



BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

CAPCOG Criminal Justice Priorities Plan Year 2020

Access to Basic Services with a Focus on Providing Services that are Evidence Based and Trauma Informed

Continue and improve region wide access to basic victim services, such as, shelter, crisis intervention, advocacy, safety planning, and counseling to survivors of violence and abuse. Services to survivors should be comprehensive and trauma informed. Improve access to service for people with mental health and substance abuse treatment needs by assessing needs when contact is made with the criminal justice system and providing meaningful treatment. Diverting people from jail when treatment is needed, and lower the cost of mental health services for uninsured and under insured individuals. Needs assessment should also be used to improve efforts to implement effective prevention programs. All services should be culturally relevant and provided in a language a person is comfortable speaking. Researched, evidence-based, and evidence informed practices should be given preference and programs should be evaluated, so impacts are understood and modifications can be made when needed.

Additional Staffing and Training for Professionals Working in Criminal Justice Related Fields

Provide competitive wages and hire competent, well trained staff, while maintaining staffing levels that allow employees to focus on programs rather than just response. There is a need for advocates, counselors, mental health practitioners, licensed professionals, and well trained well equipped responders. Training in evidence-based trauma informed modalities, and training to identify victims of human trafficking is a need for all criminal justice professionals. Training needs for law enforcement include how to use available resources and services, mental health training from mental health professionals, family violence investigation training, and other trauma informed training. Direct service staff should receive training to provide basic victim services.

Improved Communication, Collaboration, and Coordination Among Organizations that have a Role in Criminal Justice

Take a holistic view of who needs to be involved and when involvement starts with coordinated efforts between enforcement and treatment resources. Make sure all resources are on the same page and coordinate, so that everyone has equal access to peace officers, victim services, and treatment. Making ways for different organizations that serve the same populations to communicate while honoring the privacy of those they serve. Work to create a collaborative network among all areas of criminal justice through formal collaboration agreements and multi-agency grant applications. A systems approach is needed to identify where red tape exists reduce it to provide streamlined services for those in need.

Outreach, Education, and Support Services in the Community

Efforts to support the community and improve its ability to thrive. Parents need support, education, and to be held accountable. Children need a multi-system response that addresses the individual, family, school, and community. Community policing is needed to build trust between departments and

communities. There is a need to educate the public on ways to prevent crime, especially internet based crimes. Provide community based services that allow alternatives to incarceration. Provide support to justice involved individuals upon release to reduce recidivism. Conduct outreach efforts that inform citizens and community organizations of available services. Efforts should focus making the population feel safe to report or ask about services. Encourage community involvement and support of non-profit service providers and government agencies. Survey the public and served population to gain an understanding of needs.

Resources and Access to Resources including Equipment and Technology

Having the proper resources available region wide to prevent crime, enforce the law, and restore the victims of crime is important. There is a need to update equipment and technology as old tools become obsolete. Peace officers need the proper equipment to do their job right and resolve calls without injury. This includes radio communication for better interoperability and increase public safety. More resources are need for sexual assault response, space is needed to provide basic services region wide, and more beds required for people in crisis. There is a need to provide prosecutors with technology and equipment that will aid in the prosecution of cases.