

**SOUTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL CRIMINAL
JUSTICE PLAN
2018**

**A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MEETING THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEEDS OF THE SOUTH EAST
TEXAS REGION OF HARDIN, JEFFERSON AND
ORANGE COUNTIES**



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Executive Summary

The South East Texas Criminal Justice Strategic Plan (SETCJSP) 2018 builds upon and updates the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 plan which identified criminal justice priority gaps in services and possible solutions in the areas of law enforcement, juvenile justice, mental health/ substance abuse and direct victims' services for Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties. The regional plan was written at the directive of the Texas Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division and elicited participation and information from more than 52 South East Texas stakeholders including elected officials, service providers, law enforcement professionals, school districts, courts, corrections officers, faith organizations and the community at large. The public, including consumers, were encouraged to participate through Strategic Planning Meeting press releases distributed to all local print and broadcast media in the tri-county area.

Goal:

The SETCJSP serves as a roadmap for the future for both the region and individual counties within. It identifies, in a coordinated, comprehensive and methodical manner, priority gaps in current criminal justice services. Possible solutions are included that would improve the quality of life for the estimated 393,360 who call South East Texas home. The region covered by the SETCJSP consists of only 2,196 square miles, or less than 1% of the 268,561 square miles which make up Texas. However, it is the 6th most densely populated of the 24 regions in the state. Therefore, projects initiated in South East Texas to remedy identified gaps in services have the potential to positively impact a relatively large number of Texans.

Planning Process:

The SETCJSP 2018 is a comprehensive updated plan organized to address the current collective needs of the region including the three counties and 20 cities within. Because the plan is essentially the same as the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 plan with only minor updates, stakeholders' input was elicited on current priorities and those priorities were updated accordingly. The updated priorities are the basis for the SETCJSP 2018 Update.

Strategic Planning Assumptions:

- All information collected during the planning process was important, useful and worthy of noting in the plan. Priorities not currently meeting the threshold for inclusion in the regional plan may become priority in subsequent years as current priority objectives are achieved. The plan, therefore, includes a brief annex for each county capturing priority needs identified in the county stakeholder meeting;
- **Sustainment** of current services in areas of criminal justice, juvenile justice, victims' services and mental health/substance abuse is paramount. Only by maintaining and building upon current services can the community truly realize progress in the region.

Criminal Justice Vision: *Law enforcement professionals have access to equipment, services and training needed to ensure public safety, preserve life and protect property.*

Local Priorities:

- Timely, expedient access to and sharing of data between public safety agencies in the region and state
- Access funding and equipment to emerging law enforcement technologies including fingerprint readers, license plate readers and driver license readers provided to officers in the field to identify individuals encountered
- Provide public safety radio coverage for 100% of the region
- Ensure safe and efficient mental health commitment warrant services; mental health intake processes; and mental health training for officers and consumers
- Forensic analysis capability for computer and cell phone evidence/availability to aid investigations and prosecution

Juvenile Justice Vision: *Juveniles have access to comprehensive services that are culturally competent and restorative thus maximizing the likelihood they will exit the juvenile justice system and become productive, healthy community members.*

Local Priorities:

- Substance abuse and secure residential mental health facilities for youth
- Affordable specialized counseling for juveniles and families
- Resources for youth with conduct/behavioral problems and their families
- Alcohol/substance abuse prevention programs; life skills classes and training for job skills
- Transportation of youth for treatment (medical, psychological, substance abuse) and classes (life skills, diversion)

Victim Services Vision: *Victims of crime have access to comprehensive services, including immediate and restorative services that are culturally competent and address their individual needs.*

Local Priorities:

- Regional interagency coordination/victim education to ensure proper utilization of available resources
- Regional Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Child Abuse Task Force
- Services and transportation to provide needed services to victims including immediate and restorative services
- Dedicated domestic violence and sexual assault prosecutor to increase prosecution; empower victims with available options
- Specialized court preparation training that will enable crime victims to have professionals better equipped to assist them in navigating through the criminal justice system

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Vision: *People in South East Texas have access to comprehensive services that address their specialized and individual mental health and substance abuse treatment needs.*

Local Priorities:

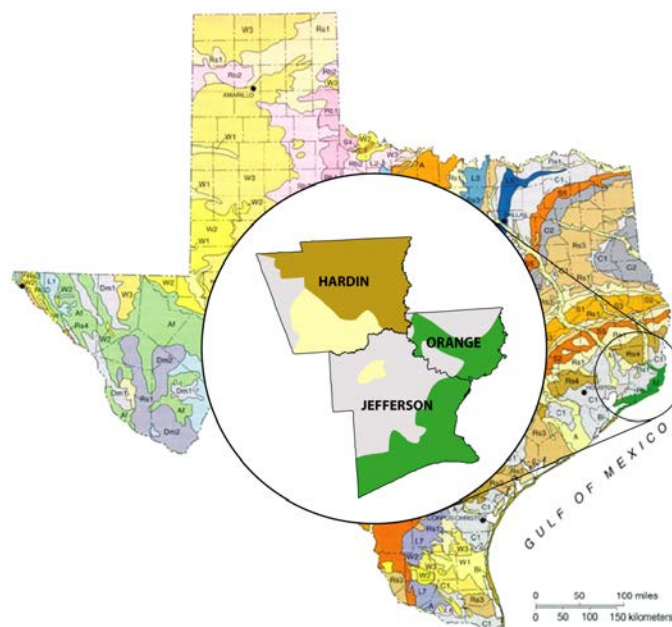
- Sufficient facilities (inpatient and outpatient) to meet the need in the South East Texas region including expansion of existing facilities
- Sufficient mental health providers in South East Texas
- Substance abuse awareness programs, classes and services for youth that proactively prevents substance abuse problems
- Transitional housing and/or sober living accommodations in the South East Texas region
- Transportation for those diagnosed with mental health related diseases to obtain medical treatment, counseling, group classes, life skills classes, etc.

Regional Profile

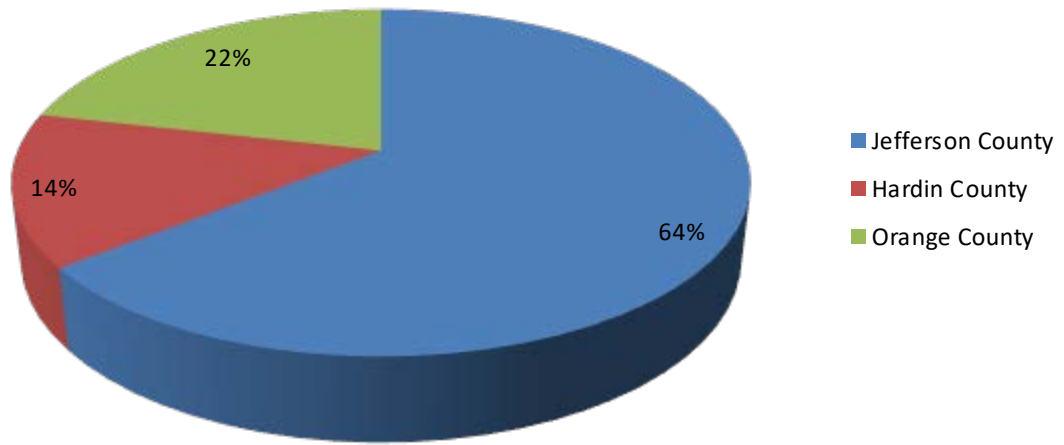
The South East Texas Region lies within the Gulf Coastal Plain in the southeastern portion of Texas. The region stretches from the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Sabine to the heavily forested Big Thicket in Hardin County. The three-county region (Hardin, Jefferson and Orange) encompasses an area of 2,196 square miles with an estimated of 395,965 citizens according to the July 2016 census data. The three central cities of the region (Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange) contain over half of South East Texas' population. Hardin County is the fastest growing county in the region. This highly industrialized, yet significantly agricultural region, is served by two navigable rivers (Sabine and Neches), which allow ocean-going vessels to transport, import and export trade.

The region has the distinction of being home to the Spindletop oilfield, discovered on a salt dome formation south of Beaumont in eastern Jefferson County on January 10, 1901, which marked the birth of the modern petroleum industry. The region remains critical to the petrochemical industry today. In fact, the region is the second largest industrial complex in the nation containing roughly 53 major facilities according to the South East Texas Plant Manager's Forum.

South East Texas contains a number of federal and state correctional facilities. The Federal Correctional Complex, Beaumont (FCC Beaumont) is a United States correctional prison complex operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons consisting of three facilities: Federal Correctional Institution, Beaumont Low (FCI Beaumont Low): a low-security facility; Federal Correctional Institution, Beaumont Medium (FCI Beaumont Medium): a medium-security facility; and United States Penitentiary, Beaumont (USP Beaumont): a high-security facility. State correctional facilities include the Mark Stiles Unit and the Larry Gist Unit.



South East Texas Population



Population Density by County



Hardin

- Population - 56,322
- Square Miles - 890.57
- Population Density - 61.3



Jefferson

- Population - 254,679
- Square Miles - 876.30
- Population Density - 287.90



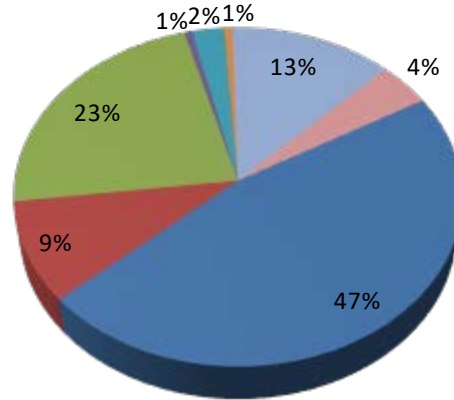
Orange

- Population - 84,964
- Square Miles - 333.67
- Population Density - 245.30

Jurisdictions by County

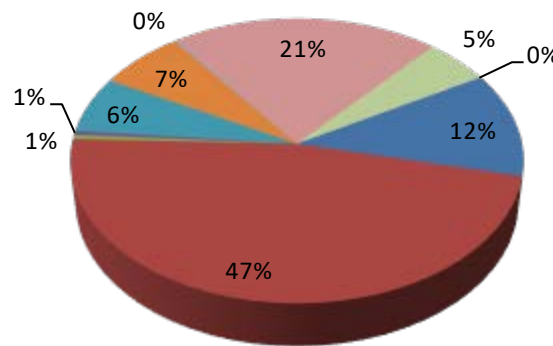
according to 2010 Census
Data Information

Orange County



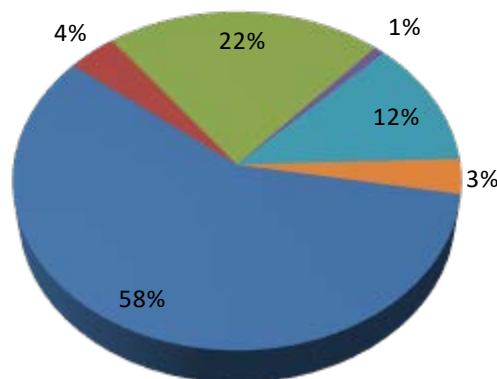
- Orange County Unincorporated
- Bridge City
- Orange
- Pine Forest
- Pinehurst
- Rose City
- Vidor
- West Orange

Jefferson County



- Jefferson County Unincorporated
- Beaumont
- Bevil Oaks
- China
- Groves
- Nederland
- NOME
- Port Arthur
- Port Neches

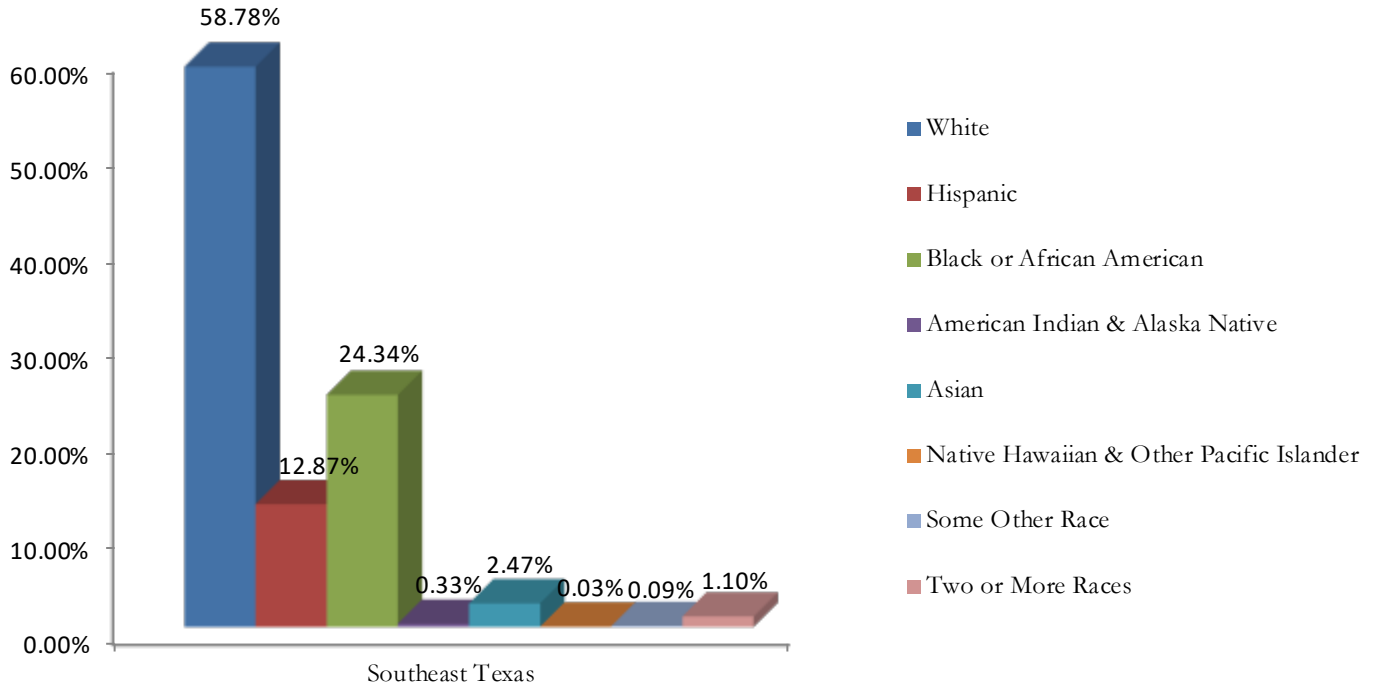
Hardin County



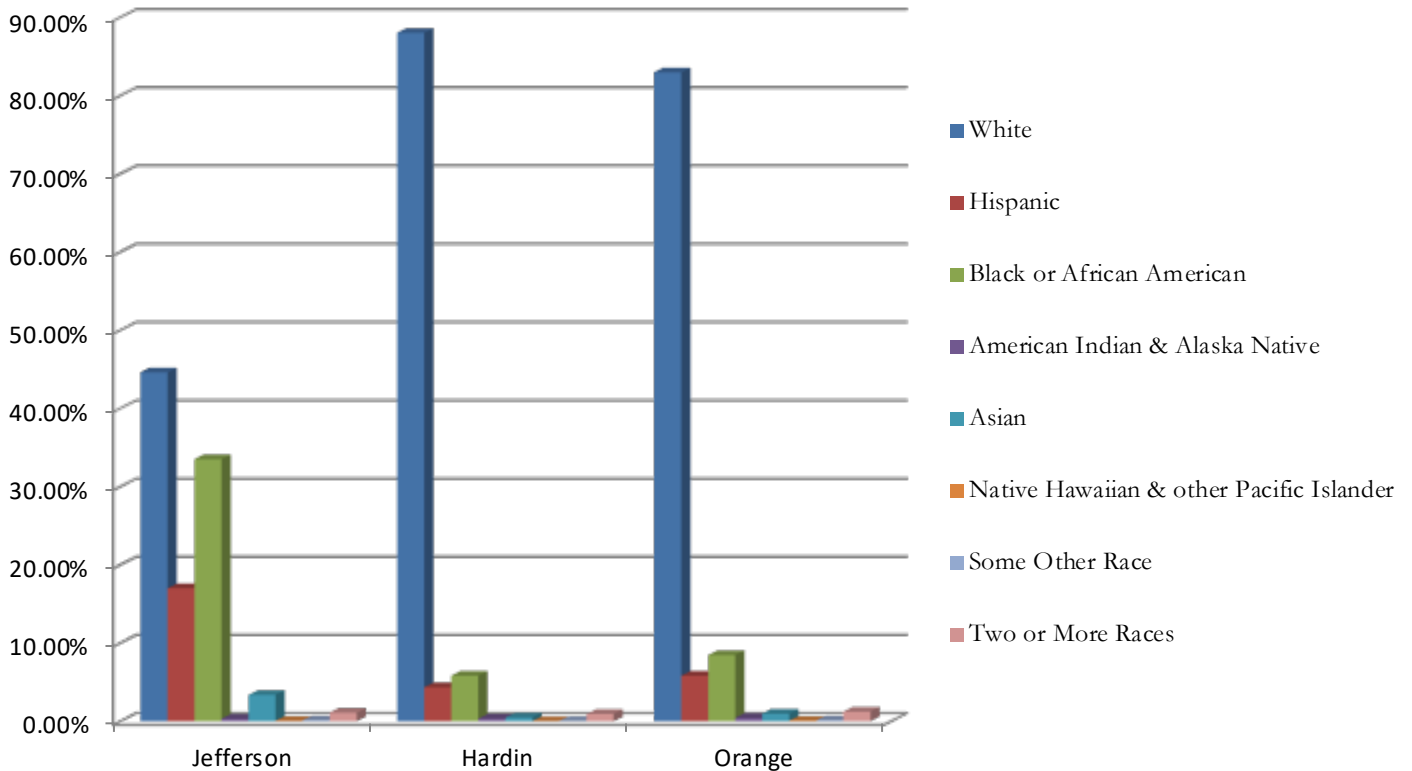
- Hardin County Unincorporated
- Kountze
- Lumberton
- Rose Hill Acres
- Silsbee
- Sour Lake

Ethnicity by Region

According to 2010 Census Data Information



Ethnicity by County



Planning Team

In developing this Regional Plan, members of the team were divided into several focus groups for the purpose of narrowing the scope of research and data that are incorporated into the Plan. Some members may serve in multiple capacities/categories. Input from the original participants, listed below by discipline, was elicited for the 2016 Plan Update.

Juvenile Services:

Mark Asteris	Jefferson County Adult Probation
Craig Corder	Orange County Juvenile Probations
Jarrold Fountain	Hardin County Juvenile Probation
Monica Kelley	Hardin County Juvenile Probation
Randi King	Jefferson County, Family Law Division
LaRonda Turner	Jefferson County Juvenile Probation
Ed Cockrell	Jefferson County Juvenile Probation
Christopher Barnes	100 Young Voices
Crystal Petry	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Kaylan Arendale	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Sue Landry	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission

Victims' Services:

Debbie Beavers	Jefferson County District Attorney's Office
Misty Craver	Jefferson County Victim Assistance
Miranda Creech	Crisis Center of Southeast Texas, Inc.
Dwanna Coleman	Crisis Center of Southeast Texas, Inc.
James Rogers	Garth House
Roxanne May	Texas Department of Protective Services
Amy Haden	Health and Human Services Commission
Eleanor W. Johnson	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of SETX
Bonnie Loiodice	Family Services of Southeast Texas
Valerie Stewart	Hardin County Victim Assistance Center
Janet Walker	Family Services of Southeast Texas
Cheryl Williams	Rape and Suicide Crisis Center of Southeast Texas
Sue Landry	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission

Law Enforcement:

Ed Cain	Hardin County Sheriff
Aleta Cappen	Vidor Police Department
Jim Clay	Beaumont Police Department
Mark Davis	Silsbee Police Department
Paul Davis	Bridge City Police Department
Fred Jackson	Jefferson County Judge's Office
Pat Knauth	Jefferson County District Attorney's Office
Ken Mason	Lamar Institute of Technology – Public Service and Safety Department
Todd McDowell	Bridge City Police Department
Pat Powell	Port Arthur Police Department

Gary Porter	Nederland Police Department
Sparky Robinson	Orange Police Department
John Shauberger	Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Robert Smith	Lamar Institute of Technology—Regional Police Academy
Tim Smith	Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Dave Shows	Vidor Police Department
Gary Spears	Hardin County Sheriff's Office
Danny Sullins	Lumberton Police Department
John Tatroe	Port Arthur Police Department/Port Arthur Fire Department
Mike Zeto	Orange Police Department
Walter Billingsley	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Kaylan Arendale	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Sue Landry	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission

MENTAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

Phyllis M. Baker	Baptist Hospital-Behavioral Health
Sally Broussard	Spindletop Center
Gloria Casmire	Baptist Hospital-Behavioral Health
Garrett Craver	Spindletop Center
Rosalyn Cobbold	Spindletop Center
Lisa Gibbs	Spindletop Center
Betty Reynolds	Spindletop Center
Karen Riggs	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Captain Gary Spears	Hardin County Sheriff's Office
Crystal Petry	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Sue Landry	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Kaylan Arendale	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission

Plan Coordinators:

Sue Landry, Director, South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
 Kaylan Arendale, Regional Emergency Planner, South East Texas Regional Planning Commission







SOUTH EAST TEXAS REGION PRIORITIES

In each of the areas on the following pages, problems are identified and data is included that supports both the existence and severity of gaps as they are found in South East Texas. Below the description and data is a discussion of the problems, the manner in which the problems are being addressed, and strategically how responses to these community problems could be improved.



Law Enforcement Priorities

Law Enforcement Vision: *Law enforcement professionals have access to equipment, services and training needed to ensure public safety, preserve life and protect property.*

South East Texas Uniform Crime Report 2016 (Most Recent Available from TXDPS Website) By County

Jurisdiction	Population	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft
Hardin County	55,912	3	14	1	66	186	471	83
Jefferson County	253,938	20	143	515	1,258	2,321	5,444	540
Orange County	84,459	4	11	57	215	509	1,180	209

Law enforcement (LE) planning meetings, which included participants from law enforcement, courts, corrections and probation/parole, were held in Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties. A Regional Strategic Planning law enforcement meeting was held, as well. The South East Texas region consists of 20 law enforcement agencies.

During the initial Strategic Planning meetings, the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division’s (CJD) five state priorities listed below were used as a reference. Per Criminal Justice Division guidance, LE participants were encouraged to consider the state’s priorities, but to identify the most critical gaps in the region regardless of whether they aligned with the state priorities or not. Only by doing so would the plan be of benefit to the region and local jurisdictions within it.

5 Regional Law Enforcement Priorities as Determined by Law Enforcement Planning Group:

Priority #	Problem Description
#1	Timely expedient access to and sharing of data between public safety agencies in the region and state
#2	Access to emerging law enforcement technologies
#3	Public safety radio coverage in some areas of the region
#4	Safe and efficient mental commitment warrant services/mental health intake processes
#5	Forensic analysis of computer and cell phone evidence that will be available for investigations and prosecution

#1 Problem Identified:

Timely, expedient access to and sharing of data between public safety agencies in the region and the state; including lack of funding to maintain current levels and enhance capabilities.

Data:

It is imperative to have timely access to data from various law enforcement agencies in the region with the criticality that exists in South East Texas. The region is home to several major cross-county highways including:

- Interstate 10 (east/west) which runs for 24 miles through Orange County and 36 miles through Jefferson County
- Highway 69 (north/south)
- Highway 96 (north/south) ties into Highway 59 and therefore considered a major thoroughfare as well

In 2017, the following was interdicted on I-10:

Orange County Sheriff's Office 1-10 Interdiction Unit:

Item Confiscated	Amount/Number
US Currency	\$124,500
Vehicles	0
Marijuana	22g
Cocaine	0
Synthetic Cannabinoid	0

City of Beaumont Police Department:

Item Confiscated	Amount/Number
US Currency	\$820,029
Vehicles	1 seized / 2 compartments
Firearms	1 stolen / 6 seized
Cocaine	Approximately 9,859.9g
Marijuana	Approximately 98.6 lbs / 504g
Meth	48g
Codeine	35,595g
Heroin	997,903g
Stolen Vehicle	2
Arrests	41

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office:

Arrests	35
Assistance to Other Agencies	63
Currency	\$1,098,399
Vehicles	1
Marijuana	73lbs / 36oz
Cocaine	1lb / 1oz / 34g
Heroin	
Codeine	
Methamphetamine	4lb / 10oz / 135g

As the following news excerpts demonstrate, the ability to share information between law enforcement agencies within the region is fundamental to public safety.

Suspect in Houston-area high-speed chase captured south of Beaumont

By KFDL/Fox 4

PORT ARTHUR — *A high-speed police chase which began in Houston ended just south of Beaumont after the driver ran out of gas, fled on foot and was tackled by a Jefferson County Sheriff's Office deputy Thursday afternoon.*

*The suspect was identified by police as 25-year-old **Mohamed Ahmed Abu-Shlieba**.*

***Abu-Shlieba** of Houston, had two outstanding warrants and was driving a stolen Dodge Challenger. He was taken to a Jefferson County Justice of the Peace for arraignment before he was taken back to Houston.*

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office released the following information about the chase:

At 12:52 on 10/12/2017, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office was advised of Houston Police pursuing a stolen Dodge Challenger Hellcat coming into Jefferson County.

Deputies were dispatched to IH-10 near Winnie. The suspect vehicle exited Hwy 73 headed towards Port Arthur. There was information that the suspect had a long gun and pointed it at officers during the pursuit prior to entering Jefferson County. Texas Department of Public Safety, Houston Police Department, Chambers County Sheriff's Office, and Gulf Coast Violent Fugitive Taskforce were involved in the pursuit when they entered Jefferson County where the Sheriff's Office picked up the pursuit.

The pursuit continued east bound on Hwy 73 until the driver pulled over onto the shoulder just past Country Club Road, and bailed out on foot. It is believed that he ran out of gas. Troopers and Jefferson County Deputies began searching the area on foot. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Helicopter was requested to assist in the search.

The suspect was located on the ground by Deputies and Troopers, which was confirmed by Sheriff's Helicopter pilots in the air. The suspect refused stop and was taken to the ground by deputies. He transported by helicopter to Hwy 73 where he was turned over to Gulf Coast Violent Fugitive Taskforce.

*The suspect was identified as 25 year old, **Mohamed Ahmed Abu-Shlieba** of Houston. He had two outstanding warrants and was in possession of the stolen Challenger that he was driving. He was taken before Justice of the Peace Judge Chesson for arraignment and was returned to Houston.*

We would like to congratulate all agencies involved on a job well done.

And

Man, Women arrested following pursuit in Vidor

By STAFF

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

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VIDOR — *A man and woman are in custody following a chase that wound its way through Vidor and ended after the pair ran into a wooded area and officers found them in a nearby home.*

Vidor Police Chief Rod Carroll says at about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, officers noticed a vehicle that matched the description of one owned by a person with a felony warrant. Officers tried to stop the driver in the 100 block of West Freeway by North Archie. The driver of the Trans Am accelerated north on North Archie and continued to attempt to elude law enforcement as the driver traveled south on North Main before heading west on IH-10. The vehicle traveled west on IH-10 and exited at the downtown distributor. The driver then traveled back onto IH-10 east and took the Claiborne exit before heading onto North

Tram. The driver finally came to a stop at the dead end of Daniel in rural Orange County. The front seat passenger and driver exited the vehicle and ran into the woods. Officers later located the man and woman in a nearby home.

The primary gap in information sharing is a fundamental one—each jurisdiction has a different Records Management System (RMS). NDEX is one method whereby local agencies can share data but some participants felt it was labor intensive and at times disjointed as it pulls from a myriad of dissected areas. Other agencies in the region have had success with the system.

Possible Solution:

Law enforcement agencies would like to acquire additional funding that would enable all public safety agencies in the region to easily, effectively and expediently access the entire file on an individual that an agency encounters.

#2 Problem Identified:

Lack of access to emerging law enforcement technologies including fingerprint readers, license plate readers, and driver's license readers to enable officers in the field to expediently identify individuals encountered.

Data

Technology enables law enforcement agencies to work more effectively and efficiently to protect the public and save money. Technology is a personnel force multiplier. In a region with as much criticality to the state and nation as South East Texas, a major challenge has been and will continue to be keeping abreast of technology that can aid the prevention of a crime or expedite the apprehension of actor(s) once the crime is committed. Only in this way can the highest level of public safety be attained.

Budget constraints for all local jurisdictions, especially the smaller jurisdictions, keeps technology, even equipment that is considered 'standard day-to-day operational' out of reach. For example, Computer Aided Dispatch is a technology that provides law enforcement with more accuracy and saves a significant amount of response time—which equates to *real lives saved*. It has been used by some law enforcement agencies in the region for 10-15 years and is considered to be a basic day to day piece of equipment as indispensable as a radio or cell phone. Yet, many law enforcement agencies in South East Texas have only acquired this asset within the last five years. One small law enforcement agency only acquired this asset thanks to grant funds that demonstrated the benefit to the entire region.

Possible Solution:

Obtain funding to:

- Acquire up-to-date equipment for all jurisdictions in the region—particularly the smaller agencies not currently connected to system
- Continuance of maintenance contracts
- Connect all Record Management Systems (RMS) in the region

#3 Problem Identified: Need for continued upgrades for 100% of the jurisdictions in the region to attain P25 compliance. Infrastructure still needs to be acquired before P25 compliance can be attained including upgrading the core infrastructure to be full digital.

Data:

Operable and interoperable communications are fundamental to an agency's ability to protect the public and its officers. They are vital in a region such as South East Texas where, due to size, population density and critical infrastructure, public safety agencies rely heavily on one another via mutual aid. In high speed pursuits crossing county lines, a natural disaster (South East Texas has been impacted by six named storms since 2005, and most

recently was devastated by Harvey in August 2017), or a terrorist event, communications play a key role in keeping the community safe.

Recent Accomplishments:

- Department of Public Safety willingness to place non-grant funded equipment (approximately \$385,000) in the South East Texas region to close the gap and also willing to provide an additional \$30,000 per year (approximately) for ten (10) years (approximately) to maintain the equipment.
- Willingness of South East Texas Regional Radio Stakeholders (SETRRS) to provide talk groups to the Department of Public Safety to close that agencies communication gaps.
- Port Security Grant funding in the amount of over \$1,400,000 was received to erect a tower in Orange County—specifically, to address coverage gaps in the western portion of Orange County. Project was completed in 2017 closing coverage gaps in Orange County.
- Progress has been made to have interoperable communications between Southeast Texas jurisdictions and Louisiana. A link will be placed at the tower in Sulfur Louisiana which will provide communications with Orange County. Once any problems in this process are worked out, the plan is to expand the system so all jurisdictions in Southeast Texas can seamlessly talk to all of Louisiana.

Possible Solution:

The solution outlined in prior Criminal Justice Strategic Plans has been accomplished! The region now needs to continue to make progress in the area of individual radios—both portable and mobile—subscriber units in order to obtain P25 compliance. The core also must be upgraded at a cost of approximately \$3.6 million. The region is working together to submit a 2018 Port Security Grant application that, if awarded, will fund the infrastructure needed to complete the P25 process for the region

#4 Problem Identified:



Lack of safe and efficient mental commitment warrant services, mental health intake processes and mental health training for officers. Need for enhancement of intake facilities to better screen, house and secure those individuals committed by law enforcement officers. This problem includes three distinct but related issues:

Data:

4.1 Lack of Specialized Staff

Lack of specialized staff to execute warrant service and respond to mental health calls. Officers are pulled off patrol, often for hours at a time, to execute the warrants, as well as, called upon to respond to mental health calls in the normal course of their public safety duties. The calls, while representing a small percentage of the total, are disproportionate in the amount of time required to resolve them. They are also volatile and dangerous—for the mentally ill individual and the officer.

Update:

The lack of specialized staff remains a concern; however, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has a Mental Health Response Team funded by the Spindletop MHMR that has been operational for three years. There is a total of three officers dedicated to the program and there has been noteworthy success in the areas of intervention and diversion with hundreds of individuals with mental health concerns being diverted from law enforcement agencies in Jefferson County. This is not only beneficial to public safety agencies but also those people who obtained the treatment they needed in an effective manner. The program is best practices for the region and a goal is to have such a specialized team in each county.

4.2 Expedited Medical Evaluations

Need for expedited medical evaluations when required by a mental health facility. Prior to being admitted to a psychiatric facility, officers must bring the mentally ill individual to have a physical assessment. These assessments are conducted in the emergency room, despite the fact that the majority of the individuals have no physical problems and certainly not to the extent necessitating *emergency* treatment. Assessment of these non-medical emergencies is not given priority and, therefore, the patient and officer can wait *hours* before being seen by a physician...

Hours during which the patient can become more agitated and anxious...

Hours in which a person with a mental (not physical) illness and who, by statute, *must* be a danger to himself or others, is in close proximity to many others in a crowded emergency room...

Hours in which the officer must remain with the individual idle, performing none of the specialized tasks for which he or she was trained...

Hours in which the officer is *unavailable* to protect the public safety of the *larger community* in his/her jurisdiction.

4.3 Increase in Mental Health Facilities

Need for increased mental health facilities and cooperation between the facilities and law enforcement in the region to reduce the resource drain on already under-staffed law enforcement agencies. This correlates to the priority under the mental health/substance abuse discipline for sufficient inpatient and outpatient psychiatric beds to meet the need in South East Texas. Officers currently must wait extended periods of time before receiving word that a bed is available and, when it is not, they must then transport a mentally ill individual hours outside the region (to Rusk or Houston) to the nearest available bed.

Update:

Unfortunately, this gap is widening in South East Texas as the region is in jeopardy of losing its only intake facility. Baptist Hospital, who, to date, has been the only intake facility in the region is having to reevaluate their capacity to meet this need in light of strict regulations. The hospital has taken measures to meet this need to include adding 30 staff members, but there continues to be limitations such as the size of the facility and the fact that only 6 individuals are allowed in triage at one time. The Jefferson County Judge, Jeff Branick, has created a special working group to address the situation and come back to him with possible solutions.

Possible Solutions

- 4.1 Specialized law enforcement officers *in each county* dedicated to executing mental health warrants and responding to mental health calls.

Benefits (evidence based empirical data from National Alliance for Mental Illness NAMI)

- Enhanced public safety
- Cost Effective
- Reduction in injuries—to law enforcement personnel and the mentally ill individual
- Decrease in repeat calls
- Individuals obtain treatment needed from mental health facilities—not put in jail
- Reduction in jail costs
- Improved quality of life for the community

4.2 Policy change within the medical facilities which provide the psychiatric inpatient treatment enabling:

- 1) Expedited assessment protocols for mentally ill patients accompanied by law enforcement
- 2) Conduct the assessment when the mentally ill individual is settled in the psychiatric facility thus freeing the officer to return to duty

Streamlining the assessment process or allowing the assessment to be conducted when the individual is settled into the mental health facility would better address the individual's physical needs, enable the officer to return to duty in a much more timely manner, eliminate a person with a mental health crisis further exacerbating emergency room overcrowding, and mitigate a potentially volatile and chaotic situation in the emergency room where many people are often in a relatively small space.

Benefits:

- Fewer excess people in already overcrowded emergency rooms
- Less potential for a volatile situation to erupt in a crowded emergency room
- Mentally ill person receives appropriate mental treatment quicker and in an environment better equipped to meet their needs
- Officer able to return to duty more expediently
- Better use of *all* the limited resources involved

4.3 Utilization of resources within the region that do exist such as Spindletop Mental Health Mental Retardation Crisis Intervention Team to assist and transport a mentally ill individual when they are not a danger to themselves or others.

- More psychiatric beds are needed in the region.
- More mental health workers are needed.
- Sufficient resources needed in order to meet the demand.

Solutions to this problem lie beyond the scope of the regional/local criminal justice system ability to impact. It is a systemic problem within the mental health system with the net result being a shift of responsibility to law enforcement.

“As the mental health system continues to refuse to treat the most seriously ill, they become a police responsibility. It is often a dangerous responsibility because individuals who refuse treatment may not be taken into custody or to a hospital until after they become a danger to self or others. Rather than prevent violence, the law requires it. This means officers are often walking into a dangerous situation. Most of the time these situations resolve safely. Sometimes officers are hurt or killed. Other times, it is the person with mental illness who is hurt or killed. Many mental health advocates blame police for these incidents. **We believe the fault is within the mental health system***. Almost all these individuals were known to be mentally ill but were not receiving treatment.” (Mental Illness Policy.org) *Unless otherwise noted, emphasis added by SETRPC.

“Law enforcement professionals provide up to one-third of all emergency mental health referrals. They interact with more persons with mental illness than any other occupational group outside the mental health field. They are often the first to respond to a mentally ill person in crisis and are called on to determine if and when a person should be

referred for mental health treatment.” (Journal of American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Online 2005) Copyright.com. Reprinted with permission.

These calls are dangerous for law enforcement and the mentally ill individual.

A few examples provided below by the Hardin County Sheriff's Department illustrate just how dangerous mental health calls can be for the officers, the mentally ill person and even family members trying to help the mentally ill person.

Standoff in Kountze ends with arrest ***12 News Now***

Posted: Jun 11, 2012

Hardin County authorities say around 6:30 p.m. Monday, a woman surrendered after a 6-hour standoff with deputies and surrounding police departments.

The standoff began at a home near the intersection of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in Kountze around 12:30 p.m.

The standoff began when a Hardin County Sheriff's deputy went to the home to serve a mental health warrant. Investigators say when the deputy arrived, the woman came out the front door to the front porch with a shotgun and shot a woman sitting on the porch. Neighbors tell 12 News HD the victim was the woman's aunt. Sheriff's deputies say the suspect then went back inside the home and locked herself inside.

Around 6:30 p.m., authorities say they launched tear gas into the home while on the phone with the suspect. At that time, the woman came out the back door and surrendered to authorities.

She has been taken to the Hardin County jail and will be charged with Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Other charges could also be filed.

The suspect was flown to a local hospital by medical helicopter. She remains in Intensive Care. No names have been released.

and

Hardin County deputy shot & killed suspect after another deputy stabbed

KBMT 12 News Now

Posted: Friday, October 26, 2012 2:30 pm | Updated: 3:07 pm, Fri Nov 2, 2012.

Both the suspect, 30-year-old [REDACTED], and Deputy [REDACTED] were loaded into ambulances, and rushed to a Beaumont hospital, where [REDACTED] later died, and Deputy [REDACTED] was treated and released.

Hardin County Sheriff Ed Cain says a deputy with his agency was forced to shoot and kill a man on Wednesday evening, after the suspect attacked and stabbed another deputy with a knife.

Sheriff Cain says the series of events began at about 8:30, when deputies were called to a home in the [REDACTED] block of Farm to Market Road [REDACTED] just north of Silsbee. Cain said it was reported that a man there was suicidal, and had possibly overdosed on some type of drug.

Cain said deputies couldn't get anyone to answer the door, so they looked through a window and saw 30-year-old [REDACTED] lying on a bed.

Sheriff Cain said deputies then entered the home, and at that point, [REDACTED] jumped up and attacked Deputy [REDACTED], stabbing him in the arm with a knife, and he then tried to attack Deputy [REDACTED].

Cain said [REDACTED] drew his gun and twice ordered [REDACTED] to drop the knife, but he refused. The sheriff said [REDACTED] then opened fired two shots at [REDACTED] both of which hit the man.

Both [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] were transported to Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont, where [REDACTED] later died from his gunshot wounds.

Meanwhile, Deputy [REDACTED] was treated, and later released.

Officers are currently mandated to receive 16 hours of Crisis Intervention Training and most officers in the region obtain this training through the Regional Police Academy, which is partially funded through the Texas Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division. The purpose of the Intermediate Crisis Intervention Training course is to educate law enforcement officers about issues pertaining to crisis intervention techniques, especially in communicating with persons with a mental illness. Senate Bill 1473 amended 1701.253, Occupations Code, by requiring training in “de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques to facilitate interaction with persons with mental impairments.” Effective September 1, 2005, this training became a requirement for an intermediate or advanced certificate. A person licensed as a peace officer for more than two years, or holding an intermediate or higher certification, must complete this training.

While the consensus of the LE planning participants was that training, in general, is beneficial to officers, additional training in critical incident management will not address the root problem--the criminal justice system is increasingly being used to fix a problem that it was never designed, equipped or trained to manage.

In order to obtain data to substantiate the magnitude of the problem in South East Texas, the number of calls and the amount of time spent per call was obtained for 2017. A cross-section of data specific to mental health calls from law enforcement agencies in the region, large to small, rural to urban, is presented below. However, every law enforcement agency in the region stated that mental health call data is the most unreliable, underreported, and difficult to accurately capture in terms of the amount of manpower devoted per call. This is due to several factors:

- A dispatch center can receive calls such as disturbing the peace, public intoxication, terroristic threat, aggravated assault, etc. that are ultimately determined to be a mentally ill person in crisis. Rarely are the records updated to reflect this once the call is cleared.
- Per safety protocols, two or three units respond to each mental health call. Therefore, simply assessing dispatch calls and calculating times from en route to cleared status does not accurately account for the total time multiple officers are on the scene responding.

The local Police Departments and Sheriff Offices, at the request of SETRPC, agreed to dedicate considerable time cross-referencing calls against the number of units responding and the total man hours devoted to each call. The goal was to ensure an accurate reflection of the actual resources a law enforcement agency is required to dedicate to mental health calls. The policy of most law enforcement agencies in the region, is that two and sometimes three officers respond to a mental health call. This is for the safety of the officer as well as for the mentally ill person. The amount of time reflected in the data below is as accurate of an indicator as we can get of the amount of time law enforcement agencies are dedicating resources to mental health calls throughout the region.

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Mental Health</i>	<i>Mental Health</i>	<i>Mental Health</i>	<i>Time Dedicated</i>	<i>Time Dedicated</i>	<i>Time Dedicated</i>
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	<i>2016 Census Estimate</i>	<i>Calls 2015</i>	<i>Calls 2016</i>	<i>Calls 2017</i>	<i>to Calls 2015 (Hours)</i>	<i>to Calls 2016 (Hours)</i>	<i>to Calls 2017 (Hours)</i>
Hardin County	57,064	205	44	192	729:54:55	43:43:29	304:00:00
Jefferson County	250,813	13 (mental health warrants only)	101	218	Unable to provide	Average 1:00 per call	Average 1.5 hours per call
City of Beaumont	117,473	15	344	471	43:55:22	Average 38:54 per call	Average 24 minutes per call
City of Bridge City	7,847	No data provided	11	9	No data provided	23:33:34	5:29:50
City of Groves	15,484	43	40	43	86:07:41	82:09:14	46:50:09
City of Nederland	17,301	50	64	75	105:24:21	114:50:28	79:37:28
City of Orange	18,697	47	66	40	59:48	109:38:00	52:97:00
City of Pinehurst	2,057	6	15	17	10:10:00	18:13:00	14:12:00
City of Port Arthur	54,444	182	264	No data provided	164:00:00	No data provided	No data provided
City of Port Neches	12,616	25	33	26	41:07:54	71:25:21	40:11:44
City of Sour Lake	1,787	6	13	25	8:45:00	19:15:00	31:00:00
City of Lumberton	12,594	No data provided	No data provided	61	No data provided	No data provided	68:00:00
City of Kountze	2,099	4	5	2	5:00:00	6:00:00	3:00:00
City of Vidor	10,805	78	31	32	33:46:15	63:00:00	49:00:00
Orange County	82,543	No data provided	No data provided	82	No data provided	No data provided	96:00:00

Consider that, on average, mental calls account for less than 1% of total public safety calls to law enforcement agencies in South East Texas and one can see the disproportionate amount of law enforcement resources required to respond.

5 Problem Identified:

Forensic analysis of computer and cell phone evidence/availability for investigators and prosecutors

Data:

The region currently has two forensic analysts and each provided the following data:

Cell Phone Analysis (Orange County Sheriff's Office):

Orange County Sheriff's Office has one cell phone analyst and cell phone analysis software. However, additional staff software equipment will be available in 2018.

Computer Analysis (City of Beaumont Police Department):

The region has one full time cell phone analyst employed by the City of Beaumont. The analyst dedicates the majority of his time to the City of Beaumont but has also performed analyses for Orange County, Port Arthur Police Department, Hardin County, Lumberton Police Department, and the Lamar Police Department. A preliminary report of the cell phone analysis can be provided fairly quickly, within a day or two, but the written report takes longer. The problem is that there is not enough equipment and trained personnel in the region.

Examples of cell phone analysis conducted include child pornography cases, sexual assault cases, fraud, burglary, theft, criminal mischief, breach of computer security, false alarm, narcotics, prostitution, on-line solicitation of a minor, failure to register as a sex offender, telephone harassment, capital murder, homicide, suspicious death investigation, aggravated robbery, assault of a police officer, indecency with a child, and state and federal probation searches.

Equipment to conduct the analysis is expensive, and there is not one piece of equipment that can accomplish everything, therefore, multiple pieces of expensive equipment are required. The Beaumont Police Department currently has two devices. When the analyst cannot acquire access to a cell phone, the analysis cannot be done, though he is successful in accessing most devices.

Cell Phone Analysis Levels:

Level 1- what everyone can see on their cell phone

Level 2- what everyone can see, plus the file system and deleted information

Level 3-full extraction of data including e-mails, pictures, videos

The analyst examines digital cameras, digital video cameras, and computers. It is typical for one case to have a desktop, a laptop, a camera and multiple secure digital (SD) cards. Computers can be time consuming and take several months because of the amount of data that must be examined. For example, a case was completed that had nine terabytes (9 trillion bytes) of data. There is a computer on backlog that has 11 terabytes (11 trillion bytes) of data. The backlog for computer analysis currently stands at nine cases. On average, a computer analysis could take 40 hours; some analyses have been completed in 12-15 hours depending upon the amount of data that must be analyzed.

Possible Solution:

Initially, at least one additional computer analyst and one additional cell phone analyst and the associated equipment to conduct the analysis is needed in the region.

Other Noteworthy Regional Law Enforcement Initiatives

- Regional Police Academy will offer mental health training for law enforcement officers a couple of times per year to meet the demand
- Jefferson County District Attorney's Office will expand the digital search warrant initiative beyond blood warrants to include cell phone warrants and other areas of routine need
- Jefferson County will share the template and provide any other technical support needed for other law enforcement agencies in the region to initiate the No Refusal effort.
- Jefferson County District Attorney's Office is also expanding their efforts to combat gang activity by using civil gang injunction statutes and other proactive tools to deter gang violence and recruitment efforts in Jefferson County.
- Jefferson County District Attorney's Office is implementing improved strategies to assist law enforcement in efforts to reduce human trafficking, drug trafficking and related crime through a Crime Abatement Program (CAP). A successful CAP will target a geographical area heavily impacted by crime and utilize both civil nuisance abatement laws and criminal laws to alleviate and hopefully dismantle the targeted criminal element.

Juvenile Justice Priorities

The South East Texas region has juvenile justice detention centers in Jefferson and Hardin Counties. In Orange County, there is no juvenile detention center; however, Orange County does collaborate with Jefferson and Hardin Counties when detention services are needed. Nine (9) people heavily involved in the youth of South East Texas participated in the Strategic Planning meetings. Representation from all three juvenile justice facilities, Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, religious leaders, counselors and concerned citizens all provided valuable input and identified gaps for juveniles in this region.

Juvenile justice professionals and concerned citizens reviewed the needs and gaps outlined in the 2018 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan.

List of Juvenile Justice Priorities:

- Diversion Programs for schools;
- Mental health services for juveniles;
- Specialized counseling for juveniles who suffer from substance and alcohol abuse;
- School based delinquency programs;
- Transportation;
- Programs that provide juveniles with job training skills;
- Resources for youth with extreme behavioral/conduct problems and their families

5 Regional Juvenile Justice Priorities as Determined by Juvenile Justice Planning Group:

Priority #	Problem Description
#1	Lack of adequate residential substance abuse and secured, residential mental health facilities in the region
#2	Affordable specialized counseling for juveniles and families
#3	Resources for youth with conduct and/or behavioral problems
#4	Alcohol/substance abuse prevention programs, life skills classes and training for job skills
#5	Transportation

In recent meetings with the Juvenile Probation Offices in Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties it was made aware that though there has been a decrease in the number of juveniles served through the probation departments, the cost associated per juvenile has increased substantially. The juveniles seen within the juvenile probation department are experiencing more severe mental health issues that require psychological evaluations, extended periods of counseling, in many instances this involves very expensive residential placement treatment, and after care treatments for not only the individual juvenile but also their family. The severity of the mental health, behavioral, and/or substance abuse the juveniles in this region are facing is not only heartbreaking but frustrating due to the lack of resources available to get them the treatment they desperately need. If the region had easier and more affordable access to treatment resources, the increase in the severity of issues the juveniles are dealing with would not be at the magnitude it is at now.

#1 Problem Identified:

Lack of adequate residential substance/alcohol abuse and secured, residential mental health facilities in the South East Texas or nearby regions.

Data:

1.1 Mental Health Facilities:

In many cases, the root of the problem for a child who has been placed in juvenile detention for poor conduct, behavioral issues or substance abuse is that the child has a mental health related disorder/disease that is either untreated or undiagnosed. Juvenile detention centers, in general, are not equipped to help a child who is suffering from an untreated mental health problem. Secured, residential facilities available locally would provide two benefits: most importantly, the child would receive treatment to specifically address the problem; secondly, the responsibility would shift from the detention center, which cannot effectively impact the problem, to the mental health system which can. It is important to note that many youth have a dual diagnosis of mental health and substance abuse issues and there are currently no dual diagnosis facilities for juveniles. Currently, there is not a residential mental health facility, juvenile probation departments travel long distances to find bed availability and pay about \$162.50 per day for treatment. There is not a residential facility within the three counties of Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange.

Not only is there a shortage of mental health facilities in the region, the one facility in the area who accepts patients from the region's three counties is struggling to stay operational. With insurance changes, strict regulations and increased workloads, area facilities are financially unable to keep their doors open and provide the help that so many Southeast Texans residents desperately need. Due to their enormous workloads, these facilities are almost always working at maximum capacity and cannot always accept patients. When openings are available, restrictions are placed on who is accepted, especially when it comes to those threatening to harm themselves or others. Although, these precautions are completely necessary for the safety of the staff and other patients, when a mentally ill juvenile is suffering from a mental episode, there needs to be someplace, nearby, that can treat him/her, without restrictions, provide adequate services to help get the crisis resolved and the juvenile treated.

1.2 Substance Abuse Facilities:

There are limited resources regarding substance abuse for juveniles in the South East Texas region. There is a need for facilities that provide a combination of both outpatient and inpatient treatment, along with family counseling and education. With the shortage of facilities in this area, options are limited to what to do with a child needing treatment. In most situations, residential treatment facilities are voluntary and do not tolerate any misconduct. Detention centers will send juveniles to these facilities for treatment but the juvenile cannot be forced to stay against their will or they could be forced to leave due to behavioral issues. According to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department in FY 2011, 75% of all young people who entered the detention center had a need for treatment by a licensed or specially trained provider for alcohol or substance abuse or dependency. In FY 2012, that number had risen to 78%. (Texas Juvenile Justice Department)

1.3 Dual Diagnosis Facilities:

In these cases, treatment for the mental health disease is accompanied by treatment for substance and/or alcohol abuse. Local detention centers lack specialized professionals, trained staff, and resources to provide adequate treatment for these individuals. The Jefferson County Juvenile Detention Center is the only detention center who has a full-time Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) on staff. At this time, additional funding for counseling services in this area is greatly needed. With the national shortage of LPCs, counselors, psychiatrists, and specialists in the mental health field, the youth in need of treatment will suffer as their needs go unmet. According to the TJJD Annual Review of Treatment Effectiveness that was published December 2017, 99% of committed youth in Texas had a need for at least one area of specialized treatment and 87% had a need for two or more areas of specialized treatment.

1.4 Vocational Training and Trade Skills

In recent meetings with the local juvenile probation departments of Jefferson, Hardin, and Orange Counties there was a discussion regarding the desperate need and importance of residential facilities offering not only solutions to behavioral, mental, and substance/alcohol abuse problems but that also give the juveniles a chance to learn a vocation or trade skill. By giving the juvenile the chance to learn a new skill or a vocation that could not only redirect his/her negative behavior towards a more positive, productive skill, it could create opportunity for life long success that would otherwise have not been available, all while treating the behavioral, mental, and/or substance/alcohol abuse. Facilities like these are non-existent in South East Texas, however, there is one facility in Texas that offers these services. It was apparent, through meetings with the Chief Probation Officers from each county, that this facility would be very beneficial and a great opportunity for some of their kids, but due to the high expense of this type of treatment facility and the dwindling grant funds and budget cuts, many probation departments simply can't afford to give the child this type of treatment and success opportunity.

1.5 Economic Responsibility:

The financial burden to parents and facilities caring for a child with a mental disorder or disease and/or substance abuse is another concern. Even if a child has been properly diagnosed with a mental illness, continuous treatment and medication can create financial struggles for the family. Residential facilities can cost tens of thousands of dollars and continuous treatment after dismissal from the programs. In other circumstances, the child is not properly diagnosed with a mental health related issue because the parents, guardians or caretakers cannot afford to see a doctor or the specialist the child is referred to.

Possible Solutions:

The Spindletop Center has opened a 24/7 short-term respite/residential facility for youth aged 10-17 as a diversion from detention centers. Although this is great for the region, additional services and facilities are still needed. Below is a list of possible solutions aimed at solving or at least diminishing this hardship from the region:

- More facilities or the expansion of existing facilities that treat mentally ill and substance abuse patients
- Having a Licensed Professional Counselor either on staff or on call for all juvenile justice facilities
- To help with the shortage of counselors, the State of Texas should provide incentives (scholarships, grants, lower student loan rates) for potential students going into the psychology/psychiatric field
- More education for families that are dealing with a child who suffers from a mental health issue
- Educated professional staff at schools on how to handle mental health situations
- The integration of Evidence Based Practice programs treating mental illness and substance abuse in schools, detention centers, substance abuse and mental health facilities
- Facilities that offer more than just treatment but also offer trade and vocational skills.

#2 Problem Identified:

Affordable, specialized counseling for juveniles and their families.

Data:

2.1 Lack of Mental Health Providers:

Counseling services in the South East Texas region are insufficient to meet the need. There is a large gap in the number of psychiatrists, professional counselors, therapists and facilities available for the number of individuals that need some sort of treatment. There is a greater gap of professionals that are trained to treat juveniles.

In 2016 the rate of mental health providers per 100,000 population in the South East Texas region was 79.2 per 100,000. The State of Texas rate is 102.3 per 100,000. Broken down even farther in Jefferson County the rate is 97.5 per 100,000 and in Orange County the rate is 23.9 per 100,000 (Baptist Beaumont Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan June 2016). The number is even greater when referencing counseling services geared towards juveniles and their families. According to NAMI statistics, 70% of all youth in state and local juvenile justice systems have a mental illness. That is a 6% increase from FY 2016.

2.2 After Care for Juveniles and Families

Not only is the initial treatments for addressing mental health, behavioral, and substance/alcohol abuse a necessity for success so is ongoing aftercare treatment. This is not only essential for the juvenile but must be a priority for the family members. There have been countless youth who went through treatment, especially in residential setting that showed extensive progress and signs of reform, however, once back in their old environment resorted back to old behavioral patterns that got them in trouble in the first place. Continuous aftercare counseling allows juveniles to stay in touch with the tools and mechanisms they learned to deal with the situations they are faced with at home at the forefront.

Counseling and aftercare is important for the families of the juveniles also. Addressing family issues through counseling needs to occur simultaneously while the child is receiving treatment. Families who attend counseling sessions and learn for themselves tools and mechanisms to deal with situations that occur in their life are more likely to be successful. The ultimate goal for both juveniles and their families is to address and correct mental, behavioral, and substance/alcohol abuse problems all while teaching everyone involved coping mechanism and tools to live harmoniously together.

2.3 Economic Responsibility:

Financial difficulty is another reason that individuals seeking counseling for a mental health related issue go untreated. Fortunately, children who are covered by Medicaid and CHIP do have access to mental health services. However, those who struggle to pay their living expenses, but earn too much to get assistance from governmental programs find it difficult to get their child treatment.

The costs associated with seeing a specialist is often too high for families to seek treatment. Even if a family with a juvenile needing specialized treatment was receiving assistance from a governmental program, many face financial difficulties just making it to the appointment. Public transportation is very limited in the South East Texas region. If a family or juvenile seeking treatment does not have access to a vehicle or unable to afford the cost associated with a vehicle (gas, maintenance, repairs) they would be incapable of receiving the treatment they need.

With the number of mental health diagnoses on the rise, many juveniles who suffer from an undiagnosed mental health disease(s) continue to go untreated because of the lack of providers and cost. This leads to serious concerns for the child at risk. Children who suffer from undiagnosed mental health issues often have behavioral problems, are disruptive in class and at home, can self-medicate through substance abuse and the use of alcohol, and could possibly harm themselves or others.

Possible Solutions:

The Spindletop Center received grant funds to train behavioral healthcare professionals, paraprofessionals, peer specialists and volunteers, using Cognitive Adaptation Training (CAT), Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) facilitator and patient training, and Cognitive Enhancement Therapy (CET). Although this is great for the region, additional services and facilities are still needed. Below is a list of possible solutions aimed at solving or at least diminishing this hardship from the region:

- Funding for additional facilities or for the additional staffing of existing facilities for mental health illnesses.
- Funding for specialized services that include anger management classes, and programs offering treatment for; sexual abuse survivors, sex offenders, and those with substance abuse issues
- Funding that will financially assist parents with mental health related treatments and medication.
- Provide funding to detention centers to allow for the hiring of Licensed Professional Counselors

#3 Problem Identified:

Resources for youth with conduct or behavioral problems and their families. This problem includes three distinct but related issues:

Data:

3.1 Jefferson and Hardin counties have a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) campus. Orange County does not:

In the South East Texas region, resources for youth with conduct and behavioral problems are limited. In two of the three counties a JJAEP is available for students who continually misbehave in school or get charged with an expellable offense. With declining funding over the past years, it is becoming increasingly difficult to operate the JJAEP efficiently. Although many schools in the area reported “no change” or a “decrease” in the number of misdemeanors and/or felony offenses, it is still important for these facilities to remain operable and capable of handling students’ disciplinary and educational needs when a situation arises.

3.2 Truancy officers on all school campuses:

In a survey sent out to local school districts in the region, 25% indicated a need for a truancy officer or police officer on campus. School districts are continually working to decrease the number of truancy charges filed each year. With a truancy officer on campus, many of the schools that already have limited personnel could focus time on other pressing matters and needs that the school may have.

3.3 Lack of facilities for severe behavioral or conduct problems:

Facilities equipped to handle juveniles with severe conduct and behavioral problems are scarce in the state and nonexistent in the region. In some situations, a juvenile cannot be properly taken care of in the local detention centers because their behavior puts themselves, staff and others in danger. In these cases, the juvenile must be taken to a secure, residential facility that is suitable and best meets the needs of the juvenile.

2017 Statistics for Juvenile Probation Departments in Southeast Texas

Jefferson County		Hardin County		Orange County	
# of referral	508	# of referral	93	# of referral	62
# of youth on probation	238	# of youth on probation	44	# of youth on probation	35
# of youth in detention center	371	# of youth in detention	94	# of youth in detention center	47

Once a juvenile is in a facility that is able to treat his/her needs and complete the program, they come back to the same environment that got them in trouble to begin with. Aftercare is essential to maintaining the focus of these youth, not only with the juvenile themselves, but also with the family. Family involvement and education is extremely important in the success of the child. Without that support and an aftercare program, success will be unlikely.

Possible Solutions:

Below is a list of possible solutions aimed at solving or at least diminishing this hardship from the region:

- SETRPC is trying to dedicate Regional Juvenile Alternative funds to vocational residential housing
- Case Management and Aftercare for juveniles and families
- Alternatives for counties that do not meet the requirements for a JJAEP
- Funding to build and maintain a secure, residential facility for juveniles with extreme behavioral and conduct problems
- Funding for truancy officers on campuses

#4 Problem Identified:

Alcohol/substance abuse prevention programs, life skills classes and training for marketable job skills for juveniles currently in or at-risk of entering the juvenile justice system.

Data:

4.1 Alcohol/Substance Abuse Programs:

The region is in need of targeted programs and activities that focus on substance and alcohol abuse education and prevention for juveniles in the system and at-risk teens. In today’s world, children and young adults are exposed to alcohol and illegal substances regardless of parents, teachers or guardians attempts to protect them from it. It is important that the youth in the region are involved in prevention programs that teach the harmful and negative effects that come from abusing illegal substances or alcohol.

Over the past years, evidence-based programs have been replacing traditional substance abuse and alcohol awareness programs in schools, detention centers, at-risk teen programs and in patient/outpatient treatment facilities. These programs focus more on high-risk youth rather than youth as a whole. This prevents exposure to low-risk youth while allowing for a more targeted educational program for those who really need it. Though some education is appropriate for all youth, it is important that the focus be on those who are likely to or have already abused drugs and/or alcohol.

4.2 Life Skills & Job Training:

There is a lack of life skills classes and job training available in our area. The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission-Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Division until June 2018 managed the ARISE program in this area. This program provides evidence-based life management skills curriculums to at-risk youth with a delivery concept that was uniquely designed to be engaging for teens. Instructors are volunteers therefore; funds were only used for training and screenings.

The ARISE program had classes set up in three schools throughout the Jefferson, Hardin and Orange counties. During the 2016-2017 school year there are approximately 67 youth in the ARISE program and had a success rate of 70%. Due to the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey and reduced funding, SETRPC will no longer manage the program through the Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Division. This program is a needed asset to the region, to help ensure that at-risk youth still receive the benefits offered through this program, SETRPC has permanently loaned the ARISE material purchased to three schools with active ARISE classes and certified ARISE teachers.

ARISE Classes were held at the following locations during the 2017-2018 school year:

- Paul A. Brown
- Silsbee P.A.C.E.S.
- Port Arthur Alternative School

Possible Solutions:

ARISE classes will continue during the school year at those facilities with certified teachers. Although this is great for the region, additional services and facilities are still needed. Below is a list of possible solutions aimed at solving or at least diminishing this hardship from the region:

- Opportunities to provide vocational and trade skill education
- Case Management and Aftercare assistance through the Regional Juvenile Alternatives grant
- Establish facilities that provide after school activities for at-risk youth that have already entered the system
- Integrate more evidence-based programs into the schools, detention centers and substance abuse and alcohol facilities
- Fund ARISE programs in schools, detention centers, and centers where at-risk youth attend
- Educate family members on signs of substance and alcohol abuse
- Educate and create awareness of services available in the region
- Create programs at the local colleges and technical schools where high school students can attend classes before enrollment to peak interests and educate in certain fields

#5 Problem Identified:

Lack of transportation options for at-risk youth or juveniles already in the system.

Data:

Transportation is an issue for many organizations and agencies in the South East Texas region. The lack of public transportation in this area is a great concern for the residents. Although the City of Beaumont, City of Port Arthur and the City of Orange have a public transportation system, their routes are limited and the schedule does not always meet the needs of those using this system. There is not a public transportation system in Hardin County.

The Juvenile Justice Probation Department in Hardin County struggles with getting juveniles in the system to attend counseling and group therapy sessions because many cannot find a way to get there. In the rural sections of Hardin County, not only are residents that are seeking help miles from the services they need, they are also not financially capable of paying for the services or the associated costs of the service. A family with a child in the juvenile justice system living in Thicket (a rural area in Hardin County) could be forced to travel 20-30 miles one way for an appointment or court date. In many cases this is not possible for the family either due to lack of money for gas, their car is not in sufficient condition to make the trip, or they simply do not have a vehicle. To help alleviate the burden that these families face, the Hardin County juvenile justice system picks up many of the children for group sessions, counseling, school and other activities involving the JJAEP. Providing transportation comes at a high cost for personnel and resources. It costs the JJAEP \$75 a day to run their bus, and due to the vast size of the rural areas in Hardin County, it takes about three hours to pick up everyone that needs to be picked up. The traveling time of three hours would be even longer if it weren't for the help of two (2) local school districts that pick up several children and bring them to a central location.

This is not just a problem for smaller detention centers and the JJAEP. Since this area is lacking in facilities that treat substance and alcohol abuse problems or mental health illnesses, many juveniles are dependent of the center to transport them to specialized treatment facilities outside this area. This not only cost the detention centers and the JJAEP money for gas and maintenance on the vehicles but it also takes limited personnel out of the office

Transportation issues do not only affect those in the system. If buses in schools ran early morning and evening routes, many at-risk youth could get involved in after school activities. In many cases, the school bus system is the only way at-risk students get to and from school. If school buses could provide services earlier and later, more students could

participate in school activities like sports, choir, student council and clubs. This not only gets the student involved but keeps them in a positive, safe environment and off the streets.

In two of the counties, the Sheriff's departments help with transportation when possible. This is a great solution for a county that has the man power to lose an officer for a couple of hours or even a day for a long trip, but for the small jurisdictions that cannot afford the loss of personnel this becomes another burden on the Juvenile Probation Department. Utilizing the Sheriff's department for transportation for a smaller agency means calling for an off duty officer, this becomes very costly for the juvenile probation departments who must pay the off duty officer over time and the transportation cost.

Possible Solutions:

Below is a list of possible solutions aimed at solving or at least diminishing this hardship from the region:

- Funding for detention centers and JJAEP to sustain their transportation services
- Funding for detention centers and JJAEP to get additional vehicles
- Funding for schools to pay for bus services for early in the morning and evenings
- Set up a contracting service that will transport juveniles to facilities outside the area for treatment

Victim Services Priorities

Victim Services Vision: *Victims of crime have access to comprehensive services, including immediate and restorative services that are culturally competent and address their individual needs.*

Participants were also involved in the plan update offering review and comment on the priorities established in the meeting and Draft Plan. One hundred percent of the agencies that receive CJD funding, but also many agencies who do not but who provide services within the region participated. In fact, 25% of the total planning participants took part in the Victims' services focus group.

In 2014, the South East Texas region established a firm foundation for the Criminal Justice Strategic Plan upon which subsequent plan annual updates would build. During the three county planning meetings in 2014, a total of eleven (11) victims' services priorities emerged (Specific priorities by county can be found in Annexes starting on page 62.) It is important to note that sustainment of current services in the area of victims' services is paramount. Only by maintaining and building upon current services can the community truly minimize or eliminate the priority gaps identified in this plan. Specifically, the planning group stated the importance of maintaining: forensics interviews, counseling for child victims, shelter and support services for women and child victims; Options class, Batterer's Intervention; Jefferson County Domestic Violence Task Force, CASA program; transportation system; Victims' Compensation, preferences for housing for domestic violence victims; Victims' Assistance Center.

Comprehensive List of Victims' services Priorities as Established During County Meetings in 2014:

- One stop shop to access all services regardless of victimization or individual needs (housing/counseling/medical/shelter/etc.)
- Regional domestic violence task force
- Regional interagency coordination/victim education on resources to ensure proper utilization of resources that exist in region
- Transportation (for crime victims to obtain needed immediate and restorative services)
- Dedicated prosecutor for domestic violence crimes: increase prosecution and options to hold domestic violence perpetrators accountable
- Sufficient criminal remedy for non-payment of restitution to crime victims once perpetrator has completed sentence or community service
- Crime victims' compensation laws that address the particular needs of the victims such as the ability to purchase another vehicle when the victim's transportation is destroyed as a direct result of a Driving Under the Influence crime
- Court school for both child and adult victims in the region
- Court ordered parenting classes
- Sufficient non-sectarian parenting classes
- National sexual assault hotline during times of heightened crisis such as a disaster/evacuation/etc.

Victim services stakeholders and planning team members then determined, from the eleven (11) gaps identified, the five (5) they deemed to be most critical to the region. (Specific priorities by county can be found in Annexes starting on page 63). In this 2017 plan update, those priorities were reviewed and changed to reflect the current highest priority needs as outlined below:



5 Regional Victims’ services Priorities as Determined by Victims’ services Planning Group:

Priority #	Problem Description
#1	Regional interagency coordination and victim education to ensure victims’ utilization of resources existing within the community including direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other crimes.
#2	Regional domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault task force.
#3	Adequate direct services to and transportation for crime victims to obtain needed immediate and restorative services including victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other victims of crime.
#4	Dedicated Prosecutor for domestic violence and sexual assault crimes which would increase the domestic violence and sexual assault prosecution and victim awareness of available options.
#5	Specialized training on court preparation for professionals who will facilitate and support victims of crime—particularly child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and other victims of crime—through the criminal justice system.

#1 Problem Identified:

Lack of regional coordination and lack of victim educational material

Data:

1.1 Lack of Regional Coordination

During the course of County and Regional Strategic Planning meetings, direct victims’ services providers and social service agencies in the region discovered resources that not all knew were available to victims of crime—particularly domestic violence and child abuse victims. Examples include: free parenting classes provided

through existing social service agencies that have proven track records of participation, budgeting classes, asset building casework available through Catholic Charities, counseling, and other resources. The Regional Health and Human Services representative was also aware of many resources and was a great asset to the team. Many of social services agencies are aware of most services provided; however, there are existing resources in the region that, through a coordinated effort, could be more fully utilized.

1.2 Lack of Educational Material

Victim services planning participants felt that while crime victims are provided the state crime victim compensation pamphlet, a locally written culturally competent resource guide, created in conjunction with 2-2-1-1, educating victims of crime about local resources available to them such as parenting classes, counseling, affordable day care, housing, transportation and other restorative services would be beneficial. Participants stressed the intent not to duplicate the efforts of 211 but to work in collaboration with it - specifically where crime victims were concerned. The pamphlet would outline common services the crime victim would be in need of such as Victim Assistance Center phone numbers, and the services listed above.

Sustain:

The Victim Assistance Centers in Hardin and Jefferson County have established themselves as outstanding safe havens where crime victims can obtain assistance and information from compassionate and knowledgeable staff. These services must continue and, optimally, expand. Due to funding cuts in the last few years, the Hardin County Victim Assistance Center, in particular, has been cut from ten (10) employees to the current staff of three (3). More victims' advocates are needed to meet the demand in Hardin and Jefferson County.

Possible Solution:

- 1.1 Quarterly, bi-annual or annual regional victim services meetings where service providers could share information regarding available resources including those available through Health and Human Services.
- 1.2 Written material victims of crime could receive regarding available resources including culturally competent direct and restorative services created in conjunction with 2-1-1. The publication would consist of a directory for crime victims, to be distributed by judges, prosecutors, attorneys and social service agencies.

Crime Victims Served by Victims Assistance Centers

Victims Served by Hardin County Victims' Assistance Center

Year	Total Number	Domestic Violence	Assault/Family/Dating Violence
2017	401	198	
2016	289	193	239
2015	271	29	148
2013-2014	423	57	134
2012	414	66	155
2011	496	93	112
2010	375	64	81

Crime Victims Served by Jefferson County Victims' Assistance Center

Year	Total
2017	980
2016	1,166

2015	964
2014	1,046
2013	1,016
2012	1,043

Crime Victims Served by Orange County Victims' Assistance Coordinator

Total Victims Served: 500
 Protective Orders Issued: 26
 Protective Order Application Received: 91

#2 Problem Identified:

Lack of a regional domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and human trafficking task force.

Data:

Domestic Violence

*Statistical Data from the Family Services Women and Children's Shelter of South East Texas
by Year*

<i>DV Victims Served</i>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Hardin	73	28	39	30	35	17	32	28	22
Jefferson	523	628	597	458	461	464	388	345	429
Orange	80	75	90	47	34	41	43	39	66
	676	731	726	535	499	522	463	412	517

Other services provided by the Family Services Women and Children's Shelter of Southeast Texas:

Please note some victims receive more than one of the services below.

Type of Service	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Information and Referral	320	380	351	300	220	656	513	511	753
Individual Counseling (Restorative)	57	75	85	66	42	500	513	531	517
Crisis Counseling (immediate)	253	455	350	317	440	522	500	522	517

Sexual Assault

Sexual Victims Served by County by the Crisis Center of Southeast Texas, Inc

Year	Hardin	Jefferson	Orange
2017	11	342	112
2016	19	325	73
2015	34	252	93

2014	51	299	67
2013	9	251	59
2012	17	295	63
2011	23	420	102
2010	29	402	73
2009	42	328	84

There were also 116 victims served by the Crisis Center of Southeast Texas who live outside of Jefferson, Hardin and Orange Counties

Child Abuse Victims

Child Abuse Victims Served by the Garth House Children’s Advocacy Center

Forensic Interviews

Year	Hardin County	Jefferson County	Orange County
2017	54	232	87
2016	31	289	77
2015	34	246	79
2014	57	221	63
2013	36	191	55
2012	59	250	82
2011	46	207	96
2010	48	225	60

Counseling Services by Children Served

Year	Hardin County	Jefferson County	Orange County
2017	8	101	40
2016	15	112	65
2015	27	131	73
2014	28	99	57
2012	38	128	52
2011	51	153	44
2010	35	44	55

Garth House Counseling Sessions by County

County	2013	2014	2015***	2016	2017
Hardin	500	504	141	107	78
Jefferson	1300	1782	1089	792	883
Orange	250	1026	510		487

*** Garth House counseling sessions have gone down due to two new types of Evident Based Counseling: Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT) and Parent Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT). Both therapies are very focused on trauma that has occurred and reduces the number of sessions that the client needs to complete a successful counseling experience.

**Hardin County Victim Assistance Center (Hardin County)
And
Garth House Child Fatality Review Statistics**

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Hardin County	5	5	6	1	8	Not Available	1	0
Jefferson County	38	45	30	29	16	39	11 at the time of writing the plan	Not Available
Orange County	16	14	10	17	22	14	Not Available	Not available

*2016 Death Certificates are still coming in from the State to the Garth House.
2017 Death Certificates are not available at this time.*

Family Services of Southeast Texas started the Jefferson County Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF) in 2009 with VOCA-ARRA funding. The purpose of the task force was to foster collaboration between law enforcement, the district attorney, the courts, probation, Child Protective Services, hospital representatives, Victim Assistance Services, Family Services, and other victims’ services in order to support victims and hold batterers accountable.

The DVTF members conducted a survey of over 200 victims of domestic violence and analyzed the results with the assistance of Lamar University. The results were used to improve collaboration between members and to develop victim-informed resources to better assist them such as adding the “Options” class described in more detail below. The task force developed a protocol to foster collaboration between agencies, produced public service announcements encouraging victims to report, developed an “Options” class to inform victims of their rights and of community resources, sponsored a well-received criminal justice system response training provided by the nationally recognized Domestic Violence Intervention Project. A Batterer’s Intervention and Prevention Program was initiated for first-time domestic violence offenders. In addition, a Domestic Violence Task Force Committee visited El Paso to learn more about the district attorney’s innovations in improving prosecution of batterers. They also sponsored training by Texas Council on Family Violence.

Possible Solution:

The Regional Task Force would be open to expanding to include Hardin and Orange Counties and would also expand the types of victims served. The Regional Task Force would take a systems approach. The task force would be a regional resource that would promote best practices in the areas of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault. The Regional Task Force would promote options to hold the perpetrators of crime accountable whether the crime was domestic violence, sexual assault or child abuse. The goal would also be to help victims and, in the case of

domestic violence specifically, offer a pre-trial diversion program into a Batterers Invention Program for first-time domestic violence offenders. The Regional Task Force could pursue having parenting classes in the case of child abuse. This was also one of the gaps identified during the Strategic Planning process.

The task force would require at least one person to staffit and coordinate activities. Members of the task force would include judges, representatives from the DA's office, social service providers, victims' advocates, Child Protective Services, Children's Advocacy Centers, Victims Assistance Centers, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and others with a mission to support victims. The ultimate goal would be to look at how we can change the community to help victims; cut down on the rate of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault.

#3 Problem Identified:

A lack of adequate direct services to and reliable, affordable, on-demand transportation for crime victims in the South East Texas region to:

- 1) Access to needed services immediately after the victimization to substantiate the crime occurred and
- 2) Access restorative services.

A major gap in services currently exists due to a lack of adequate psychiatric and psychological service providers in the region. It is noteworthy that this gap was identified as a barrier in three (3) of the four (4) discipline areas of this plan: mental health, juvenile justice and victims' services. Currently there is only one psychiatrist in the area qualified to deliver psychiatric services, including dispensing medication, for child abuse victims whose medical insurance provider is Medicaid. Early intervention/delivery of restorative services is critical to victims of crime but the Southeast Texas region simply lacks the psychiatric/psychological resources to address the need.

The Family Services Women and Children's Shelter of South East Texas applied for and received Criminal Justice Funding for transitional housing needs in South East Texas. Through these funds,

The Family Services Women and Children's Shelter of South East Texas in 2016 lost their transitional housing program when HUD cut transitional housing funding in favor of permanent housing. At that time there were 14 transitional housing programs in Texas, today there are only two, located in Galveston and Houston, Texas. During the 14 years that the Family Services Women and Children's Shelter of South East Texas transitional housing program was in operations, the 17 apartments at the facility housed victims coming directly out of the emergency domestic violence shelter which only houses victims for about 30 days. The transitional housing program housed victims on average about eighteen months to two years. Currently, of the 17 units, eight are used as shelters and nine are used for transitional housing. When previously operational, typically, this project had 14,000 bed days per year. The loss of this program had devastating effects on this region. Family Services Women and Children's Shelter of South East Texas applied for and received from the Criminal Justice Division funding in 2017 to restore these services to the region. Due to Harvey, the shelter wasn't able to house a family until November 2017. Since then they have been able to house 21 children (a person under the age of 18) and 17 adults. Re-opening the transitional housing program and sustaining the housing services that are being provided to women and children recovering from domestic violence abuse is essential to provided restorative services to victims.

The South East Texas region covers an area consisting of 2,196 square miles. Beaumont, in Jefferson County, is the hub where most services a crime victim would need can be obtained. Those victims living outside of Beaumont have few choices when transportation is needed. Because transportation is typically driven by population, counties like Hardin and Orange have fewer resources available to them. Hardin County has 898 square miles, equaling 60 people

per square mile and is considered rural. Orange County has 333 square miles and a population density of 245.3 people per square mile. Both Hardin and Orange Counties have very limited access to public transportation.

Data:

Victims of crime oftentimes must access numerous services in order for the perpetrator to be prosecuted and/or for the victim’s physical, emotional, spiritual health to be restored.

Regarding access to direct services: As stated above, if the needed direct services includes psychiatric services and victim only has Medicaid, there is only one Medicaid qualified psychiatrist in the region.

Regarding transportation: In areas such as Hardin and Orange Counties that have limited services available in the county, this often requires travel to Beaumont (Jefferson County) which can mean, in the case of Hardin County, a 114 miles round trip each time a service is accessed and in Orange County, a round trip of 54 miles round-trip. At the writing of this plan, gasoline is \$2.70 per gallon on average in Texas and the average vehicle travels 24.7 miles on one gallon of fuel. For Hardin County crime victims traveling to Beaumont for services from the furthest northeast end of the county, that is a cost of \$12.46 per trip! For Orange County residents, this could mean \$5.90 for each trip to Beaumont required. For victims with no transportation, unreliable transportation or a lack of funds for gas, this means their only hope to obtain the services is for law enforcement or the Victims Assistance Center to transport them.

For example, a child sexual assault victim from Orange or Hardin County would be required to travel to Beaumont to obtain a sexual assault exam. If he or she were from Hardin or Jefferson County, he or she would also likely be required to return to Beaumont at a later date for the forensic interview at the Garth House Children’s Advocacy Center. The Garth House provides forensic interviews in Beaumont (Jefferson County) and City of Orange (Orange County). The Garth House also provides counseling services for child sexual abuse victims in Hardin and Orange Counties, but with a county the size of Hardin, this could still necessitate a 60-mile round trip just to get to the courthouse or counseling center. With gas currently averaging \$2.70 a gallon in Texas and average car consuming 24.7 mpg of fuel, this would result in a grand total transportation cost of \$26.23 for a forensic exam, forensic interview and two counseling trips.

This scenario is true for victims of other crimes including: domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse. To bridge the gap, law enforcement, Victims’ Assistance Centers (VAC) and social service organizations are called upon to assist with transporting victims; however, when this occurs, staff is removed from specialized functions which are a more beneficial use of their time. Also, when law enforcement and VAC staff are attending to other duties which they cannot leave, crime victims have had to wait to access services. In Hardin County, the VAC staff has seen a reduction in force from ten (10) employees 15 years ago to three (3) at the present time. In Orange County, there is no VAC staff. In Jefferson County, the District Attorney’s Office and VAC assists with transportation to court proceedings but not to counseling sessions. While Beaumont does have public transportation, many of the people most in need of the services cannot afford the bus fare.

Transportation Services Provided by the Family Services Women and Children’s Shelter of Southeast Texas in 2017

Transportation	Family Services Women and Children Shelter of Southeast Texas provided transportation services 385 times in 2017.
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In the case of Driving Under the Influence victims whose transportation has been totaled or seriously disabled, crime victims' compensation will pay for lost wages but will not pay to replace the lost vehicle. If a victim of this crime could replace their transportation and maintain their job, they may not have to file for lost wages in the first place.

Orange County and Hardin County have limited public transportation options available through the South East Texas Transit. However, most residents are not aware of this service and, in the case of Lumberton residents, due to the city's urban classification; most people pay \$14.50 to travel to Beaumont.

Sustains:

- The incredible work of the Victim Assistance Centers, District Attorney's Offices and Law Enforcement Agencies who stand in the gap for crime victims and transport them to services even when they, themselves, are stretched beyond their limits in both personnel and funding.
- Find funding sources to keep the Family Services Women and Children's Shelter of South East Texas transitional housing program in operations.
- Sustain the South East Texas Transit—while limited, it is the only public transportation resource available in Orange and Hardin Counties.

Possible Solutions:

- Telemedicine for psychiatric services. By accessing psychiatric/psychological resources that exist outside the region, victims could receive the services they need and overcome the current in-region service provider limitations. While this is not optimal, it is being utilized in other ways with success such as youth placed in Residential Treatment Centers being able to participate in court hearings that involve them via iPads.
- More funding to provide transportation for victims' services to obtain services.
- More staff for the Victims Assistance Center to transport victims;
- Seek funding from the Office of the Governor – Criminal Justice Division Transitional Housing Grant that opens in 2017.
- Promote the South East Texas Transit so victims are aware of this service
- Cultivate partnership between service providers and the South East Texas Transit to get the word out about the services;
- Repurpose an old patrol car and acquire funding to cover mileage for staff to transport.
- Nutrition and Services for Seniors (NSS), the non-profit organization that operates South East Texas Transit, could apply for funding to expand transportation for Orange and Hardin County victims. Note—the meeting between NSS Executive Director and service providers has already begun. NSS was unaware of the need but is very interested in the possibility of helping.
- If Lumberton residents (\$14.50) can get into a service area such as Kountze or Silsbee, then they can get South East Texas Transit without the \$14.50 fee.
- Change crime victims' guidelines to allow victims to purchase another vehicle when theirs is destroyed/disabled during the commission of a crime.

#4 Problem Identified:

Dedicated Prosecutor for domestic violence crimes which would increase prosecution and victim awareness of available options.

Data:

Few crimes have a more complicated dynamic than family/domestic violence. While men are the victims in some domestic violence cases, 85% of victims are female. A prosecutor dedicated solely to domestic violence crimes would,

naturally, increase the number of cases that could/would be prosecuted because of the singular focus and mission. However, because this specialized prosecutor would have presumably received more training in and an increased understanding of domestic violence cases, he or she could also work more closely to enlist and maintain the cooperation of the victim. Currently, in many situations, victims feel as though they have one of two options: prosecute the crime or drop the charges. In fact, there are many other options available to domestic violence victims but due to the large caseloads in the courts, there is no one to explain this to them. Victims do not realize that there are other options whereby the batterer can be held accountable and can be influenced to acknowledge and change the abusive behavior. With a dedicated prosecutor, when a victim request that charges be dropped, the prosecutor could work to create an action plan for or educate the victim regarding the options open to them that would still hold the batterer accountable.

Holding the batterer accountable while supporting the victims not only benefits the primary crime victim, but the secondary victims, who are often *children*. Supporting the child victims of domestic violence is crucial if we hope to ever address the generational nature of domestic violence.

- Witnessing violence between one’s parents or caregivers is the strongest risk factor for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence)
- Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their partners and children when they become an adult (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence).
- Children suffer in a home where domestic violence lives—not only do they witness violence toward a parent they love, but in 30-60% of the cases, they are abused also (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence).
- A history of child abuse increases a person’s likelihood of being arrested by 53% (Penn State University).
- Violent juvenile delinquents are **four times more likely** than other youths to come from homes in which their fathers batter their mothers (Women’s’ Action Coalition).
- Children who experience violence at home often turn this violence out on the community. A high percentage of juvenile delinquents are battered children (Breaking the Cycle, 2002).
- **80% of men** in prisons grew up in violent homes (Breaking the Cycle, 2002)
- **Prosecution and/or options that hold the perpetrator accountable benefit us all.**

Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office Domestic Violence Data:

<i>Year</i>	<i># Victims</i>	<i># Referred Prosecution</i>	<i># Felony Filed</i>	<i># Felony Convictions</i>
2017	832	329	265	90
2016	381	381	126	65
2015	411	411	120	49
2014	459	459	78	52
2013	620	620	134	53
2012	634	634	142	54
2011	662	662	101	61
2010	1008	1008	99	48
2009	1083	1083	81	45

Possible Solutions:

Obtain funding to secure a prosecutor dedicated to domestic violence cases.

Benefits:

- Increased prosecution
- Victim offered options other than solely prosecute/drop charges

Positive impact on secondary child victims

Update:

The Hardin County District Attorney's Office (HCDAO) received a Violence Against Women Act grant that has closed this gap considerably. A full time dedicated prosecutor now handles domestic violence and sexual assault cases in Hardin County. Results:

Year	Total Cases Referred In	Transferred Cases	Rejected Cases	Convicted	Dismissed at Victims Request	Dismissed for Other Reasons
2017	605	20	4	260	13	320
2016	654	11	13	360	29	270
2015	524	33	3	279	40	372
2014	856	30	2	311	55	391
2013	871	27	2	257	25	457

HCDAO hired an attorney whose sole job is to handle cases in which a female is the victim. This allows these cases to receive special attention and not get lost in the shuffle of over a 1,000 cases in a small prosecutor's office. The attorney is also readily available to meet with victims to guide them through the process and answer any questions that they may have. Sometimes they have victims who come in and no longer wish to pursue charges. Because of this, HCDAO started to implement a system that would require offenders to complete a program, such as anger management or a batterer's intervention program, before any charges are dismissed. When meeting with the victims, HCDAO is able to direct them to service providers or agencies that can help them with other services that may be helpful to their particular life situation. Given the individual attention these cases are now receiving, HCDAO is hoping to decrease the number of cases that victims want to dismiss as well as expedite the time it takes to prosecute these cases.

#5 Problem Identified:

Specialized training on court preparation for professionals who will facilitate and support victims of crime—particularly child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and other victims of crime—through the criminal justice system.

Data

According to the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, information for professionals that can help navigate the crime victim--whether that victim is a child or an adult--is a large gap.

The District Attorney often depends upon the professional to be the advocate for the crime victim--explaining the criminal justice system, how it works, what to expect, keeping the victim apprised of hearings, etc. By providing the professionals with training, the victims then have access to more information that will increase their comfort with and confidence in the criminal justice system thus enhancing their participation in the process.

Possible Solution:

Funding to provide court education for professionals who can navigate adult and child victims through the criminal justice system.



Mental Health & Substance Abuse Priorities

The South East Texas region, like many regions across the nation, is struggling with the increased demand for mental health providers, treatment programs, facilities and extended care options. The ever-growing need for mental health services and diminishing funds has created a massive burden for this region. This issue is not exclusive to those in the mental health profession; this problem is far reaching and involves law enforcement agencies, schools, the juvenile justice system, victim assistance centers and many more. The chart below indicates the number of clients in South East Texas served by the Spindletop Center in 2017 for a mental illness.

Jefferson County		Orange County		Hardin County	
Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children
4010	1269	1218	274	603	130

(This graph indicates clients served only by the Spindletop Center in 2017)

The number of children that are served by Spindletop for mental health related issues have increased substantially in each of the three counties.

Many additional services are rendered by other mental health providers in the region and these numbers only account for those with the most serious mental illnesses who qualify for Spindletop services. Actual number of clients seen in this area would be vastly higher.

Substance and alcohol abuse are also major concerns in the South East Texas area. Law enforcement agencies, hospitals, schools, juvenile justice systems, treatment facilities, counseling services and families struggle with understanding, coping and saving those who abuse or are dependent on drugs and alcohol. The chart below indicates the number clients served by county for the Department of State Health Services Region V in 2017 suffering from substance abuse.

Jefferson County	Orange County	Hardin County
636	238	97

Mental health and substance abuse planning meetings were held in each county. A total of ten (10) individuals helped with prioritizing the needs of this region. During the initial process of creating the Criminal Justice Plan in 2014, a total of 11 mental health/substance abuse gaps were discussed for this region. A comprehensive list of all 11 priorities follows:

Comprehensive List of Mental Health/Substance Abuse Priorities As Established During County Meetings

- Mental health education
- Transportation to get to needed services and appointments
- Community leaders and community involvement
- Inpatient substance abuse treatment centers
- Long term treatment housing and transitional housing
- Youth prevention services
- Mental health deputies

- Funding for client medication
- Remedies to address prescription drugs abuse
- Health training for substance abuse and mental health related diseases/disorders
- Expansion of adolescent substance abuse treatments

Mental health and substance abuse stakeholders and the planning team then determined, from the 11 gaps identified, the five deemed to be most critical to the region. (Specific priorities by county can be found in Annexes starting on page 62). These regional priorities were reviewed and updated by the team in 2017.

Priority #	Problem Description
#1	Lack of inpatient and outpatient facilities and education in the South East Texas region for mental illness and substance abuse
#2	Lack of mental health providers and specialists in the South East Texas area (psychologist, psychiatrist, psycho therapists, clinical social workers, psychological nurse practitioner)
#3	Mental health and substance abuse awareness, early detection, referral and education programs, classes and services for adults and youth that proactively addresses mental health, substance and alcohol abuse treatment needs
#4	Lack of transitional or sober living housing in the South East Texas area for all individuals; adults and youth, male and female
#5	Lack of transportation options available for those who need substance/alcohol abuse and mental health services

#1 Problem Identified:

Lack of inpatient and outpatient facilities and education in the South East Texas region for mental illness and substance abuse.

Data:

1.1 Inpatient Facilities:

There are two inpatient mental health facilities in the South East Texas area. Baptist Behavioral Health has 70 beds (including a geriatric unit); and the Medical Center of South East Texas has 20. There are times when both facilities cannot accept any more patients and facilities are in “diversion,” meaning that if there is a mental health related call that comes into Jefferson, Hardin or Orange County there will not be a facility available to bring the individual that is seeking treatment. According to Baptist Behavioral Health, “diversion” for the Adult and Acute facilities is rare not but has been an issue in the past. When beds are full, a patient must be transported to a facility that has an opening. The closest inpatient facility is Rusk State Hospital which is over 2 ½ hours away from Beaumont, Texas. Adding this stress to an individual already in a crisis situation can have potentially harmful outcomes, not only to the patient but to the caregivers.

1.2 Outpatient Facilities:

As of 2011, a total number of 6,179 mental health outpatient facilities were reported in the United States. Therefore, there were 1.95 such facilities per 100,000 Americans (statista.com). In the South East Texas region; there are seven outpatient facilities for 393,360 residents.

Substance abuse outpatient facilities are lacking also. In 2017, the Spindletop Center treated the following number of clients for substance abuse:

Jefferson County	Orange County	Hardin County
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625	146	39
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(Please note that this graph only indicates outpatient only clients)

In some cases, when a crisis situation is occurring, getting to an inpatient or outpatient facility is not possible. During incidents like these many utilize the emergent and urgent crisis hotline. This 24/7 operation is available to anyone suffering from a mental breakdown or episode. Technicians provide care and services over the phone to help defuse the situation and calm the caller. In 2017, the Spindletop Center serviced the following number of individuals via the emergent and urgent crisis hotline:

Jefferson County	Orange County	Hardin County
456	118	118

1.3 Economic Burden:

Inpatient and outpatient facilities are very expensive. Many of those who suffer from a substance abuse problem or a mental illness do not have adequate means of obtaining funding to pay for these services. In past years, the State of Texas has continually decreased the amount of money being spent on mental health related issues. With more and more Texans being diagnosed with a mental illness and less funds to treat them, many go untreated. Nearly 60% of adults with mental illness didn't receive mental health services in the previous year (NAMI.org). Many if not the majority simply cannot afford the treatments.

Below is the financial breakdown that the Spindletop Center used in the treatment of their clients for 2017:

Jefferson		Orange		Hardin	
Local Psychiatric Inpatient		Local Psychiatric Inpatient		Local Psychiatric Inpatient	
Admission Days	Value of Bed Days	Admission Days	Value of Bed Days	Admission Days	Value of Bed Days
610	\$378,200	193	\$119,660	118	\$73,160
Medical Center of Southeast Texas		Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties			
Admission Days		Value of Bed Days			
2,742		\$1,700,040			
Jefferson		Orange		Hardin	
State Hospital (outside of four catchments areas/no-local):		State Hospital (outside of four catchments areas/no-local):		State Hospital (outside of four catchments areas/no-local):	
Admission Days	Value of Bed Days	Admission Days	Value of Bed Days	Admission Days	Value of Bed Days
2,144	\$1,329,280	697	\$432,140	377	\$233,740

The chart below indicates the value of psychiatric medication dispensed in each of the region's counties for 2017:

Jefferson County	Orange County	Hardin County
\$2,274,096	\$649,742	\$324,871

Possible Solutions:

The Spindletop Center is receiving grant funds for projects to address this need. Baptist Hospital and the Spindletop Center are working together to equip a 10-bed unit within the Baptist Behavioral Health for the express purpose of providing medical detox services for residents of South East Texas. Spindletop is also expanding its outpatient substance abuse treatment services to indigent clients. Below is a list of additional services needed in this area:

- The availability of 200 beds for mental health and behavioral disorder patients

- Specialization within facilities to specifically treat children and young adults
- Funding from the state to help pay for mental health treatment
- Funding from the state to help pay for substance abuse treatment
- Build long-term treatment facilities in South East Texas

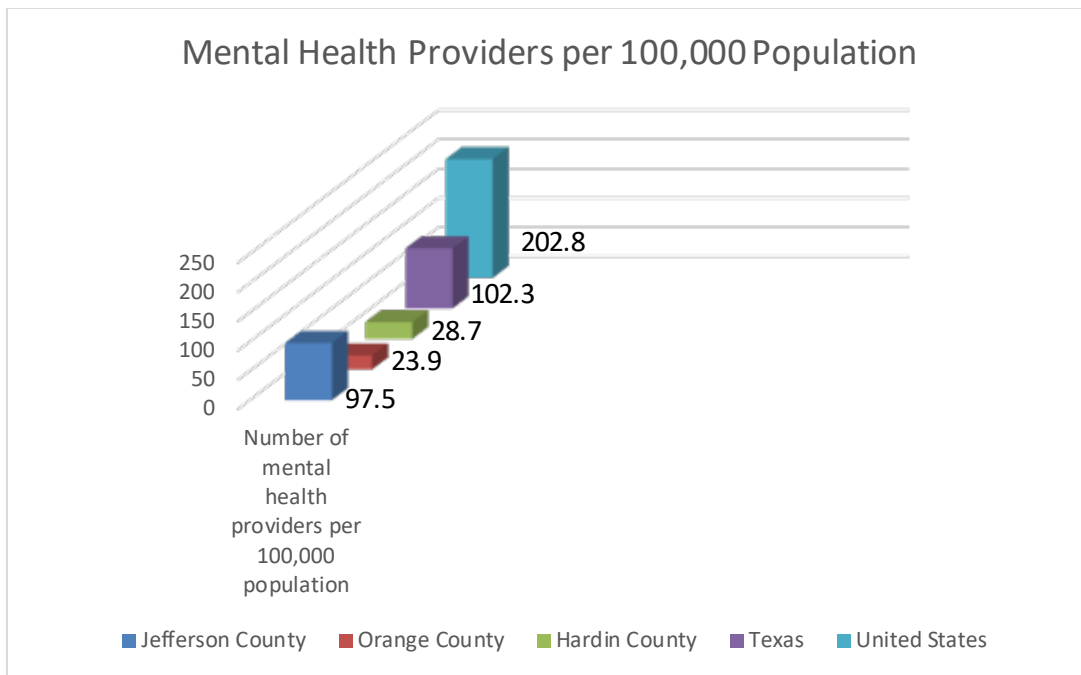
#2 Problem Identified:

Lack of mental health providers and specialists in the South East Texas area (psychologist, psychiatrist, psychotherapists, clinical social workers, psychological nurse practitioner)

Data:

This area is lacking mental health providers and mental health specialists. It is reported that one in every five adults will suffer from a mental illness within a year, that is 43.8 million people or 18.5% of the U.S. population (NAMI.org). With a major rise in the diagnoses of mental health illness and behavioral health disorders, there are not enough providers and specialists in the area to meet the demand. This is not just a problem within South East Texas, the State of Texas and the nation is suffering from the lack of providers and there seems to be no immediate solution to the problem.

While the national number of mental health providers is 202.8 per 100,000 populations, Texas has only half this number of providers 102.3 per 100,000, and the number of mental health providers in Southeast Texas is even less. (Christus Dubuis, Community Health Needs Assessment 2017-2019).



Due to the lack of mental health providers, individuals from different fields are left to compensate for the void. Law enforcement officers and teachers are probably the two professions, outside of the mental health field, that encounter a mentally ill person most often.

Law enforcement officers in South East Texas have expressed major concern over the time and resources spent on servicing a call that comes in dealing with a mentally ill individual. These situations are often hostile and put everyone in the surrounding area in danger. Training is required by the State of Texas for every law enforcement

officer on how to handle these types of incidents; however, it does not always prevent injuries and/or sometimes death from those involved or nearby.

Teachers and those in education are also involuntarily involved with children and young adults suffering from a mental illness. In many cases, teachers are the first to witness the signs of a mental disease or disorder. However, teachers are not required by the State of Texas to continually receive training on mental health related issues. When a student starts experiencing signs, too many times, the teacher brushes it off as a conduct or behavioral problem and not as a symptom of a mental illness. This could prolong the diagnosis and suffering for the child. Of schools in the South East Texas region that completed the survey sent out by Region V, 100% indicated there was a need for personnel in education to receive training on recognizing warning signs of mental health disease(s).

Education on this issue, as a whole, is needed in South East Texas. The community needs to be made aware that more individuals are in need of mental health treatment and there is a lack of providers to help them.

Possible Solutions:

The Spindletop Center received grant funding to train behavioral healthcare professionals, paraprofessionals, peer specialists & volunteers, using Cognitive Adaptation Training (CAT), Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) facilitator & patient training, and Cognitive Enhancement Therapy (CET). Spindletop is also opening a psychiatric specialty clinic for people with other behavioral health diagnoses not covered as part of the “target population” currently served. Although this is great for the region, additional services and facilities are still needed. Below is a list of possible solutions aimed at solving or at least diminishing this hardship from the region:

- Training for educators and teachers on signs of mental illnesses and way to cope with a child who is suffering from one
- Incentives to attract health care providers into the area
- School scholarships or education grants from the state that encourage those to pursue higher education in the mental health field
- Continuous training for law enforcement in mental health
- Classes, group sessions, counseling services for families, friends, and loved ones who care for someone suffering from a mental health disease
- Classes and group sessions for those who suffer from a mental health disease(s)

#3 Problem Identified:

Mental health and substance abuse awareness, early detection, referral and education programs, classes and services for adults and youth that proactively addresses mental health, substance and alcohol abuse treatment needs

Data:

Recent research has shown that educational programs taught in school are not always helpful and in fact expose low risk adolescents to drugs and alcohol while trying to educate moderate to higher risk youth. Over the last couple of years there has been a shift toward evidence-based programs. Substance abuse facilities in the region have already started using programs for high- to moderate-risk children and teens using these evidence-based programs with astonishing results. One facility in the area had two programs, Positive Action and Rainbow Days. Rainbow Days had two sections—Kids Connection and Youth Connection. Positive Action, which focused on high-risk teens that had probably already used or who were likely exposed to substance and alcohol abuse, had about 180 youth from Jefferson, Hardin and Orange Counties participate. The Kids Connection and Youth Connection programs that were geared toward younger, moderate- to high-risk juveniles helped about 750 children from the three counties. The success rate for Rainbow Days almost always maintained a 100% success rate while Positive Action mostly maintained a 100% success rate; the rate would fluctuate when administered to the alternative campuses. The lowest

success rate was about 85%. Success rates were determined by whether the individual scored the same or higher on the exit test as he/she did on the same test that was given on the first day of the program, and if he/she attended at least eight (8) of the ten (10) classes. After 11 years of successfully servicing almost 1,000 adolescents with an evidence-based program with a near 100% success rate, funding for the program was cut in August 2013. A grant was submitted for \$800,000 by the Spindletop Center to try and bring this program back to South East Texas and in 2015 the Rainbow Days program was re-established. Unfortunately, once again, there are no longer funds to support this program.

As of 2015 -2016, the chart below indicates the number of youth served by Rainbow Days and the success rate of the program:

Jefferson County		Orange County		Hardin County	
No. Served	Success Rate	No. Served	Success Rate	No. Served	Success Rate
266	97%	404	97.5%	292	96%

Over the past several years, the shift to evidence-based programs has and will continue to be a priority for substance abuse facilities, juvenile detention centers, and schools. With this movement, resources, which are already limited, are targeted to those who need the education and awareness of the harmful effects of abusing drugs and alcohol while limiting the exposure to those deemed to be low-risk.

Evidence-based programs can also be applied to mental health related issues. These programs are specifically geared to help with certain disorders and diseases. It also teaches families and loved ones how to cope with a family member who is suffering from a mental illness.

Possible Solutions:

Below is a list of possible solutions aimed at solving or at least diminishing this hardship from the region:

- Secure funding resources for Rainbow Days program or similar programs for the region.
- Secure funding and personnel resources for the ARISE program: ARISE is an evidence-based curriculum for youth; 260 curriculums for ages 12-17, that keeps life skills training evolving as youth matures
- Substance abuse counselors are needed in schools
- Adolescent intervention and prevention programs in schools and the community
- Random drug testing in schools
- Substance abuse treatment facilities for youth
- After school programs that provide a safe, healthy environment for the youth crummy

#4 Problem Identified:

Lack of transitional or sober living housing in the South East Texas area for all individuals; adults and youth, male and female

Data:

4.1 **Lack of Facilities:**

There are only four sober living housing facilities in the South East Texas region: The Melton Family Center, which only accepts males coming out of the criminal justice system; the Franklin House-North, which only accepts women with children; the Franklin House-South and Unity are both open to the public.

Due to the lack of sober/transitional living facilities in the area, more peer support groups, recovery coaches, and specialist are needed to assist and serve those with substance/alcohol abuse issues.

4.2 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Issues:

In many cases, those struggling with substance abuse are also suffering from a mental health disease and are using drugs and/or alcohol to self-medicate. Among 20.2 million adults in the U.S. who experience a substance abuse disorder, 50.5% -10.2 million adults had a co-occurring mental illness (NAMI.org). Not only do these individuals need services to help stay sober, they will also need assistance in treating the mental health disease(s). More than 50% of those living with a dual diagnosis did not receive any medical treatment or psychotherapeutic intervention to help them progress in their recovery (dualdiagnosis.org). Too often, those living with a dual diagnosis receive treatment for only one of their ailments. It is estimated that of the adults living with co-occurring disorders, 34% receive mental health treatment, 2% enroll in drug rehab, and 12% get the help they need for both disorders (dualdiagnosis.org)

For those who abuse drugs and alcohol due to a mental illness, new issues arise with keeping them sober. Most mental illnesses are treated by prescription drugs. It is important that these housing facilities educate those who suffer from a mental health disease(s) on the importance of staying on and properly taking their medication. Taking more than the recommended dosage or simply not taking medication can harm the individuals' chances of staying sober and potentially result in the individual becoming a danger to themselves and others.

4.3 Economic Burden:

Another obstacle that many of these individuals face when dealing with a mental health and/or substance abuse problem is the financial burden. Most in this situation cannot maintain a steady job, either due to the mental illness, substance abuse, or from lack of job skills. Thirty-seven percent of students with a mental health condition 14 and older drop out of school (NAMI.org). Many rely heavily on governmental programs to help pay for necessary specialized residential treatment facilities and other living expenses. Due to the high cost of these facilities and programs, many cannot afford to stay and continue the treatment that is desperately needed.

Possible Solutions:

The Spindletop Center, located in Beaumont, Texas received grant funding to refurbish property they already owned to create five new apartments in Beaumont and 12 new studio apartments in Orange for their behavioral health clients at risk of being homeless. Although this is great for the region, additional services and facilities are still needed. Below is a list of possible solutions aimed at solving or at least diminishing this hardship from the region:

- Peer Support Specialist/Recovery Coaches
- Chemical Dependency classes
- Build a multipurpose building that has a detox facility, residential treatment, outpatient treatment, GED services, life skills services, trade programs, mental health & substance abuse counseling services, and educational classes for families
- Build long-term facilities for mentally ill clients
- Housing Authority issue vouchers for long term sober living or transitional housing facilities
- Create programs within facilities to provide job skills, money management, and life skill training to clients or patients

#5 Problem Identified:

Lack of transportation options available for those who need substance/alcohol abuse and mental health services.

Data:

Transportation is an issue across the board in South East Texas. Most of the cities within the three counties do not have a public bus system. Those that do offer limited routes and although the fares are relatively inexpensive, it is still a financial burden to most in need of the services.

In many situations, those who suffer from mental health disease(s) or substance/alcohol abuse do not get the help and services they desperately need because of lack of transportation. Medical appointments, court dates, therapy sessions, etc. are often missed because the individual simply cannot find a way to get there. These circumstances not only keep the individual wanting treatment from doing so, but also restricts the family members and loved ones seeking treatment to better care for the individual diagnosed with a mental illness or suffering from an addiction. Due to the lack of inpatient facilities in the area, many who need long-term treatment must travel great distances.

Possible Solutions:

Below is a list of possible solutions aimed at solving or at least diminishing this hardship from the region:

- Give clients of mental health and substance abuse facilities bus passes that bring them to and from appointments, meetings, counseling sessions
- Facilities obtain vans to provide transportation for their clients
- Create a volunteer program within organization that help with the pick-up and drop-off of clients

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Included below are resources identified by the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission Planning Team that are available to provide services that could potentially help in closing criminal justice gaps.

Juvenile Justice:

The following services are provided for juveniles in South East Texas:

- Community Mental Health Agencies
- Adolescent/Youth Counseling
- Anger Management
- Conflict Resolution Training
- Juvenile Delinquency Diversion Counseling
- Student Counseling Services
- Bereavement Counseling
- Children's/Adolescent's Residential Treatment Facilities

Below is a list of agencies in South East Texas:

Name of Agency - Agency Type: Description

Spindletop Center - Non-Profit: Serves as the mental health and mental retardation (MHMR) authority for South East Texas

Lamar University, Psychology Department - University: Provides general counseling services for children, adolescents, adults and families

Family Services of Southeast Texas, Inc. - Business: Provides families and individuals with professional counseling and education for marital difficulties, divorce, parent-child conflict, family violence, child abuse and neglect, step-family issues, depression, anxiety, aging, stress, emotional problems, substance abuse and other issues affecting family life

Family Services of Southeast Texas, Inc., Showing Teens Effective Anger Management - Business: 10-week program (STEAM) teaches children between the ages of 13-16 years old anger management skills and alternative methods of coping

SETX Christian Counseling Center, LLC - Business: Provides counseling services to include family and marriage, parenting, depression, and guidance for both youths and adults in South East Texas

Buckner Children and Family Services, Inc. - Non-Profit: Provides an array of residential programs for at-risk children and community-based services to youth and families in South East Texas

Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeast Texas - Non-Profit: Provides individual, couple, grief, family and adolescent counseling and play therapy

Inspire Encourage Achieve, Ben's Kids - Non-Profit: Provides educational and rehabilitation services in the Jefferson County juvenile detention center and an outreach program to juveniles on probation or recently released from probation

Communities in Schools of Southeast Texas, Inc. – Non-Profit: Public/private partnership, working on selected Beaumont ISD and Port Arthur ISD school campuses to provide holistic services to at risk youth to help them achieve academic success

Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas, Elijah’s Place - Non-Profit: Provides ongoing grief support services to children age 5-18 who have experienced the death of a sibling or parent or who have been affected by divorce and separation

Girls’ Haven, Children’s Adolescent Residential Facility – Non-Profit: Provides a safe environment for girls affected by physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect, abandonment, exploitation or severe family dysfunction

Boys’ Haven of America, Inc., Residential Treatment for Boys – Non-Profit: Operates a 24-hour residential facility for boys between ages 5-17 years

Law Enforcement:

Below is a list of law enforcement agencies in South East Texas:

Beaumont Police Department – Jefferson County

Beaumont ISD Police Department – Jefferson County

Bridge City Police Department – Orange County

Groves Police Department – Jefferson County

Hardin County Sheriff’s Office – Hardin County

Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office – Jefferson County

Kountze Police Department – Hardin County

Lamar University Police Department – Jefferson County

Lumberton Police Department – Hardin County

Nederland Police Department – Jefferson County

Orange Police Department – Orange County

Orange County Sheriff’s Office – Orange County

Pinehurst Police Department – Orange County

Port Arthur Police Department – Jefferson County

Port Neches Police Department – Jefferson County

Silsbee Police Department – Hardin County

Sour Lake Police Department – Hardin County

Vidor Police Department – Orange County

West Orange Police Department – Orange County

Sabine Neches Chiefs Association – Hardin, Jefferson and Orange County Mutual Aid Association

Victims’ Services:

The following victim assistance programs are provided in South East Texas:

Domestic Violence Shelters

- Spouse/Intimate Partner Abuse Counseling
- Crime Victim Accompaniment Services
- General Crime Victim Assistance
- Domestic Violence Hotlines
- Dating Violence Prevention

- Domestic/Family Violence Legal Services
- Protective/Restraining Orders
- Women’s Advocacy Groups
- Domestic Violence Intervention Programs
- Specialized Information and Referral
- Spouse/Intimate Partner Abuse Prevention
- Subject Specific Public Awareness/Education

Below is a list of agencies in South East Texas:

Name of Agency - Agency Type: Description

Family Services of Southeast Texas, Inc. – Non-Profit: Strives to build a better community by strengthening families

Beaumont Police Department, Family Violence Unit– City of Beaumont: Provides services to victims of violence committed by family members, spouses, relatives or others living with victims

Hardin County Crime Victims’ Assistance Center – Hardin County: Provides assistance to victims of violent crimes including sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, stalking, robbery, assault, elder abuse, dating violence, DWI, and homicide

Jefferson County Administration and Offices, Victims’ Assistance Center – Jefferson County: Services include information and assistance with Texas Crime Victims’ Rights. Crime Victims’ Compensation, the criminal justice system, victim impact statements, case of status information, courtroom familiarization and accompaniment for criminal court and Protective Oder proceedings and post-conviction services

Orange County Courthouse, District Attorney – Orange County: Serves as the chief prosecuting officer for Orange County who is responsible for providing support services for victims of violent crimes

TCFV-National Domestic Violence Hotline – Non-Profit: Provides national crisis intervention, information and referral to victims of domestic violence, perpetrators, friends and families

TCFV-Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline – Non-Profit: Provides a national crisis intervention hotline offering information, support, and referrals to people in domestic violence situations or those calling on their behalf

TCFV-National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline Program (NTDAH) – Non-Profit: Provides 24-hour national web-based and telephone helpline for teens ages 13-18 experiencing dating abuse, and concerned parents, friends, teachers, clergy, law enforcement, and service providers

Texas Advocacy Project-Family Violence and Sexual Assault Legal Lines – Non-Profit: Provides free legal advice for victims of family violence or sexual abuse in the areas of family law, divorce, child custody, financial support and dating violence

Aid for Victims of Domestic Violence – Business: Protection of abused spouses and children is provided by obtaining civil court orders

TCRP-Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Economic Justice Program (EJP) – Non-Profit: Provides civil rights litigation and ensure people with disabilities have equal access to facilities across Texas

Specialized Information and Referral, National Council On Child Abuse and Family Violence – Non-Profit: Provides booklets and posters to schools, churches, civic groups, and libraries for the purpose of public education and prevention of child abuse, spouse/partner abuse and elder abuse

TCFV-Public Awareness and Education - Non-Profit: Promotes education regarding family violence

Housing:

The following housing programs are provided in South East Texas:

- Housing Authorities
- Public Housing
- Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers
- Low Income/Subsidized Private Rental Housing
- Congregate Living Facilities
- Transitional Housing/Shelter
- Homeless Shelter

Below is a list of agencies in South East Texas:

Name of Agency - Agency Type: Description

Beaumont Housing Authority – City of Beaumont: Acquires, develops, and professionally manages a diverse real estate portfolio in order to provide affordable housing, supportive services and upward mobility opportunities to income eligible families and individuals

Orange Housing Authority – Orange County: Acquires, develops, and professionally manages a diverse real estate portfolio in order to provide affordable housing, supportive services and upward mobility opportunities to income eligible families and individuals

Port Arthur Housing Authority – City of Port Arthur: Acquires, develops, and professionally manages a diverse real estate portfolio in order to provide affordable housing, supportive services and upward mobility opportunities to income eligible families and individuals

Villas of Sunnyside – Business: Offers senior apartment home community

Timber Edge Apartments, Low Income Rental Housing – Business: Provides apartment units for income eligible individuals and families, accepts Section 8 housing vouchers

Seville Apartments – Business: Provides affordable apartment housing for the elderly and disabled, accepts Section 8 housing vouchers

Senior Citizens' Y-House of Beaumont – Non-Profit: Provides an apartment community for income eligible seniors aged 62 and older

Optimist Village, Inc. – Non-Profit: Provides apartments for the elderly and individuals who are disabled, accepts Section 8 housing vouchers

Heritage Center of Orange, Inc. – Government: Offers affordable housing units for older adults aged 62 and older or people with disabilities aged 18 and older, accepts section 8 housing vouchers

Heatherbrook Apartments – Business: Provides low income apartment housing for people 62 or older and people with disabilities

Beaumont Senior Citizen Housing, Inc. – Non-Profit: Provides a housing development for the low-income elderly and/or disabled

Family Services of Southeast Texas, Inc., Transitional Housing and Shelter – Non-Profit: Provides transitional housing and supportive services for women with children who are victims of domestic violence

Heaven's Serenity House of Missions, Homeless Shelter – Non-Profit: Provides a homeless shelter and clothing for the homeless residents

Port Cities Rescue Mission Ministries – Non-Profit: Provides assistance to the homeless of the community by rendering recovery services in a Christian environment

Salvation Army of Beaumont, The Emergency Homeless Shelter – Non-Profit: Provides an emergency homeless shelter for single men and single women

Salvation Army of Beaumont, The Family Lodging Program – Non-Profit: Provides a shelter for homeless families with children

Transportation:

The following transportation services are provided in South East Texas:

- Local Bus Transit Services
- Disability-Related Transportation
- Senior Ride Programs
- Evacuation Transportation
- Medical Appointments Transportation
- Mercy Transportation

Below is a list of agencies in South East Texas:

Name of Agency - Agency Type: Description

Beaumont Municipal Transit, Fixed Route Bus Service – City of Beaumont: Provides a fixed route scheduled transit service with nine routes Monday-Saturday within the city limits of Beaumont

Beaumont Municipal Transit, Special Transit Services – City of Beaumont: Provides door-to-door transportation on lift-equipped vans for ADA eligible persons who are unable to ride regular fixed route service

Orange County Action Association Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program – Orange County: Provides low-cost transportation for individuals living in the city limits of Orange

Orange County Transportation, Local Bus Transit – Orange County: Provides transportation for any resident of Orange County

Port Arthur Transit, Fixed Route Bus Service – City of Port Arthur: Provides accessible, affordable alternative modes of mobility for all citizens of Port Arthur

Port Arthur Transit, ADA Paratransit Service – City of Port Arthur: Provides door-to-door transportation for the elderly aged 65+ and for disabled of any age in Port Arthur

Nutrition and Services for Seniors, Section 5311 Rural Transportation – Business: Provides low-cost public transportation for individuals living in rural Hardin County and rural western Jefferson County

Nutrition and Services for Seniors, Title 3 – Business: Provides low-cost transportation for those 60 years of age or older

HHSC OSS – Medical Transportation Program – Government: Provide transportation assistance to adults and children enrolled in Medicaid, or in the Children with Special Health Care Needs program

American Cancer Society, Medical Appointment Transportation – Non-Profit: Provides medical appointment transportation for people with cancer

FUTURE STEPS & IMPLEMENTATIONS

The South East Texas Planning Team works in conjunction with other planning groups in the region to ensure a regular exchange of ideas. Individuals active in the planning process generally serve on many of these committees and share mutual concerns.

The South East Texas Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the Plan and make necessary additions and deletions. At least one formal meeting of the entire group will be held each year, but agency and community representatives typically submit suggestions and changes via telephone and e-mail throughout the year to the Planning Coordinator.

Drafts and annual updates of the Regional Plan are circulated by e-mail with requests for comments, changes, etc. Wherever possible, e-mail is used to reduce the need for meetings, printing, postage, etc.

It is the intent of the Regional Planning Group to improve outcomes for South East Texas residents struggling with problems described in the Plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many South East Texas agencies and organizations to address problems with local funds as well as grant funds from multiple state and federal sources. To the extent that these funds are available, the Regional Planning Team will continue to encourage agencies to provide programming that addresses the outlined focus areas.

In the 2014 SETCJSP, it was identified that funding was needed to address gaps in the Victim Services discipline and is being sought to implement 1) a Regional Domestic Violence Task Force; and 2) a dedicated Prosecutor in one of the counties within the region.

In 2014, a dedicated Prosecutor was hired for the Hardin County District Attorney's Office whose sole job is to handle cases in which a female is the victim.

Coordination between Spindletop Mental Health Mental Retardation (MHMR) and the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) has been initiated to address some of the mental health concerns outlined in the Law Enforcement section. Spindletop MHMR is interested in hosting a meeting at their facility to update law enforcement key personnel on programs being implemented and how they can access these services and also in hearing candid feedback from law enforcement regarding mental health issues that affect law enforcement operations in South East Texas.

Participants in the Strategic Planning meetings are committed to continuing to seek out opportunities to close gaps in the region. The Planning Team will meet at least annually to determine additional next steps that can be undertaken.

The South East Texas Criminal Justice Strategic Plan will undergo a major re-write in 2019.

Jefferson County: Annex

Jefferson County is the largest county in Southeast Texas. Nine cities host a population of 250,813 people over 904 square miles. The city of Beaumont, the 28th largest city in Texas is home to 117,473 people.

Each region listed five priorities in law enforcement, juvenile justice, victims' assistance and mental health/substance abuse. Of all the priorities listed for each county, five were determined to be regional priorities. Below are the priorities for each discipline for Jefferson County.

Law Enforcement Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Lack of ability to enhance capabilities in new technology as well as maintain & support current technology in data sharing within region and state	Crime Data
#2	Safe and efficient mental commitment warrant services/mental health intake processes	Mental Health
#3	Lack of forensic analysis (equipment and trained personnel) or computer & cell phone evidence and its availability for investigations and prosecution	Crime Data
#4	Lack of equipment, software, and trained personnel for digital enhancement of surveillance videos captured (such as bank robberies, convenience store robberies, etc.)	Crime Data
#5	Lack of local DNA testing at Regional Crime Lab for more timely and economical identification of suspects, crime clearance, and prosecution	Crime Data

Juvenile Justice Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Lack of specialized mental health providers and services for the youth in the community.	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#2	Lack of local facilities to treat alcohol and substance abuse for youth. Need education and prevention programs for schools	Substance Abuse
#3	School based delinquency prevention programs	Diversion
#4	Transportation	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health Diversion
#5	Job Training	Job Training

Victim Assistance Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Need for increased services to child abuse victims	Direct services to victims of Child Abuse
#2	Increase services for domestic violence	Direct services to victims of Domestic Violence Direct services to victims of Sexual Assault Direct services to victims of child abuse
#3	Increase early intervention/prevention of bullying in schools	Direct services to victims of Child Abuse Direct services to victims of Domestic Violence Direct services to victims of Sexual Assault Direct services to victims of Other Violent Crimes
#4	Increase services to sexual assault victims regardless of their geographic location	Direct services to victims of Sexual Assault
#5	One stop shop for victims of crime	Direct services to victims of Child Abuse Direct services to victims of Domestic Violence Direct services to victims of Sexual Assault Direct services to victims of Other Violent Crimes

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Lack of transitional or sober living housing in the Southeast Texas area	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#2	Lack of youth prevention services	Substance Abuse Diversion
#3	Lack of mental health deputies	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#4	Lack of funding for medications for clients	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#5	Lack of transportation to get clients to needed services	Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health

#6	Respite Care for family who care for a mentally ill person	Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
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Hardin County: Annex

Hardin County is the smallest county in Southeast Texas. The five cities of Kountze, Lumberton, Rose Hill Acres, Silsbee and Sour Lake have a population of 57,064 and cover 952 square miles. Hardin County is the fastest growing county in the region.

Each region listed five priorities in law enforcement, juvenile justice, victims' assistance and mental health/substance abuse. Of all the priorities listed for each county, five were determined to be regional priorities. Below are the priorities for each discipline for Hardin County.

Law Enforcement Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Safe and efficient mental commitment warrant services/mental health intake processes	Mental Health
#2	Additional training for active shooter and forced encounters for officers	
#3	Lack of Emergency Radio System coverage in Sour Lake area on Regional Radio System	System Improvements
#4	Lack of all Hardin County Public Safety agencies to be connected to the current Record Management System	Crime Data
#5	Lack of Live Scan on-scene Fingerprint Readers to identify suspects in field	Crime Data
#6	Lack of DNA testing at Regional Crime Lab for more timely and economical identification of suspects, crime clearance, and prosecution	Crime Data

Juvenile Justice Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Lack of after school programs for at-risk youth	Diversion
#2	Lack of education on mental health illnesses. Lack of funding for mental health related needs.	Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#3	Lack of providers and specialist for juveniles in the area	Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#4	School Based Delinquency Programs	Diversion
#5	Transportation for juveniles in detention centers and for at-risk youth	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health Diversion

Victim Assistance Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Lack of transportation for victims	Direct services to victims of Child Abuse Direct services to victims of Domestic Violence Direct services to victims of Sexual Assault Direct services to victims of Other Violent Crimes
#2	Lack of dedicated prosecutors targets to domestic violence victims	Direct services to victims of Domestic Violence Direct services to victims of child abuse
#3	Need for increased services to child abuse victims in Hardin County	Direct services to victims of Child Abuse
	Change victim compensation laws to address unmet needs of DUI victims and their families	Direct services to victims of Other Violent Crimes

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Lack of education on mental health illnesses and how to care for a person with a mental illnesses or a substance abuse problem	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#2	Lack of transportation services for clients	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#3	Lack of community leaders and community involvement with these issues	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#4	Lack of inpatient substance abuse facilities	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health

Orange County: Annex

Orange County is made up of seven cities and has a population of 82,543 covering 380 square miles.

Each region listed five priorities in law enforcement, juvenile justice, victims' assistance and mental health/substance abuse. Of all the priorities listed for each county, five were determined to be regional priorities. Below are the priorities for each discipline for Orange County.

Law Enforcement Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Lack of Emergency Radio System coverage in western Orange County on the Regional Radio System	System Improvements
#1	Lack of funding to advance the evolving technology and equipment. Lack of fingerprint readers, license plate readers available for officers in the field to identify individuals in encountered	Crime Data
#2	Lack of forensic analysis of computer and cell phone evidence and its availability for investigations and prosecutions	Crime Data
#3	Lack of DNA testing at Regional Crime Lab for more timely and economical identification of suspects, crime clearance, and prosecution	Crime Data
#4	Lack of training for officers on handling individuals with mental health issues and options available for their treatment and safety	Mental Health
#5	Lack of training and identified resources available for officers in the field handling juvenile offenders and crimes	

Juvenile Justice Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Lack of Job Training for juveniles; provide juveniles with a marketable skill or trade	Job Training
#2	Transportation	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health Diversion
#3	Program for Expelled Students (this area does not have a JJAEP)	Diversion
#4	Reduce the number of truancy/tardiness offenses in schools	Diversion
#5	Lack of alcohol/substance abuse treatment facilities and educational awareness in schools.	Substance Abuse

Victim Assistance Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Lack of transportation for victims	Direct services to victims of Child Abuse Direct services to victims of Domestic Violence Direct services to victims of Sexual Assault Direct services to victims of Other Violent Crimes
#2	Awareness of services to victims	Direct services to victims of Child Abuse Direct services to victims of Domestic Violence Direct services to victims of Sexual Assault Direct services to victims of Other Violent Crimes
#3	Lack of services for child abuse victims	Direct services to victims of Child Abuse
#4	Housing for domestic violence victims	Direct services to victims of Domestic Violence
#5	Need for Regional Domestic Violence Task Force	Direct services to victims of Domestic Violence

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Priorities

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Increase in prescription drug abuse; need education and awareness on this problem	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#2	Lack of transportation services for clients	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#3	Lack of housing options for individuals suffering from substance abuse or a mental illness	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#4	Lack of mental health training	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health

#5	Expand adolescent substance abuse treatment programs	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
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