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COMMUNITY PLAN SUBMISSION FORM

Instructions: Complete this form (continued on next page) and attach it to the community plan when it is submitted to the regional council of governments. The **three-page Community Plan Submission form(s) must accompany all community plans.**

1. Name of Plan: NOLAN AND FISHER COUNTIES

2. **Cities, counties,** or parts thereof covered by this plan:

NOLAN COUNTY: Sweetwater, Roscoe, Blackwell, Highland, Maryneal

FISHER COUNTY: Rotan, Roby, Sylvester

3. List the types (general focuses) of projects currently funded by CJD that the community planning group agrees should continue. **DO NOT** list specific grant applications or agencies.

Victim Services for victims of violent crime: such as child abuse, family violence, and sexual assault.

4. List the gaps in services that would enhance the community plan if funding were available. List these gaps as types of services. **DO NOT** list specific grant applications or agencies.

Lack of manpower and equipment for law enforcement; Limited resources availability to deal with juvenile offenders and drug prevention; Lack of resources availability to assist victims of crime such as a local SANE Program and counseling.

For more information about this community plan, contact:

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COMMUNITY PLAN SUBMISSION FORM (CONTINUED)

All community plans must be accompanied by a brief written summary of the plan. The summary must meet the following criteria:

Planning groups must submit a summary of the priorities, goals and objectives from the community plan relating to:

- ✓ **Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Issues**
- ✓ **Criminal Justice Issues**
- ✓ **Victims' Issues**

This summary must accompany all community plans and must be submitted to the WCTCOG along with the other two *Community Plan Submission Forms*.

Please type in a brief summary (as outlined above) of your Community Plan in the space provided below. Please attach extra pages if needed.

SEE ATTACHED

**Community Plan Submission Form Summary Attachment
Nolan and Fisher County Community Plan 2013**

The Nolan/Fisher County community plan identified the following priorities goals and objectives with regard to the issue of criminal justice issues, juvenile justice and delinquency and victim issues:

Criminal Justice Issues – Top priorities were illegal drugs and inhalants, lack of equipment and technology for law enforcement, and lack of prevention/education/professional training

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency –Top priorities were limited resources/funding to provide parenting classes, life skills classes and staff, poor to non-existent parenting skills and limited local resources for law enforcement training.

Victim Issues – Top priorities were lack of adequate crisis intervention funds, limited resources/programs to address abuse in rural areas, and limited counseling and referral services.

These counties top goals and objectives include: increasing knowledge and awareness of the above listed priorities, encourage existing programs through collaboration and support, developing community wide policies and programs that promote intervention and prevention, and increasing school based education programs.

**COMMUNITY PLAN
Nolan and Fisher Counties
FY 2013**

Prepared by:

Chairman

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Community Planning Committee

The Nolan and Fisher Community Planning Committee is composed of representatives from Juvenile Probation, Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, District Attorney's Office and Victim Services. Each representative sought input through meetings and correspondence to review current services and service needs. The Nolan and Fisher Counties Community Plan is the result of this collaboration.

Below are the cities in the respected counties that this community plan addresses.

Nolan County:

**Sweetwater
Roscoe
Blackwell
Highland
Nolan
Maryneal**

Fisher County:

**Rotan
Roby
Sylvester**

CURRENT SERVICES

FUNDED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund

- Gateway Family Services. CJD
- West Texas Children's Advocacy Center

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSC) Fund

- Texas Trails Council, BSA

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act Fund

- Texas Trails Council, BSA

State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund

- West Central Texas Council of Governments CJD
- Disproportionate of Minority Grant- Juvenile

I. CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

- 1 Manufacturing, distribution and use of illegal drugs and inhalants.
2. Equipment and technology for law enforcement
3. Lack of prevention/education/professional training
4. Violence
5. Emerging Gangs
6. Manpower issues/lack of qualified applicants
7. Treatment and counseling of offenders
8. Lack of drug testing

A. CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

1. Law Enforcement

- a. Sweetwater Police Department
- b. Fisher, and Nolan County Sheriff's Departments
- c. Texas State Technical College
- d. Texas Department of Public Safety
- e. 32nd Judicial District Attorney's Office

2. Prevention/Education

- a. School District's Educational Programs; DARE
- b. programs (Nolan County Sheriff Office)
- c. Sweetwater Police Department; Fisher, Nolan Counties Sheriff's Departments; TSTC
- c. Sweetwater Police Department School Resource Officer
- d. Gateway Family Services Safety Programs for Teenage Dating aimed at teaching teens how to identify warning sign of dating violence and what to do if they find themselves in that situation.
- e. Classes for minor in possession of alcohol provided through the Fisher, and Nolan County Juvenile Probation
- f. West Central Regional Law Enforcement Training
- g. High Sky Children's Ranch Stay Together Program
- h. West Texas Children's Advocacy Center Program: Darkness to Light aimed at teaching professionals who work with children how to recognize and report child abuse.
- i. Juvenile Probation Parenting Class
- j. Fisher, Mitchell, and Nolan Counties Juvenile Probation Department-DWI Repeat Offender Classes

3. Treatment/Counseling

- a. Private Counselors
(Counseling Associates of West Texas)
- b. Juvenile Probation Departments
- c. High Sky Children's Ranch Stay Together Program
- d. Mental Health/Mental Retardation
- e. Pastoral Care
- f. ACADIA Healthcare / RiverCrest/BCA Permian Basin
- g. Abilene Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse

4. Drug Testing

- a. Redwood Toxicology
- b. Juvenile Probation Department/Adult Probation
- c. Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital, Mitchell, and Fisher County Hospital
- d. Sweetwater ISD / Blackwell ISD / Highland ISD

II. JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES

- 1. Local and state funding cuts that effect: parenting classes, life skill classes, and staff
- 2. Poor to non-existent parenting skills.
- 3. Limited local resources for training of law enforcement officers.
- 4. Underage Pregnancy.
- 5. Increase in child abuse cases.
- 6. Limited mental health services for adolescents by qualified personnel.
- 7. Limited adolescent substance abuse prevention and intervention programs.
- 8. Lack of adequate funds to provide both long and short-term detention.
- 9. No drug screening for inhalants.
- 10. Limited and affordable secure placement (long-term detention) for youthful offenders.
- 11. No affordable residential services for sex offenders outside of TYC commitment. There are not community resources to work with juvenile sex offenders exp. Females.

12. Limited community activities for juvenile-age children throughout the school year. There are no agencies (i.e.,Boys/Girls Clubs, City Recreation Centers) that will help supervise youthful offenders and help supervise community service.
13. Limited services geared to address self-esteem issues through activities (activities, not just counseling) for adolescent females.
14. Limited appropriate residential mental health programs for qualified youthful offenders.
15. No residential independent living programs for adolescents.
16. Lengthy waiting lists to place youthful offenders in substance abuse services.
17. Limited juvenile job training and residential vocational training programs.
18. Limited appropriate services available in rural community.

A. JUVENILE JUSTICE RESOURCES

1. **COMMUNITY RESOURCES COORDINATING GROUP (CRCG)**
Meeting on a regularly scheduled monthly basis to present difficult cases and develop resources to meet the identified needs of individual students.
2. **REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM (RMT)**
Oversees MHMR Adolescent Services Grant to provide mental health services to referred children.
3. **HIGH SKY CHILDREN'S RANCH STAY TOGETHER PROGRAM**
Provides activity services for non-violent youthful offenders.
4. **GATEWAY FAMILY SERVICES**
Trained victim advocates provide referrals, advocacy, peer counseling, education and support groups for juvenile victims of sexual assault, dating violence, internet crime and sexual harassment.
5. **HOPE HOUSE/Oueda Hargrove, LCDC**
Provides substance abuse, mental health, parenting, and anger management services.

6. **WEST TEXAS CHILDRENS ADVOCACY CENTER**
Trained forensic interviewers provide interviews for CPS and Law Enforcement of child abuse victims. Staff follows cases through the system to insure agency collaboration and sharing of information and provides education programs geared at teaching Pre K through 5th grade how to recognize child abuse and how to seek help if they are a victim.

7. **RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT**
 - a. **Taylor County Juvenile Justice Center** - Long-term and short-term secure detention

 - b. **Concho Valley Home for Girls** – Residential placement for girls.

 - c. **Pegasus School** – Court ordered sex offender treatment. Branch for Residential Treatment.

 - d. **Cornerstone** – secure juvenile detention services

 - e. **Pathways** – Wilderness program

 - f. **Texas Juvenile Justice Department Corrections** - Long-term secure detention for court order

 - g. **Gulf Coast Trade Center**- Vocational Education Program

 - h. **Texas Trails Boy Scout Council** –Ropes Course

 - i. **Granbury Regional Juvenile Justice Center** – Secure substance abuse and correctional treatment facility

 - j. **West Texas Boys Ranch**, San Angelo, TX

 - k. **Hayes County Regional Justice Center Secured Substance Abuse**- Military Boot Camp

B. ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

a. Counseling

- 1) Ouida Hargrove, LCDC and Hope House-**
Provides substance abuse, mental health, parenting, and anger management services
- 2) Nolan County Juvenile Probation Department -**
MIP program.
- 3) School Districts-**
School Counselors and DARE Officer
- 4) Reed Adolescent Center for Youth**
- 5) Granbury Regional Juvenile Justice Center-**
Secure substance abuse and correctional treatment Facility
- 6) Private Counseling-**
Counseling Associates of West Texas
- 7) Taylor County Juvenile Adjudication Post**
Adjudication Facility
- 8) Selena House-**
Female drug treatment

C. JUVENILE EDUCATION

- 1. WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE AND HOWARD COLLEGE -** Provides GED preparation and testing
- 3. Alternative / Accelerated School -** Students who are at-risk of dropping out of school, are provided with opportunities aimed to keep them in school
- 4. Tutorials -** provided for Sweetwater students before and after school.
- 5. Dating Violence, Sexual Assault & Harassment, Family Violence Education –** Gateway Family Services provides age-appropriate curriculum based education programs for Pre-K through college within Nolan, Fisher, Mitchell, Kent and Scurry Counties on subjects such as bullying, dating violence, internet safety and sexual harassment. Gateway also provides access to their video and literature resources for doctors, clergy, school counselors, and teachers as requested.

6. **Children's Personal Safety Education** – West Texas Children's Advocacy Center provides education programs to elementary aged children. These programs cover information pertaining to child sexual, physical, and emotional abuse. WTCAC also provides training to professional who work with children on how to recognize and report child abuse.
7. **Decision Making Skills** – High Sky Children's Ranch Stay Together Program provides training to children on how to make better choices.
8. **Shattered Dreams-** Texas Department of Public Safety Community Collaboration

D. ADOLESCENT JOB TRAINING

1. **Texas Employment Commission**
Youth employment programs are primarily through the summer months
2. **Job Corp**
Residential job training for older adolescents. Waiting period of 3 - 6 months.
3. **Gulf Coast Trade Center**
4. **Work Program Sweetwater High School**

E. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1. **MHMR Child and Adolescent Services**
Will provide counseling services, medical related services and skills training to adolescent offenders.
2. **North Texas State Hospital**
Mental commitments of adolescents may be made to Wichita Falls. These services are minimal.
3. **Corner Stone** – Mental health program.
4. **Ouida Hargrove, Hope House, Hope Unlimited**
5. **Counseling Associates of West Texas**

F. AFTER SCHOOL RECREATION AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. **Boy/Girl Scouts**
2. **Additional Summer Lunch Program**
3. **Pee Wee Football**
4. **Pee Wee Basketball**
5. **Youth Baseball**
6. **Youth Soccer**
7. **County Library Summer Reading Program**
8. **5th Quarter provided by local church organizations**
9. **4-H; FFA**
10. **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)**

G. MEDICAL/PRE-NATAL CARE

1. **West Texas Children's Advocacy Center**
Provides accompaniment and/or transportation for victims under the age of 17 for medical and sexual assault exams. Also, assistance is given to victims completing Crime Victim Compensation Fund applications to re-coop any out of pocket medical expenses resulting from their victimization.
2. **Gateway Family Services**
Provides transportation and hospital accompaniment for adult victims of sexual assault and family violence to and from medical appointments including SANE exams. Trained Victim Advocates provide assistance in completing Crime Victim Compensation Fund applications for reimbursement of expenses stemming from medical care and counseling for those individuals who qualify.
3. **Pregnancy Education Program**
Pregnant or parenting students under the age of 21 may receive child care, agency referral, transportation, counseling, parenting education, and vocational and career counseling.
4. **Women, Infants, Children (WIC)**
Must meet income, residency, and nutritional need requirements. Services include supplemental food coupons for pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children under 5 years of age. Nutrition education and counseling, and referrals to other health care providers.

5. **Women's Resource Center**
Services include free pregnancy tests, pregnancy counseling, maternity clothes, and pre-natal vitamins. They also networked with other agencies that work with unplanned pregnancies and can provide information and assistance in finding a maternity home or adoption services.
6. **Early Head Start** – This program provides assistance to families in accessing all necessary resources for providing safe, healthy, positive parenting experiences for their children in the homes. It also allows for early educational experiences in a classroom setting.
7. **Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)**

H. SUPERVISION AND COMMUNITY RESTITUTION

1. **Fisher, Mitchell and Nolan County Juvenile Probation Department** - Random and unannounced home visits by certified Juvenile Probation Officers. These officers also supervise community service projects and arrange placement of children in public non-profit programs for completion of community service hours assessed by the juvenile court.
2. **Community Service & Restitution** - Operated by the city, all juveniles with community service hours placed by the Municipal Court are scheduled by the city. The city also assists in scheduling community service hours ordered by the Juvenile Court.
3. **SISD** – Supervised by SISD personnel, juveniles with community service hours placed by the Juvenile Court, Municipal Court or by the Juvenile Department are scheduled by the Juvenile Department or Municipal Court to perform community service.

III. VICTIMS ISSUES

1. Lack of adequate resources/funding for crisis intervention and meeting the immediate needs of victims such as clothing, food, counseling and legal aid.
2. Limited resources/programs addressing all types of abuse in rural areas.
3. Limited professional counseling available in rural areas.
4. Geographical area covered by each caseworker or law enforcement officer is too large.
5. Limited resources available for continuing medical and legal aid for victims.

6. Decreasing funds available to maintain services currently being provided.
7. Limited resources available for equipping victims of crime with marketable job skills, life skills and parenting skills. This is especially crucial for victims of family violence who may be entering the workforce for the first time, parents of child abuse victims whose partner is the perpetrator, and to homeless victims of crime.
8. No local SANE Program, or equipment to support such a program.
9. Continuing need to provide educate the general public and school children of the dangers of drugs, violence, abuse, internet victimization risks, as well as general crime and limited funding to support existing educational programs.
10. Limited sexual assault, family violence, child abuse services available in rural areas.
11. Lack of resources to train professionals.
12. No local SANE Program, or equipment to support such a program.

A. RESOURCES

1. **West Texas Children's Advocacy Center** – Serves child abuse victims and their non-offending family members in Nolan, Mitchell, Fisher, Scurry, and Borden counties through offices open in both Sweetwater and Snyder. Services provided are forensic interviews of alleged child abuse victims, facilitation of monthly case stuffing's presented to the Child Protection Team, legal, medical and justice support advocacy for child victims, financial assistance with licensed professional counseling costs, crisis intervention, court schooling (Scurry and Borden County), and agency referrals. In addition, the WTCAC works with both elementary aged children, and adults who work with children, to bring awareness about the warning signs, effects, and prevention of child abuse.
2. **Crime Victims' Compensation Fund**-provides monetary relief to victims of violent crimes for medical expenses, counseling expenses, and burial expenses.
3. **32nd Judicial District Attorney Crime Victim's Coordinator** – provides crisis intervention, assistance with Crime Victim's Compensation, medical and court transportation, court and judicial education, court accompaniment & case status updates for crime victims of all ages.
4. **High Sky Children's Ranch Stay Together Program**
High Sky offers professional assistance to help resolve issues causing concern and tension in the home of families with children and youth. In-home consultation is offered as well as parent and youth workshops that provide positive parenting techniques.

5. **Gateway Family Services** – Domestic violence and sexual assault crisis center serving five counties: Nolan, Mitchell, Fisher, Scurry and Kent. Gateway provides outreach and advocacy services in each of the counties on a weekly basis in addition to operating the shelter located in Scurry County. Residential and non-residential services provided are: shelter, food, clothing, transportation, child care referrals, medical and legal advocacy and accompaniment, justice support advocacy and accompaniment, support agency referrals, educational support for children, adult education referrals, support groups for adult and child victims of family violence and sexual assault, assistance with crime victim compensation fund applications, peer counseling, 24-hour crisis hotline and 24 hour on-call staff.
6. **Women's Resource Center**
Services include free pregnancy tests, pregnancy counseling, maternity clothes, and pre-natal vitamins. They also networked with other agencies that work with unplanned pregnancies and can provide information and assistance in finding a maternity home or adoption services.
7. **211**
A service of the Health and Human Services Commission, 211 provides free information on services in the area such as food, shelter, rent assistance, utility assistance, counseling, child care, after school programs, senior services, disaster relief, and other services

B. CHILD ABUSE

Goals Obtained - The West Texas Children's Advocacy Center has been established to bring unity and efficiency to investigations of child abuse through the use of a multi-disciplinary team by coordinating investigations and sharing information and resources. The team is comprised of Law Enforcement, Department of Family and Protective Services, medical and mental health professionals, prosecutors, and other agencies and individuals as needed. This collaboration of agencies and individuals provides the best possible services to restore the lives of victims of child abuse, their families, and our community.

Problems:

1. There are no locally trained medical forensic examiners that can perform needed examinations on child victims.
2. Limited funding for support programs of sexually abuse minors.
3. There is limited funding and trained staff to provide public education and awareness on child abuse issues.

Current and Future Goals

Support and encourage existing agencies to coordinate programs and efforts to maximize the resources currently available creating a sustained level of intervention that follows a child victim from outcry to prosecution.

Continue efforts to obtain a medical forensic program with trained examiners available locally to lessen the trauma caused by the travel and wait time from current outlying programs.

IV. GAPS IN RESOURCES

1. **Funding** - Additional funding is needed for the long-term and short-term detention of juvenile offenders. There is also limited funding for counseling for adolescents and for immediate needs of crime victims. There is also a need for funding for drug education programs. There is a need for a Youth Center and activities for the youth in the community, especially during weekends. There is a need for qualified staff at WTCAC to continue community awareness in all five counties and assist victims of child abuse. There is also a need for more funding from Homeland Security.
2. **Availability of Resources** - There are limited local resources available for drug and alcohol abuse counseling for adolescents. There are also limited local resources available for individual and group counseling. There are no local resources available for the screening of inhalant usage and no local nurse trained for sexual assault exams.
3. **Manpower** - Law enforcement agencies are very limited on manpower. Patrol officers can not be assigned to work full time on narcotics and juvenile investigations without neglecting needs in other areas. In addition, this shortage limits the time Law Enforcement agencies can devote to working directly with crime victims. There is also a need for volunteers to support and supervise a youth center and activities.
4. **Equipment** – Law enforcement agencies provide for the public safety. They are small both in manpower and funding. Due to changes in the law, the state legislature has mandated that an exemption to CCP Art. 2.135 would be met by use of video camera and transmitter – activated Equipment which will be funded by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The Department of Public Safety has no current funds for this equipment for local public safety. Law enforcement agencies are also in need of automated fingerprint equipment and information sharing capabilities.

VII. GOALS OF THE FISHER AND NOLAN COUNTY COMMUNITY PLAN ARE:

1. Increase knowledge on the effects of drugs and alcohol.
2. Increase awareness about abuse issues for both adults and children, continue to assist those who are victims of abuse, and continue efforts to prevent further abuse.
3. Support and encourage existing agencies in their effort to meet the demands for services and expand the programs they offer including purchase of equipment.
4. Support and encourage development of policies and programs in the community that promote effective intervention and prevention of the crimes listed in this plan.
5. Increase education of school children on the effects of violence, including child abuse, bullying, sexual harassment, and incidents of school violence.
6. Increase knowledge of the effects of child abuse, family violence and sexual assault and the services available to these victims.
7. Support and encourage the effort for Crime Victim's Compensation.
8. Help provide a safe environment for the citizens of the community.
9. Promote school attendance, discipline, and learning.
10. Support alternate activities that are sponsored by the schools and the community.
11. Teach parents how to parent in a way that has a positive influence on their children..
- 12.. Encourage and support activities for youth and possibly develop a youth center.