

*This Box For COG
Use Only*

Grant #: 142 3813

Fund Source: JX

Date Received
by COG: 12 / 15 / 11

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: TAYLOR, CALLAHAN & COLEMAN COUNTIES COMMUNITY PLAN 2012-2013

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

Taylor County -	Abilene, Merkel, Tuscola, Buffalo Gap, Tye, Trent, Lawn
Callahan County -	Baird, Clyde, Putnam, Cross Plains, Eula
Coleman County -	Coleman, Santa Ana, Novice

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.

Criminal Justice -	Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy
Juvenile Justice -	Purchase of Juvenile Services (Residential/Non-Residential) School Safety
Victim Services -	Services to Victims of Violent Crime, General Victims Services & Legal Advocacy, Women's Shelter, Victim Services Training

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.

Criminal Justice -	Updated Equipment & Technology, Additional Staff for higher "Call Loads", Specialized Training
Juvenile Justice -	Affordable Residential & Non-Residential: Substance Abuse Treatment; Sex Offender Treatment; Independent Living Programs; Vocational Training; Basic Childcare; Programs to address self-esteem; Mental Health Services; Parenting Involvement, and Adult Mentoring Programs. Access to human services in rural communities; Character Building; Gang intervention.
Victim Services -	More reliable sources of funding. Services to Victims of Violent Crime throughout the legal process. Training for Victim Assistance Para-Professionals and Professional Volunteers. Violence Prevention Education Programs.

For more information about this community plan, contact:

Name: Lee Hamilton

Address: 300 Oak Street

Phone: 325 674-1313

**COMMUNITY PLAN
TAYLOR, CALLAHAN & COLEMAN COUNTIES
FY 2012-2013**

Prepared by:

Chairman

**Lee Hamilton
104th District Court Judge
Taylor County
300 Oak Street, Suite 402
Abilene, Texas 79602
(325) 674-1313
Fax (325) 674-1256
hamiltol@taylorcountytexas.org**

Committee

Juvenile Justice

**Larry Jones
Deputy Chief
Juvenile Probation Services
Taylor County
889 S. 25th Street
Abilene, Texas 79602
jonesl@taylorcountytexas.org**

Criminal Justice

**Brad McGary
Lieutenant
Abilene Police Dept
P.O. Box 174
Abilene, Texas 79604
bradm.mcgary@abilenetx.com**

Victims Issues

**Diane Dotson
Executive Director
Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center
P.O. Box 122
Abilene, Texas 79604
diane@regionalcrime.org**

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.

Taylor, Callahan, Coleman Counties Community Plan FY 2012-2013 Plan Summary

It is the goal of the Taylor, Callahan, Coleman Counties Community Planning Committee to best address the following key issues by coordinating existing services, expanding existing services, creating new programs, and locating funding as to:

Criminal Justice Issues

- Changing and increased demands for services.
- Insufficient funding, manpower issues and availability of adequate training.
- Equipment and technology needs of agencies not being met

Juvenile Justice Issues

- Developing treatment focused programming, both counseling and residential, in the West Texas geographic area, with an emphasis on increased mental health services.
- Programs that encourage parental involvement in the lives of their children at school, counseling, etc.
- Develop partnerships with current providers to facilitate expansion of community based youth activities and intervention programs to year round scheduling, which will include services to address self-esteem issues through activities (not just counseling) for adolescents.
- More resources to address the need for adult mentoring of children who come from single parent homes or homes where biological parents are absent.
- Expand availability and accessibility of essential, professional, human services for rural families and children as well as providing transportation to access those services.

Victims Issues

- Funding sources are at risk of continued reduction.
- Survivors of violent crime need assistance throughout the criminal justice process.
- Even though this Plan is not specific to prevention education, it is imperative that collaborative efforts within the community also be directed at the prevention of violence, both within the home and in our schools, and neighborhoods.
- Training for victim's assistance and crisis intervention volunteers, as well as training for professionals with whom victims of violent crime come into contact.
- Insufficient programs to adequately address the growing problems faced by victim's of violent crime, including a need to expand mental health services, particularly for victims who are mentally ill.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	Pages	1 - 2
	<u>Taylor County</u>	Pages	2 - 3
	<u>Callahan County</u>	Page	3
	<u>Coleman County</u>	Page	3
II.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		
	Executive Summary.....	Pages	3 - 5
	Criminal Justice.....	Pages	5 - 7
	Juvenile Justice.....	Pages	7 -11
	Victim Issues.....	Pages	11-14
III.	CURRENT SERVICES FUNDED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, STATE OF TEXAS		
		Pages	14-15
IV.	CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES		
	Criminal Justice Issue #1: “Changing & Demands for Service”.....	Pages	15-17
	Criminal Justice Issue #2: “Manpower & Training”.....	Pages	18-19
	Criminal Justice Issue #3: “Equipment & Technology”.....	Pages	19-21
V.	JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES		
	Juvenile Justice Issue #1 “Focused Programming”:		
	A. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment.....	Pages	21-23
	B. Mental Health Services.....	Pages	23-24
	C. Residential Services for Sex Offenders.....	Pages	24-25
	D. Residential Basic, Vocational, Independent Living.....	Pages	25-26
	Juvenile Justice Issue #2 “Parental Involvement”:	Page	26-27
	Juvenile Justice Issue #3 “Expand Community Based Activities”:		
	A. More Free Community Activities.....	Pages	27-28
	B. Year Round Gang Intervention Programs.....	Pages	28
	Juvenile Justice Issue #4 “Adult Mentoring of Children”.....	Pages	29
	Juvenile Justice Issue #5 “Services to Rural Communities”.....	Pages	30
VI.	VICTIMS ISSUES		
	Survey Findings.....	Pages	31
	Victims Issue #1 ” Funding Sources At Risk”.....	Pages	32
	Victims Issue #2 “Assistance for Survivors of Violent Crime”.....	Pages	32-36
	Victims Issue #3 “Prevention Education”.....	Pages	36-37
	Victims Issue #4 (Tie) “Training for Volunteers”.....	Pages	37-38
	Victims Issue #4 (Tie) “Insufficient Programs to Address Problems”.....	Pages	38-39
VII.	LONG TERM EVALUATION PLAN		
	Long Term Evaluation Plan.....	Page	39

VIII. CONCLUSION

Conclusion..... Pages 39-40

ATTACHMENTS..... Page 41

Survey Instruments..... Pages 42-48

Community Plan Committee Members..... Pages 48-52

Plan Contributors..... Page 53

I. INTRODUCTION

The Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties Community Planning Committee is composed of representatives from Juvenile Probation, Law Enforcement, and Victim Services. Sub-Committees were formed to represent those in the fields of Juvenile Justice, Criminal Justice, and Victim's Services. Each sub-committee sought input through meetings and correspondence with others in their respected disciplines to review current services and service needs either not presently being met or anticipated due to fiscal reductions. The Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties, Community Plan is the result of this collaboration.

The overall rural nature of the West Central Texas region has created difficulties in obtaining, developing, and maintaining resources to meet the growing needs of the population therein represented. Since the early 1980s the economic downturn of the petroleum industry forced communities to either diversify their economies or lose the availability of valuable services. For some communities this transformation has been rather successful while others have struggled due to geographic location and/or limited resources. As we experience ever increasing and un-funded mandates along with simultaneous reductions in funding to local areas by both the state and federal government, it becomes most important that resources be consolidated and maximized in order to provide a more effective system of distribution and access. It is the goal of the Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties, Community Planning Committee, to provide not only a forum for input into the process but to ultimately establish a conduit through which agencies and organizations can seek state and federal financial assistance from and through the Texas Governor' Office.

Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties are located within the West Central Texas Council of Government area. They are centrally located within an area popularly known as the "Big Country." The make-up of the counties is generally rural, with only one city over 10,000 population, that being Abilene, in northeastern Taylor County. The "modern" history of this area began in the early to mid 19th century, when settlers began farming and ranching. The population increased as railroad lines were built through the area in the mid to late 1800's and most of the larger population areas are still located on the railroad lines. Into the 20th century, farming and ranching remained the economic mainstay, but was quickly outpaced by the oil boom when oil was discovered in numerous fields in the area. Oil production remained a thriving industry until the downturns of the 1970's. Since that time, some light manufacturing, construction, a growing medical and educational community, the presence of Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, the continued presence of the petroleum industry and agriculture, and the currently thriving wind energy market has created a stable economy. Some of the major employers for the area are Dyess Air Force Base (6,000 plus), Abilene Independent School District (2,556), Hendrick Healthcare System (2,656), Abilene Regional Medical Center (794), Abilene State Supported Living Center (1,406), City of Abilene (1,200), Texas Department of Criminal Justice (1,253), and Blue Cross Blue Shield (1,046). It is estimated that approximately 18% of the workforce in the Abilene area is involved in the healthcare industry.

The Big Country is home to several institutions of higher education, including Abilene Christian University (enrollment-4,800 plus), Hardin-Simmons University (enrollment-

2,300 plus), McMurry University (enrollment-1,400 plus), as well as branches of Texas State Technical College (enrollment-340 plus) and Cisco College (enrollment 4,200 plus). Texas Tech University has two facilities, a School of Pharmacy (enrollment 125 plus), and a School of Nursing (26) in Abilene as well as the Patti Hanks Shelton School of Nursing (165).

Dyess Air Force Base is an important part of the Big Country. The 7th Bomb Wing flies the B-1B Lancers and provides all B-1B flight training. The 317th Airlift Group flies the C-130H Hercules. The base also celebrates the arrival of Dyess' first C-130-J Aircraft. The base provides an annual economic impact of over \$443 million to the area. Since the beginning of the 21st Century, the 7th Bomb Wing and 317th Airlift Group have been called upon to perform in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. One of the many unique features of Dyess is its extensive collection of static military aircraft on display. Collectively known as the "Linear Air Park," it contains 30 aircraft from World War II to the present, many of them formerly based at Dyess. Dyess is home to nearly 6,000 military and civilian personnel, thus standing as the single largest employer in the area. The base has over 200 facilities and provides housing through almost one thousand family units, both on and off of the base, itself. The total of active military, retired military, and their direct dependents in Abilene, numbers approximate 15,000.

Taylor County:

Taylor County encompasses the following cities and towns: Abilene, Buffalo Gap, Impact, Lawn, Merkel, Potosi, Trent, Tuscola, and Tye. According to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (THHSC), the 2011 Taylor County population is projected to be 131,663 with an ethnic representation of 87,510 (66%) white, 29,775 (23.%) Hispanic, 10,521 (8%) Afro-American, and 3,857 (3%) other. A population profile by age reveals 16% ages 1-9 yrs., 13% ages 10-19 yrs., 33% ages 20-39 yrs., 23% ages 40-59 yrs., 14% ages 60 and above yrs. The largest school district within the county will be the Abilene Independent School District, with an enrollment of 17,016 students, according to the Texas Education Agency AEIS report for 2010. The median income for a family in the county is, according to 2005 US Census information, \$35,472, compared to the State average of \$41,645. The per capita income for the county is \$25,505 and 18.5% of families fall below the poverty line. The unemployment level for the county, according to THHSC is 6.3%.

Despite the relatively small population of Taylor County, it is diverse in character and has been extremely multifaceted in the provision of human services. Over 240 non-profit organizations provide a variety of services to local communities while, at the same time, competing for local dollars to keep these programs operating. As the economy ebbs and flows through times of difficulty and prosperity, these programs find themselves struggling to remain solvent.

Agencies and organizations in Taylor County have established a long tradition of networking and inter-agency cooperation. In 1980, various Taylor County youth-serving agencies formed the Taylor County Juvenile Justice Association, to promote networking

and interagency communication in an effort to prevent “turfism”, duplication of services, and more effectively serve the youth of our communities. In 1984, this organization became a national model for the networking concept. Since that time, numerous similar coalitions and collaborative groups have been instrumental in Taylor County’s ability to draw available resources to our communities in order to provide badly needed services.

Callahan County:

Callahan County encompasses the following cities and towns: Baird, Clyde, Cottonwood, Cross Plains, and Putnam. According to the THHSC, the Callahan County 2011 population is projected to be 14,687 with an ethnic representation of 13,384 (91%) white, 1,108 (8%) Hispanic, 47 (less than 1%) Afro-American, and 148 (1%) other. A population profile by age reveals 12% ages 1-9 yrs., 11% ages 10-19 yrs., 23% ages 20-39 yrs., 27% ages 40-59 yrs., 27% ages 60 and above yrs. The largest school district within the county will be the Clyde Independent School District (CISD), with an enrollment of 1,486 students, according to the Texas Education Agency AEIS report for 2007. CISD successfully graduated 90.6% of high school students with a 96.1% attendance rate and 5.1% drop-out rate for 2007. Callahan County is rural in nature with an economic base supported primarily through manufacturing, farming, ranching, hunting, retail antiques and collectibles, and the petroleum industry. The median income for a family in the county is \$35,516 according to the 2005 US Census, compared to the State average of \$41,645. The per capita income for the county was \$22,387 and 13.8% of families were below the poverty line. The unemployment rate is 5.5%. Along with Taylor County, Callahan County enjoys a low crime rate at 9.8 total Index Crimes per 1000 population.

Coleman County:

Coleman County has a total population of 8,904. According to the THHSC ethnic representation in Coleman County is 7,022 (79%) white, 1,567 (17%) Hispanic, 247 (3%) Afro-American, and 68 (1%) other. A population profile by age reveals 13% ages 1-9 yrs., 12.% ages 10-19 yrs., 23% ages 20-39 yrs., 24% ages 40-59 yrs, and 28% ages 60 and above yrs. The largest school district in the county is the Coleman Independent School District (CISD), with an enrollment of 875. CISD successfully graduated 96.1% of high School students with a 96.2% attendance rate and a 0% drop out rate for 2007. The county has an economic base supported primarily through manufacturing, farming, ranching, hunting, and the petroleum industry. The county has a median family income of \$27,187 and a per capita income of \$21,283, with 24.1% of families living under the poverty line. Unemployment is at 6.50% Coleman County has a total Index Crime rate of 30.8 crimes per 1000 population.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aging of the U.S. “baby boom” population from young adulthood to middle-age has brought shifts in both the age structure and the labor force, affecting healthcare, social security and pension stability. And high levels of immigration beginning in the 1980s and continuing to the present have contributed to significant population growth and made the country more racially and ethnically diverse, creating implications for the social integration of the United States. The future size, structure and diversity of this nation are already taking shape. Aging “baby-boomers” and new immigrants will create germinal

segments of the population that will be distributed differently across the nation. The impacts of this growing diversity will vary by region, across states, and within states, creating major policy challenges for the United States in the decades ahead. One billion people aged 15 to 24 will reach the height of their reproductive years, and the fertility outcomes of these generations will impact the world and affect the U.S. for generations to come.

According to the Texas Dept. of State Health Services, the population growth of Texas is projected as follows:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>% INCREASE</u>
Anglo	11,441,595	11,555,667	1%
Afro-American	2,925,751	3,191,394	9%
Hispanic	9,847,852	11,793,119	20%
<u>Other</u>	<u>1,158,479</u>	<u>1,475,370</u>	<u>27%</u>
Total	25,373,947	28,015,550	10%

Texas is considered one of the fastest growing states in the U.S. One of the reasons for this growth is the Hispanic population explosion that is expected to continue. Significant growth in the Hispanic population is predicted and will surpass the Anglo population in Texas by 2015, which is even sooner than earlier predictions from 2005. The populations in urban Texas account for 17.7 million people where as 3.2 million people live in non-metropolitan areas. This discrepancy is also expected to increase as a result of most of the incoming populations congregating in cities. According to Gary Steinberg, spokesman for the Bureau of Labor, in 2007, the cost of living per capita in this area was 86% of the national average. Additionally, the cost of living in this region is also below the national average, however, although no official figures exist to say how much. This is partially due to lesser dependence on the energy industry and a huge jump in foreign direct investment and exports overseas. Despite the global economic melt down during the last few years, Texas has managed to avoid much of the fiscal turmoil experienced by many other states. Texas also is experiencing far more transportation within the state. Air passenger traffic, as well as road and rail traffic, continues to show promise due to increases in international trade and continually closer ties to Mexico. However, these transnational crossings are also a major source of narcotic and illegal migration and have greatly affected state policy.

The booming population in Texas means that spending will have to rise to provide adequate education, infrastructure, employment and prisons. Greater funds will more than likely need to be provided for the changing needs of a larger and larger Spanish speaking population. The increase in international border crossings has and will continue to affect the number of arrests and burden the justice system as well as social programs. Such funding increases seem unlikely as states continue to grapple with recent global economic difficulties impacting overall availability of financial resources.

To adequately meet the growing needs of our population we must become focused on refining a continuum-of-care through better integration, coordination, and cross-system collaboration that forms the basis for all solutions and maximizes current and anticipated reductions in resources. Such collaborative efforts can include coordinated strategic planning, multi-agency budget submissions, implementation of comprehensive screenings and assessment centers, cross training of staff, and team approaches to

assessment and case management.

We must continue to stress the need for state and local agencies, communities, and components of law enforcement, juvenile justice services, and victim services to work together to address problems both current and anticipated. Collaboration must be the cornerstone of our approach to addressing these issues on the local level.

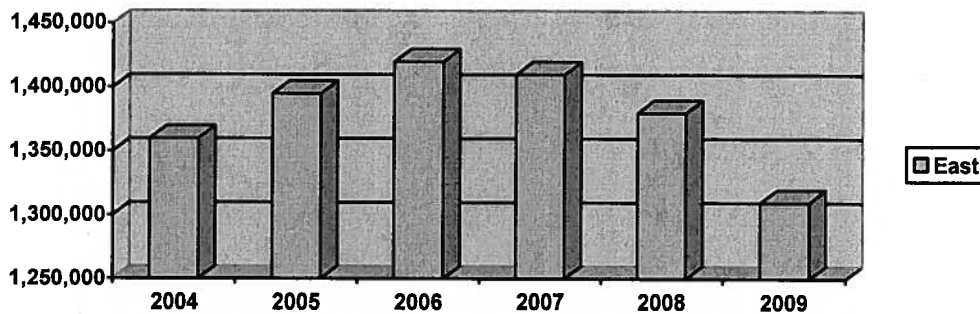
Criminal Justice Issues:

The Federal Bureau of Investigations crime report for 2009, shows a continuing nationwide trend that violent crime dropped (5.3%) for the third consecutive year. Property crimes dropped (4.6%) for the seventh straight year nationally. Texas showed an increase in population and property crime but a decrease in violent crime. Locally, the statistics show a 6.6% increase in crime for the year, with decreases only in robberies. Property crimes declined nationally for the sixth straight year. The cost of property crimes nationwide (excluding arson) was an estimated \$15.2 billion in 2009.

Homicide dropped nationally by 7.3% to an average of 5.0 murders per 100,000 population. Abilene/Taylor county homicides stayed the same at 7 for 2009. Coleman and Callahan Counties again did not report a homicide. The rate of violent crime per 100,000 population was 429.4.

Listed below is some general information taken from the FBI 2009 Report. These rates are generally comparable to local stats.

- Aggravated assaults accounted for 61.2 percent of violent crimes, the highest number of violent crimes reported to law enforcement. Robbery comprised 31.0 percent of violent crimes, forcible rape accounted for 6.7 percent, and murder accounted for 1.2 percent of estimated violent crimes in 2009.
- In 2009, offenders used firearms in 67.1 percent of the Nation's murders, 42.6 percent of robberies, and 20.9 percent of aggravated assaults. (Weapon data are not collected for forcible rape offenses.)
- The most frequent arrests made in 2009 were for drug abuse violations (estimated at 1,663,582 arrests). Driving under the influence accounted for 1,440,409 arrests and thefts there were 1,334,933 people incarcerated.
- The rate of arrests was estimated at 4.478 arrests per 100,000 inhabitants in 2009. The arrest rate for violent crime was 191.2 per 100,000 inhabitants, and the arrest rate for property crime was 571.1 per 100,000 inhabitants.
- Violent crime arrests in 2009 declined 2.3 percent when compared with 2008 arrest data.
- Arrests for property crime increased 1.3 percent in 2009 when compared with the 2008 arrests.
- Arrests of juveniles decreased 8.9 percent in 2009 when compared with the 2008 number; arrests of adults declined 1.2 percent.
- Arrests of males accounted for the following: 74.7 percent of all persons arrested; 81.2 percent of persons arrested for violent crime; and 62.6 percent of persons arrested for property crime.



New challenges are appearing almost daily for Law Enforcement agencies. While certain aspects of crime will always be the same, law enforcement is continually faced with technologically advanced forms of crime. Cyber crime is growing by leaps and bounds leaving many law enforcement agencies scrambling to catch up. Internet sex crimes, fraud, and identity theft is just some of the issues that have already become major concerns among the citizenry.

Traditional crime is also changing rapidly. The theft of copper and other metals has become a crime that is costing as much in damage as it is in the loss of the metal itself. So much so, that new state laws have been passed to address these thefts. Drugs are constantly changing, leaving law enforcement struggling to keep up with the latest trends and usage. Major crimes by juveniles over the last few years also seem to have grown. Combine that with recent problems with TYC and law enforcement is faced with new challenges in juvenile crime.

Local departments and agencies are working to respond to these challenges but are handicapped by budget restraints, lack of manpower, lack of equipment and training. The assignment of detectives to “cyber” crime means taking them off of traditional duties, which leads to further shortages. Training in many of these areas is just now becoming available nationwide, but agencies are still faced with the financial problems of getting the officers to the training. The need for specialized training and units within departments has become very obvious, but finding the means to develop these units still lie outside the reach of most agencies.

Manpower issues play a major part in this arena, as all departments are faced with growing demands for officers and shrinking availability of qualified candidates. Most departments have increased education requirements for candidates in an effort to hire new officers able to tackle the increased technological demands in crime fighting. While the quality of candidates may be higher, the number available is lower. This is coming also at a time when retirements are at an all time high. All departments from large to small are facing shortages of manpower and not able to catch up, losing more to retirements and other reasons than they are able to hire. Qualified candidates are sought by all law enforcement agencies and the competition among departments has grown tremendously over the last few years. Many departments are employing new recruiting methods and offering new incentives to join their department. Competition of new officers has lead to increased salaries, incentive packages and aggressive recruiting methods being developed.

Despite all the challenges that are being faced by departments today, quality police service is still being provided to all citizens. Departments have learned to utilize what resources are available to the best of their ability. Government grant money helps to bridge the gap in many cases but can not be counted on to always be available. Agencies are learning to be innovative in order to meet many of the demands currently being placed on them.

Juvenile Justice Issues

We are constantly reminded that the United States has a problem with juvenile violence. Nightly we hear of shootings in communities and even in our schools. People are concerned and rightly so. There is no single cause of violence but we certainly know factors that increase the chance of its occurrence. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) list specific risk factors in the development of delinquent behavior. These include child abuse and family disintegration, economic and social deprivation, low neighborhood attachment, parental attitudes condoning law violating behavior, academic failure, truancy, school drop-out, lack of bonding with society, fighting with peers and antisocial behaviors early in life. Additionally, some of the newest findings from the research of OJJDP indicate that multiple family transitions (such as those caused by separation or divorce) are a risk factor for delinquency. Researchers found a consistent relationship between the number of transitions and the level of delinquency and drug use among youth. Researchers also found that a male youth's early involvement in drug use and delinquency is highly correlated with becoming a teen father. They found that a number of problem behaviors – early sexual activity (before age 16), gang membership, chronic involvement in violent behavior, and chronic drug use – substantially increased a boy's likelihood of becoming a teen father. Becoming a father does not cause a young male to become more responsible and law abiding but rather was found to be associated with an ever greater increase in delinquent behavior. Teenage fathers were more likely to have court petitions alleging delinquency, to drink alcohol frequently, to deal in drugs, or to drop out of school.

Researchers for OJJDP have also discovered that Serious and Violent Juvenile Offenders begin their criminal careers prior to age 12 and some begin as early as age 10. For very young offenders, the most important risk factors are likely to be individual (e.g. birth complications, hyperactivity, impulsivity) and familial (e.g. parental substance abuse or lack of child-rearing skills). Studies found that protective factors such as pro-social behavior during preschool years and good cognitive performance can buffer or offset the impact of risk factors. An absence of these factors can easily result in juveniles turning to the youth gang subculture in order to have these needs met. Locally, youth gangs have existed for many years; however, they are poorly organized and demonstrate neither clear leadership nor purpose.

Approximately half (46%) of youth today, report current alcohol use (within the past 30 days), 27% report alcohol use over the 7 days, and 21% report binge drinking (having 5 or more drinks in a row on at least one occasion during a 2 week period). Moreover, substantial numbers of youth report engaging in risky behaviors associated with alcohol use, such as driving while under the influence of alcohol and riding with a driver who had been drinking. Negative consequences of drinking reported by current drinkers included experiencing headaches and hangovers, being unable to remember what happened after a drinking incident, passing out, getting into a fight, having sex without birth control,

breaking or damaging property, missing school, and being the victim of a forced sex attempt. While serious juvenile crime dropped substantially in the mid-1990s, more youth had contact with the juvenile justice system for alcohol and other public order crimes.

Michael D. Resnick, a sociologist at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, in the September 1997 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association published the results of a comprehensive survey on adolescents that found that the health and well-being of adolescents "still rests in that strong feeling of being cared for by parents". In fact, the more loved they felt and the more comfortable they were in school, the less teenagers were likely to engage in problematic behaviors, including committing violence. Such information reinforces the significance of parental involvement in the lives of their children as a deterrent to unlawful behavior. Locally we have attempted to provide parents with assistance both through voluntary parent support groups and court ordered parenting classes. Despite our best efforts to assist parents in gaining the badly needed skills for properly raising their children, attendance and participation continue to be unsatisfactory. In the absence of this parental commitment we have attempted to establish adult mentoring programs such as "Big Brothers/Big Sisters". These programs have been helpful, however, the needs are too great and volunteers too few to adequately address the needs of our communities.

To prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency, it is necessary to address not only the offenses that bring youth to the attention of the juvenile justice system but also the underlying problems these youth face, including mental health problems. Such problems affect many of the approximately 1.8 million youth who enter the juvenile justice system each year, yet very little is known about the mental health needs of these youth. On the national level, we still know very little about the mental health needs of youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system. There are no good studies on the number of such youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system. Recent estimates place the rate of serious emotional disturbance among youth in the general population at 9% to 13%, much higher than the 0.5% - 5% range previously used by policy makers. National estimates of youth in the juvenile justice system with a diagnosable mental health disorder range from 50% to 75%. It is safe to estimate that at least one (20%) out of every five youths in the juvenile justice system has serious mental health problems. There is a sizable group of youth who critically need access to mental health services because they are experiencing serious problems that interfere with their functioning. Over the past several years, there has been greater recognition and documentation of the high level of co-occurring substance abuse disorders among individuals with mental health disorders. Greenbaum, Foster-Johnson, and Petrila (1996:58) found that "approximately half of all adolescents receiving mental health services" in the general population are reported as having dual diagnosis. Efforts to address these problems confront numerous barriers, including the following: The confusion across multi-service delivery and juvenile justice systems, at both the policy and practice levels, as to who is responsible for providing service to these youth; Inadequate screening and assessment; The lack of training, staffing, and programs necessary to deliver mental health services within the juvenile justice system; and, the lack of funding and clear funding streams to support services.

In FY2003, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) initiated the use of the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children (DISC) to investigate the prevalence of

mental health disorders among juveniles referred to probation departments in Texas. Almost half (47.5%) reported at least one disorder using the DISC. Fourteen percent (14%) of the sample reported having made a suicide attempt in their life. Less than 1 of 5 or 18.1% reported that they had received a mental health contact in the last year. Given the number of juveniles with a mental health disorder, juvenile justice professionals should receive basic training on the most common psychiatric disorders seen among juvenile offenders. This knowledge can assist them in accurately identifying and referring mentally ill youth to appropriate mental health professionals for evaluation and treatment.

If one considers other complicating trends, such as managed care, the privatization of services, and the diagnostic and treatment issues surrounding particular populations such as youth of color and girls, one quickly gets a sense of how great a challenge any change will be. Whenever possible, youth with serious mental health disorders should be diverted from the juvenile justice system. Given community concerns about safety, there are youth who, regardless of their mental health needs, will require placement in the juvenile justice system because of their serious and violent offenses. Diversion to services, however, requires a multi-disciplinary partnership involving the justice and treatment systems and a comprehensive range of services to which youth can be diverted.

Those who work in the field of juvenile justice recognize that families are the most important resource in the life of any youth. Juvenile justice, child protective services, and mental health practitioners often have been too quick to identify families as the source of the youth's problems. The temptation is to remove a child from the home and institutionalize them in order to "fix" them. Children, however, usually prefer to live with their families. Whenever possible, service providers engage families in the treatment process. When the home environment is shown to be contributory to the child's delinquent conduct and improvement impossible, the juvenile court may need to remove the child and place them into an alternative residential setting. This is one of the hardest decisions that a Juvenile Probation Officer will have to make. For some in the juvenile justice system, the placement process is a very limited option due to lack of resources. The most important consideration should be the child: his/her characteristics and special needs such as age, offense history, medical issues, gang involvement, alcohol/drug problems, learning problems or disabilities, and dysfunctional family. However, simply determining a child's needs is not a guarantee that placement can be obtained that will meet those needs. The 1997 national census reported 105,790 juvenile offenders in residential placement. In 1999, that number was 108,964, a 3% increase from 1997. In Texas, the average basic care placement may result in average annual costs of up to \$36,000. Should a child need special treatment the costs can range from \$33,000 to \$51,000 annually. In the last 14 years, we have continued to see the costs for such care dramatically increase. To help offset some of these expenses, the federal government provides a 58% reimbursement on residential costs through the Title IV-E program for those children who may qualify (single parent or substitute parent homes, low income, etc.). Prior to 2004, surprisingly few children needing residential placement could qualify for this funding source. However, beginning in 2004, we saw a significant increase in the number of children who qualify for these funds which is reflective of the growing needs of the children within our communities. However, recent changes may place this funding source in jeopardy for the future. Beginning in 1988, funding from the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) was provided for placing children who

were defined as multi-problem (delinquent and mental illness, delinquent and abused/neglected) with a requirement of equal matching funds from local authorities. These Challenge Grant funds were suspended in the Spring of FY2003 and have now been eliminated altogether due to state budget cuts. Other TJPC funds utilized for placement in the past were Secure Felony Placement funds that provide for placing offenders in secure Post-Adjudication Facilities. These programs are typically specialized for Sex Offender Treatment, Substance Abuse Treatment, or Cognitive Skills Treatment. TJPC made such funding available on a "first-come-first-serve," basis and would only cover 6 months of a child's placement subject to possible extension. The Secure Felony Placement Grant was eliminated in the last legislative session and a portion of this fund was rolled into a single Grant for placement and counseling services. In 2008, the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) underwent numerous changes resulting in facilities being shut down and commitment criteria adjusted to prevent counties from committing juvenile misdemeanor offenders. In 2011 the Texas Legislature eliminated the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) and effective December 1, 2011 created the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. Institutional commitments by local jurisdictions were further restricted. Funding has decreased slightly through the Commitment Reduction Program for the 2011-2012 Biennium. The purpose of this grant is to provide an array of rehabilitation services for juvenile offenders, including, but not limited to, community-based, residential, transition and aftercare programs or services. Locally these funds have been dedicated to the placement of Sex Offenders in Residential Treatment Facilities as a diversion from commitment to TYC. Funding received through a grant from the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office, for Purchase of Juvenile Services, that has been used for both residential and non-residential costs, was also cut by 38% in FY2004 resulting in a significant reduction in placement funding. Again in FY2008 these funds were cut by 4%. For FY2011 and FY2012, this funding has remained stable, however, the costs for residential placement and non-residential services continues to rise resulting in fewer children being served. According to CJD officials, we can expect further cuts in the future.

Meeting the multi-dimensional needs of today's severely dysfunctional families and juvenile offenders becomes a major challenge when the rural nature of our communities is factored in. Currently, only basic social and juvenile justice services are provided to Callahan, Coleman and rural Taylor Counties. Children and families are forced to travel long distances in order to access many services. For those individuals and families who experience low income, such distances make services unattainable. When services such as parenting classes have been provided, the response has been exceptionally positive which demonstrates a willingness and desire to take advantage of such help when made available on a local level.

As Federal and State funded programs are eliminated or reduced, a greater burden is placed on remaining resources forcing local officials to concentrate resources in more populous areas in order to maximize resource effectiveness. This trend often results in fewer youthful offenders receiving services on the local level, and Juvenile Probation Departments forced to commit them to TYC for lack of adequate local resources. Further complicating the availability of resources are the numerous and unfunded state mandates on local secure facilities and Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs (JJAEP) as well as probation services. These mandates along with reductions in state and federal

funding have increased financial hardship on local jurisdictions and result in reduced levels of services to children at a time when we recognize significantly growing needs.

Despite these setbacks, our communities have made significant progress in reducing juvenile crime and victimization. This progress is attributable, in part, to strong efforts in developing comprehensive, community-based strategies, that combine prevention and early intervention programs with graduated sanctions which hold young offenders accountable in the juvenile justice system.

Victim Issues

From the earliest civilizations to the present day, the law has demanded that victims be compensated. Principles governing compensation can be found in the Code of Hammurabi, the Bible, the Talmud, the Koran, and every body of secular law on earth. Compensating victims can serve a number of different public goals such as corrective justice, deterrence of wrongdoing, moral affirmation, and distributive justice.

State compensation programs were the first generation of modern victim services. For a variety of reasons, they were often heavily criticized in their infancy. Many people resented the overtones of welfare programs that were associated with them. Others found the bureaucratic procedures overbearing. Benefits were limited. Eligibility criteria were much more stringent than they are today.

According to national statistics, family violence, including child physical and sexual abuse, child pornography on the internet, child neglect and maltreatment, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse, takes place in homes across the country every day. Exposure to such violence has a devastating impact on both children and adults in those households and communities, whether they are direct victims of abuse or witnesses to it. Children exposed to such violence at an early age are likely to become either perpetrators of abuse or victims of violence in adulthood. A Bureau of Justice Statistics' Special Report found that between 1993 and 1998, the average number of victims of intimate partner violence who lived with children under the age of 12 was 459,590. This paints a daunting picture for the future of our children, even if only one child in each of those households is exposed to violence. According to the United States Advisory Board on Child Abuse, "Child Abuse increases the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 53%, as an adult by 38% and arrest for violent crime for 38%." The National Coalition for the Prevention of Child Abuse tells us that "Approximately 85% of Texas prison inmates claim to have been abused as children."

In 1999, OJJDP reported that children who are exposed to domestic violence are at increased risk of being murdered or physically injured. Additionally, children who do not become offenders or victims may face great obstacles in emotional, mental, and physical development including attention deficits, educational difficulties, substance abuse, mental health problems, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, and lack of appropriate social skills.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, relatives or intimates committed more than 1 in 4 of the murders and 1 in 10 of the incidents of non-lethal violence against persons age 65 or older. Elder abuse can increase the mortality and depression rates of the elderly victim.

The Advent of the information age has created new challenges to the ability of individuals to protect the privacy and security of their personal information. One such challenge is identity theft which imposes countless hardships upon its victims. There are so many instances of identity theft, and so many ways it may be accomplished. The costs and losses are significant to financial institutions and individuals, but are often difficult to determine, especially for individual consumer victims. If an individual is fortunate enough to avoid financial liability for the theft, they still suffer losses, even if those losses are “merely” time and effort, and are harder to quantify. Perpetrators of this fraud use the identities of others to steal money, obtain loans, and generally violate the law. Financial losses should be recoverable to the victim, from someone. But experience and common sense indicate that thieves are rarely collectible defendants, and even when courts impose restitution as part of a criminal conviction that restitution is rarely an effective remedy. Convicted criminals rarely have significant earning capacity. Other avenues of recovery, especially tort-based theories of recovery, are also limited. The law currently recognizes no relationship between a thief and a victim. No court has yet held that a person’s identity is a legally recognized property interest that can be converted. Perhaps a claim against the individual or entity that enabled the theft would seem more just, or appropriate, but the law does not normally impose liability on one person for another person’s criminal activity. The law generally recognizes criminal conduct as an intervening or superseding cause, which breaks the causation chain in a negligence claim. Thus, if a plaintiff claims a defendant was negligent in allowing an employee access to the plaintiff’s identity information, or that a web site was negligent in posting identity information, that negligence is no longer the cause of the plaintiff’s injury. Obviously, something should be done to reduce or eliminate the problem of identity theft; and it would seem equally obvious that it is not equitable to allow individuals to be victimized by such a theft, whether their loss is quantifiable or “merely” the expenditure of time and effort to restore damaged credit. One attempt to address the growing problem of Identity Theft was the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998 which makes the theft of personal information with the intent to commit an unlawful act, a federal crime in the United States with penalties of up to 15 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000. The Act designates the Federal Trade Commission to serve as an advocate for victims of identity fraud.

Every state in the country provides financial assistance to victims of violent and personal crime through crime victim compensation programs. Currently, these programs pay close to \$400 million in benefits to or on behalf of more than 150,000 victims nationwide. This aid extends to victims of domestic violence, child abuse, rape, assault, drunk driving, and homicide, as well as victims of terrorism both in this country and abroad. Medical care, counseling, lost wages, lost support, and funerals are the chief costs and losses covered by these programs. Frequently, the unavailability of financial resources to cover simple costs such as utility deposits on a new residence, prevent many women from escaping spousal abuse. The Texas Public Utility Commission recently took steps to eliminate such barriers, authorizing legal services organizations that receive funds from the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation (TEAJF) to certify victims of domestic violence. Once certified, victims are exempt from the deposits usually required for electricity and phone service. The new policy was championed by the Texas Legal Services Center, which provides training, litigation support and other services for legal aid advocates. Victims of abuse should not be chained to their abusers because high utility deposits prevent them from setting up their own homes. The TEAJF distributes more than \$11

million per year to the 38 legal aid organizations across the state that close more than 11,000 domestic violence cases each year. Despite this help, victims of domestic violence need a whole range of services when attempting to extricate their family from an abusive situation. With such legal aid office's certification, you have one less problem to deal with when you are facing an already overwhelming situation.

Nationally we have experienced increasing numbers of victims, despite a precipitous decline in the crime rate over the past ten years. Claims from victims increased 60% from 1993 to 2001 (45% since 1997), at the same time that violent victimization declined 34% from their 1993 high. A rising tide of applications, and increased efforts to reach more victims who are not currently applying, requires not only more money to pay benefits, but also increased administrative resources to process those claims in a timely fashion. Unfortunately, budget crises affecting more than 40 states have had an effect on the stability of funding for many compensation programs. A declining or stable crime base of offenders provides little new funding for compensation programs financed through offender fees. And further, the specter of having to help a large number of victims of mass violence, whether the result of terrorism or mere malevolence, haunts budget planning by compensation programs. Finally, federal funds available to compensation programs through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) may be reduced in future years because of a drop in revenue.

Victim Compensation programs receive funding from a number of sources. Some programs are funded from offenders paying fees or financial restitution. A number of states gain some income from prison industries, or from a small percentage of prison-canteen purchases. Federal funding comes from the deposit of all federal criminal fines in VOCA's Crime Victims Fund. Each state is eligible to receive a compensation grant equal to 60% of what the state spends in its own money. This results in an approximate mix of 65% state funds and 35% federal funds. In FY2003, the Federal Government set a new record funding \$164 million for compensation programs. Some states have resources that are barely sufficient to sustain payments to victims who have filed claims. Since the abnormally high collection levels of the past four years resulted only from a handful of unusually high criminal fines against corporate malfeasants, collections are dropping. Additionally, resources for victim service programs may be cut in half, and compensation grants will suffer as well. This unstable budget situation not only jeopardizes a programs' ability to meet current demand; it paralyzes efforts to expand payments or add new benefits. Clearly, for compensation programs to thrive, a growing amount of resources must be available. At least in the short run, this funding appears to be threatened or uncertain.

In reaching victims, most service providers believe that significant numbers who could be financially assisted are not applying for victim compensation. There is no doubt that many victims are not informed about compensation opportunities, particularly those individuals whose interaction with victim services is minimal or nonexistent.

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), and the Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS), an NIJ-funded study concluded that in 1987, 63% of violent crimes reported were attempted rather than completed crimes; that half of crimes went unreported; that a large majority of victims do not sustain injuries or

require medical care or lose time from work; that close to 70% of victims are insured; and that some victims are culpable for their victimizations. It is interesting to note that the NCVS estimated 5.6 million violent victimizations in 1987, almost exactly the same number estimated in 2001, when claims received by compensation programs had more than doubled.

How adequate are the benefits paid through victim compensation programs? A major deficit in the current manor in which victims are compensated, is the scope and extent to which victimization is assessed. Most cultures and communities rally around victims after particularly traumatizing experiences. This was clearly evident in the outpouring of volunteers, resources, money, and other aid in the aftermath of the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 (9/11). In fact, that single tragedy resulted in the Federal Compensation Program which was established specifically for the victims of 9/11. This program could pay benefits well over a million dollars to each surviving family of those killed including \$250,000 per surviving spouse in pain and suffering. The fund would also cover life-time loss of earning capacity. One of the biggest difficulties facing the government is justifying compensation for some victims and not others. If the experience of the 9/11 compensation program teaches us anything, it is that once the government fashions a special compensation program for one set of victims, it will find it difficult to deny such favorable treatment to others – at least as a logical and moral matter. The victim groups that will fare best are those that are easily identifiable, concentrated in important legislative districts, members of influential groups, suffer large losses in circumstances that are media-genic and evoke widespread sympathy, and can more readily link those losses to government policy.

Many state programs find that the large majority of victims applying are paid fully for the losses and expenses requested by them and covered by the programs. The average benefit paid per claim has remained between \$2,000 and \$2,500 for many years. However, most compensation programs appear to be less effective in providing small emergency benefits quickly, such as funds to fix broken windows, repair doors and locks, and cash for living expenses that may be needed immediately.

In 2011, Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties face a daunting task. The federal government faces deficit spending, unpredictable costs in the fight against terrorism and the War in Iraq, military policing around the world through NATO and the United Nations, staggering costs of repair and rebuilding after natural disasters both at home and abroad, and ever increasing costs in the energy industry due to the instability in world oil markets. Of course it is always best to focus on maintaining a prevention strategy when dealing with victim issues, however, in our current socio-economic climate we must also find a way to provide sufficient resources in staffing and professionals in order to provide swift, well trained, professional and timely frontline services to victims. As the nature of victimization is an ever changing dynamic, it becomes incumbent upon all service providers to be well trained in order to stay abreast of assistance programs and changes that would impact the criminal justice system.

III. CURRENT SERVICES FUNDED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS (shows only the grants we have been notified of to date)

Violence Against Women Formula Grant Programs:

Noah Project, Inc., Family Violence Victims' Assistance Programs -\$62,993

Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Programs

Taylor County CJD Award - \$24,500 Project Title: Purchase of Juvenile Services

State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund

West Central Texas Council of Governments, Regional Law Enforcement Academy- \$113,785

Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Programs

Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center, Comprehensive Assistance for all Victims of Violent Crimes -\$67,205

Pecan Valley Regional Domestic Violence Shelter, Victim's Advocacy and Support - \$25,538

Pecan Valley Regional Domestic Violence Shelter, Victim's Services and Legal Advocacy Project - \$32,450

IV. Criminal Justice Issues

Criminal Justice Issue #1

Changing and increased demands for services

Supporting Statistics:

According to the FBI crime report for 2010, there continues to be a steady decline in crime rates nationwide. One change worth noting for this year is that property crime also declined along with violent crime rates. Locally, the numbers are similar as it pertains to violent crime whereas property crime did have a very small increase. One thing that has stayed consistent is the call load that area law enforcement must deal with on a daily basis. These numbers have steadily increased over the past 10 years and show no signs of slowing down.

Along with increased calls for service, the variety in the nature of the calls for service has caused law enforcement to deal with many situations that they simply are not prepared to handle. Some examples of this include, but are not restricted to;

1. Crimes via the Intranet- More and more personal and financial data on citizens is being made available on the Internet and with it, the increase of data theft for illegal use also rises. Identity theft, Web Stalking/Bullying and Fraud schemes continue to plague the world and the US. As these crimes continue to require a law enforcement response, the drain on resources and qualified personnel to investigate such crimes continue to pose a problem.
2. Homeland Security- Since the events of 9/11, law enforcement has been on high alert for activity of a suspicious nature no matter where or what jurisdiction we protect. Add to this the recent surge in domestic terrorism and law enforcement has its hands full as it deals with homeland security issues.

3. Recent events in Texas such as the Fort Hood shooting go a long way in showing just how close we all are to having an event of this nature. Having our officers fully trained and equipped to handle an incident of a similar nature is not only expensive, but time consuming.
4. Legislative Mandates- These unfunded state and federal mandates continue to strain local jurisdictions that are already feeling the pinch from manpower shortages and dwindling resources.
5. School Security issues- Not all agencies have the resources to have an increased presence in the local school systems. That the number of school and students in our area are growing makes this issue even more important. Abilene and Wylie ISDs have officers working within their schools. Merkel, Trent and Tuscola now have a Taylor County Sheriff working those campuses.
6. Drug usage trends- It has been well documented that powdered Cocaine use has given way to crack cocaine and that crack Cocaine has given way to Methamphetamines. Recent trends show that "Meth" has lost some of its hold as the Mexican Drug Trade Organizations (DTO's) have increased the amount of Marijuana and black tar Heroin flowing into the US. As the drug trade continues to alter its efforts, law enforcement must alter its response to meet the needs of the changing trends. All of this must take place without the assistance of multi-agency task forces which have been disbanded by the state this past year. Their enforcement actions must now fall under each jurisdiction that encounters the drug flow.
7. Intelligence Led Policing- This is the newest version of Problem Oriented Policing from the late 1990's into the mid 2000's. Intelligence Led Policing is a concept that takes into account the large influx of crime data coming into a policing agency and places a priority on dissecting, analyzing, mapping and finally disseminating the data back to the officers in an easy to understand format of charts and maps. It is then used to target the places/persons that have been identified through analysis by the officers on the street. By giving the street officer the "who and where", it allows them to take back their streets and combine efforts across numerous shifts. The biggest issue with ILP is that it needs free time for officers to target the persons/places identified and it requires qualified persons to conduct the analysis and breakdown of the crime. It becomes a numbers game to have enough officers available on the street to prevent them from becoming solely reactive in nature when staffing is already short. Abilene has embarked on this venture and it has shown strong, positive results with many repeat offenders targeted and arrested.
8. Law enforcement is significantly impacted by the portion of the population with mental health/retardation issues. In 2010, the Abilene Police Department handled 237 emergency committals to mental hospitals. In addition to contacting the suspect/citizen and evaluating them, the time transporting these individuals is very burdensome on law enforcement. Also, referring mentally ill arrestees for treatment, rather than incarcerating them, is a complicated and taxing proposition.

Action Plan to leverage Resources:

Agencies within the service area will need to continue to monitor their individual or group needs as new service demands arise. Most have already completed assessments in the area of Homeland Security and many have used Federal grant money to make purchases in this area. Regular budgets will also need to attend to some of these changing needs.

Whenever possible, agencies will need to work together and complete joint operations and share equipment resources. One good example this year is the way agencies worked and shared during the summer wildfire season which was one of the worst in recorded history. Every agency in the service area assisted in some manner whether it was personnel or equipment. The Abilene Police Department SWAT, EOD and Critical Missing Persons Teams were all sent outside of Abilene this last year to assist with calls to other agencies that did not have these resources available to them. Training in the area of sharing and allocating resources has been conducted and will continue to be sought after in this service area.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #1 of 3.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems:

The law enforcement community will develop strategies to deal with the increasing call loads by:

1. Exploring and initiating “Differential Police Response: to reduce the amount of time spent on calls and eliminate some calls that can actually be handled by others not working the streets;
2. Exploring new shift configurations to ensure that staffing is optimized; and
3. Innovative staffing to meet needs (example: hiring back retired officers to assist with mental transports or volunteers to assist with non-sworn job duties such as fleet maintenance, downloading mug shots.)

The law enforcement community will develop strategies to deal with new service demands by:

1. Identifying new crime trends and service demands by citizens;
2. Implementing strategies to deal with these new demands;
3. Obtaining equipment/technology which would maximize capabilities in dealing with new service demands; and
4. Staffing agencies adequately to meet new service demands.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUE #2:

Equipment and technological needs of agencies are not being met.

Supporting Statistics:

The overall United States economy has impacted the availability of federal grants that had been used by agencies to supplement their regular budgets. Agencies are already running on “bare necessity” budgets with the expectation to do more with less. More often than not, personnel and equipment are not being replaced and new technologies, which could save both time and money, are simply not being pursued for budgetary reasons.

Gathering hard statistics to support the problem is difficult; however citing specific examples from different agencies can show how they are falling behind on these critical infrastructure needs. The following are examples and do not cover the full spectrum of needs for all agencies in the Region.

Equipment/Technology

1. Many agencies are not adequately able to equip their officers with the very basic needs when it relates to safety and protective items. These include but are not limited to body armor, raincoats, latex gloves and CPR masks. Electronic Control Devices (ECD's) have developed into a costly but very effective tool for officers in the use of controlling a combative individual that would put officers in risk of injury if traditional methods were used to subdue them. The cost of ECD's makes their acquisition difficult for most departments.
2. Other equipment needs such as radios and phones are now almost required equipment for officers. Upgrades to communication systems all over Texas are either being done or have already been completed in order to become compliant to state regulations as soon as possible. Cell phone technology has grown at such a fast pace that many officers can communicate better with a cell phone than with some of the antiquated radio systems agencies are using. Abilene has been working towards a new system for in-car mobile data which will include new Panasonic laptop
3. computers and an integrated broadband access which will allow officers to pull data from departmental records as well as access many new search databases from their vehicles. A new PD-NET webpage is also operational that will allow officers a “one stop shop” for intelligence/crime trend information from their vehicles. All agencies in the service area will strive to acquire the necessary technology and equipment to be a part of this system.
4. Many agencies are not able to adequately maintain their vehicle fleet. Budget demands are causing agencies to run units to higher and higher mileage than is practical before replacing the unit. As a result, there is more down time to older units, and sometimes this causes insufficient vehicles to be available to all staff positions.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

Agencies within the service area will continue to make attempts to obtain necessary funding to address this problem through the normal budget process. With the federal grant system putting out less and less monies for agencies to apply for, the need for more interagency agreements is extremely important. We must be prepared to share resources and combine grant efforts to maximize the power of these grant purchases. Individual agencies will prioritize their needs to make the most efficient use of available resources.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as # 2 of 3.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems:

We will continue to update current equipment to stay within the recommended manufacturer usage guidelines by:

1. Evaluating all possible funding sources for revenues that can be applied toward the problem.
2. Prioritize equipment needs and begin the purchase process.
3. Schedule a regular replacement process for equipment.

We will continue to obtain updated technology to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our agencies by:

1. Reviewing available technology to prioritize needs;
2. Coordinating with other agencies for possible expense/usage cooperation;
3. Purchasing and maintaining technology; and
4. Evaluating the value of technology obtained for future expansion/retention.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUE #3:

Insufficient funding, manpower issues and availability of adequate training.

Supporting Statistics:

In the past several decades there have been major changes in the training requirements for Texas Peace Officers. Some of the changes are mandatory; others are elective, but necessary for the successful completion of assigned duties. This training can be broken down into three categories:

1. **Initial Training-** mandated to acquire Peace Officer Certification.
2. **Ongoing Training-** mandatory to retain Certification.
3. **Specialized Training-** necessary for specific job tasks.

Initial training for peace officers must follow a curriculum provided by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) followed by a TCLEOSE licensing exam. The current TCLEOSE curriculum requires 618 hours for training to be completed, prior to the licensing exam. This is a 28% increase from the 480 hours required several years ago.

Until recent years, ongoing training (other than firearms qualification) was not an issue. However, it is now mandated that an officer completes several courses on a biannual basis in order to maintain his/her certification.

Specialized training covers a variety of topics and is usually associated with assignments that require a higher degree of proficiency in a more narrowly defined field. Departments of all sizes perform a wide variety of services and the success or failure of this type of training will likely be tilted towards the results that the agency is measured by. Because specialized training is typically the most expensive and usually not conducted in house, it is the type of training that is most likely to be cut or dropped due to budget constraints.

Specialized training is very necessary to deal with the new and changing service demands listed in Criminal Justice Issue #1. Because of the events of September 11, 2001, officers must now be prepared for not only natural disasters, but man-made ones as well. Also, a significant percentage of crime suspects and citizens needing services have mental health issues.

Most agencies are concerned about how to fund their training needs. In addition to the cost of the training, is the fact that someone has to replace the officer that is in training. Manpower shortages and lack of funds to pay overtime to temporarily fill the position is a great hindrance to training needs. This is particularly true for those law enforcement agencies with five (5) or fewer officers.

A great help with cost and availability issues is the West Central Texas Council of Governments which operates the Regional Law Enforcement Academy. This Academy provides training to meet the needs for Basic and Intermediate Peace Officer Training and Certification as well as Basic Corrections Officer Training for a 19 county region that includes Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties. As with many local agencies, the Academy as seen its funding reduced in recent years. The importance of this program to the rural law enforcement training needs can not be over stated. It is important that such programs be maintained or all of us in law enforcement will see cost increases in training as well as the uncertainty of law enforcement staffing for many of our communities.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

Agencies will attempt to maximize the use of regularly budgeted funds to pay for the training itself and to provide adequate service while their officers attend training. Interagency cooperation, especially among the smaller agencies, will also help to alleviate some of the cost and staffing concerns. Where possible, agencies will attend "train the trainer" courses designed to teach one person who will then return and teach the remainder of the agency. This will allow agencies to maximize the use of any other funding sources.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #3 of 3.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems:

The law enforcement community will stay current on TCLEOSE mandated training by:

1. Scheduling mandated training to comply with current requirements;
2. Scheduling the most efficient use of current manpower to cover vacancies due to training;
3. Obtaining additional funding for manpower as necessary to allow for training; and
4. Develop in-house trainers.

We will also complete Specialized Training indicated by the agencies current needs by:

1. Evaluating agencies specialized training needs;
2. Entering into Memorandums of Understanding between agencies to maximize the effect of specialized training;
3. Obtaining funding to cover the cost of training and the shortage of manpower it creates; and
4. Providing thorough training on any new equipment or technology introduced into the agency.

V. JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES

JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUE #1

Develop treatment focused programming, both counseling and residential, in the West Texas geographic area, with an emphasis on increased mental health services.

- A. Affordable and immediately available residential substance abuse treatment facilities within the local region.**

Supporting Statistics:

One of our front line agencies currently providing adolescent substance abuse prevention and education is the Abilene Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Inc. From September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011, they reported providing substance abuse prevention/intervention and educational services to 7,466 adults, 19,339 juveniles, and distributed over 121,022 pieces of literature.

Substance Abuse related referrals to the Taylor County Juvenile Probation Department were reported as follows:

Taylor County

	2008	2009	2010
Felony Drugs.....	11	6	12
"A" & "B" Misdemeanor Drugs.....	65	57	80
CINS.....	2	4	4

Callahan County

	2008	2009	2010
Felony Drugs.....	0	1	0
"A" & "B" Misdemeanor Drugs.....	1	3	0
CINS.....	0	0	0

Coleman County

	2008	2009	2010
Felony Drugs.....	2	3	1
"A" & "B" Misdemeanor Drugs.....	1	1	1
CINS.....	5	4	1

Of the 539 juvenile referrals, 99 were for substance abuse related offenses which is a 22% increase over 2009. Over 80 juveniles referred received Out-Patient Drug and Alcohol Services through local programs such as the Abilene Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Serenity House of Abilene, Teen Narcotics Anonymous and Center for Life Resources Substance Abuse Program. In 2010, 20 juvenile offenders were placed into Residential Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment. These placements were accomplished with Nexus Recovery Center in Dallas, Texas (193 miles from Abilene), Azleway Substance Abuse Program in Big Sandy, Texas (292 miles from Abilene), Adam's House in Lufkin, Texas (352 miles from Abilene) and Choices in Marshall, Texas (332 miles from Abilene). At the present time, there are no Residential Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Programs in Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties. The state funded cost for Residential Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment is approximately \$19,000 for a 30 day treatment plan or over \$633 per day. A private placement can cost as much as \$35,000 for a 30 day treatment plan or \$1,167 per day. The state provides some funding to Residential Treatment Programs for the provision of services to Adolescents, however, the demand far exceeds the availability of such services.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

Agencies will continue to form and sustain collaborations that allow for the development and identification of funding resources to provide such services on the local level.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #1 of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities:

As funds become available needs will be addressed based on the findings of local, state and federal research and the priorities identified through that research.

- B. More mental health services, both residential and non-residential, for adolescents as well as resources for intellectually developmentally disabled children who commit delinquent acts.**

Supporting Statistics:

In the current fiscal period, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) provided funding for community based mental health services for 91 children and adolescents who met the priority population for mental health services in Taylor, Jones, Callahan, Shackelford and Stephens Counties. Children's mental health priority population includes children ages 3 through 17 with a diagnosis of mental illness who exhibit serious emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders and who:

1. have a serious functional impairment; or
2. are at risk of disruption of a preferred living or child care environment due to psychiatric symptoms; or
3. Are enrolled in a school system's special education program because of a serious emotional disturbance.

The Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) is the Betty Hardwick Center (BHC), whose service area includes Callahan, Jones, Shackelford, Stephens and Taylor Counties. The approximate population of the service area is 173,000 people. There is an estimated total population of about 43,245 individuals below 18 years of age in the five-county service area.

Applying prevalent statistics to our local population, funding provided from DSHS serves only about 25% of children estimated to need public mental health services. The Texas Legislature has funded a few additional slots in each of the last two sessions, increasing availability in small increments in order to avoid waiting lists for indigent persons. Still local demand requires us to well above that target, in actuality; the Center has been serving more than double the funded amount. Even so, the numbers indicate that many more children and adolescents in the service area are in need of mental health services that they are not currently receiving.

Approximately one third of the 168 children and adolescents currently being served by the Betty Hardwick Center are referrals from the Juvenile Justice System. This population has serious challenges in maintaining compliance with a voluntary out-patient treatment modality. Voluntary out-patient treatment is often identified as being appropriate in keeping with the philosophy of treating persons in the least restrictive modality; however, due to the lack of motivation to participate and difficult challenges with family and support systems, there is a definite need for residential services for some adolescents that are not readily accessible.

Services are also available to adolescents with mental retardation as defined by the Texas Health and Safety Code 591.003, with pervasive developmental disorders, or autism spectrum disorders. The local service system is typically able to serve intellectually or developmentally disabled adolescents in outpatient services, but an ever increasing number of families are seeking residential services which are difficult to obtain for children, particularly when criminal involvement becomes a factor in their care. In previous years, there has been some success in securing placement in State Supported Living Centers (State Schools) and ICF/MR (Group Homes). However with a shifting emphasis toward not placing adolescents in State Supported Living Centers and with ICF/MR's becoming more selective on their admissions, residential services for adolescents are extremely limited. Program eligibility also tends to limit the availability of residential services.

Outpatient services include case management, skills training, counseling, parent support, day habilitation and respite care. When residential service is required, the primary service option for Betty Hardwick Center's MH Child & Adolescent division is the Waco Center for Youth.

Action Plan to Leverage more Resources:

In past legislative sessions, significant funds were allocated to improve Crisis Mental Health services and while that has been very beneficial, there remain issues with funding to provide service to persons on the waiting list, who need services, qualify for them, but for whom there are not adequate public resources to serve.

Additionally, there are local shortages in private child psychiatry practices. The Center is exploring telemedicine services to bring those services to the region using technology.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #1 of 5

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities:

The goal is for Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties to provide appropriate out-patient mental health serves to children ages 6-17 regardless of ability of the family to pay for the services. To accomplish this, agencies within our jurisdiction will need to maximize those resources currently available while, at the same time, seeking new funding sources to help the community meet the growing mental health needs in an environment where traditional services have either been reduced significantly or eliminated completely.

- C. Affordable residential services for adolescent sex offenders outside of TYC commitment.**

Supporting Statistics:

According to Taylor County Juvenile Probation Department 2010 statistics for Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties, 14 juveniles were referred for a sex offense. Additionally, 2 were placed into residential sex offender treatment. The average cost per day for Residential Sex Offender Treatment is \$138.25 or \$24,885 for six (6) months. TJPC Grant "C" Funds have been designated in Taylor, Callahan, and Coleman County for the purpose of residential sex offender treatment. Callahan and Coleman Counties each receive \$12,500 in Grant "C" funding while Taylor County receives \$99,039. The Taylor County funds dropped 3% for FY 2012. The Callahan and Coleman County funds remained the same but will only provide for 90 days of placement for each county while Taylor County has funding for placement of two children for a one year period each.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

Higher placement costs and limited revenues will mean that local agencies will need to continue to carefully screen children considered for placement while negotiating the best available price for services. Additionally, agencies will work together to establish best practices for the placement process as well as continuing to seek funding.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #1 of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities:

The goal of Taylor, Callahan & Coleman Counties is to provide appropriate and affordable residential services for adolescent sex offenders (ages 10-17 years) outside of TYC commitment.

- D. Affordable residential basic care, vocational, independent living programs for adolescents.

Supporting Statistics:

Since 1988, the Texas Health & Human Services Commission has raised the maximum allowable rates for placement by 56% while state and local funding has only increased by 29%. The results of this reduction in resources are children prematurely being placed back into the home, placed with a relative, or committed to the Texas Youth Commission.

According to Region 2, TDFPS, the removal and subsequent placement of children in residential services has not been affected by state funding cuts or reductions as law requires mandatory actions for the protection of children. TDFPS funding for residential placement is not set on the local level but rather appropriated through the Texas Legislature at sufficient levels to meet

direct needs within the state. Comparatively, In FY 2003, cuts in state funding through the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission resulted in the loss of six (6) months worth of funding for residential placement. This meant that most children who were in residential placement were removed and either placed back into the home, placed with a relative, or committed to the Texas Youth Commission.

As the needs of juvenile offenders grow and the cost for residential childcare increases, the Taylor County Juvenile Probation Department anticipates that fewer children will receive residential childcare placement services. With increasingly strict reduction requirement in Texas Youth Commission commitment numbers imposed by the Legislature in the last two sessions more burden will fall on communities to provide alternative funding or resources to meet the needs of these offenders.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

As resources continue to be reduced and costs increase, it becomes incumbent upon local agencies and authorities to maximize those resources at hand while, at the same time, seeking out new intervention strategies as well as funding mechanisms.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #1 of 5

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities:

The goal of Taylor, Callahan & Coleman Counties is to provide appropriate residential services to children, ages 10-17 years of age, within our jurisdiction. Increased funding for residential childcare services is critical to our effort in insuring that no child would be subjected to neglect, abuse, or placed "at risk" for continued delinquent conduct as a result of funding shortfalls.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES PROBLEM #2:

Programs that encourage parental involvement in the lives of their children at school, counseling, etc.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

The agencies within our communities will continue to offer opportunities for parental involvement and skills development through local programming as long as sufficient funds are available. We will continue to maximize what resources we have in order to provide some impact to the growing need for appropriate adult influence in the lives of the children of our communities.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #2 of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities:

The goal of communities within Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties is to provide children an opportunity for appropriate interaction with parents, and other significant adults. Regular coordination and dissemination of information throughout local agencies and organizations will be very important as we leverage every opportunity from our current resources.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES PROBLEM #3:

Develop partnerships with current providers to facilitate expansion of community based youth activities and intervention programs to year round scheduling, which will include services to address self-esteem issues through activities (not just counseling) for adolescents.

- A. More free community activities for juvenile age children throughout the school year.**

Supporting Statistics

Taylor County Juvenile Probation Department statistics for 2010 reflects that over 403 juvenile offenders were referred to the Taylor County Juvenile Probation Department for disposition of unlawful conduct. Of those referred, 208 (52%) were from single parent homes. Most of these children receive little to no parental supervision. Many of these homes experience poverty level income with parent(s) working one or more jobs in order to meet the basic needs of the family.

Of those youth referred to the Taylor County Juvenile Probation Department, over 136 were offenses commonly thought to be the direct result of insufficient parental supervision. In an attempt to impact this dynamic, the Abilene Police Department has provided a number of programs throughout recent years which have been very successful in filling the "supervision" vacuum. However, most of these programs ended due to lack of funding.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

With the decrease in funding for community-based programs, the local community has been forced to become creative and innovative in the manner in which funding is obtained. Communities working together to meet a common need will be the only way we can hope to address the growing needs of our children. To accomplish this, communities will need to continue to seek state and federal funding that addresses the issues defined in this section and, as appropriate, collaborate with other local agencies to ensure the greatest impact feasible. Funds received will be further leveraged through project design that not only addresses the identified needs but also allows for

continuous and future improvements. Cities and Counties will continue to share the fiscal burden locally as feasible.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #3 of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities:

Through creativity and innovation, we hope to provide structured, well supervised, and constructive activities for those children within our communities who would be considered “at-risk” due to their personal circumstances.

B. Gang intervention programs that operate throughout the year.

Supporting Statistics:

According to the Taylor County Juvenile Probation Department, statistical analysis of those crimes typically associated with Juvenile Gang activity showed a consistent level of activity from 2000 to 2010.

Despite numerous efforts since 1988, Abilene has been unable to sustain a significant gang intervention/prevention program due to a lack of funding. To help address the problem of gang related graffiti, the City of Abilene and Taylor County jointly fund a Community Service Officer position at the Taylor County Juvenile Probation Department to coordinate graffiti eradication and other community efforts. This program does operate year round but is limited to serving only those youth who have been referred for unlawful conduct. Beginning in the summer of 2007 and continuing through 2010, the City of Abilene implemented the “Late Night Basketball Program” that met twice weekly and served kids 15-18 years of age.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

As a community, we will continue to monitor the level of referrals commonly identified as “Gang Related.” We will seek state and federal funding sources to address the socio-economic issues that lead children into gang affiliation. As funds become available needs will be addressed based on local, state and federal research and the priorities identified through that research.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #3 of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities:

The goal of communities within Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties is to provide to children structured, well supervised activities designed as an alternative to the need for juvenile gang affiliation.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES PROBLEM #4:

More resources to address the need for adult mentoring of children who come from single parent homes or homes where biological parents are absent.

Supporting Statistics:

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one out of every four children in America, under the age of 18, lives in a single-parent home. Based on the Texas Education Agency estimates, 27,353 children are enrolled in public school in the Taylor, Callahan and Coleman counties. Following the U.S. Census Bureau's estimates, that would mean that nearly 7,000 children in the three-county area come from a single-parent household. According to the Taylor County Juvenile Probation Department, of the youth referred in 2010, 52% from Taylor County, 35% from Callahan County and 61% from Coleman County came from single-parent homes. Additionally, the Texas Education Agency estimates that over 50% of the children in Taylor, Callahan and Coleman counties can be classified as economically disadvantaged.

Children growing up in single parent homes are more likely to become involved in illegal behavior, perform poorly in the academic arena, and suffer from depression and mental health issues. Economic conditions take parents out of contact with their children for longer periods of time as the parent seeks to provide for their families by working two or more jobs. Who is it that fills the vacuum left by either a permanently absent parent or a parent temporarily absent? These are the dynamics that result in a child becoming identified as "at risk" and in need of appropriate adult mentoring and guidance.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

Agencies will continue to form and sustain collaborations that allow for a greater number of children to be placed in supported, one-to-one mentoring relationships. Mentoring agencies will seek and apply for match funding for government grants and will issue challenge fund requests to local foundations to leverage government resources.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #4 of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities:

The primary goal is to place a caring, screened and fully trained adult mentor in a one-to-one match with those children from single parent or alternative parent households that wish to participate in a mentoring match. At the present time we lack sufficient funds to adequately address the need for mentors for children from single parent or alternative parent households within Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUE #5:

Expand availability and accessibility of essential, professional, human services for rural families and children as well as providing transportation to access those services.

Supporting Statistics:

According to the Office of Rural Community Affairs, the Status of Rural Texas Report 2002, Callahan and Coleman Counties are both classified as rural counties. Taylor County, while not classified as a rural county, by definition of its rural areas, shares many of the same following characteristics and deficiencies:

- 1. Per Capita income \$20,887 (poverty rate 22%)**
- 2. Higher Rates of Unemployment**
- 3. Aging Population (15% are 65 years and older)**
- 4. Provision of Education is more expensive and difficult (70% graduate high school with 13% going on to college)**
- 5. Population is dispersed over a larger area with limited transportation and infrastructure.**
- 6. No hospitals**
- 7. Few Dental providers accept Medicaid patients.**
- 8. Limited Internet Access.**

These factors result in many services being brought in by agencies of neighboring counties.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

Communities will seek state and federal funding available to address the rural issues identified in this section and as appropriate will collaborate with neighboring areas to ensure the greatest impact feasible. Funds received will be further leveraged through project design that addresses multiple areas of need and will allow for continuous and future improvements. Cities and counties will continue to share the fiscal burden locally as feasible for needed improvements while seeking state and federal funds.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #5 of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities:

Communities within these counties will continue to cooperate with state and federal studies to document the need for additional resources. As funds become available, needs will be addressed based on the findings of local, state and federal research and the priorities identified through that research.

VI. VICTIMS ISSUES

Summary of notable findings in the current surveys

- Decreased and/or not enough funding continues to be the #1 concern;
- The #2 priority is survivors of violence needing continued assistance, awareness and involvement throughout the criminal justice process;
- Priority #3 - Training is imperative for victim assistance and crisis intervention professionals within the criminal justice system;
- Priority #4 is prevention awareness for parents, schools and neighborhoods;
- Lack of programs to address victims' problems is priority #5.

Representative comments from responders:

- "I think one great way to help victims is to require offenders to pay into the crime victim compensation fund for the length of their life....Offenders should not be able to serve a few years on probation and then be able to put the incident behind them when the victims aren't able to do that."
- "Elderly persons often do not want to get their family members in trouble --- cases are difficult to prosecute."
- "Our community is small, we have no local offices for any services for crime victims, all have to go to Abilene or surrounding counties."
- Challenge: "Not having a local facility to take victims in our community."
- Challenge: "We have a small (law enforcement) agency and it is difficult to take the time needed to explain to victims the services available."
- Involving the community in victim services: "Informational meetings with law enforcement, school personnel, communication with medical providers."
- "Our volume of cases causes victims to believe we are uncaring and impersonal because we have to move them through the system so quickly."
- Other issues: "Dialogue with victims to thoroughly explain the criminal justice process as well as possible likely outcomes of criminal cases."
- "We are doing everything possible to ensure other agencies have information regarding services we provide."
- Challenge: "Lack of informative material."

Narrative: Violent crimes affect thousands of adults and children every year, and the need for victims' services has increased dramatically, as we increase our efforts to enhance awareness of services available and encourage public reporting of criminal activity. We still have a long way to go to reach every victim of every violent crime. For example, in the area of sex crimes UCR Part I Statistics address only the narrow category of rape. UCR Part II "other sex offenses" includes sex crimes that result in traumatized victims of violence outside the definition of rape. While it is difficult to capture the factors responsible for decreases in some crimes and increases in others, various strategies to combat violence in our community may be having an impact; these include prevention education, reduced recidivism rates due to longer incarcerations of violent offenders and perhaps enhanced outreach to previously under-served populations. Enhanced training is needed for the professionals who regularly come in contact with victims, to provide those professionals with information and tools to assist victims in crisis and to refer victims to the appropriate community agencies.

VICTIM ISSUE #1

Funding sources are at risk of continued reduction.

Supporting Statistics:

In 2011-2012, all funding sources (federal, state, county, city) are facing heavy demands for funding. This in turn makes a dramatic impact on virtually every victim assistance agency throughout the region. Noah Project and Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center continue to increase their services while facing funding reductions. With ever increasing pressures due to various funding streams with a variety of prioritizations at the state and national levels, funds may be further restricted while the numbers of crime victims needing supportive services continues to grow.

Given that VOCA funds are restricted for use to only direct crime victim assistance services, these reductions have, in turn, a direct impact on the level of services available to meet the growing numbers of victims requiring those services.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

With shrinking financial resources, agencies must work harder and for fewer financial resources, which becomes increasingly difficult in view of the policies of the current federal administration. The Action Plan includes: victim service providers continuing to collaborate to prevent duplication of services, to increase collaborative service to victims, to formulate strategies to diversify funding sources and enhance governmental awareness that termination of funding sources and decreased financial incentive for charitable donations results often in a lack of services for victims of violent crimes.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #1 of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities

- Continue to utilize highly trained and effective paraprofessional volunteers.
- Establish a centralized basic training program for victim service providers, in order to maximize resources and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Continue to collaborate with other service providers and agencies.
- Evaluating current funding sources for available revenue.
- Search for diversification of funding sources.
- Educate legislators of the imperative need for funding for victim services and incentives for charitable donors.

VICTIM ISSUE #2

Survivors of violent crimes need assistance throughout the criminal justice process.

Supporting Statistics:

Noah Project assists primary and secondary victims of domestic violence in Abilene and the nine contiguous counties (Taylor, Eastland, Stephens, Callahan, Jones, Shackelford, Haskell, Knox, Stonewall, and Throckmorton). For Noah Project clients, services are provided free of charge, without regard to income. Noah Project provides services to victims of family violence and dating violence. Services are available to adult women and men, children accompanied by a

parent, as well as unaccompanied youth. Services include a 24-hour crisis line/hotline, residential shelter/safe-house, domestic violence intervention, crisis counseling, emergency protective order advocacy, assistance navigating through the legal process, legal accompaniment, medical accompaniment, transportation, educational support, survivor support groups, children's programs, employment and vocational training assistance, justice support, sexual assault services, on site professional counseling and assistance with crime victim's compensation. Noah Project makes considerable and effective use of volunteers and student interns. In addition, Noah Project also operates a 24/7 outreach office in Haskell, Texas; offering the same services/advocacy, including emergency protective shelter through local resources or by transporting to the Abilene protective shelter. This program, Noah Project – North, provides life-saving services and advocacy to the five northern-most counties in Noah Project, Inc.'s ten-county service area.

During fiscal year 2010-2011, (Sept.1 2010 to Aug. 31, 2011) Noah Project's unduplicated internal statistics include the following: Noah Project provided protective shelter to 445 women, children and men who identified as family violence victims. Additionally, 246 child and adult victims received outreach face-to-face unduplicated services and 918 hotline calls from victims were taken during the year in review. In addition to the aforementioned direct client services provided, Noah Project staff conducts Primary Prevention professional and community presentations. These presentations are targeted at preventing violence before it starts, and to giving participants the tools necessary to stop the cycle of violence. During fiscal year 2010-2011 our Primary Presentation program reached 6,636 individuals.

Summary: 637 (unduplicated) victims served
918 hotline calls from victims
6,636 individuals received Primary Prevention training

Continued funding is vital to maintain present services throughout the Big Country. Additional funding would enhance the ability of the project to provide comprehensive services.

Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center (RCVCC) victim services include a 24/7 telephone crisis line and 40 highly-trained volunteer victim advocates who stand by as emergency responders to crime scenes or the trauma center at the request of law enforcement or medical personnel to assist victims in crisis. RCVCC provides services to Taylor, Jones, Shackelford, Callahan, Coleman and Haskell Counties, as well as other nearby counties when requested. During the year 2010-2011 (September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011) RCVCC provided services to a total of 610 victims of violent crimes through VOCA funding. In addition, RCVCC's VOCA funds were used to provide service to victims in the following categories:

29 child physical abuse	2 DUI/DWI survivors
95 child sexual abuse	17 domestic violence
294 adult sexual assault	7 robbery
127 adults molested as children	137 assaults
13 survivors of homicide victims	

In collaboration with law enforcement, justice, and other service providers in our region, RCVCC provided the following services to victims through VOCA funding during the year in review:

440 crisis counseling
149 follow-up
22 therapy
247 information / referral (in person)
45 justice support/advocacy
68 assistance filing compensation claims
35 personal advocacy
633 telephone contact info/referrals

The **Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)** chapter serving this region is based in El Paso, with the closest office in Lubbock. There is one MADD volunteer in the Abilene area. Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center (RCVCC) and MADD have signed a memorandum of understanding to have RCVCC staff and volunteers respond and assist drunk driving victims and survivors when a MADD volunteer is not available or needs additional assistance, and to provide follow-up counseling for those victims and survivors.

The **Abilene/Taylor County Child Advocacy Center (CAC)** works with law enforcement, including **Child Protective Services**, and victim service agencies to provide services to child victims of violence and their non-offending family members. During of the 2011 fiscal year the Abilene / Taylor County Child Advocacy Center provided services to:

376 children
250 female
126 male

Cases involved:

150 sexual abuse
46 physical abuse
1 both sexual and physical abuse
159 at-risk of harm due to physical or sexual abuse, neglect or drug exposure.
20 possible witnesses to violent crime
0 neglect or abandoned

In addition, the Abilene / Taylor County Child Advocacy Center provided services to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and law enforcement agencies from a variety of local and county jurisdictions throughout Texas, the Texas Rangers, the US Air Force OSI, and various local, county and state law enforcement and child welfare agencies from around the country. Changes in the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services' operating protocol, viz., the policy of conducting forensic interviews of children at risk of harm due to drug use in the home, as well as those determined to be in contact with known registered sexual offenders regardless of an allegation of abuse, resulted in a significant increase in the number of children served at the CAC.

Further, the Abilene / Taylor County Child Advocacy Center provides therapeutic and crisis counseling services to victims and their families as necessary. The CAC presently provides services off-site through collaboration with Regional Crime Victims Crisis Center (RCVCC). Children, and their siblings and non-offending caregivers, receive counseling referrals at the time of their visit. During the most recent fiscal year, approximately 107 children and family members received counseling services, including referrals from the center.

In addition, during the 2011 fiscal year, RCVCC's counselors have participated in the multidisciplinary team case reviews. This has served to dramatically strengthen the quality, continuity and overall integrity of services the Center provides to victims and their families.

ATCCAC has also integrated a pet therapy component into the center's service repertoire. The therapy dog program utilizes volunteers and dogs certified by Therapy Dogs International.

Adult Protective Services investigates allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly or adults with disabilities. When reports are confirmed and protective services are appropriate, APS caseworkers provide or arrange for services to alleviate or prevent further maltreatment. Services may be provided directly by caseworkers, through arrangements with other community resources, or purchased by APS on a short-term, emergency basis.

Types of services provided include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Financial assistance for rent and utility restoration
- Social services
- Health services
- Referrals to the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) for guardianship services
- Referrals to other state or community services

Adult Protective Services is a program of the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services.

D.A.'s Victim/Witness Coordinators in Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties handle all felony and misdemeanor cases that flow through the D.A.'s Office for criminal prosecutions. They handle victim notifications of hearings, communications between victims, witnesses, and the D.A.'s Office prosecutorial staff. They provide court accompaniment and deal with protective orders. Similar services are also provided by the counties' Juvenile Probation Departments to victims in juvenile cases.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

Communication, with appropriate authorizations to release/exchange information from crime victims and witnesses, survivors of homicide victims, will enhance cooperation with law enforcement and the D.A.'s Offices for prosecution of violent crimes. This ensures that the priorities of victims' rights, Crime Victims' Compensation, and the Victim Impact Statement are as seamless as possible to reduce additional trauma to survivors.

Funding Priorities:

This issue is prioritized as #2 out of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities

- Ensure that victims and witnesses know who the detective is that is assigned to their particular case.
- Maintain the relationship with victims and witnesses once the case is transferred from law enforcement to the prosecutorial staff.
- Introduce and/or accompany crime victims to pre-trial hearings and the pre-trial conference with the assigned D.A. or Assistant D.A. and Victim-Witness Coordinators.
- Accompany victims and witnesses to trial on an as-needed basis.

- During criminal prosecutions, victims need assistance at every stage of the proceedings. Victims need adequate notice of all hearings and time to prepare for those hearings. Victims need support in attending hearings and in preparing to testify. Plea agreements, criminal penalties, early release procedures, crime victims' compensation benefits and the right to a victim impact statement should be thoroughly explained. Collaborative efforts are in place with Noah Project advocates and Legal Services Coordinator, Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center advocates, and D.A.'s Victim/Witness Coordinators with appropriate authorizations to exchange information, to work toward realization of this goal.

VICTIM ISSUE #3

Training for victim assistance and crisis intervention volunteers is imperative, as well as training for professionals with whom victims of violent crimes come into contact.

Supporting Statistics:

Noah Project, Inc., the regional domestic/family violence crisis center and protective shelter, seeks every opportunity to provide Primary Prevention training and education to victim advocates, criminal justice personnel, health care providers, faith communities, businesses, advocacy organizations, service providers and allied professionals in communities throughout this area of West Central Texas and the state. Noah Project schedules trainings that are designed to help organizations and communities work to end violence against women, men and children. Workshop topics cover a variety of issues including, but not limited to: advocacy, battering intervention and prevention, legal issues, working with communities of faith and assisting law enforcement. Trainers focus on issues related to preventing the onslaught of violence, the immediate response to a family violence situation, as well as barriers facing victims and the necessary continuum of advocacy through restoration. During October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Noah Project strives to offer several opportunities to raise awareness regarding the issue of family violence and solutions to create safe homes and safe communities activities include, the "Stop Domestic Violence One Step at a Time" Walk-a-thon. Finally, Noah Project provides ongoing recruitment and training of volunteers. This specialized training prepares those willing to give of their time and skills to the service of victims of family/domestic and dating violence. On March 7, 2012 Noah Project, in partnership with Texas Council on Family Violence, will host a Criminal Justice Response Training for all area law enforcement personnel. Topics will be focused on family and domestic violence issues.

Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center (RCVCC) offers assistance with in-service training for the Abilene Police Department and Taylor County Sheriff's Office, as well as offering it to other law enforcement agencies in our region. RCVCC also assists with sexual assault investigations training and victim sensitivity training for the WCTCOG Regional Police Academies and Hendrick Trauma Center. RCVCC conducts intensive training for victim assistance and crisis intervention volunteers in collaboration with law enforcement, criminal justice, and the WCTCOG law enforcement division. In addition to RCVCC volunteers and staff, other victim service agencies send volunteers and staff to attend the RCVCC training.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

Training will be continued for law enforcement, mental health, medical, educators and victim service providers throughout the region at any given opportunity.

Funding Priorities:

This is funding priority #3 out of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities

- Establish a centralized, standardized training academy for basic training in victim assistance and crisis intervention for professionals and volunteers.
- Continue to actively pursue liaison relationships with law enforcement educational providers to provide training in crisis intervention and victim assistance.
- Continue to update training materials and other informational resources concerning domestic violence batterers, victims, and sex offender dynamics as well as victimology and child abuse.
- Continue to include training on utilizing statutory penalty enhancements in charging and punishing re-offenders, and to properly distinguish between misdemeanor and felony assaults. Pursuant to Texas Law, training may also include identifying primary aggressors in family violence crime and avoiding double arrests for “mutual combat.”

VICTIM ISSUE #4

Even though this Plan is not specific to prevention education, it is imperative that collaborative efforts within the community also be directed at the prevention of violence, both within the home and in our schools, and neighborhoods.

Supporting Statistics:

Noah Project, Inc. promotes awareness of family violence issues through many avenues. Primary Prevention (as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Health and Human Services) training has become a significant focus for Noah Project. Primary Prevention presentations and training are provided to church and civic groups, law enforcement, judiciary, health care, employee groups, and professionals. Specialty programs, mandated by the Texas Legislature through HB 121, provided by Noah Project include the Bullying Prevention Program, Teen Dating Violence Program and the Healthy Relationships. These training opportunities are age-appropriate presentations on prevention of violence, existing family violence, bullying, and relationship/dating issues to students from kindergarten through college. Noah Project also collaborates with Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center in providing violence prevention for high school students.

Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center (RCVCC) provided hundreds of programs (The WHO Program – We Help Ourselves) during the 2010-2011 school year. The curriculum is designed to assist children and adolescents throughout the region with identification of potentially dangerous situations, and equipping them with the assertiveness to say no, get away and talk to an adult about any disturbing experiences. Additionally, the WHO Program attempts to identify children who are being victimized, encourages them to disclose and offers help for those children. The WHO Program addresses touches, bullying, secrets, and confusion for the younger audiences. WHO also deals with bullying, premarital violence, dating violence, drugs, alcohol, peer pressure, teen pregnancy, eating disorders, depression and suicidal ideation with mature decision-making strategies for adolescents. In addition, RCVCC is facilitating Primary Prevention programs (as defined by Centers for Disease Control), mandated for school districts by the state legislature, at local high schools, and providing violence prevention programs to thousands more children and young people in community organizations this year. This program is in collaboration with the Regional XIV Education Service Center, Noah Project, school

districts and community agencies. More than 20,000 students and young adults will have completed RCVCC violence prevention programs during calendar year 2011; thousands of professionals will also receive violence prevention training through RCVCC in 2011.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

Agencies will continue collaborative efforts to educate students concerning the prevention of child abuse and facilitating communication between children, teens and authority figures such as school personnel, clergy, parents, and other trusted adults to reduce the incidence of child abuse in our communities.

Children who enter into care and protection at Noah Project have been clearly affected emotionally and often physically by the consequences of family/domestic violence. The agency will continue to provide services through the onsite children's advocacy program but will increase efforts to collaborate with agencies that have services available to children of family/domestic violence. These intervention efforts work toward ending the cycle that accompanies family/domestic or dating violence.

Given that Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center has seen a vast increase in the numbers of adults molested as children who are coming for counseling support, it is incumbent upon us to also provide the support children and teens need for early disclosure as opposed to adult life-styles of substance abuse and family dysfunction that may be cyclical when childhood abuse remains undisclosed into adulthood.

Funding Priorities:

This priority is #4 out of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities

- Continue to enhance educational efforts and prevention programs throughout our community concerning child physical/sexual abuse and violence prevention.
- Maintain updated educational materials.

VICTIM ISSUE #5

Insufficient programs to adequately address the growing problems faced by victim's of violent crime, including a need to expand mental health services, particularly, for victims who are mentally ill.

Supporting Statistics:

An adequate number of programs, as detailed previously, are available among the various agencies that serve victims of violent crime. What is needed is further enhancement and expansion of the current programs, as well as continued support and funding for collaboration among the various victim services entities.

Action Plan to Leverage Resources:

Continued collaboration among the various agencies and organizations to provide training for professionals and volunteers, and to provide awareness of services available to victims of violent crime will help ensure that victims receive the assistance they need to recover from the trauma resulting from violent crimes.

Funding Priorities

This issue is prioritized as #5 of 5.

Goals and Objectives Based on Problems & Activities

We will continue to meet regularly in an interdisciplinary setting to ensure victim services are provided at a comprehensive level and that no victim or survivor “falls through the cracks.” In order to maximize services, resources, and avoid duplicity of services, we will continue pursuit of the following:

- Enhancing legislative and community awareness of services and support required in fulfilling services needs.
- Continuing community agency collaboration through timely meetings and services coordination.
- Attempting to reduce the incidences of violent crime in our communities.

VII. LONG-TERM EVALUATION PLAN

The Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties Community Planning Committee will meet annually to coordinate meetings designed to revisit the issues addressed within this Community Plan. Information will be updated and evaluated as to each identified issue to determine status. Any new service issues identified each year will be documented on the Community Plan.

Through interdisciplinary team meetings, client satisfaction surveys, and an assessment of results concerning individual client cases through professional clinical staffing, progress on long term goals can be assessed.

It is the goal of the Community Planning Committee to reduce the number of identified issues through encouraging, promoting, supporting, and coordinating application for funding that will impact the identified issues of the Community Plan.

VIII. CONCLUSION

American society has experienced three great revolutions: the political revolution of the eighteenth century, the industrial revolution of the nineteenth century, and the urban revolution of our time. Each period has had its characteristic problems. We now possess the ingenuity to contain and direct, within limits, the effects of a particular social problem once we have identified it and developed resources to impact and impede its progression. On September 9, 2001, a significant event of terrorism resulted in ordinary people, who had little to nothing in common, responding in an extraordinary way for the common good. History may very well reflect that the attack on the World Trade Center was less about the crumbing of buildings and loss of life, but more about the defining of the character of community.

As we review our progress over the last ten to twenty years we see success. We have experienced the exhilaration that comes with challenge and the strength of achievement.

In 1974, digital anything was considered cutting edge technology yet, today, it seems that virtually everyone has a digital something or other. Ten years ago, the Internet was the mystical province of physicists; today, it is a commonplace encyclopedia for millions of

school children. Scientists are decoding the blueprint of human life. Cures for our feared illnesses seem close at hand. Of course, this ingenuity encourages further ingenuity. We all have compact discs and compact computers with enormous processing speeds and the amazing coincidence that they always improve geometrically and drop in price dramatically the minute after we buy them. But just as progress brings with it wonders and benefits, it also brings challenges, complications, and often criminal acts. Anticipating and planning for not only advances in technology but the accompanying problems becomes paramount to maintaining the overall health of our communities. In the days to come, the socio-economic conditions of Taylor, Callahan and Coleman Counties will pose tremendous challenges to the community of service providers as it relates to the manner in which we will effectively and efficiently meet the mission, mandates, performance standards, and expectations of our communities, the state, and federal governments. This is especially difficult, given the limited resources at our disposal in an era of exponentially increasing demands. With the emergence of the issue of special needs populations, the lack of resources, internal and external to service providers, will require continued innovation and re-engineering to keep pace in the context of a rapidly changing socio-economic environment.

We must observe and respond as a community. For example: We often look at the people at Little League and wonder why parents would brave the traffic and rush back to make life a little bit more enjoyable for a young kid. We watch parents who suffer through tuition, parents who live on less than adequate sleep. We wonder about parents who make every teacher's meeting. Parents prioritizing their lives around the activities of their children is a big part of how we raise them to be healthy and productive. Our challenge, in this arena, is how we can help and encourage the parent(s) of the "at-risk" child in our community to see and act upon their vital roll.

Throughout our history, America's mission has been to widen the circle of opportunity, to deepen the meaning of freedom, and to strengthen the bonds of community. With different purposes and mission statements, we may not all agree and we may have very different views about the character of community but, we realize that we will all do better when we work together.

ATTACHMENTS

**COMMUNITY PLAN
2012-2013**

TAYLOR, CALLAHAN & COLEMAN COUNTY

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SURVEY

Each year the above three counties develop a community plan that is vital to each of the agencies in the three counties to receive government grants. The Plan addresses needs in three general areas-

1. Criminal Justice,
2. Victims Issues,
3. Juvenile Justice.

Please take a few minutes and complete a short survey concerning issues in these three areas but especially Criminal Justice. The responses and participation from your department may not directly affect your department, but they will benefit any organization in your county that receives government grant money.

1. What equipment and technological needs does your agency face?
2. Concerning demands for service, what are the most calls received for? Are demands changing and/or increasing in any area? What problems does your agency face to meet these demands?
3. In the areas of manpower and training, what specific issues does your agency face?
4. In regards to funding, what areas are significantly insufficient?
5. What issues not previously covered above are important to your agency and citizens?

Thank you for your time and input. The results will be compiled among all the responding agencies and a summary will be provided at the annual Community Plan presentation. You will be receiving an invitation to this luncheon meeting.

Please send survey to:

Lt. Brad Wilson
450 Pecan
Abilene Police Department, 79602
Or fax to 325-676-6612

SURVEY

Juvenile Justice Issues

I am requesting your input as to information and priorities established within our community plan.

1. Please rank the following issues by priority 1-5.

_____ Develop treatment focused programming, both counseling and residential, in the West Texas geographic area.

Substance Abuse
Mental Health
Sex Offender
Basic Care
Vocational
Independent Living

_____ Develop partnerships with current providers to facilitate expansion of community based youth activities and intervention programs to year round scheduling, which will include services to address self-esteem issues through activities (not just counseling) for adolescents.

More free programs
Gang Intervention
Goals & Objectives based on Problems & Activities

_____ Programs that encourage parental involvement in the lives of their children at school, counseling, etc.

_____ Expand availability and accessibility of essential human services for rural families and children (Professional Services and Transportation).

_____ More resources to address the need for adult mentoring of children who come from single parent homes or homes where biological parents are absent.

2. Please list issues that you believe are not represented in the 5 priorities.

3. What challenges does your community face in providing services to juvenile offenders or troubled youth?

4. How are these challenges being addressed by your agency/organization?

5. Are you and/or your agency involved in any other collaborative efforts in your community? if so, please tell us.

6. Please explain how your agency/organization involves the community in your provision of services to juvenile offenders or troubled youth.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this brief survey. Your input certainly has the potential of bringing more effective services to the children of your community.

Community Plan 2012-2013: Taylor County, Callahan County, Coleman County

Information for submission to Criminal Justice Division, Office of the Governor

Deadline: November 23, 2011 Submit by mail, fax, email or online www.regionalcrime.org/communityplan

Victim Issues Survey

Name:	Organization:
Title:	
Phone:	Address:
Fax:	
Email:	

Which area of victim services or the community do you represent? (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit victim services	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal justice-based victim services
<input type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Prosecution
<input type="checkbox"/> Judicial	<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections
<input type="checkbox"/> Offender Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Faith-based or grassroots organization
<input type="checkbox"/> Allied professions (mental health, substance abuse, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):

What challenges does your community face in providing services to crime victims?

How are these challenges being addressed by your agency/organization?

Are you or your agency involved in any other collaborative efforts in your community? If so, please tell us:

The current Community Plan lists the following Victim's Issues. Please rank them in order of how you see their priority:

___ Insufficient programs to adequately address the growing problems faced by victims of violent crime.

___ Current funding sources are at risk of significant reductions or elimination.

___ Survivors of violent crime need continued assistance, awareness and involvement throughout the criminal justice process.

___ Training is imperative for victim assistance and crisis intervention professionals within the criminal justice system.

___ Prevention awareness is needed for parents, schools and neighborhoods.

Please list other victim issues that you believe should be in the top 5 priorities:

Please explain how your agency or organization involves the community in your provision of services to victims.

Please tell us about anything else regarding victim issues that is not addressed here.

Signed:

Date:

By:
November 23, 2011

**Please complete this form and return
by mail, fax or email to:**

Diane Dotson
RCVCC
P.O. Box 122
Abilene, TX 79604
Fax: 325.670.5014
diane@regionalcrime.org

OR complete the form on-line at www.regionalcrime.org/communityplan

If you have any questions about completing this form or about the Community Plan, please contact Diane Dotson at: 325.677.7895 (office), 325.725.5536 (cell), diane@regionalcrime.org

Completed Surveys													TOTALS	PRIORITY
ISSUES	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11			
Programs	1	5	5	2	5	5	5	2	5	5	4	44	#5	
Funding	2	1	1	1	4	4	1	1	3	1	3	22	#1	
Assistance	3	2	3	3	1	1	4	3	2	4	1	27	#2	
Training	5	4	4	4	3	2	2	4	1	2	2	33	#3	
Prevention	4	3	2	5	2	2	3	5	4	3	5	38	#4	

Surveys sent to:

Abilene Police Department
Abilene/Taylor County Child Advocacy Center
Adult Protective Services
Baird City Marshall
Callahan County District Attorney
Callahan County Sheriff's Office
Child Protective Services
Clyde Police Department
Coleman County District Attorney
Coleman County Sheriff's Office
Coleman Police Department
Jones County Sheriff's Office
Merkel Police Department
Noah Project
Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center
Santa Anna Police Department
Taylor County District Attorney
Taylor County Sheriff's Office
Tye Police Department

**VICTIMS ISSUES
TAYLOR, CALLAHAN & COLEMAN COUNTIES
COMMUNITY PLAN
2012-2013**

WEST CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Irene Laurance
Criminal Justice Planner
WCTCOG
P. O. Box 3195
Abilene, TX 79604
(325)672-1197
ilaurance@wctcog.org

Carolyn Putnam
Criminal Justice Director
WCTCOG
P. O. Box 3195
Abilene, TX 79604
(325)672-1197
cputnam@wctcog.org

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sheriff Les Bruce
Taylor County
450 Pecan Street
Abilene, TX 79602
(325)674-1333
brucel@taylorcountytexas.org

Commissioner Randy Williams
County Commissioner Pct 1
300 Oak Street
Abilene, TX 79602
(325)674-2130
williamr@taylorcountytexas.org

Judge Robert Harper
County Court at Law #1
300 Oak Street
Abilene, TX 79602
(325)674-1323
harperr@taylorcountytexas.org

Judge Lee Hamilton
104th District Court
300 Oak Street
Abilene, TX 79602
(325)674-1313
hamiltol@taylorcountytexas.org

James Eidson
Taylor County District Attorney
300 Oak Street
Abilene, TX 79602
(325)674-1261
eidsonj@taylorcountytexas.org

Representative Susan King
71st District of Texas
P. O. Box 2376
Abilene, TX 79604-2376
(325)670-0384
susan.king@house.state.tx.us

Judge Downing Bolls
Taylor County Judge
300 Oak Street
Abilene, TX 79602
(325)674-1235
bollsd@taylorcountytexas.org

Judge Aleta Hacker
326th District Court
300 Oak Street
Abilene, TX 79602
(325) 674-1325
hackera@taylorcountytexas.org

Larry Gill
Dodge-Jones Foundation
P. O. Box 176
Abilene, TX 79604
(325)673-6429
mattoffl@yahoo.com

Larry Jones
Deputy Chief of Probation Services
Taylor County Juvenile Probation
889 South 25th Street
Abilene, TX 79602
(325)691-7462
jonesl@taylorcountytexas.org