

COMMUNITY PLAN
Nolan, Mitchell and Fisher Counties
FY2025-FY2028

**COMMUNITY PLAN
Nolan, Mitchel, and Fisher Counties
FY 2024**

Prepared by:

Chairman

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Community Planning Committee

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

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

Nolan County:

**Sweetwater
Roscoe
Blackwell
Highland
Nolan
Maryneal**

Fisher County:

**Rotan
Roby
Sylvester
McCaulley**

Mitchell County:

**Colorado City
Westbrook
Loraine**

CURRENT SERVICES

FUNDED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund

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

State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund

- West Central Texas Council of Governments CJD
- Sweetwater Police Department

Juvenile Justice Prevention Act Fund

- Juvenile Probation Office

I. CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

1. Manufacturing, distribution and use of illegal drugs, inhalants, and synthetics.
2. Domestic violence/child abuse/sexual assaults
3. Lack of prevention/education/professional training; Lack of Equipment and technology for law enforcement
4. Treatment and counseling of offenders
5. Manpower issues/lack of qualified applicants
6. Emerging Gangs
7. Lack of drug testing

A. CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

1. Law Enforcement

- a. West Central Texas Law Enforcement Academy
- b. Sweetwater, Roscoe, and Colorado City Police Departments
- c. Fisher, Mitchell, and Nolan County Sheriff's Office
- d. Texas State Technical College
- e. Texas Department of Public Safety
- f. 32nd Judicial District Attorney's Office
- g. Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital- Security
- h. Nolan County Constable Office
- i. Nolan, Mitchell, and Fisher Counties Game Warden

2. Prevention/Education

- a. West Central Texas Regional Law Enforcement Academy
- b. School District's Educational Programs; DARE programs (Nolan County Sheriff Office); SBLE (School Based Law Enforcement)
- c. Sweetwater Police Department; Fisher, Nolan, Mitchell Counties Sheriff's Office; TSTC, Colorado City Police Department, Roscoe Police Department
- d. Gateway Family Services victim services and violence prevention services for victims of family violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking and students.
- e. High Sky Children's Ranch Stay Together Program
- f. West Texas Children's Advocacy Center Program: Prevention education aimed at teaching professionals who work with children how to recognize and report child abuse.
- g. Juvenile Probation Parenting Class- Hope Unlimited
- h. SISD- Truancy Prevention Plan
- i. Adult Probation education Programs
- j. Nolan County Constable Office
- k. Prevention Resource Center- Nolan, Fisher and Mitchell County

- l. Nolan County Drug Court
- m. West Texas Centers for MHMR-Law Enforcement
Mental Health First Aide

3. Treatment/Counseling

- a. Private Counselors (Warren Hicks Counseling Leeann Hicks LPC, Hope Unlimited- Corey Hall, Katie Carter LPC, Jeanie Bohall MLFT)
- b. Juvenile and Adult Probation Departments
- c. High Sky Children's Ranch Stay Together Program
- d. West Texas Centers for Rehabilitation
- e. Pastoral Care
- f. Oceans/ River Crest/BCA Permian Basin
- g. Abilene Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- h. West Texas Centers MHMR
- i. Karen McGill Colorado City
- j. Nolan County Drug Court
- k. Hendrick Medical Center-North campus: non-fatal strangulation, sexual assault, human trafficking, elderly and child abuse examinations
- l. West Texas Centers for MHMR

4. Drug Testing

- a. Redwood Toxicology
- b. Juvenile Probation Department/Adult Probation
- c. Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital, and Fisher County Hospital
- d. Sweetwater ISD / Blackwell ISD / Highland ISD/ Rotan ISD / Roby ISD / Roscoe ISD
- e. Mitchell County Hospital District
- f. Dr. King Chiropractor
- g. Dr. Walker Chiropractor

II. JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES

1. Local and state funding cuts that affect: parenting classes, life skill classes, and staff No affordable residential services for sex offenders outside of TJJD commitment. There is no counseling or therapy to work with juvenile sex offender's exp. Females.
2. Limited mental health services for adolescents by qualified personnel; Limited appropriate residential mental health programs for qualified youthful offenders; Limited appropriate services available in rural communities.
3. Increase in child abuse cases. Poor non-existent parenting skills.
4. Low Staffing in all agencies especially Law Enforcement
5. Underage Pregnancy.

6. Limited local resources for training of law enforcement officers pertaining to juvenile delinquency.
7. Poor to non-existent parenting skills.
8. Limited adolescent substance abuse prevention and intervention programs.
9. Lack of adequate funds to provide both long and short-term detention.
10. Limited community activities for juvenile-age children throughout the School year. There are no agencies (i.e., Boys/Girls Clubs, City Recreation Centers) that will help supervise youthful offenders and Help supervise community service.
11. Limited services geared to address self-esteem issues through activities (Activities, not just counseling) for adolescent females.
12. No residential independent living programs for adolescents;
13. Limited juvenile job training and residential vocational training programs.

A. JUVENILE JUSTICE RESOURCES

1. COMMUNITY RESOURCES COORDINATING GROUP (CRCG)

Meeting on a regularly scheduled monthly basis or meet as needed to present difficult cases and develop resources to meet the identified needs of individual students.

2. REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM (RMT)

Oversees MHMR Adolescent Services Grant to provide mental health services to referred children.

3. HIGH SKY CHILDREN'S RANCH STAY TOGETHER PROGRAM

Provides activity services for non-violent youthful offenders.

4. GATEWAY FAMILY SERVICES

Trained victim advocates provide referrals, advocacy, peer counseling, education and support groups for juvenile victims of family violence, sexual assault, dating violence, human trafficking, internet crime and sexual harassment.

5. HOPE Unlimited / Cory Hall

Provides substance abuse, mental health, parenting, anger management services, and BIP Program (Batters Intervention Program)

6. WEST TEXAS CHILDRENS ADVOCACY CENTER

Trained forensic interviewers provide interviews for CPS and Law Enforcement of child abuse victims. Staff follow cases through the

system to ensure agency collaboration, sharing of information and provide education programs geared at teaching Head start through 5th grade how to recognize child abuse and how to seek help if they are a victim.

B. RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT

- a. **Taylor County Juvenile Justice Center** - short-term secure detention
- b. **Concho Valley Home for Girls** – Residential placement for girls.
- c. **Pegasus School** – Court ordered sex offender treatment. Branch for Residential Treatment.
- d. **Midland County Juvenile Detention Center**
- e. **Texas Juvenile Justice Department State Facility** - Long-term secure placement for court orders
- f. **Gulf Coast Trade Center**- Vocational Education Program
- g. **Granbury Regional Juvenile Justice Center** – Secure substance abuse and correctional treatment facility
- h. **West Texas Boys Ranch**, San Angelo, TX
- i. **Hays County Regional Justice Center Secured Substance Abuse**- Military Boot Camp
- j. **Clarenda Academy**- Iowa Residential Treatment
- k. **Cherokee Home for Children**- Residential placement
- l. **Tom Green Juvenile Justice Center**- Short Term Detention Center
- m. **Garza County Juvenile Justice Center**- Short term detention and Long Term placement
- n. **Reed Adolescent Center**- Plainview; Substance abuse Facility; residential
- o. **Hector Garza**- San Antonio; Long Term Placement
- p. **Oceans**- Abilene and Midland; Short Term Hospitalization

C. ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

Counseling

- 1) **Cory Hall, and Hope Unlimited**- Provides substance abuse, mental health, parenting, and anger management services
- 2) **School Districts**- Nolan County School Counselors and DARE Officer- Fisher and Mitchell Counties
- 3) **Reed Adolescent Center for Youth**- Plainview, TX
- 4) **Lake Granbury Regional Juvenile Justice Center**-

Secure substance abuse and correctional treatment Facility

- 5) **Private Counseling-**
Warren-Hicks Counseling, Leeann Hicks, LPC
- 6) **Selena House-** San Antonio, TX
Female drug treatment
- 7) **Nexus -** Dallas, TX Female substance abuse
- 8) **Katie Carter-** LPC
- 9) **Phoenix House-** Austin and Dallas Texas- Substance Abuse

D. JUVENILE EDUCATION

1. **Western Texas College, Howard College, and West Texas Central Education Center in Sweetwater, Texas -** Provides GED preparation and testing
2. **Alternative / Accelerated School -** Students who are at-risk of dropping out of school, are provided with opportunities aimed to keep them in school; Wallace Accelerated High School located in Colorado City.
3. **Tutorials -** provided for Sweetwater students before and after school. Also provided by Colorado City Independent School District.
4. **Dating Violence, Sexual Assault & Harassment, Family Violence Education –** Gateway Family Services provides age-appropriate curriculum education programs for Pre-K through college within Nolan, Fisher, Mitchell, Kent and Scurry Counties on subjects such as bullying, dating violence, human trafficking, internet safety and sexual harassment. Gateway also provides access to their video and literature resources for doctors, clergy, school counselors, and teachers as requested. Colorado City Police Department discuss Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Harassment, and Family Violence in all CISD schools in city limits.
5. **Children’s Personal Safety Education –** West Texas Children’s Advocacy Center provides education programs to elementary aged children. These programs cover information pertaining to child sexual, physical, and emotional abuse. WTCAC also provides training to professional who work with children on how to recognize and report child abuse.

6. **Decision Making Skills** – High Sky Children’s Ranch Stay Together Program provides training to children on how to make better choices.
7. **Shattered Dreams-** Texas Department of Public Safety Community Collaboration; Nolan County will provide this presentation in May 2019 and every 3 years following; Rotan, Texas and Westbrook, Texas provide this presentation every year to students.
8. **DARE** – Roscoe, Blackwell & Highland
9. **JP Cowen Achievement Center-** Sweetwater Texas
10. **School Based Law Enforcement** – Great Program (Sweetwater)
11. **West Texas Centers-** Youth Mental Health First Aide

E. ADOLESCENT JOB TRAINING

1. **Texas Juvenile Justice Department**
Youth employment programs are primarily through the summer months
2. **Job Corp**
Residential job training for older adolescents. Waiting period of 3 - 6 months.
3. **Gulf Coast Trade Center**
4. **Work Program Sweetwater High School**
5. **Roscoe Collegiate High School**
6. **Sweetwater High School-CTE (Career Technology Education Programs)**
7. **Texas Challenge Academy (Texas National Guard)- Sheffield , Texas**

III. MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

1. Lack of training for mental health workers and Law Enforcement
2. Lack of mental health providers locally.
3. Lack of access to mental health services locally.
4. Lack of state beds available regionally and state wide
5. Excessive use of county jails and juvenile detention centers to house Mental Health.

A. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1. **West Texas Centers for MHMR**
Will provide counseling services, medical related services and skills training to adolescent offenders.
2. **North Texas State Hospital**
Mental commitments of adolescents may be made to Wichita Falls. These services are minimal.
3. **Hope Unlimited- Cory Hall**
4. **Warren-Hicks Counseling, Leeann Hicks, LPC, Becky Reese LPCI, Katie Carter LPC, Jeanie Bohall MLFTI**
5. **TSTC – Counselor**
6. **River Crest Hospital- Psychiatry, psychology, sociology, physical medicine, education, vocational skills and family therapy.**
7. **Oceans- Inpatient rehab program and outpatient treatment facility; Abilene and Midland**
8. **Scenic Mountain- Big Spring**
9. **Big Spring State Mental Hospital**

IV. AFTER SCHOOL RECREATION AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. **Boy/Girl Scouts**
2. **Additional Summer Lunch Program**
3. **Pee Wee Football**
4. **Pee Wee Basketball**
5. **Youth Baseball**
6. **Youth Soccer**
7. **County Library Summer Reading Program**
8. **5th Quarter provided by local church organizations- Nolan, Mitchell, and Fisher County**
9. **4-H; FFA**
10. **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)**
11. **The HUB, Roby**
12. **The Shop- Trinity Baptist Church, Sweetwater, TX**
13. **Jayteens- Sweetwater, Texas**
14. **4th and Elm Opportunity Camp “OP Camp” in summer**

V. MEDICAL/PRE-NATAL CARE

1. **West Texas Children’s Advocacy Center**
Provides accompaniment for victims under the age of 17 for medical and sexual assault exams. Also, assistance is given to victims completing Crime Victim Compensation Fund

applications to reimburse any out of pocket medical expenses resulting from their victimization.

2. Gateway Family Services

Provides transportation and hospital accompaniment for adult victims of sexual assault and family violence to and from medical appointments including SANE exams. Trained Victim Advocates provide assistance in completing Crime Victim Compensation Fund applications for reimbursement of expenses stemming from medical care and counseling for those individuals who qualify.

3. Pregnancy Education Program

Pregnant or parenting students under the age of 21 may receive child care, agency referral, transportation, counseling, parenting education, and vocational and career counseling.

4. Women, Infants, Children (WIC)

Must meet income, residency, and nutritional need requirements. Services include supplemental food coupons for pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children under 5 years of age. Nutrition education and counseling, and referrals to other health care providers.

5. Women's Resource Center

Services include free pregnancy tests, pregnancy counseling, maternity clothes, and pre-natal vitamins. They also networked with other agencies that work with unplanned pregnancies and can provide information and assistance in finding a maternity home or adoption services.

6. Early Head Start- Southeast Childhood Center SISD and Colorado City CISD

This program provides assistance to families in accessing all necessary resources for providing safe, healthy, positive parenting experiences for their children in the homes. It also allows for early educational experiences in a classroom setting.

7. Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

A statewide program for families with children, birth to three, with disabilities and developmental delays. ECI supports families to help their children reach their potential through developmental services.

8. Sweetwater - Nolan County Health Department

Must meet income requirement. This programs purpose is to make available to citizens who are of childbearing age comprehensive medical knowledge, assistance, and services relating to the planning of families.

VI. SUPERVISION AND COMMUNITY RESTITUTION

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

VII. VICTIMS ISSUES

1. Limited funding, resources, and programs addressing all types of abuse in rural areas; Limited sexual assault, family violence, child abuse services, and human sex trafficking available in rural areas. Limited professional counseling is available in rural areas.
2. Continuing need to provide education to the public and school children on the dangers of drugs, violence, abuse, internet victimization risks, as well as general crime. Also, limited funding to support existing educational programs.
3. Lack of adequate resources/funding for crisis intervention, SANE Exams and meeting the immediate needs of victims such as clothing, food, counseling and legal aid.
4. Lack of resources to train professionals and decreasing funds available to maintain services currently available.
5. Geographical area covered by each caseworker or law enforcement officer is too large.
6. Limited resources available for continuing medical and legal aid for victims.
7. Limited resources available for equipping victims of crime with marketable job skills, life skills and parenting skills. This is especially crucial for victims of family violence who may be entering the workforce for the first time, and parents of child

abuse victims whose job skills may be very limited to those parents due to the circumstances.

A. RESOURCES

1. **West Texas Children's Advocacy Center** – Serves child abuse victims and their non-offending family members in Nolan, Mitchell, Fisher, Scurry, and Borden counties through offices open in both Sweetwater and Snyder. Services provided are forensic interviews of alleged child abuse victims, facilitation of monthly case staffing's presented to the Child Protection Team, legal, medical and justice support advocacy for child victims, financial assistance with licensed professional counseling costs, crisis intervention, court schooling (Scurry and Borden County), and agency referrals. In addition, the WTCAC works with both elementary aged children, and adults who work with children, to bring awareness about the warning signs, effects, and prevention of child abuse. Also provides counseling onsite by an LPC.
2. **Gateway Family Services** – Domestic violence and sexual assault, and human trafficking crisis center and shelter serving five counties: Nolan, Mitchell, Fisher, Scurry and Kent. Gateway provides outreach and advocacy services in each of the counties on a weekly basis in addition to operating the shelter located in Scurry County. Residential and non-residential services provided are: crisis services, shelter, food, clothing, transportation, child care referrals, medical and legal advocacy and accompaniment, justice support advocacy and accompaniment, support agency referrals, educational support for children, adult education referrals, support groups for adult and child victims of family violence and sexual assault, human trafficking assistance with crime victim compensation fund applications, peer counseling, 24-hour crisis hotline and 24 hour on-call staff.
3. **32nd Judicial District Attorney Crime Victim's Coordinator** – provides crisis intervention, assistance with Crime Victim's Compensation, court and judicial education, court accompaniment, and case status updates for crime victims of all ages.
4. **Crime Victims' Compensation Fund**-provides monetary relief to Victims of violent crimes for medical expenses, counseling Expenses, and burial expenses. After insurance- supplement relocation, and loss of wages.
5. **Women's Resource Center**
Services include free pregnancy tests, pregnancy counseling, maternity clothes, and pre-natal vitamins. They also networked with other agencies that work with unplanned pregnancies and can provide information and assistance in finding a maternity home or adoption services.

5. **High Sky Children’s Ranch Stay Together Program**
High Sky offers professional assistance to help resolve issues causing concern and tension in the home of families with children and youth. In-home consultation is offered as well as parent and youth workshops that provide positive parenting techniques.

7. **211**
A service of the Health and Human Services Commission, 211 provides free information on services in the area such as food, shelter, rent assistance, utility assistance, counseling, child care, after school programs, senior services, disaster relief, and other services.

8. **Sweetwater, Colorado City – West Texas Department of Health**
Services include children and adult immunizations.

9. **Prevention Resource Center-** The Prevention Resource Center acts as the central data repository and substance abuse prevention training liaison for the region. Data collection efforts carried out by the PRC are focused on the state’s prevention priorities of alcohol (underage drinking), marijuana and prescription drug use, as well as other illicit drugs. Prevention Resource Centers have four fundamental objectives related to services provided to partner agencies and the community in general: 1) collect data relevant to ATOD use among adolescents and adults and share findings with community partners via the Regional Needs Assessment, presentations, and data reports, 2) ensure sustainability of a Regional Epidemiological Workgroup focused on identifying strategies related to data collection, gaps in data, and prevention needs, 3) coordinate regional prevention trainings and conduct media awareness activities related to risks and consequences of ATOD use, and 4) provide tobacco education to retailers to encourage compliance with state law and reduce sales to minors

10. **Forensic Nurse Examiner Program-** Hendrick Medical Center South campus
Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, Texas is a designated Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner SAFE-Ready facility that provides sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) coverage 24/7. The forensic nurse program provides medical forensic exams, non-fatal strangulation exams and assists with human trafficking victims and child and elderly maltreatment. Victims of these crimes receive medical treatment that assists with treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. Medical care is provided to each patient that is trauma driven, evidenced-based and time sensitive. The forensic program at HMC provides educational opportunities to law enforcement, advocacy centers and other victim services that is relevant and based on best practices for crime victims.

11. **West Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)**
The Aging and Disability Resource Center is the first place for an individual seeking information or resources surrounding long-term care services for older adults and individuals with

developmental disabilities. Can assist with appropriate referrals to other agencies based on customer needs or requests.

VIII. CHILD ABUSE

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

Problems:

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

Current and Future Goals

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

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

IX. GAPS IN RESOURCES

1. **Funding** - Additional funding is needed for the long-term and short-term detention / residential and mental health services of juvenile/adult offenders. There is also limited funding for counseling for adolescents and for immediate needs of crime victims. There is also a need for funding for drug education programs. There is a need for a Youth Center and activities for the youth in the community, especially during weekends. There is a need for qualified staff at WTCAC to continue community awareness in all five counties and assist victims of child abuse. There is also a need for more funding from Homeland Security.
2. **Manpower** - Law enforcement agencies are very limited on manpower. Patrol officers cannot be assigned to work full time on narcotics and

juvenile investigations without neglecting needs in other areas. In addition, this shortage limits the time Law Enforcement agencies can devote to working directly with crime victims. There is also a need for volunteers to support and supervise a youth center and activities.

3. **Equipment** – Law enforcement agencies provide for the public safety. They are small both in manpower and funding. Maintaining and updating audio and visual equipment for vehicle and personal use is necessary and appropriate for efficiency of local law enforcement agencies. However, the Department of Public Safety has no current funds for this equipment for local public safety. Law enforcement agencies are also in need of information sharing capabilities.
4. **Availability of Resources** - There are limited local resources available for drug and alcohol abuse counseling for adolescents. There are also limited local resources available for individual and group counseling. There are no local resources available for the screening of inhalant usage and no local nurse trained for sexual assault exams

X. GOALS OF THE NOLAN, FISHER, AND MITCHELL COUNTY COMMUNITY PLAN ARE:

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

