partner victim service agencies.
- Participation the local Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) in order to addresses policies and procedures that will enhance the community’s ability to provide for victim safety and maintain offender accountability.
- Participation the local Child Protection Team (CPT) in order to better serve child victims and their family members, while working to prosecute offenders.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

Prosecution/courts personnel will strengthen community partnerships through participation in the local Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) and Child Protection Teams (CPTs). Prosecution/courts in Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties will work with CCRT members, CPT members, system partners, community agencies, state coalitions, and national resources in order to research and implement ongoing training for personnel. Funding opportunities for training and conferences may be explored as well.

Prosecution/Courts

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 3:

Ensure compliance with reporting of criminal history dispositions as required by Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 60, to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Supporting Data:

- Compiled Criminal History Report Results demonstrate deficiencies in county completion rates.

Criminal History Disposition Reporting by County	
County	Average Completion Rate 2006-2009
Bastrop	68%
Fayette	87%
Lee	60%

- County Data Reporting Improvement Plans (D.R.I.P.s) for the area have been developed and submitted to the Capital Area Regional Planning Council of Government (CAPCOG) as required by the Governor’s Office-Criminal Justice Division. These improvement plans demonstrate the counties’ commitments to address and improve completion rates and detail the steps to be taken in order to achieve minimum completion rates required by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

Goal:

Area prosecution/courts will maintain accurate and current records related to criminal cases handled in Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Arrests will be reported by arresting agencies on Criminal History Reporting form (CR-43) to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).
- County Attorneys, District Attorneys, and Prosecutors will report decisions to accept, reject, change or add to charges in cases involving a class B misdemeanor or greater offense to DPS.
- District and County Clerks will reports on the disposition of court cases involving a class B misdemeanor or greater offense to DPS.
- Allocate appropriate resources to these efforts in order to achieve goal.

Outputs/Outcomes:

- 90% completion rate for the 5-year period of 2006 through 2010.
- Maintain minimum completion rate required by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

- Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties have each prepared and submitted a Data Reporting Improvement Plan (DRIP) in order to outline the steps necessary to achieve the 90% completion rate required by the statute.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

Arresting agencies, prosecution, and District and County Clerks in Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties will work cooperatively to compile and record the data necessary to achieve this goal.

VICTIM SERVICES

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 1:

Increase capacity of area victim service providers.

Supporting Data:

- In 2011, the Children’s Advocacy Center (Serving Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties) provided 1,409 hours of therapy to children who had experienced child abuse and sexual abuse. Children’s Advocacy Center also provided 277 Forensic Interviews and 23 Sexual Assault Nurse Exams (SANEs), aka forensic medical examinations, for children suspected of being sexually abused.
- In 2009, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) provided advocacy to 366 children who were in CPS care due to abuse/neglect. In 2010, Court Appointed Special Advocates provided advocacy to 343 children who were in CPS care due to abuse/neglect.
- In 2011, the Bastrop County Sheriff’s Department-Victim Services Division served 914 victims of crime, 272 non-crime residents, offered 38 employee assists, and 18 death notifications.
- In fiscal year 2011 (10/1/2010 – 9/30/2011) Family Crisis Center provided crisis intervention services to 1,169 individuals impacted by domestic or sexual violence; answered 4,128 hotline calls, provided 6,768 nights of emergency shelter to 392 individuals (191 adults and 201 children) fleeing violence; individual and group counseling sessions to 190 youth and 178 adults victims; and provided transitional housing to 34 adult and 39 children.
- During Family Crisis Center’s 2011 fiscal year (10/1/2010 – 9/30/2011) the area Sexual Assault Integrated Nursing Team (SAINT) provided SANEs to 14 adults and 25 children.

AREA CRIME/VICTIM DATA 2010	Bastrop	Fayette	Lee	TOTAL/AVG. RATE
Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse/Neglect	215	71	57	343
Rate of Confirmed Victims per 1,000	10.9	13.2	13.2	12.4
Reported Rape Incidents	22	4	10	36
Reported Sexual Assault Incidents	47	7	12	66
Reported Family Violence Incidents	626	47	67	740
Family Violence Fatalities	0	2	0	2
Total Offenses-All Crimes **	2402	425	357	3184
Total Offenses Rate per 100,000	1517.4	841.3	1303.4	1220.7

Sources: Texas Department of Public Safety-Uniform Crime Reporting; Texas Dept. of Family & Protective Services; Texas Council on Family Violence

**All crimes include violent crimes as well as property crimes, burglary, larceny, and auto theft.

Goal:

All victims in Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee County receive the support services necessary to overcome their trauma.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Create a Victim Service Task Force to collect information from existing victim service providers and identify ways to increase capacity and improve collaborative efforts.
- Strengthen and simplify the existing referral system, including the creation of a website where information is updated constantly.
- Increase the number of counselors skilled in treating victims of crime with other issues (mental health, substance abuse, etc.).
- Explore ways for existing victim service providers to share resources, i.e. outreach office space, technology, volunteers, etc.
- Maintain/increase the capacity for providing crisis intervention, advocacy, emergency shelter, counseling, and other support services to victims.
- Increase the number of crisis advocates, CASA volunteers, and other victim service support personnel.

Outputs/Outcomes:**Outputs**

- All victim service providers and lists of the services they provide throughout all three (3) counties will be represented in the new referral system.
- Identify at least one (1) private counselor in Lee County and one (1) in Fayette County, skilled in the dynamics of criminal victimization, who will take Medicaid payments or contract with victim service agencies to provide services.
- 50 new CASA volunteers recruited and trained over the next 3 years.
- Research and identify ways to add at least 4 additional personnel (i.e. advocates, counselors, or other victim support personnel) within any of the existing victim service agencies over the next 3 years to provide crisis support services to victims.

Outcomes

- Increase the community's knowledge and understanding of available victim service resources in the area.
- Increase crime victim's feelings of safety through crisis intervention, advocacy, emergency shelter, counseling, and other support services.
- Reduce the level of trauma, crisis, stress and/or anxiety for victims and non-offending family members.

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

Children's Advocacy Center employs a Clinical Director and four (4) contract Therapists who offer individual and family counseling for abused children and their non-offending caregivers. Other services include forensic interviews, victim advocacy and case review within the 3 county area.

Family Crisis Center provides crisis intervention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, victim advocacy, counseling and other support services to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

CASA recruits, trains and supports volunteers to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom and other settings within the three (3) county area.

Bastrop County Sheriff's Office (BCSO)-Victim Services offers a sixteen (16) week training to join the volunteer "Victim Assistance Team" in Bastrop County. Every December, BCSO-Victim Services facilitates the "Tree of Angels" in the community to honor and remember victims of violent crime.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

All of the area victim service providers, including Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Family Crisis Center, and BCSO-Victims Services Division will be responsible for implementing the strategies of this need. A Task force will be formed with representatives from each of these agencies to plan and implement the creation of a web based referral system in order to keep information updated and available for Bastrop, Lee and Fayette counties.

Victim service providers will continue to collaborate in order to avoid duplication of victim related services. This will be accomplished through participation in Child Protection Team (CPT) meetings, Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) and memorandums of understanding.

VICTIM SERVICES

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 2:

Increase community understanding and awareness of various forms of violence occurring in the community, the impact on victims, and resources available to help victims of these crimes.

Supporting Data:

- September 2010-August 2011, CASA had 13 training sessions and trained 23 new volunteers, did 14 presentations in front of approximately 836 people and were present and provided information at 5 informational fairs in which approximately 400 people attended.
- In 2011, the BCSO-Victim Services Division recruited and trained a total of 15 volunteers to work with victims of crime and offered 6 community events/training within the three-county area.
- In 2011, Children's Advocacy Center offered 4 trainings to adults on recognizing child abuse, attended 5 informational fairs, facilitated 4 events for Child Abuse Awareness Month.
- In 2011, Children's Advocacy Center participated on a Child Protection Team in Bastrop County which met every other week to review child abuse cases. CAC also participated on Child Protection Teams in Fayette and Lee County. These two Child Protection Teams met once per month during the year for case coordination.
- In fiscal year 2011 (10/1/2010 – 9/30/2011) Family Crisis Center provided 336 violence prevention presentations to 3,496 elementary and 2,902 middle and high school students. In addition, the Center provided community education presentations to 812 adults and 218 youth outside of the school setting.

Goal:

The community at-large will have a better understanding of violent crimes, the impact of such crimes on victims and available victim support services.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Expand opportunities within civic and community groups for all agencies to provide awareness presentations and events that educate the general public about violent crime; including statistics, the dynamics, cost to the community, how to report abuse, and risk reduction. Violent crime includes domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, and dating violence.
- Expand opportunities for education to more groups (trainings) for all agencies.
- Offer mandatory training opportunities within the three (3) county area within existing service providers and partner agencies.
- Expand the number of trainings between victim services agencies and partner agencies, i.e. law enforcement, courts, prosecutors, judges, medical professionals, faith-based community, Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), and other community partners.

Outputs/Outcomes**Output**

- Increase the number of community presentations provided that educate the community on the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, dating violence, stalking and other types of violent crimes.
- Increase the number of presentations to the community that foster a better understanding of what each victim service provides and how to access services.
- Children's Advocacy Center will hire at least one part time outreach worker.
- Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Family Crisis Center and Bastrop County Sheriff's Office-Victim Services Division will plan and facilitate a combined training class in each of the three counties to address victimization.

Outcome

- Trained community members will have an increased understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, dating violence, stalking and other types of violent crimes.
- The community at-large will have an increased understanding of the available services within the community.
- Increase in community awareness and education to adults and children in Bastrop, Lee and Fayette counties to help reduce child victimization.
- Increase in community knowledge and understanding of strategies that help reduce or eliminate violence within communities within Bastrop, Lee and Fayette Counties.

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

Individual agencies present awareness events within the communities.

The BCSO-Victim Services Division includes Children's Advocacy Center and Family Crisis Center as presenters at one of the sessions of their Citizen's Academy training.

Children's Advocacy Center offers trainings on recognizing child abuse and how to report it for mandated reporters.

Family Crisis Center provides community education related to the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence and resources available to victims as well as school-based anti-violence and anti-victimization programs.

Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, and Family Crisis Center have collaborated on various Child Abuse Awareness Month activities.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

All of the area victim service providers, including Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Family Crisis Center, and BCSO-Victims Services Division will be responsible for implementing the strategies of this need.

VICTIM SERVICES

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 3:

Increase collaborations between victim service providers and between victim service providers and partnering agencies.

Supporting Data:

- For the past several years many non-profit organizations such as CASA, Children's Advocacy Center and Family Crisis Center have collaborated in April for Child Abuse Awareness month.
- Child Fatality Review Team meetings are facilitated by Children's Advocacy Center and include CASA, Family Crisis Center, local law enforcement and medical personnel. These review teams meet at least twice per year.
- Children's Advocacy Center collaborates with Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Child Protective Services, Medical personnel and FCC in Child Protection Team (CPTs) in Bastrop, Lee and Fayette Counties to complete case planning on child abuse cases in the community. These CPT's meet at least monthly. There are 24 professionals on the 3 MDT's.
- Family Crisis Center facilitates quarterly Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) meetings in which representatives from area law enforcement, courts, prosecution, probation, and other victim service agencies meet to discuss the tracking of family violence incident reports, review referral processes, make recommendations to improve systems and offer shared training opportunities for all participating disciplines.

Goal:

Victims of Crime will be able to access services more efficiently and effectively within the three (3) County area.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Begin a coalition of victim service providers and partnering entities in Bastrop, Lee and Fayette Counties for better cross coordination of victim services to all victim types.

- Develop a victim services networking group which would offer victim service staff the opportunity to share information regarding emerging trends, best practices and to help address burnout levels and secondary trauma within victim service agencies.

Outputs/Outcomes:

Output

- Direct care staff from Children’s Advocacy Center, CASA, Family Crisis Center and BCSO-Victim Services Division will meet at least three times annually.
- Area victim service providers will meet at least annually with partner agencies, including representation for area law enforcement, courts, prosecution, Department of Family and Protective Services, to review and discuss cross coordination of victim services.

Outcome

- Increase training opportunities for victim service staff and ways for them to share information on emerging trends, issues, and best practices between victim service staff of all victim service agencies.
- Increase opportunities for area direct victim service staff to receive support to help dispel isolation and “secondary trauma” which is prevalent for professionals in crisis service work.
- Increase training opportunities to partner agencies by area victim service providers and enhance coordination of area services.

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

There are current MOU’s between victim service agencies and between the various victim service agencies and partnering agencies in the communities.

Area victim service providers have coordinated on various victim awareness events which have strengthened collaborations between these agencies.

There is an Executive Director networking group was recently established with representation of victim service agencies along with other non-profit and social service agencies.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

All of the area victim service providers, including Children’s Advocacy Center, CASA, Family Crisis Center, and BCSO-Victims Services Division will be responsible for implementing the strategies of this need. Representatives from each agency will work to implement the networking group and will lead efforts to improve collaborations with other partner agencies.

JUVENILE SERVICES

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 1:

Maintain/Expand juvenile delinquency prevention programs and support services for at-risk and adjudicated youth.

Supporting Data:

- In 2009, the Juvenile Probation Referral Rates per 1,000 youth for each of the area counties was: Bastrop County – 31 per 1,000 youth; Fayette County – 15 per 1,000 youth; and Lee County – 12 per 1,000 youth.

- While the chart below reflects 2010 dropout rates for various school districts in the three (3) county area, U.S Census data for 2005-2009 reflects the percent of high school graduates for persons age 25+ as: 79.4% for Bastrop County, 76.5% for Fayette County, and 78.4% for Lee County.

Summary of Grade 9 Longitudinal Graduation, Completion, and Dropout Rates, Class of 2010 for Area School Districts													
	Graduated			Continued		GED		Dropped Out		Completion I		Completion II	
	Class	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
Bastrop ISD	571	495	86.7%	42	7.4%	5	0.9%	29	5.1%	537	94.0%	542	94.9%
Elgin ISD	<300	-	82.9%	-	13.8%	-	0.4%	-	2.9%	-	96.7%	-	97.1%
Smithville ISD	<150	-	31.3%	-	1.4%	-	0.0%	-	4.3%	-	95.7%	-	95.7%
La Grange ISD	<200	-	88.0%	-	7.3%	-	0.7%	-	4.0%	-	95.3%	-	96.0%
Schulenburg ISD	<100	-	94.8%	-	3.4%	-	0.0%	-	1.7%	-	98.3%	-	98.3%
Flatonias ISD	<50	-	91.3%	-	0.0%	-	2.2%	-	6.5%	-	91.3%	-	93.5%
Giddings ISD	<150	-	89.2%	-	2.3%	-	0.0%	-	8.5%	-	91.5%	-	91.5%
Lexington ISD	<100	-	92.4%	-	4.5%	-	0.0%	-	3.0%	-	97.0%	-	97.0%
STATE AVERAGE	***	***	84.3%	***	7.2%	***	1.3%	***	7.3%	***	91.4	***	92.7

Source: Texas Education Agency

A dash (-) indicates data not reported to protect student anonymity. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of the students in the class while maintaining student anonymity.

Completion I consists of students who graduated or continued high school.

Completion II consists of students who graduated, continued high school, or received GED certificates.

- Youth & Family Services STAR program provided individual & family counseling to 90 youth & their families (unduplicated #) in Fayette County during FY2011 (9/1/10 – 8/31/11). YFS also facilitated Parenting Class for 8 parents.
- In fiscal year 2010 (9/1/2009-8/31/2010) Connections provided services to 251 Bastrop County and 9 Lee County at-risk youth. In fiscal year 2011 Connections served 196 Bastrop County and 11 Lee County at-risk youth.
- Bastrop County Juvenile Probation provided the following services/service referrals to at-risk and adjudicated youth in 2011. *See chart on following page.*

JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES	# of Youth Served	Program Length in Days
Aftercare Program	1	30
Boot-camp	26	180
Anger Management	35	5
Community Service Restitution Program	168	1
Drug Awareness	75	50
Electronic Monitoring	30	30
Intensive Supervision	16	90
Recipe for Success	2	2
Psych Evaluations	30	1
Licensed Sex Offender Treatment	5	360
Leadership Through Outdoors	20	3
REFERRED SERVICES		
Connections	4	45
Family Crisis Center Counseling	40	60
Upstart Program	10	30

Goal:

Modify negative behaviors in youth to prevent delinquency.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Increase referrals to existing programs.
- Form a juvenile services awareness coalition in each county that would meet quarterly to identify and address deficiencies in local services.
- Explore and implement interventions for LEP youth and their families.

Outputs/Outcomes:

Outputs

- Increase the number of programs and services available for area youth.
- Increase the number of youth participating in area services.

Outcomes

- Increase graduation rates of area youth.
- Decrease Dropout rates of area youth.
- Decrease the ratio of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services provides mental health services for children and adolescents in Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties.

Boys and Girls Club of Bastrop County provides after school, summer, and youth enrichment programs for youth in Bastrop and Smithville (Bastrop County).

Boys and Girls Club of the Champion Valley provides after school, summer, and youth enrichment for youth in Schulenburg (Fayette County).

Children's Advocacy Center provides counseling services to children impacted and at-risk due to child abuse or child sexual abuse.

CASA-Court Appointed Special Advocates provides trained community volunteers to represent every abused and neglected child in our court system. The volunteer speaks for the right of each child to have a safe, permanent, loving home.

Communities In Schools is a dropout prevention program currently providing services in Bastrop ISD. Communities In Schools creates a network of volunteers, social services, businesses, and community resources that work together to break down barriers and help students succeed.

Connections currently offers the Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) program in Bastrop and Lee Counties. Services include: individual and family counseling addressing running away, truancy, delinquency and family conflict; youth skills groups; and parenting classes.

Family Crisis Center provides counseling and other support services to youth placed at-risk due to domestic or sexual violence.

SWIFT-Schulenburg & Weimar In Focus maintains an English as Second Language (ESL) computer based learning lab in Schulenburg; offers ESL instruction in June and July for adults with enrichment activities for school-aged children and child care.

Youth and Family Services provides STAR and other programs for youth and their families in Fayette and Lee Counties.

Other agencies that also provide programs that support youth and help prevent youth from becoming at-risk of delinquent behaviors, in all or part of the multi-county area include: AgriLife-4-H programs; Blinn College; CRCG-Community Resource Coordinating Groups; Department of Family & Protective Services; Juvenile Probation and Parole Departments; Local School Districts; MEEELJ-Minorities for Equality in Employment, Education, Liberty, and Justice; Workforce Solutions; YMCA-Bastrop; and other after-school and youth related programs.

Giddings will be opening a Boys & Girls Club this year. Austin Community College is building a campus in Elgin.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

The juvenile services awareness coalition to be formed in each county will lead the efforts associated with this identified need. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services will oversee the development of the juvenile services awareness coalition in Lee and Fayette Counties, and Connections will lead the development of the coalition in Bastrop County. Assistance with implementing defined efforts will be provided by other area youth service providers.

JUVENILE SERVICES

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 2: Maintain/Expand after-school and summer youth programs.

Supporting Data:

- Bastrop County Juvenile Probation provided the following service/service referrals for after school and summer programs for youth in the juvenile probation system in 2011.

PROGRAM/SERVICE	# of Youth Served	Program Length in Days
Leadership Through Outdoors	20	3
Recipe for Success	2	2
Texas Workforce	5	1
Upstart Program	10	30

- During the fall semester (13 weeks) of 2011, Boys & Girls Club of Bastrop County provided the following after-school prevention programs to youth in Bastrop and Smithville:

Unit/Site	Bullying Prev.	Sex Prevention	Character Counts	Smart Kids	Smart Leaders
Smithville	38	10	80	0	0
Bastrop/Linden	0	0	20	15	5

- On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of grade-level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months. Studies reveal that the greatest areas of summer loss for all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, are in factual or procedural knowledge (Cooper, 1996).
- Summer learning loss contributes to the achievement gap in reading performance between lower and higher income children and youth. Research demonstrates that while student achievement for both middle and lower income students improves at similar rates during the school year, low-income students experience cumulative summer learning losses over the elementary school grades (Alexander & Entwisle, 1996).
- Large numbers of students who qualify for federally subsidized meals do not have the same level of access to nutritious meals during the summer as they do during the school year. Only one in five (21.1 per 100) of the 15.3 million children who receive free or reduced priced school lunches on a typical day during the regular school year participate in federal nutrition programs during the summer (Food Research and Action Center, 2002).
- Studies show that out-of-school time is a dangerous time for unsupervised children and teens. They are more likely to use alcohol, drugs and tobacco, engage in criminal and other high-risk behaviors, receive poor grades and drop out of school than those who have the opportunity to benefit from constructive activities supervised by responsible adults (Carnegie Council, 1994).

Goal:

Area youth become more engaged in productive activities to enrich their lives.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Establish partnerships with Community Colleges to increase opportunities for youth.
- Utilize applied learning to augment curriculum.
- Explore and implement programs that help youth succeed in school.
- Educate youth about their responsibility to give back to the community, i.e. community service.
- Provide programs that foster character building, positive peer interaction, and life skills.
- Form a juvenile services awareness coalition in each county that would meet quarterly to identify and address deficiencies in local services.

Outputs/Outcomes:

Outputs

- Increase the number of programs and services available for area youth.
- Increase the number of youth participating in applied learning opportunities.
- Increase the number of youth providing community service as a means of enhancing skill sets and their college resume portfolio.

Outcomes

- Increase attendance rates in after-school and summer programs.
- Increase graduation rates of area youth.
- Increase participation rates in programs that foster character building, positive peer interaction, and life skills.

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

ACE-STARS program in Bastrop ISD offers after school programs for youth.

AgriLife-4-H offers programs year round, in after school settings and during the summer to enrich the lives of youth in all 3 counties.

Blinn College (Schulenburg campus) in partnership with SWIFT-Schulenburg and Weimar In Focus provides week long Kids College (applied learning in STEM subjects-Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). They offer two Kid College programs per summer with an average of 65 students per program.

Boys and Girls Club of Bastrop County provides after school, summer, and youth enrichment programs for youth in Bastrop and Smithville (Bastrop County).

Boys and Girls Club of the Champion Valley provides after school, summer, and youth enrichment for youth in Schulenburg (Fayette County).

Boys and Girls Club of Lee County plans to begin providing after school and summer programs in 2012.

Area juvenile probation departments provide SWIFT-Schulenburg and Weimar In Focus provided Summer School Remediation to an average of 100 students at Schulenburg ISD during the since 2007. Additionally, they provided 6-week summer tutoring/enrichment programs in collaboration with Blinn College and Agri-Life as a small pilot program during the summer of 2011 for 13 students which they plan to expand in 2012.

Additionally, the following agencies provide year-round programs/services, in all or part of the multi-county area, that address various needs of youth in the area: Children’s Advocacy Center; Connections; Family Crisis Center; Workforce Solutions; YMCA-Bastrop; and Youth & Family Services.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

The juvenile services awareness coalition to be formed in each county will lead the efforts associated with this identified need. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services will oversee the development of the juvenile services awareness coalition in Lee and Fayette Counties, and Connections will lead the development of the coalition in Bastrop County. Assistance with implementing defined efforts will be provided by other area youth service providers.

JUVENILE SERVICES

IDENTIFIED NEED NUMBER 3: Maintain/expand mental health and substance abuse programs for youth.

Supporting Data:

- Bastrop County Juvenile Probation provide services/service referrals for the following mental health and substance abuse services in 2011.

SERVICE/SERVICE REFFERALS	# of Youth Served	Program Length in Days
Aftercare Program	1	30
Psych Evaluations	30	1
Drug Awareness	75	50
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	50	1
Family Crisis Center	40	60

Youth Substance Abuse

- Alcohol is the primary drug of abuse in Texas. In 2004, 68% of Texas secondary school students, grades 7-12, had used alcohol and 33% had drunk alcohol in the last month. (Substance Abuse Trends in Texas, Carlisle Maxwell, University of Texas at Austin, June 2006)
- Of particular concern is heavy consumption of alcohol, or binge drinking, which is defined as drinking five or more drinks at one time. In 2004, 15% of all secondary students said that when they drank, they usually drank five or more beers at one time, and 13% reported binge drinking of liquor. Binge drinking increased with grade level. Among seniors, 27% binged on beer and 21% on liquor. While the percentage of binge drinking of beer has fallen over the years, the level of binge drinking of hard liquor has remained relatively stable since 1994. (Substance Abuse Trends in Texas, Carlisle Maxwell, University of Texas at Austin, June 2006)
- Among Texas students in 2004 in grades 4–6, 2.5% had used marijuana, with 1.7% reporting use in the past school year. Among Texas secondary students (grades 7–12), 29.8% had tried marijuana and 12.6% had used in the past month, levels lower than in 2000. (Substance Abuse Trends in Texas, Carlisle Maxwell, University of Texas at Austin, June 2006)
- In 2005, the YRBS Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS U.S. 2005) reported that 42% of Texas high school students in grades 9-12 had smoked marijuana and 22% had used in the past month.
- Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. According to the combined 2003–2006 the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).
- Texas Juvenile Probation Commission-Mental Health and Juvenile Justice in Texas, February, 2003 report reflects:

Prevalence of Alcohol/Drug Use MAYSI-2 Caution and Warning Cutoffs in FY2002						
	Caution #	Caution %	Warning #	Warning %	At or above caution #	At or above caution %
Bastrop	11	5.80%	4	2.10%	15	7.90%
Fayette	3	8.30%	1	2.80%	4	11.10%
Lee	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

Youth Mental Health

- Mental health services provided by Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (formerly Bluebonnet Trails MHMR) to youth in the 3 county area in 2011 were as follows:

	Bastrop	Fayette	Lee	TOTAL
Unduplicated youth clients	321	53	49	423
# of contacts with youth	3,365	365	344	4,074
# of service hours to youth	2,338	270	222	2,830

- Texas Juvenile Probation Commission-Mental Health and Juvenile Justice in Texas, February, 2003 report reflects:

Prevalence of Suicide Ideation MAYSI-2 Caution and Warning Cutoffs in FY2002						
	Caution #	Caution %	Warning #	Warning %	At or above caution #	At or above caution %
Bastrop	5	2.60%	16	8.40%	21	11.10%
Fayette	0	0.00%	1	2.80%	1	20.80%
Lee	1	7.70%	1	7.70%	2	15.40%

Goals:

Availability of mental health services/resources for area youth.
Area youth are deterred from substance abuse.

Strategies/Tasks:

- Educate youth and communities about mental illness.
- Educate youth and communities about available mental health resources.
- Educate youth and communities about substance abuse.
- Educate youth and communities about available substance abuse resources.
- Educate youth and communities about relapse prevention.
- Explore and implement ways to increase mental health services for area youth.
- Explore and implement ways to increase substance abuse services for area youth.

Outputs/Outcomes:

Outputs

- Increase the number of mental health options/services of area youth.
- Increase the number of substance abuse resources/services for area youth.
- Decrease the number of youth experiencing substance abuse relapse incidents.

Outcomes

- Increase youth and community understanding of the risk factors associated with substance abuse.
- Increase youth and community understanding of mental illness.
- Increase youth and community awareness of substance abuse resources in the area

Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:

The following agencies currently provide programs and services, in all or part of the multi-county area, that help address mental health and substance abuse issues for youth: Bluebonnet Trails Community Services; Boys & Girls Club-Bastrop County; Boys & Girls Club of the Champion Valley; Connections; Juvenile Probation and Parole; SWIFT-Schulenburg & Weimar In Focus; and Youth & Family Services.

Priority Level: High Medium Low

Implementation:

The juvenile services awareness coalition to be formed in each county will lead the efforts associated with this identified need. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services will oversee the development of the juvenile services awareness coalition in Lee and Fayette Counties, and Connections will lead the development of the coalition in Bastrop County. Assistance with implementing defined efforts will be provided by other area youth service providers.