

SOUTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLAN 2014

A Strategic Plan for Meeting the
Criminal Justice Needs of the South
East Texas Region of
Hardin, Jefferson and Orange County



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Executive Summary

The South East Texas Criminal Justice Strategic Plan (SETCJSP) identifies 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 88 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. It then proposes solutions that would improve the quality of life for the 388,745 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 makes 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.

The South East Texas region of Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties is the 6th most densely populated of the 24 regions in Texas.

Planning Process:

The SETCJSP is a comprehensive plan organized to address the collective needs of the region and individual needs of the three counties and 20 cities within it. Meetings were structured to elicit the greatest stakeholder response. An initial meeting was held in each county where small working groups in the areas of law enforcement, juvenile justice, victims' services and mental health/substance abuse identified the five most pressing gaps in services for their county. As might be expected, many of the priorities were the same in each county. The list of the top five priorities emerging from each county meeting was combined into a comprehensive priority list. Stakeholders then prioritized the comprehensive list of gaps to determine the five priorities most critical to the region in law enforcement, juvenile justice, victims' services and mental health/substance abuse which established the regional plan's foundation. An annex for each county is also included in the plan reflecting those priorities most critical to them.

Strategic Planning Assumptions:

- 1) All information collected during the county and regional meetings 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;
- 2) ***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 minimize or eliminate the priority gaps identified in this plan.

Sustainment of current services is paramount. Gaps identified in this plan are not intended to simply shift the focus of funding from one area to another, but to build upon services currently provided.

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:

- 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
- 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
- Timely, expedient access to and sharing of data between public safety agencies in the region and state
- Forensic analysis capability for computer and cell phone evidence/availability to aid investigations and prosecution

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 resources currently available
- Regional Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force
- Transportation for crime victims to obtain needed services including immediate and restorative services
- Dedicated domestic violence prosecutor for domestic violence crimes: increase prosecution; empower domestic violence victims with options other than prosecution
- Individualized court preparation for victims of crime including child victims and their caregivers and adult victims

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:

- Need for substance abuse and secure residential mental health facilities for youth
- Affordable specialized counseling for juveniles and families
- Resources for youth with conduct/behavioral problems
- 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)

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:

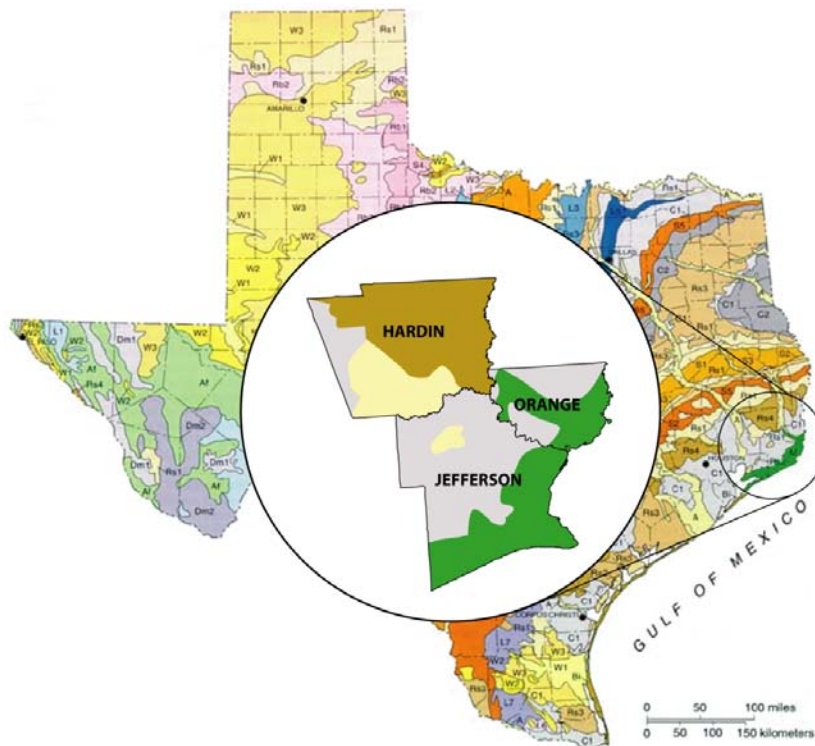
- Transitional housing and/or sober living accommodations in the South East Texas region
- Substance abuse awareness programs, classes and services for youth that proactively prevents substance abuse problems
- Sufficient facilities (inpatient and outpatient) to meet the need in the South East Texas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

Regional Profile

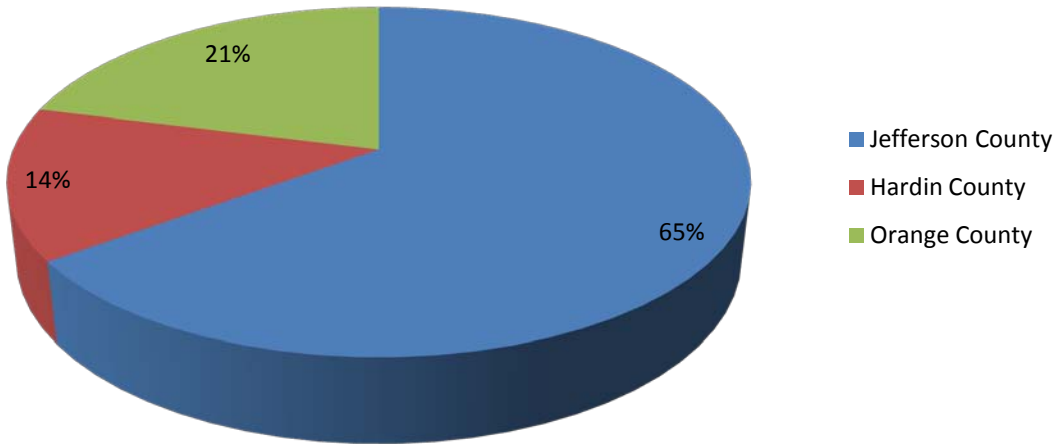
The South East Texas Region lies within the Gulf Coastal Plain in the southeastern portion of Texas. The region stretches from the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Sabine to the heavily forested Big Thicket in Hardin County. The three-county region (Hardin, Jefferson and Orange) encompasses an area of 2,196 square miles with a 2010 census of 388,745. 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



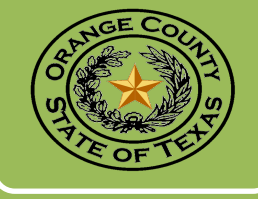
Hardin

- Population - 54,635
- Square Miles - 952
- Population Density - 57



Jefferson

- Population - 252,273
- Square Miles - 904
- Population Density - 279.06

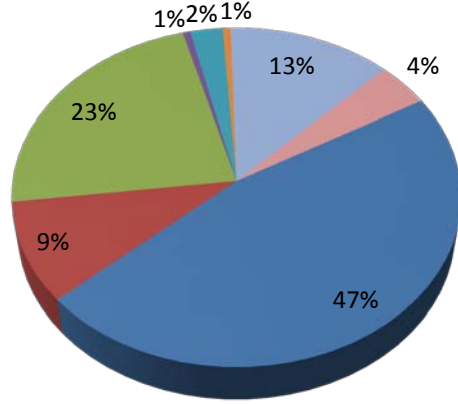


Orange

- Population - 81,837
- Square Miles - 380
- Population Density - 215.36

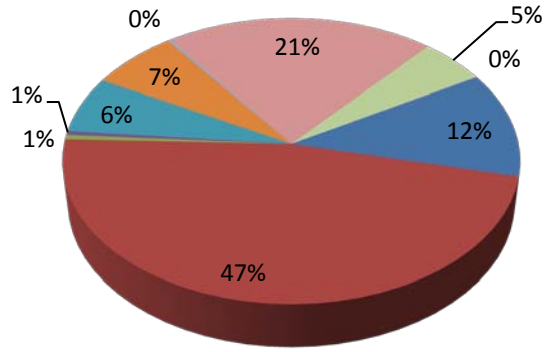
Jurisdictions by County

Orange County



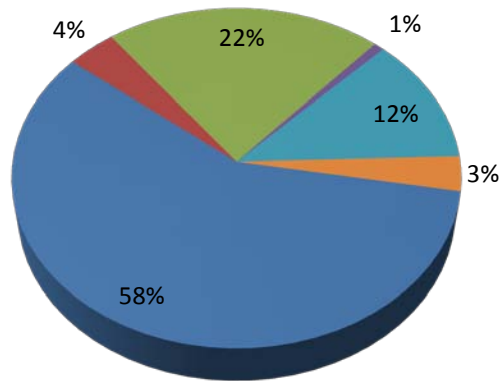
- Orange County Unincorporated
- Bridge City
- Orange
- Pine Forest
- Pinehurst
- Rose City
- Vidor
- West Orange

Jefferson County



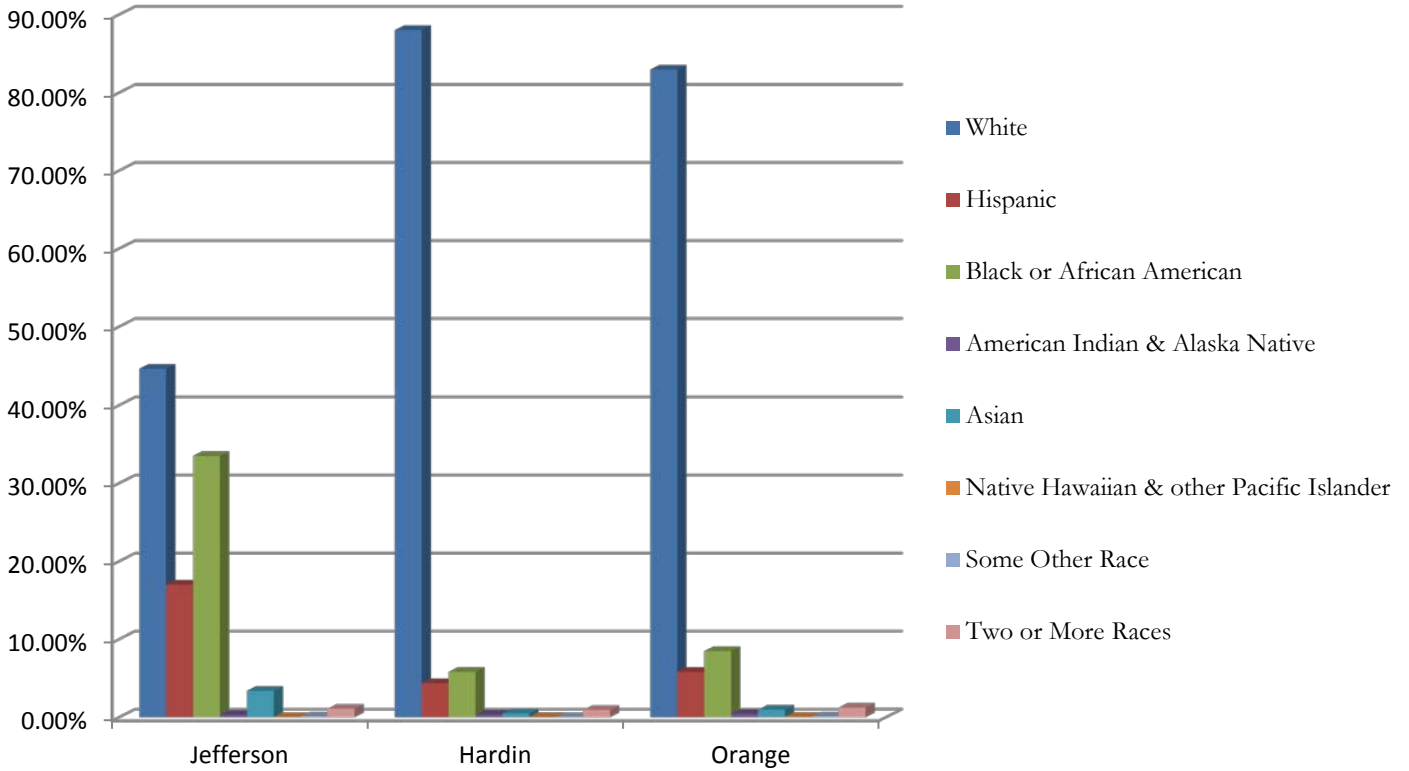
- Jefferson County Unincorporated
- Beaumont
- Bevil Oaks
- China
- Groves
- Nederland
- Nome
- Port Arthur
- Port Neches

Hardin County

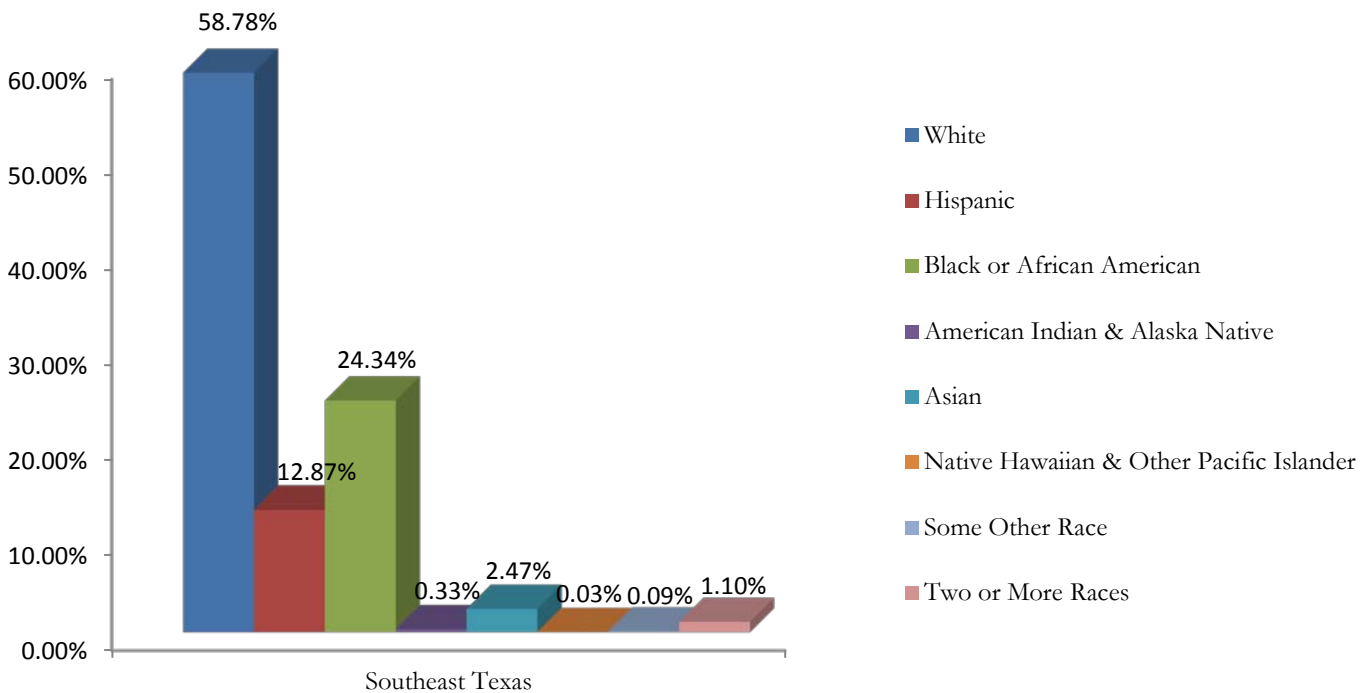


- Hardin County Unincorporated
- Kountze
- Lumberton
- Rose Hill Acres
- Silsbee
- Sour Lake

Ethnicity by County



Ethnicity by Region



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.

JUVENILE SERVICES:

Mark Asteris	Jefferson County Adult Probation
Brenda Blohm	Orange County Juvenile Probations
Reese Briggs	Kountze Independent School District
Jarrold Fountain	Hardin County Juvenile Probation
Amy Haden	Health and Human Services Commission
Monica Kelley	Hardin County Juvenile Probation
Stuart Kieschnick	Nederland Independent School District
Randi King	Jefferson County, Family Law Division
Marianne Kondo	Region V ESC
Steve Lisbony	Little Cypress Mauriceville CISD
Gretchen Scoggins	Lumberton Independent School District
Gerald Smith, Sr.	Greater Love Zion Church of God in Christ
Treva Sullins	Hardin County Juvenile Probation
Regina Tate	Licensed Professional Counselor
LaRonda Turner	Jefferson County Juvenile Probation
John Valastro	Lumberton ISD
Keith Wallace	Orange County Economic Development Center/Port of Orange
Kaylan Arendale	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission

VICTIMS' SERVICES:

Mary Adams	Councilwoman, City of Kountze
Debbie Beavers	Jefferson County District Attorney's Office
Kathy Bell-Schnexaider	Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
Kayla Bishop	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of SETX
Daniella Blanco	Rape and Suicide Crisis Center of Southeast Texas
Lanita Brown	City of Orange Housing Authority
Cindy Colwell	Hardin County Crime Victims
Misty Craver	Jefferson County Victim Assistance
Alma Garza-Cruz	Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas
Amy Haden	Health and Human Services Commission
Yolanda Hopkins	Rape and Suicide Crisis Center of Southeast Texas
Eleanor W. Johnson	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of SETX
Letasha Jones	Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
Michelle Jones	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of SETX
Bonnie Loiodice	Family Services of Southeast Texas
Stephanie Lundgreen	Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas
Samela Macon	Buckner Children and Family Services
Tyronna McKenzie	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Julie Prudhome	Garth House
Valerie Stewart	Hardin County Victim Assistance Center
Marion Tanner	Garth House
Janet Walker	Family Services of Southeast Texas
Cheryl Williams	Rape and Suicide Crisis Center of Southeast Texas

Les Worden
Sue Landry

Jefferson County District Attorney's Office
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Lynn Arceneaux	Pine Forest Police Department
Dana A. Baker, Sr.	Jefferson County Constable Pct. 6
Joey Breaux	Lumberton Police Department
Andrew Brooks	Bureau of Prisons
Ed Cain	Hardin County Sheriff
Aleta Cappen	Vidor Police Department
Jim Clay	Beaumont Police Department
Kevin Cummings	Hardin County Probation
Paul Darks	Kountze Police Department
Mark Davis	Silsbee Police Department
Paul Davis	Bridge City Police Department
Raleigh Dow	Rose City Police Department
Gary Duncan	Lamar Institute of Technology – Regional Police Academy
Richard Dutton	Hardin County District Attorney's Office
Crystal Holmes	Crime Stoppers
John Kimbrough	Orange County District Attorney's Office
Ernie Koch	Hardin County Sheriff's Office
Ken Mason	Lamar Institute of Technology – Regional Police Academy
Beverly Matt	U.S. Bureau of Prisons
Wayne McDaniel	Hardin County Sheriff's Office
Todd McDowell	City of Bridge City Emergency Management
Tim Ocnaschek	City of Beaumont Emergency Management
John Owens	Port Arthur Police Department
Gary Porter	Nederland Police Department
Samantha Redeaux	Jefferson County Constable Pct. 6
David Reeves	Port Neches Police Department
Carol Riley	Beaumont Police Department/Emergency Management
Sparky Robinson	Orange Police Department
Larry Saurage	Sour Lake Police Department
John Shauberger	Jefferson County Sheriff's Department
Dave Shows	Vidor Police Department
Brent Slaughter	Kountze Police Department
Tim Smith	Jefferson County Sheriff's Department
Gary Spears	Hardin County Sheriff's Office
Michael Stelly	West Orange Police Department
Janois Strause	Orange County Sheriff's Office
Danny Sullins	Lumberton Police Department
John Tatroe	Port Arthur Police Department/Port Arthur Fire Department
Rick Thomisee	Mayor, Rose Hill Acres
Roy West	Crime Stoppers
Dennis White	Lamar Institute of Technology
Fred Williams	Mayor, City of Kountze
Dale Williford	Hardin County District Attorney's Office
Jeff Wilmore	Groves Police Department
Mike Zeto	Orange Police Department
Walter Billingsley	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission

MENTAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

Mark Asteris	GeoGroup Beaumont Center
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
Pat Fontenot	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Lisa Gibbs	Spindletop Center
Melba Hilliard	Southeast Texas Center of Alcohol & Drug Abuse
Chris Kirkendall	Hardin County Commissioner
Leo Lane	Barnett Chapel C.O.G.I.C.
Ashland Monceaux	Southeast Texas Center of Alcohol & Drug Abuse
Brandy Mouton	Spindletop Center
Betty Reynolds	Spindletop Center
Karen Riggs	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
John Thomas	OCARC
Gail Wright	GeoGroup Beaumont Center
Crystal Petry	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission

PLAN COORDINATOR: Sue Landry/South East Texas Regional Planning Commission/Director of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Planning Division; and Kaylan Arendale, Regional Emergency Planner.



Law Enforcement Planning Team

L-R Front Row: John Tatroe, Chief Larry Saurage, Captain Jim Clay, Captain John Shauberger, Captain Janois Strause, Major Sparky Robinson, Captain Gary Spears

Back Row: Sgt. Tod McDowell, Captain Wayne McDaniel, Chief Danny Sullins, Lt. Joseph Breaux, Chief Deputy Mark Davis, Gary Duncan, Deputy Chief John Owens, Asst. Chief Gary Porter, Chief Dave Shows, Major Ernie Koch, Chief Tim Smith, Chief (Ret) Walter Billingsley, Marshal Jeff Wilmore

Not Pictured: Chief Lynn Arceneaux, Constable Dana Baker, Sr., Andrew Brooks, Sheriff Ed Cain, Sgt. Aleta Cappen, Kevin Cummings, Chief Paul Darks, Chief Mark Davis, Marshal Raleigh Dow, Richard Dutton, Crystal Holmes, District Attorney John Kimbrough, Ken Mason, Beverly Matt, Lt. Tim Ocnaschek, Asst. Chief David Reeves, Chief Clerk Samantha Redeaux, Officer Carol Riley, Asst. Chief Brent Slaughter, Chief Michael Stelly, Mayor Rick Thomisee, Roy West, Dennis White, District Attorney Dale Williford, Mike Zeto



Juvenile Justice Planning Team

L-R: Gretchen Scoggins, Jarrod Fountain, Brenda Blohm

Not Pictured: Mark Asteris, Reese Briggs, Amy Haden, Monica Kelly, Randi King, Stuart Kieschnick, Marianne Kondo, Steve Lisbony, Gerald Smith, Sr., Treva Sullins, Regina Tate, LaRonda Turner, Keith Wallace, John Valastro



Victim Assistance Planning Team

L-R Top Picture: Les Worden, Marion Tanner, Daniella Blanco, Misty Craver, Councilwoman Mary Adams, Alma Garza-Cruz, Elinor Johnson, Cheryl Williams, Cindy Coldwell

L-R Bottom Picture: Misty Craver, Marion Tanner, Cheryl Williams, Daniella Blanco, Cindy Coldwell, Bonnie Loiodice

Not Pictured: Debbie Beavers, Kathy Bell-Schnexaider, Kayla Bishop, Lanita Brown, Alma Garza-Cruz, Amy Haden, Yolanda Hopkins, Letasha Jones, Michelle Jones, Stephanie Lundgreen, Samela Macon, Tyronna McKenzie, Julie Prudhome; Janet Walker





Mental Health Substance Abuse Planning Team

L-R Top Picture: Gerald Smith, Sr., Leo Lane, Gloria Casmire, Rosalyn Cobbold, Betty Reynolds, Crystal Petry

Not Pictured: Mark Asteris, Phyllis M Baker, Sally Broussard, Garrett Craver, Pat Fontenot, Lisa Gibbs, Melba Hilliard, Chris Kirkendall, Leo Lane, Ashland Monceaux, Brandy Mouton, Betty Reynolds, Karen Riggs, John Thomas, Gail Wright



Criminal Justice Strategic Plan Coordinators
SETRPC Staff:

Sue Landry, Director
Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Planning Division

Kaylan Arendale, Regional Emergency Planner
Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Planning Division

SOUTH EAST TEXAS REGION PRIORITIES

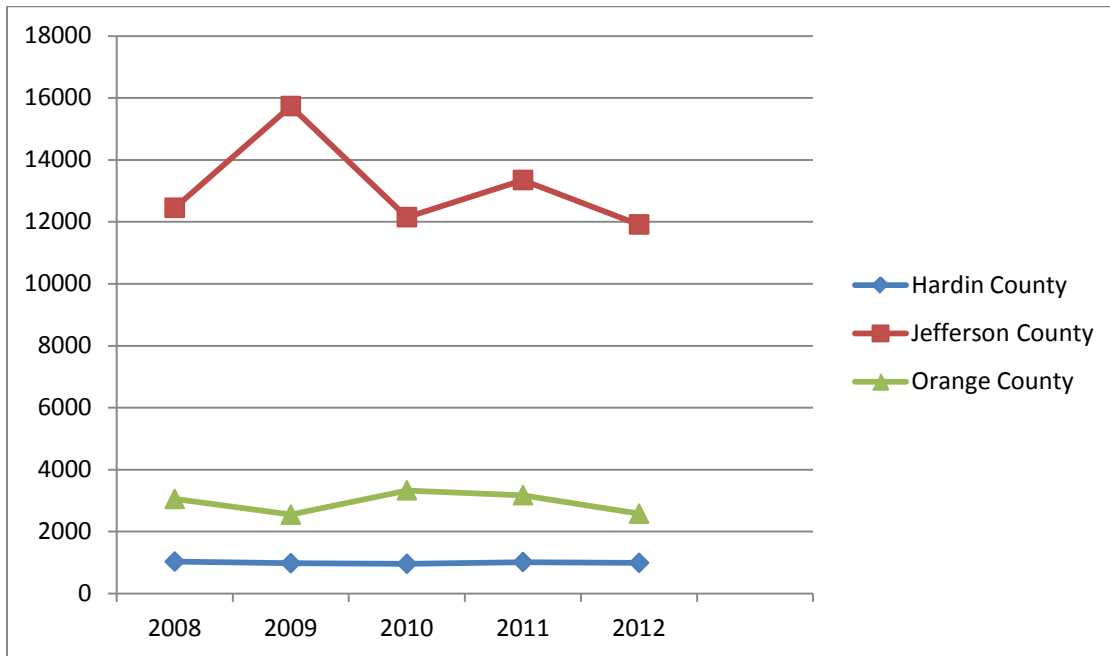
In each of the areas on the following pages, problems are identified and data is included that supports both the existence and severity of gaps as they are found in South East Texas. Below the description and data is a discussion of the problems, the manner in which the problems are being addressed, 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 Data by Year and County



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. 100% of the region's law enforcement agencies participated in establishing the regional law enforcement priorities.

100% of the region's law enforcement agencies participated in establishing regional law enforcement priorities.

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.

State CJD Funding Priorities for Plan Year 2015

Listed in order of priority:

- **Crime Data** – *Enhancements to records management systems to allow local law enforcement to contribute appropriate data: a) to the National Data Exchange (N-DEx) through the Texas Data Exchange (TDEx) application hosted by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), or b) to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) through the Uniform Crime Reporting section at DPS. (NOTE: Units of government providing law enforcement services are encouraged to take*

advantage of funding under this priority in the event reporting crime data in the NIBRS format becomes an eligibility requirement for future funding.);

- **Trafficking** – *Projects that disrupt drug and human trafficking including areas along and near major state corridors;*
- **Innovative or Evidence Based Programs** – *Projects that reduce crime and violence in areas with high crime rates or organized criminal activity;*
- **Mental Health** – *Specialized training to increase the number of mental health officers and the ability of law enforcement to work with individuals diagnosed with mental illness;*
- **System Improvements** – *Projects that promote efficiency, accuracy and credibility of law enforcement agencies and prosecutors.*

During the three county planning meetings, a total of nine law enforcement priorities emerged. (Specific priorities by county can be found in Annexes starting on page 63).

Comprehensive List of Law Enforcement Priorities As Established During County Meetings:

- Need for safe and efficient mental commitment warrant services;
- Training for active shooter and forced encounters for officers;
- Need for Regional Radio System coverage in strategic areas;
- Access (funding and equipment) to emerging law enforcement technologies;
- Forensic analysis of computer and cell phone evidence that will be available for investigations and prosecutions;
- Timely, expedient data sharing between local public safety agencies in the region and with the state;
- Capability for digital enhancement of surveillance videos and computers at crime scenes;
- Local DNA testing at Regional Crime Lab;
- Training and resources for handling juvenile offenders and crimes.

Law enforcement stakeholders and planning team members then determined, from the nine gaps identified, the five they deemed to be most critical to the region. These regional priorities, along with the alignment of each to the state’s priorities, follow:

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

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

#1 Problem Identified:

Need for emergency radio system coverage in some areas of the region

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 five named storms since 2005), or a terrorist event, communications play a key role in keeping the community safe.

The region has made great strides since 2005 when public safety agencies began to collaborate to achieve regional interoperable communications including the following:

- Utilized grant funds to bring Hardin County from a VHF system to an 800-trunked mixed mode system with two intel repeater sites with five channels each;
- Replaced the City of Orange's antiquated 800 system that could not meet the Texas P25 standard with an 800MHz digital system and Smart X switch that connects to Beaumont's master site; thereby connecting Orange County public safety entities to the regional system;
- Hardin County and Jefferson County are interoperable and merged onto the regional system;
- Mid/South County repeaters for simulcast to make the system a 21 channel simulcast system, which made it capable of handling all of Mid- and South county;
- Upgrading regional radios system infrastructure;
- Upgrading subscriber unit radios;
- Upgrading the master site to P25 capable, also built a hardened structure to house the regional radio system; and
- Replaced antiquated equipment with P25 capable equipment.

"Coverage maps for the areas identified indicate mobile coverage is good; however, real world use of the system, even mobile coverage, is sparse in some parts of the region." Captain Wayne McDaniel, Hardin County's representative on the Regional Interoperable Communications Committee and a communications subject matter expert for the region.

Sustain:

The collaboration of the South East Texas Regional Interoperable Communications Committee whose leadership has guided the region's progress in interoperable and operable communications. The Committee has created the Regional Interoperable Communications plan that outlined the migration to P25. Comprised of local jurisdiction stakeholders, the Regional Interoperable Committee is the venue whereby all jurisdictions come to the table and craft interoperable communications solutions that benefit everyone. Through this venue, large multi-million dollar projects have been implemented, jurisdictions have also been able to 're-purpose' equipment no longer useful to them that addresses needs of other jurisdictions. The Regional Interoperable Communications Committee is an effective vehicle for interoperable communications progress in the region.

Possible Solutions:

Three additional towers at key locations throughout the region as identified by the South East Texas Regional Interoperable Communications Committee.

#2 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:

2.1 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.

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

Possible Solutions

2.1 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

- 2.2 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

- 2.3 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)

“These encounters can be dangerous for police officers and persons with mental illness. The majority of individuals that assault police officers are under the influence of drugs or alcohol and/or have a psychiatric disorder (Kasminski et al., 2004). However, these incidents may be most dangerous for people with mental illness ([Cordner, 2006](#); [Ruiz and Miller, 2004](#)).

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, ██████ jumped up and attacked Deputy ██████, stabbing him in the arm with a knife, and he then tried to attack Deputy ██████

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

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

Meanwhile, Deputy ██████ 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 2013. 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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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 Hardin County Sheriff’s Office, 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 Hardin County Sheriff’s Office policy, as is 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 Hardin County’s data is the most accurate indicator of the amount of time law enforcement agencies are dedicating resources to mental health calls throughout the region.

Because of the level of detail the Hardin County Sheriff’s Office devoted to cross-referencing the mental health call data for this plan, the hours indicated in their statistical data is the most accurate indicator of the actual amount of time and resources all law enforcement agencies in the region dedicate to mental health calls.

Here is one example to illustrate the amount of time involved in a mental health call that occurred on 4.13.13. Three deputies respond at **10:52 am**. The mentally ill individual was secured at 11:24 am. Two deputies return to their normal duties and the remaining deputy transports the individual to a mental health facility and finishes at **9:57 pm**.

Another, similar incident occurred on 9.28.13 where three deputies responded to a person threatening suicide at **5:22 pm**. The mentally ill person was secured at 6:08 pm and two deputies returned to duty while the third transported the individual to Beaumont and did not clear until **10:08 pm**. Therefore, the time consumed would have to reflect not just the amount of time to respond to the call, but three times the man hours during the initial part of the call and one times the man hours for the remaining four hours. Every law enforcement agency in the region substantiated that this is a routine occurrence, not an exception.

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Number of Mental Health Calls</i>	<i>Amount of Time Dedicated to Calls (Hours)</i>
Hardin County	54,635	131	225:19:37
Jefferson County	252,273	213 (mental health warrants only)	426:00:00
City of Beaumont	118,296	396	310:57:00
City of Bridge City	7,840	17	10:00:00
City of Groves	16,144	55	82:01:09
City of Nederland	17,547	50	97:16:32
City of Orange	18,595	52	41:47:00
City of Pinehurst	2,097	8	6:49:00
City of Port Arthur	53,818	172	187:00:00
City of Port Neches	13,040	31	39:15:00
City of Silsbee	6,611	10	3:26:00
City of Sour Lake		17	68:00:00
City of Vidor	10,579	121	101:50:00
Orange County		62 mental health warrants 14 Attempted Suicides 8 Suicides 1193 Welfare Check	Total Response Times Not Available

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.

#3 Problem Identified:

Lack of ability to access 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 within the last two years and only then thanks to grant funds that demonstrated the benefit to the entire region.

Possible Solution:

Obtain funding to:

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

#4 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 2013, the following was interdicted on 1-10:

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

Item Confiscated	Amount/Number
US Currency	\$1,020,602.00
Vehicles	3
Marijuana	15 pounds
Cocaine	22 kilos
Synthetic Cannabinoid	1,300 grams

City of Beaumont Police Department:

Item Confiscated	Amount/Number
US Currency	\$169,875
Vehicles	3
Firearms	4
Powder Cocaine	Approx. 16 kilos
Crack Cocaine	15.2 grams
Marijuana	160.5 lbs.
Synthetic Marijuana	117 lbs.
Meth	2.5 oz.
LSD	43 units
Synthetic LSD "25-I"	200 units
Oxycodone	15 grams

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office:

Arrests	104
Assistance to Other Agencies	60
Currency	\$171,202
Vehicles	4
Marijuana	870 lbs.
Cocaine	65 lbs.
Heroin	11 lbs.
Codeine	2 gallons
Methamphetamine	42 lbs.
Large Human Trafficking Operation	14 passengers: men, women, young, old in a vehicle where none of the doors opened from the inside, passengers were forced to use the bathroom in bags. The driver and three of the passengers were prosecuted; all were turned over to ICE.
Large Human Trafficking Operation, part II	22 year old male, and 15 year old male runaway were stopped on I-10. Both were arrested on drug charges and harboring a runaway.

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

High-speed chase through Beaumont hit 120 mph

By Ioanna Makris

Beaumont Enterprise

Updated 4:34 pm, Thursday, March 28, 2013

A wild ride through two counties on Thursday morning landed two men in the Jefferson County jail.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Deputy Rod Carroll said the high-speed chase began when deputies were attempting to stop a driver of a tan Rendezvous for a seatbelt violation on Interstate 10 near Ford Park.

The driver accelerated and exited Walden Road, driving through the Holiday Inn parking lot before crossing under the highway and turning into the parking lot of Cheddars and Tinseltown Cinema, Carroll said.

The driver then got back onto I-10 eastbound, traveling through Beaumont with speeds reaching 120 mph, Carroll said.

The pursuit crossed Jefferson County lines and entered into Orange County, finally ending when the Rendezvous crashed under the overpass of I-10 and Texas 12 in Vidor.

Carroll said the driver and passenger in the vehicle were not seriously injured, but were taken to a nearby hospital as precaution.
and

Murder suspect arrested after Beaumont-to-Houston chase

Houston Chronicle

May 10, 2013

By Cindy George

A man authorities say is wanted for murder in Harris County was arrested late Friday after a nearly 100-mile car chase from Beaumont to Houston.

Around 7 p.m., a Beaumont police officer spotted a Suzuki with a Tennessee license plate moving erratically through traffic on Interstate 10, said Officer Jose Ornelas, a Beaumont Police Department spokesman.

“Our officers tried to make a traffic stop on the vehicle that was swerving lane to lane and they thought he was intoxicated,” Ornelas said. “He began to pass vehicles on the shoulder and began to speed up.”

The driver reached up to 100 mph. As he left Jefferson County headed west on I-10, Beaumont officers called in assistance from the Chambers County Sheriff’s Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Houston Police Department.

“HPD set up spike strips, which deflated the tires,” Ornelas said.

The man, whose name has not been released, was apprehended on MLK near Loop 610. A weapon was recovered from his vehicle.

“After checking the driver, we found the fact that he had a warrant for murder out of Harris County and an aggravated assault warrant,” Ornelas said.

No further information is currently available.

And

One in custody after high speed chase ends in Beaumont

KBMT 12 NewsNow

Posted: Jan 04, 2011 2:09 PM CST



A high speed chase that began in Chambers County ended in Beaumont just before 2 p.m. Tuesday. Beaumont police officers aided Chambers County Sheriff's Deputies and DPS troopers in stopping the car when he got to the city limits.

12NewsNow.Com photographer Darry Chillow watched the end of the chase as the driver slowed on the feeder road of Interstate 10 and turned into the parking lot of The Carrol A. "Butch" Thomas Educational Support Center, went through the parking lot and onto Downs Road off of Highway 124. The man pulled into a driveway and tried to leave on foot and officers arrested him.

Police say the chase reached speeds of over 100 miles per hour while it was on the Interstate. Officers found a large amount of marijuana in the car.

and

County cops chase thieves to Beaumont

The Silsbee Bee

Wednesday, July 21, 2010 1:01 pm



Hardin County Sheriff's Deputies "Nubbin" Cooper, left, and Aaron Tupper handcuff a suspect after a high-speed chase took city and county law enforcement agents into Jefferson County. The chase took place after the report of a theft at the Silsbee Bee.

What had begun as a rather uneventful Thursday in Silsbee changed when three men grabbed armfuls of merchandise and ran out of the Beall's Department Store in the Pine Plaza Shopping Center. Within minutes the men were leading law enforcement officers on a high speed chase that ended with their capture in Beaumont.

██████████, 26, and ██████████, 24, both from Beaumont, and ██████████, 27, from Houston were arrested following the chase and transported to the Hardin County Jail.

According to Silsbee Police Chief Dennis Allen, the department received a report of a theft at Beall's Department Store. The caller described the vehicle, a green Nissan Altima, that was used by the thieves to flee the location.

"The dispatcher, Tabitha, was alert and immediately dispatched officers to the scene and did a general broadcast to all surrounding agencies to attempt to locate the described vehicle," Allen said.

Lt. Gary Spears from the Hardin County Sheriff's Office was traveling in Silsbee when the call went out. Within moments he observed the vehicle pass by him and attempted to stop it, but the driver of the vehicle accelerated in an attempt to elude him. Spears informed other officers of his location and the chase was on.

Officers from Silsbee Police Department and deputies from the Hardin County Sheriff's Office joined in the pursuit. The fleeing vehicle continued southbound across Village Creek, where Lumberton police officers and Pct. 5 constable Wayne McDaniel became involved in the pursuit.

The chase continued on into Beaumont. The speeds of the Altima remained between 70-80 mph as the driver swerved several times toward one of the patrol cars in pursuit. The vehicle exited the freeway at the Sour Lake exit, cut through the Market Basket parking lot and then headed east on Hwy. 105.

The driver then turned into a residential neighborhood, onto RFD Rd. He then turned into the parking lot at the Madison Apartments and was left with nowhere else to drive. Residents of the complex looked on as the three suspects jumped from the vehicle and ran on foot, with officers on their heels. All three were caught within seconds.

Officers on the scene recovered the merchandise stolen from Beall's in the back seat of the vehicle. Upon further search it was discovered that there was other merchandise inside, most with price tags still attached. The items were later determined to have been taken from several stores in Parkdale Mall.

*One of the suspects in the case, **Quinton Hall**, has since been released from jail after posting a \$10,000 bond on charges of theft and evading. **██████████** remains in jail on a \$18,000 bond on charges of theft, evading and for three unrelated warrants from Jefferson County for possession of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance, state jail felony.*

***██████████**, the driver of the getaway vehicle, remains in Hardin County jail with a \$20,000 bond for theft and evading with a vehicle, state jail felony. According to Spears, **██████████** could also be facing aggravated assault charges regarding his aggressive maneuvers with his vehicle toward the pursuing patrol cars.*

Chief Allen attributes the cooperative mutual aid efforts of all departments involved in the chase, including Beaumont Police Department and Texas Ranger Danny Young, with the capture of the three suspects.

"Mutual aid is very important and so is the effort of the dispatcher," Allen said. "By her getting the information over the radio through a general broadcast caused the reaction of Lt. Spears and every other officer who became involved. Everybody worked well together and we were able to capture the men before there were injuries or further loss of property.

Expedient sharing of data between local law enforcement agencies has been a high priority project for the past five years with State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and State Homeland Security Program Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activity (SHSP LETPA) project funds being dedicated to increase data sharing within the region and state. Additionally, Law Enforcement Analysis Portal (LEAP) software has been purchased through the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission for each law enforcement agency in the region. Twenty-two of the 24 total agencies will be included in LEAP when the live integration is complete. There are currently 481 completed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with another 150 pending completion with law enforcement agencies in Texas. LEAP also integrates with the DEA, ATF and US Marshal with several human trafficking task forces and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs).

Law enforcement agencies' goals in sharing information through LEAP are:

- Officer Safety
- Crime and Link Analysis

The map below shows the agencies for which LEAP currently integrates and allows for information sharing.



As SHSP and SHSP LETPA funds decrease, there is a concern that the expedient data sharing capability within the region will be difficult to maintain.

Possible Solutions:

Acquire additional funding to:

- 1) Enhance data sharing in those areas still lacking—primarily the smaller jurisdictions
- 2) Maintain current levels among all law enforcement agencies—large, medium and small

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:

Computer Analysis (Orange County Sheriff's Office):

The region has one computer analyst who is also responsible for handling property and evidence. There is not a person dedicated to handling computer analysis. Computer analysis can currently take about one month if there is not a back log. When a back log exists, it can take up to three months. Computer analysis is a time-consuming and tedious task. Only one computer can be analyzed at a time because working cases concurrently can result in images being transferred from one computer to another. For example, if an analyst is working on a counterfeit case and then begins working a child pornography case, the images from the child pornography case can inadvertently be transferred to the counterfeit case which contaminates the integrity of evidence. Any given case can have 300,000 to 400,000 images that must be examined individually. Each image must be examined and thumb marked. There are 23 images per page. One analysis could typically take up to two weeks if the analyst worked seven hours per day non-stop if the case has only one computer to analyze. A recent case had six computers associated with it and each had to be analyzed separately. Child pornography cases would typically take one week with the analyst working as described above. The current backlog is 2-3 cases. The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) can also be called upon to conduct a computer analysis, but the back log is 6-7 months.

Cell Phone 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.

Since the analyst was hired mid-year in 2011, the following numbers of cases have been analyzed:

Year	Number of Cases
2011 (approx. 6 mos. only)	19
2012	104
2013	176

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 just 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.

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. Sixteen individuals heavily involved in the youth of South East Texas participated in the Strategic Planning meetings. Representation from all three juvenile justice facilities, three local ISD's, Region VI Health and Human Services Department, Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, religious leaders and concerned citizens all provided valuable input and identified gaps for juveniles in this region.

Sixteen individuals from a multitude of fields came together to establish gaps in juvenile services in Southeast Texas.

A Planning Meeting was held in each of the three counties. In those meetings, juvenile justice professionals worked to determine the needs and gaps in the county. The Texas Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division's five state priorities were used as a reference for the initial meetings. State priorities for juvenile justice are:

- **Diversion** - Programs to divert at-risk juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system. For this funding opportunity, CJD has defined at-risk as having had documented discipline problems in the school system or contact with law enforcement or juvenile probation. Preference will be given to programs that:
 - provide for case workers or social workers to continue working with juveniles upon completion of the diversion program; and
 - provide juvenile probation officers to work in the school system.
- **Job Training** - Projects to enhance the employability of juveniles or prepare them for future employment. Such programs may include job readiness training, apprenticeships, and job referrals.
- **Professional Therapy and Counseling/Mental Health** - Services include, but are not limited to, the development and/or enhancement of diagnostic, treatment, and prevention instruments; psychological and psychiatric evaluations; counseling services; and/or family support services. Preference will be given to programs that:
 - incorporate academically researched, peer reviewed, or evidenced based practices;
 - utilize a multi-disciplinary team to assist with planning and implementation of the program;
 - provide a Licensed Professional Counselor for aftercare, re-entry, or front of system services; and
 - provide parent training reinforced with the use of case managers.
- **School Based Delinquency Prevention** - Education programs and/or related services to prevent truancy, suspension, and expulsion. School safety programs may include support for school resource officers and law-related education. Preference will be given to programs that:
 - provide school liaisons working between the juvenile justice system and the school system;
 - provide school police officers or school resource officers; and
 - provide juvenile probation officers to work in the school system.
- **Substance Abuse** - Programs, research, or other initiatives to address the use and abuse of illegal and other prescription and nonprescription drugs and the use and abuse of alcohol. Programs include control, prevention, and treatment.

During the three county meetings, each county listed five local priorities. Many coincide with the State's priorities. Many of the priorities were the same for the three counties. Altogether, seven different priorities surfaced. A comprehensive list is as follows:

List of Juvenile Justice Priorities As Established During County Meetings:

- 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

Juvenile justice stakeholders and planning team members then deemed the five most critical to the region. (Specific priorities by county can be found in Annexes starting on page 63). These regional priorities, along with the alignment of each to the state’s priorities, are as followed:

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Lack of adequate residential substance abuse and secured, residential mental health facilities in the region	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#2	Affordable specialized counseling for juveniles and families	Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#3	Resources for youth with conduct and/or behavioral problems	Diversion
#4	Alcohol/substance abuse prevention programs, life skills classes and training for job skills	Substance Abuse Job Training
#5	Transportation	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health Diversion

#1 Problem Identified:

Lack of secured, residential substance/alcohol abuse and 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.

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 the 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 if they misbehave and are forced to leave the facility. 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 is seeking a full-time Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). 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.

1.4 Economic Responsibility:

The financial burden to parents and facilities caring for a child with a mental disorder or disease 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.

In 2006, 8,247 children were incarcerated in Texas's juvenile justice system. Nationally, approximately 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system experience mental health disorders, with 20% experiencing a severe mental health condition. (NAMI State Advocacy, 2010)

Possible Solutions:

The Spindletop Center received grant funds to open a youth respite center. This will open 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

#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.

Recent statistics indicate that there is one provider for every 800 residents in South East Texas. The number is even greater when referencing counseling services geared towards juveniles and their families. According to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, in FY 2011, 44% of all young people who entered detention centers throughout the state had a need for treatment by a licensed or specially trained provider for a mental health related disease or illness. In FY 2012, that number had risen to 48% (Texas Juvenile Justice Department). The Jefferson County Juvenile Detention Center currently has 285 juveniles in their system with a mental health disease(s). This does not include the 180 youth served through their mental health caseload. In 2013, the Spindletop Center treated 893 children who suffer from a mental illness.

2.2 **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.

In 2002, a total of 244 children were relinquished from their parents as a last resort to obtain mental health care. Those 244 children cost the State of Texas \$9.7 million for a year of mental health care (National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institution, 2012)

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 did not have access to a vehicle or were 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. 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.

The use of a truancy officer helps prevent the number of truanies and promotes a higher graduation rate and reduces the number of drop outs. (West Orange-Cove CISD)

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.

Possible Solutions:

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

- 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 on. In today's world, children and young adults are exposed to alcohol and illegal substance no matter how hard parents, teachers or guardians try to protect them from it. It is important that the youth in the region are involved in prevention programs that teach them 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-Substance Abuse Division has introduced the ARISE program to 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 are only used for training and screenings.

The ARISE program has classes set up in Beaumont and Orange. So far 44 youth in this area have participated in the ARISE program. With a success rate of 70%, it is imperative that more at-risk youth get involved in programs like these. In February 2014, the West Orange Stark Alternative School and the Beaumont Independent School District Alternative School began classes. At Beaumont ISD, there will be a class for females and a class for males. Classes will also begin at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Orange, Texas. ARISE will continue to add programs and services throughout the area.

The ARISE Project Coordinator in South East Texas completed training and received Master Trainer Certification in January 2014. The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission ARISE Project will now be able to train all volunteers and add classes in Jefferson, Orange and Hardin counties.

This area does have community colleges and technical schools, but even though they are more economical than other colleges and universities, they still remain out of reach for many.

Possible Solutions:

ARISE will continue to add programs and services throughout the area. 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:

- 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 cost associated with them. 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 enough 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 help pick up several children and bring them to a central location.

This is not just a problem for smaller detention centers and the JJAEP. Due to the fact that 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.

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.*

Victims' services planning meetings were held in each county and a regional planning meeting was held as well. 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, 34.2% of the total planning participants took part in the Victims' services focus group.

The Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division's 5 victims' services state priorities were used as a reference for the initial meetings.

CJD Funding Priorities for Plan Year 2015:

General Victim Assistance-Direct Services Program Solicitation

- *General Victim Assistance – Direct Services Program Solicitation*
- *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*
- *Preference will be given to applicants that provide core services to victims and that promote comprehensive victim restoration while incorporating an emphasis on cultural competency in underserved populations.**

Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice and Training Programs-Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program Solicitation

- *Improve the criminal justice system response to victims of violence against women;*
- *Improve court services regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking*
- *Strengthen victim restorations; or*
- *Increase collaboration and communication across all levels of governmental and among all victim services*
- *Preference will be given to applicants that provide core services to victims and that promote comprehensive victim restoration while incorporating an emphasis on cultural competency in underserved populations.**

During the three county planning meetings, a total of eleven (11) victims' services priorities emerged (Specific priorities by county can be found in Annexes starting on page 63.) 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.

Sustainment of current services is paramount. Gaps identified in this plan are not intended to simply shift the focus of funding from one area to another, but to build upon services currently provided.

Comprehensive List of Victims' services Priorities As Established During County Meetings:

- 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). These regional priorities along with the alignment of each to the state's priorities follow:



5 Regional Victims' services Priorities As Determined by Victims' services Planning Group:

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Regional interagency coordination and victim education to ensure victims' utilization of resources existing within the community	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	Regional domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault task force	Direct services to victims of Domestic Violence Direct services to victims of Sexual Assault Direct services to victims of child abuse
#3	Adequate transportation for crime victims to obtain needed immediate and restorative services	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	Dedicated Prosecutor for domestic violence crimes which would increase the domestic violence prosecution and victim awareness of available options	Direct services to victims of Domestic Violence
#5	Court preparation for child victims and their caregivers and adult 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

#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 211, 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 211. 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 Violence/Dating Violence
2012	414	66	155
2011	496	93	112
2010	375	64	81

Crime Victims Served by Jefferson County Victims' Assistance Center

Year	Total
2013	1016
2012	1043

Crime Victims Served by Orange County Victims' Assistance Coordinator

Total Victims Served: 100
 Protective Orders Issued: 250

#2 Problem Identified:

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

Data:

Domestic Violence

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

DV Victims Served	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Hardin	73	28	39	30	35
Jefferson	523	628	597	458	461
Orange	80	75	90	47	34
	676	731	726	535	499

Other services provided by the 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
Information and Referral	320	380	351	300	220
Individual Counseling (Restorative)	57	75	85	66	42
Crisis Counseling (immediate)	253	455	350	317	440

Sexual Assault

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

Year	Hardin	Jefferson	Orange
2013	9	251	59
2012	17	295	63
2011	23	420	102
2010	29	402	73
2009	42	328	84

Child Abuse Victims

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

Forensic Interviews

Year	Hardin County	Jefferson County	Orange County
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
2012	38	128	52
2011	51	153	44
2010	35	44	55

2013 Garth House Counseling Sessions by County

Hardin County	500
Jefferson County	1300
Orange County	250

Child Abuse/Neglect-related Fatalities, 2008-2012

County	2008 213 TX total	2009 280 TX total	2010 227 TX total	2011 231 TX total	2012 212 TX total
Hardin County	0	0	0	1	0
Jefferson County	1	1	3	6	5
Orange County	0	1	2	1	1

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 staff it 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 reliable, affordable, on-demand transportation for crime victims in the South East Texas region to:

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

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 54,235,893 square miles, equaling 46 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. 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 mile 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 \$3.22 per gallon 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 \$14.86 per trip! For Orange County residents, this could mean \$7.04 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.

Hardin County crime victims traveling to Beaumont from the furthest northeast reach of the county, on average, could have to pay \$14.86 in fuel per trip! Orange County victims traveling to Beaumont could have to pay \$7.04 per trip. For victims with no transportation, unreliable transportation, or lack of funds for gas, this can be a real hardship!

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 at \$3.22 a gallon and average car consuming 24.7 mpg of fuel, this would result in a grand total transportation cost of \$45.34 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 Women and Children's Shelter of Southeast Texas in 2013

Transportation	70	23	71	41	16
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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:

1. 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.
2. Sustain the South East Texas Transit—while limited, it is the only public transportation resource available in Orange and Hardin Counties.

Possible Solutions:

- More funding to provide transportation for victims' services to obtain services.
- More staff for the Victims Assistance Center to transport victims;
- 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 by 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>
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

#5 Problem Identified:

Court preparation for child victims and their caregivers and adult victims of crime.

Data

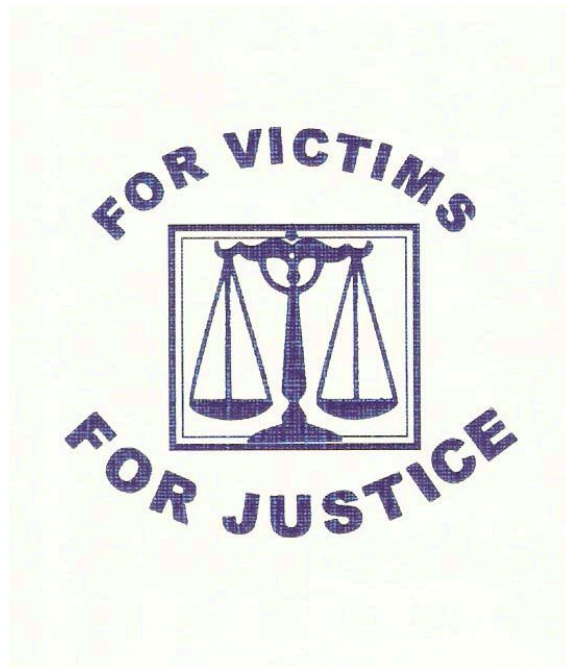
According to the Children's Justice Act, "Many children find the criminal justice system intimidating, particularly the courtroom experience. The lack of understanding of the court process can create court-related stress in child victims. Under these circumstances, the child victim can be a poor witness and the process of navigating the criminal and civil justice systems can affect the child's psychological health in significant and lasting ways. Quality court preparation programs can reduce the stress level in the child witness, help the child to understand the nature of the proceedings, minimize the likelihood that the child will suffer additional trauma related to the court experience, improve the child's ability to answer questions in court in the most accurate, complete and truthful manner and maximize the child's ability to be perceived as a credible witness.

Through its recent strategic planning process, the Regional Task Force identified the need for programs that assist in the preparation of child victims/witnesses as a way to de-stigmatize the courtroom experience and ensure that they are able to testify in court. The Court Orientation/Preparation Program is an attempt to ensure that young and vulnerable witnesses are not traumatized by the legal process and to facilitate the conditions necessary for a victim/witness to provide a full account of the evidence. Additionally, the project intends to develop and refine an innovative service model that can inform statewide best practices."

Victims' advocates also state that adult victims of crime would benefit from court preparation.

Possible Solution:

Funding to provide court education/orientation for child victims and their caregivers and adult victims.



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 2013 for a mental illness.

Jefferson County		Orange County		Hardin County	
Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children
2804	751	887	84	432	58

(This graph indicates clients served only by the Spindletop Center in 2013)

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.

Of Texas' approximately 24.3 million residents, close to 833,000 adults and 288,000 children live with a serious mental illness.

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 2013 suffering from substance abuse.

Jefferson County	Orange County	Hardin County
2126	1102	344

Mental health and substance abuse planning meetings were held in each county. A total of 16 individuals from seven agencies helped with prioritizing the needs of this region. During the three meetings, 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 63). These regional priorities, along with the alignment the state’s priorities follow:

Priority #	Problem Description	Alignment with State Priority
#1	Lack of transitional or sober living housing in the South East Texas area	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#2	Substance abuse awareness programs, classes and services for youth that proactively prevent substance and alcohol abuse problems	Substance Abuse Diversion
#3	Lack of inpatient and outpatient facilities in the South East Texas region for mental health illnesses and substance abuse	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#4	Lack of transportation options available for those who need substance/alcohol abuse and mental health services	Substance Abuse Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health
#5	Lack of mental health providers and specialists in the South East Texas area	Professional Therapy & Counseling/Mental Health

#1 Problem Identified:

The lack of secure, residential transitional or sober living housing in the South East Texas area

Data:

1.1 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.

1.2 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. Not only do these individuals need services to help stay sober, they will also need assistance in dealing with a mental health disease(s).

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 and 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.

1.3 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. In 2006-07, approximately 40% of Texas students 14 and older living with a serious mental health condition dropped out of high school (NAMI State Advocacy, 2010). 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.

The average rent for a studio apartment in Texas is 92% of the average Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment, making housing unaffordable for adults living with serious mental illness who rely on SSI (NAMI State Advocacy, 2010)

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

#2 Problem Identified:

Substance abuse awareness programs, classes and services for youth that proactively prevent substance and alcohol abuse.

Data:

Recent research has shown that educational programs taught in schools 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 highly 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 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. As of the time this was written, the grant was still pending.

According to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, in FY 2011, of all the young people in juvenile detention, 75% needed treatment by a licensed or specially-trained provider for alcohol or substance dependency or abuse. In FY 2012, that number had risen to an astonishing 78%. (Texas Juvenile Justice System)

Over the next several years, the shift to evidence-based programs will 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.

These 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:

- Add additional ARISE programs to the area: 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

#3 Problem Identified:

Lack of inpatient and outpatient facilities in the South East Texas region for mental health illnesses and substance/alcohol abuse

Data:

3.1 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 in to 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 occurs three to four times every month. 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.

3.2 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 388,745 residents.

3.3 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. In 2012, 46% of adults who did not obtain needed mental health treatment cited financial reasons (statista.com).

- The U.S. spent \$121.47 per capita on mental health in 2010; Texas spent \$38.99 per capita on mental health in 2010, making it the 49th in the country (National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institution, 2012)
- **In 2012, Texas was ranked 50th**

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

Jefferson		Orange		Hardin	
Baptist Behavioral Health		Baptist Behavioral Health		Baptist Behavioral Health	
Admission Days	Value of Bed Days	Admission Days	Value of Bed Days	Admission Days	Value of Bed Days
451	\$271,502	117	\$70,434	35	\$21,070
Medical Center of Southeast Texas		Medical Center of Southeast Texas		Medical Center of Southeast Texas	
Admission Days	Value of Bed Days	Admission Days	Value of Bed Days	Admission Days	Value of Bed Days
307	\$183,506	47	\$28,106	26	\$15,548
State Hospital		State Hospital		State Hospital	
Admission Days	Value of Bed Days	Admission Days	Value of Bed Days	Admission Days	Value of Bed Days
3507	\$1,927,097	1232	\$676,984	1115	\$612,693

With a population of 388,745, the 6th most densely populated region in Texas, South East Texas does NOT have a detox center.

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

#4 Problem Identified:

Lack of transportation options available for individuals seeking treatment for a mental disease(s) or substance abuse problem

Data:

Transportation is an issue across the board in South East Texas. Most of the cities within the three counties do not even 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 a 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 organizations that help with the pick-up and drop-off of clients

#5 Problem Identified:

Lack of mental health providers and specialists in the South East Texas region

Data:

This area is lacking mental health providers and mental health specialists. It is reported that one in every five people will suffer from a mental illness in their lifetime. 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.

Due to the lack of mental health providers, individuals from different fields are left to compensate the void. Law enforcement officers and teachers are probably the two professions outside of the mental health field that come in contact with 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 even 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 to 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)



“Networking with other professionals and hearing their creative ideas, assures me that we are on the right track.” Commissioner Chris Kirkendall, Hardin County.

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 Order 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 & IMPLEMENTATION

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.

Building on the momentum established during the Strategic Planning meetings, Family Services of South East Texas and the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) will co-host Domestic Violence Prevention and Response training conducted by the Texas Council on Family Violence on April 24, 2014. Topics to be covered include: Coordinated Community Response, Mental Health and Family Violence and Investigative Techniques. TCOLE, CPE and CEU credits will be provided.

Funding to address two of the gaps identified in the Victim Services discipline 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.

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.

Jefferson County: Annex

Jefferson County is the largest county in Southeast Texas. Nine cities host a population of 252,273 people over 904 square miles. The city of Beaumont, the 28th largest city in Texas is home to 118,296 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

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 54,635 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 81,837 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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