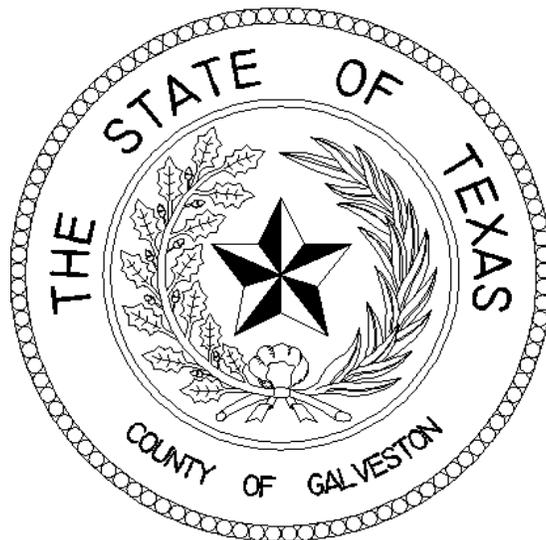


Galveston County Crime and Public Safety Community Plan 2017



Updated
December, 2016

Galveston County Criminal Justice Community Plan

What Is a Community Plan?

A Community Plan is a document that reflects a process used to identify gaps and possible solutions for available services regarding community issues. In this plan, we specifically address issues associated with criminal justice and public safety (i.e., juvenile, victims, law enforcement, and mental health). In Texas, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office (CJD) requires Criminal Justice Community Plans be developed and maintained by counties and regions throughout Texas.

The document that is represented here reflects the efforts of many concerned parties throughout Galveston County who are working to assure identifiable gaps in services are closed, thus making our communities safer places in which to live and work. It is with grateful acknowledgement that the names of those involved in the process of developing this plan are listed in the Community Planning Team.

Though revisions to this plan were completed in November of 2016, this will be a work in progress. The plan is updated annually to reflect new goals, changes in planning group membership, changing agency circumstances, and requirements concerning the makeup of the plan. Unanticipated events, such as natural disasters and the challenges to recover from those disasters, could affect community planning from year to year. The state of our local economy has a major impact on the issues addressed in this plan; therefore, Galveston County remains current on these changes, and includes them in annual updates.

If you are reading this Plan and have not been involved in its development, you are invited to join this ongoing effort. Any questions you may have can be addressed to Betsy Thomas, Community Plan Coordinator for Galveston County or to the Criminal Justice Program of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC). Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

The Galveston County Commissioners' Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the

Galveston County Community Plan. Additionally, the Commissioners Court supports grant applications from County departments as well as organizational programs throughout the county that address gaps in services identified in this Community Plan.

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

Bayou Vista	Clear Lake Shores	Dickinson	Friendswood
Galveston	Hitchcock	Jamaica Beach	Kemah
La Marque	League City	Santa Fe	Texas City
Tiki Island			

Unincorporated Communities:

Alta Loma	Arcadia	Algoa	Bacliff
Bayview	Crystal Beach	Gilchrist	High Island
Port Bolivar	San Leon		

School Districts:

Clear Creek ISD	Dickinson ISD	Friendswood ISD
Galveston ISD	High Island ISD	Hitchcock ISD
Santa Fe ISD	Texas City ISD	

Description & History of Galveston County

Galveston County lies approximately 30 miles south of Houston on the upper Texas Gulf Coast. Galveston County (named for Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish hero of the American Revolution) had an estimated 2011 population of 295,747 (*U. S. Census Bureau*), making it the state's 13th most populous county. A steady growth rate of about 13.3 % from April 2000 to July 2008 has been fueled by its proximity to Johnson Space Center and the City of Houston as well as strong housing growth and tourism. Principal industries in addition to tourism include: petrochemical manufacturing and refining, insurance, government and health care.

The island-city of Galveston is home to the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) and Texas A&M University-Galveston, a marine sciences-oriented university situated on Pelican Island. The Port of Galveston is enjoying resurgence thanks to the growth of the city's cruise ship business, now ranked in the top five in the nation, in terms of passengers. In addition to The Historic Strand shopping district, island visitors have a host of destinations to enjoy including the busy beachfront hotels and restaurants, Moody Gardens, the Historic East End Victorian homes, the Lone Star Flight Museum and the historic tall ship *Elissa*.

In recent years, the city of Galveston's economy has benefited from beachfront business and residential development, the investment of more than \$100 million in a new Galveston County courts-jail complex north of Broadway Avenue, and the conversion of many downtown buildings into loft apartments and tourism-related businesses.

Mainland Galveston County has benefited from the same encouraging development, with new construction and expansion in virtually every city. As a testament to this growth and development, Galveston County has seen many new schools and improved roads.

Hurricane Ike made its historic landfall on September 13, 2008, devastating much of Galveston County's beachfront communities. Resources to assist the needs of this community have been impacted and many organizations do not have the means to assist as they did pre-Ike, and care facilities have lost the ability to offer the services they once provided.

Fact Sheet:

Population

(Source: 2010 US Census)

Texas: 25,145,561
Galveston County: 291,309 1.2% of the state population

Galveston County Population by Age

Median age in Galveston County: 37.2 years old

16 years and over -	225,834	77.5%
18 years and over -	217,142	74.5%
21 years and over -	205,534	70.6%
62 years and over -	35,014	14.3%
65 years and over -	39,571	11.3%

Male Population in Galveston County

Overall male population - 144,234 49.5%

Median age of males in Galveston County is 36.3 year old.

16 years and over -	110,779	38.0%
18 years and over -	106,313	36.5%
21 years and over -	100,121	34.4%
62 years and over -	19,108	6.6%
65 years and over -	14,594	5.0%

Female Population in Galveston County

Overall Female population - 147,075 50.5%

Median age of females in Galveston County is 38.1 years old.

16 years and over -	115,055	39.5%
18 years and over -	110,829	38.0%
21 years and over -	105,413	36.2%
62 years and over -	22,673	7.8%
65 years and over -	18,210	6.3%

Race

(Source: 2010 US Census)

Race	Texas	%	Galveston County	%
All Races	25,145,561	100	291,309	100
White	24,466,560	97	211,088	72.5
Hispanic	9,460,921	37.6	65,270	22.4
Black	2,979,598	11.8	40,112	13.8
American Indian	170,972	0.7	1,748	0.6
Asian	964,596	3.8	8,690	3.0
Pacific Islander	21,656	0.1	149	0.1
Other Race	2,628,186	10.5	21,631	7.4

Income

(Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates)

Median household income for Galveston County is **\$61,877.00.**

Median household income for Texas is **\$51,900.00.**

Median household income for the nation is **\$53,046.00.**

Individuals below the Federal Poverty Level in Galveston County: **13.3%**

Individuals below the Federal Poverty Level in Texas: **17.6%**

Individuals below the Federal Poverty Level in the nation: **15.4%**

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Galveston County:

Betsy Thomas, Galveston County Grants Manager, (409-770-5355).

In developing this Community 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 and may provide assistance to more than one group:

Juvenile Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Earnestine Sanders (Chair)	Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department
Shannon Guillot-Wright	UTMB, Community Health Research

Victim Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Carmen Crabtree (Chair)	Advocacy Center, Executive Director
Selah Tacconi	Resource Crisis Center
Linda Telfah	Galveston County, Victim Assistance Coordinator
Candice Freeman	Galveston County DA's Office, Prosecutor
Marsha Wilson	The Children's Center, Inc., Dir. Of Grants Admin.
Dee Dee Anderson	District Attorney's Office, Senior Coordinator

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Jack Roady (Chair)	District Attorney
Garret Foskit	Galveston County Office of Emergency Management
Rick Boyle	Galveston Police Department
Louis Trochesset	Galveston County Sheriff's Department
Bill Reed	Galveston County District Attorney's Office
James Booker	Alvin Police Department

Mental Health:

Name

Karen McWhorter **(Chair)**

Ellie Hanley

Agency

Family Service Center, Development Director

ADA Women's Center

Concerned Citizens:

Name

Myrna Reingold

Jeff Kaufman

Betsy Thomas

Name

Galveston County Legal Department

HGAC

Galveston County, Grants Manager

Identification of Community Problems

General Needs and Issues

2015 marked a new Community Plan Coordinator and a new process for Galveston County. The planning process began with a Crime and Criminal Justice Survey distributed to agencies and departments across the county. Those results were compiled and used as a baseline for priorities of this plan. From that initial survey, Galveston County has accessed and amended the plan as necessary to accurately reflect current services and gaps in our communities.

In the fall of 2017, community leaders and agencies updated the Criminal Justice Community Plan. These community planners are the experts in their fields who see the day to day issues, changes and trends of our county and communities. They see what works and what programs need new direction.

The 2017 Criminal Justice Plan process began in October with a kick-off meeting held in the County Commissioners Workshop Room at 722 Moody, Galveston, Texas. The meeting was split into four working groups: Juvenile Issues, Victim Services, Law Enforcement and Mental Health Services. Each group was provided a copy of the 2016 Community Plan to review, update and revise as necessary. A Chair was selected for each working group and a lot of discussion and planning lead to the changes you see in the current plan.

Working Groups reviewed information regarding: priorities in their field of expertise, trends, and unique issues in their field or portion of the county. Galveston County is different from other parts of the state and from Austin. This plan is our chance to get that information to Austin and then on to Washington.

Below, in each of the focus areas (Juvenile, Victims issues, Law Enforcement, and Mental Health) priorities have been identified and data is included that supports both the existence and severity of the problems as they are found in Galveston County. Also listed below is a discussion of these issues. Finally, the plan lists possible programmatic responses to these community issues.

Thank you to everyone who helped compile this information and to make Galveston County a better place to live and work.

Betsy Thomas

Community Plan Coordinator
Grants Manager, Galveston County

Juvenile Issues

Listed in order of priority:

1. **Mental Health**
2. **Parental Involvement**
3. **Early Childhood Intervention**
4. **Substance Abuse**
5. **Delinquency**
6. **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children**

Identified Problem

Data Collection

1. **Mental Health**

*(see also the section on **Mental Health Issues** section for additional information on Mental Health)*

- Up to **70%** of those in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental disorder and 27% have a disorder severe enough to require significant and immediate treatment.
- Up to 47% of those in juvenile justice detention met the criteria for mental health issues. (OJJDP)
- On a national level, **20%** of children have a diagnosable mental, emotional or behavioral disorder;
- Up to **one in 10** may suffer from a serious emotional disturbance.
- **70%** percent of children do not receive mental health services (SGRMH, 1999).
- As many as **one in every 33** children and one in eight adolescents may have depression (CMHS,1998);
- once a child experiences an episode of depression, he or she is at risk of having another episode within the next five years (CMHS, 1998).

- Therapy and Treatments are costly and Scarce in Galveston County.
- In a 2006 report, the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice reported that **70%** of youth in the juvenile justice system suffer from mental disorders, **20%** with disorders so severe that their daily functioning is substantially Impaired.
- In Texas, the Criminal Justice Policy Council estimated that **22.4%** of youth who are under supervision of the juvenile courts have identifiable mental health needs (2001).

Discussion

Understanding the link between the prevalence of mental health issues in school-aged children and in the juvenile justice population demonstrates the need for family-based prevention initiatives which have a dual benefit to society and to the individual. If youth with mental illnesses were identified early and appropriate mental health services provided, some youth would not advance further in the juvenile, and later, adult justice systems. Most families are not aware that an evaluation may be needed until a crisis occurs. Diagnostic services are limited and are a need for the county. Education programs for families who are managing mental health disorders in children need the tools and resources to maneuver an often confusing mental health system.

Rehabilitative Juvenile Justice Programs for mental illness and/or substance abuse issues reviewed by researchers found no appreciable effect on recidivism, which left many in the field wondering if anything could work. That left many communities relying on ineffective programs or no programs at all. New Evidence-Based Programs include an emphasis on enhancing healthy function skills, promotion of youth and parent/family development at the same time affordable and consistent and have the ability to be replicated.

NOTE: Due to the prevalence of juveniles with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues, many juvenile drug courts have modified their programs to include the treatment of both issues.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

2. Parental Involvement

According to the Intercultural Development Research Association:

- Most families are not aware their child may need a mental health evaluation until a crisis occurs.

Discussion

Understanding the link between the prevalence of mental health issues in school-aged children and in the juvenile justice population demonstrates the need for family-based prevention initiatives which have a dual benefit to society and to the individual. If youth with mental illnesses were identified early and appropriate mental health services provided, some youth would not advance further in the juvenile, and later, adult justice system.

Most families are not aware that an evaluation may be needed until a mental health crisis occurs. Diagnostic services are limited and are a need for the county. Education programs for families who are managing mental health disorders in children need the tools and resources to maneuver an often confusing mental health system.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

3. Early Childhood Intervention

The RAND Corporation Interventions Research Brief states:

- Early childhood intervention programs have been shown to yield benefits in academic achievement, behavior, educational progression and attainment, delinquency and crime, and labor market success, other domains.
- Interventions with better-trained caregivers and smaller child-to-staff ratios appear to offer more favorable results.
- Well-designed early childhood interventions have been found to generate a return to society ranging from \$1.80 to \$17.07 for each dollar spent on the program.

- The number of child delinquents (age 7-12) handled in the nation's courts has increased **33%**.

Discussion

There is increasing recognition that the first few years of a child's life are a particularly sensitive period in the process of development, laying a foundation in childhood and beyond for cognitive functioning; behavioral, social, and self-regulatory capacities; and physical health. Yet many children face various stressors during these years that can impair their healthy development. Early childhood intervention programs are designed to mitigate the factors that place children at risk of poor outcomes. Such programs provide supports for the parents, the children, or the family as a whole. These supports may be in the form of learning activities or other structured experiences that affect a child directly or that have indirect effects through training parents or otherwise enhancing the caregiving environment.

Early Intervention program start early; as in prenatal parenting classes through kindergarten. Programs fall into three approaches: parent and family education, early childhood education in a center-based setting beginning around age 2 or 3, and a combination of the two with early childhood education services supplemented by parental education.

Research by the RAND Corporation studied the results of various Early Childhood Intervention programs and found significant benefits in cognition, academic achievement, behavioral and emotional competencies, educational progression, child maltreatment, health, delinquency and crime. Social welfare program use and labor market success. RAND also states the potential benefits for adult parents and their capabilities in the above-referenced areas.

Although these programs can be deemed costly, the benefits over a lifetime of citizenship can be seen. RAND gives the example of improved school outcomes, which translates as fewer resources on grade repetition or special education classes. Improved school performance can lead to higher education and economic success in adulthood, which translates to higher tax revenues and a reduction in social welfare and criminal justice programs. At the most local level, improved economic outcomes lead to higher household incomes and a reduction in delinquency and crime.

According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention the number of child delinquents (age 7-12) has increased by 33% in the last decade. "The increase in the number and nature of childhood crime is cause for concern not only because offense patterns reflect more serious crimes among these youngsters, but also because these very young offenders are more likely to continue their involvement in crime." –OJJDP.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

4. Substance Abuse

- **15%** of youth at juvenile justice intake met criteria for a substance abuse disorder.
- **40%** of youth involved in crime that requires pretrial detention had substance abuse issues.
- **47%** of youth in long-term detention are identified with substance abuse issues.

Although some of this data pertains to adults, it is fair to say it is a reflection on an issue that starts in adolescent years.

- **69** individuals received Youth Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment
- **3,827** individuals (adult and youth) received HIV Early Intervention (HIV & Substance Use Diagnosis)
- **39** individuals received treatment due to co-occurring psychiatric and substance abuse issues
- **14,526** individuals received Youth Prevention Services (Substance Abuse Prevention) – with several school requesting additional services, which Gulf Coast Centers was unable to provide due to a lack of funding.
- **322** MIP citations/arrests in Galveston County (Galveston County Law Enforcement).
- **7** alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities in Galveston County (Galveston County Sheriff's Office).
- **583** individuals received Adult Residential Substance Abuse Treatment
- **566** individuals received Adult Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment

Discussion

Substance abuse is a costly issue for families, schools, and communities. Addiction is a contributing factor in death among juveniles as well as poor health, social, academic and behavioral problems.

Combinations of mental illness and substance abuse, when observed in an individual, are often referred to as either behavioral health problems or co-occurring issues. Many juveniles enter the justice system due to the symptoms of their behavioral disorders and are removed from opportunities for education, family influence, religious influence and community programs that could decrease both their delinquency and symptoms of mental illness and substance abuse.

NOTE: Due to the prevalence of juveniles with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues, many juvenile drug courts have modified their programs to include the treatment of both issues.

Identified Problem

5. Delinquency

Data Collection

According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:

- Juveniles account for **1 in 3** arrests for arson across the nation.
- Nationwide, **1 in 5** juvenile arrests are for sex offenses.
- Nationwide **1 in 12** juvenile arrests are for violent crime.
- Youth referred to juvenile court before **age 13** are far more likely to become chronic juvenile offenders.
- **1.5 million** Juveniles are arrested each year.
- **60,000** juveniles are placed in detention centers.
- On any given day **70,000** American youth are in juvenile correctional placement.

- **139** referrals to the Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department (GCJJD) for felony offenses during 2016: **down** from 208 in 2015.
- **554** referrals to GCJJD for misdemeanor behavior during 2016: (**down** from 816 in 2015).
- **259** referrals for violation of court order and contempt of magistrate order during 2016: (**down** from 303 in 2015).
- During 2016, there were **133** adjudications to probation in Galveston County: (**down** from 218 in 2015.)
- During 2015, there have been **210** deferred prosecution dispositions: **down** from 218 in 2015.
- **61,274** formal referrals to Juvenile Probation Departments statewide in the calendar year 2016: **down** from 64,032 in 2015.

Discussion

In Galveston County, the Juvenile Justice & Probation Department, Criminal District Attorney, Family District Court and three County Courts, Children’s Protective Services, Justice of the Peace Courts, and the court-appointed Juvenile Referee all take part in the established juvenile system. These professionals work on a consistent basis to utilize available resources to address juvenile needs and issues.

Also part of the juvenile response are local law enforcement agencies, school-based police departments, truancy programs and attendance offices. Many non-profits, including faith-based organizations, focus their efforts on responding to the demands and needs of delinquent youth.

The school districts offer numerous services to address student’s physical health, mental health, education and social needs. The education of students is affected by high poverty levels in families, budgetary cuts at the State level and the mandate to enforce zero tolerance policies. Schools have a difficult time keeping up with the demands set before them.

Despite all efforts, hundreds of Galveston County youth fail to overcome the challenges presented by their environment. Lack of supervision, family discord, substance abuse, a lack of community support, unjust policies and other factors contribute to delinquency.

Delinquency is a multifaceted behavior pattern that can present itself in a number of ways and; therefore, it is vital that there is also a number of ways to properly address delinquent behaviors. Offenders may be violent or non-violent, first-time or habitual. Some may be involved gang behavior that leads them to increasingly more violent actions, while others may be involved in non-violent behaviors, such as petty theft or truancy. Some may face a lack of parental, school or community support, while others may have an undiagnosed learning disability.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

6. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

National Human Trafficking Resource Center:

- Texas has the **second highest** human trafficking numbers in the nation: behind California.
- There were **499** reported human trafficking cases in Texas in 2016: **up** from 433 in 2015 and 372 in 2012.
- Although there are multiple types of trafficking, **73%** of cases are associated with sex trafficking.
- Only **27%** of sex trafficking happens in hotel/motels. Other venues include commercial-front brothels, online, residential brothels and street-based venues.
- **86%** of all types of trafficking cases are female: **13%** are males and **1%** is gender minority victims.
- **33%** of human trafficking cases involve minors.
- **60%** of human trafficking cases are with United States citizens rather than foreign nationals.
- The National Human Trafficking Hotline has seen a **65% increase** in the number of calls per year since 2012.

Discussion

Human trafficking is considered modern-day slavery where force, fraud, or coercion is employed to control victims against their will. Human trafficking affects individuals across the world and is regarded as one of the highest human rights issues of our time. Trafficking affects every type of community in the United States and across all ages, genders, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Sex Trafficking is the non-voluntary recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex-act. Those who seek these acts are also considered under the definition. Sex trafficking can be found in a variety of venues, including residential and commercial brothels, escort services, online or 'back-pages", fake massage businesses, strip clubs, and street prostitution. (National Human Trafficking Resource Center)

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center considers severe forms of sex trafficking to have three elements:

- Recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining, patronizing, soliciting or advertising of an individual against their will.
- Employing force, fraud, or coercion, including: physical abuse, confinement, false promises of work or living conditions, threats of harm to themselves or others, debt bondage, psychological manipulation or document confiscation.
- Action taken for the specific purpose of compelled commercial sex acts.

Unfortunately, trafficking exists not only because there are those vulnerable to exploitation, but also because there is a market for it. In order to solve the problem we must increase in the risk for those who would traffic individuals, but we must also address the factors that affect demand.

Possible Juvenile Program Response:

The community could better respond to delinquency problems if resources were available for the following:

Mental Health -

- Screening, assessment and counseling for youth in general as a preventive measure to meet their mental health needs and avoid entry into the juvenile justice system; acute mental health crisis care; and readily accessible outpatient care;
- Provide training to judges and court personnel on best practices and model programs to approach both mental health and substance abuse issues. Assistance and consultation for judicial personnel on juvenile mental health issues.
- Evidence-Based Programs: Juvenile Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance Project, Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Collaborative for Change, SBIRT in Juvenile Justice.

Parental Involvement -

- Develop support/education/training groups to help parents promote good citizenship of their children; Develop parent skills to assist children with their studies and to communicate more effectively with the school system on behalf of their children;
- Promote greater participation in parenting programs for young adults with small children;
- Expand opportunities for family counseling in schools, churches and the non-profit community;
- Develop coordinated effort to transition young offenders back into their environment following their release from the juvenile justice system such as a home based "wrap around" plan.

Early Childhood Intervention –

- Programs with better-trained caregivers appear to be more effective. This may take the form of a lead teacher with a college degree in center-based programs and nurses in home-visit type programs.

- Smaller child-to-staff ratios in programs.
- Provision of education, training and counseling designed to improve overall functioning in areas such as decision making, impulse control, appropriate response techniques, anger management, substance free lifestyle, and life skills; anti-bullying, truancy reduction, and family crisis management;
- Evidence-Based Early Childhood Intervention Programs such as: DARE to be you, HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters) USA, Project CARE (Carolina Approach to Responsive Education) – without early childhood education, and Oklahoma Pre-K Program.
- Evidence-Based Home Visiting or Parent Education Combined with Early Childhood Education Programs such as: Carolina Abecedarian Project, Chicago Child-Parent Centers, Early Training Project, Head Start, High/Scope Perry Preschool Project, Houston Parent-Child Development Program, Project CARE-with early childhood education, Syracuse Family Development Research Program.

Substance Abuse –

- Assessment, treatment and aftercare to assist youth in addiction and in re-entry to family and school after recovery.
- Evidence-Based Programs: Juvenile Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance Project, Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Collaborative for Change, SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) in Juvenile Justice.

Delinquency –

- Expand resources to target specific patterns of delinquent behavior;
- Continue emphasis on tougher sanctions and effective reintegration to maintain progress made on violent crime rate among juveniles;
- Provision of education and training for juvenile justice staff members designed to facilitate more effective communication between staff and juvenile offenders.
- Provide re-entry services, including case management, to help youth reintegrate into schools and families;
- Provide successful alternative education programs that offer individualized plans for students.
- Provide in-school resources that prevent delinquent behaviors, including social workers, counselors, and case managers;

- Provide in-school resources that mitigate delinquent behaviors, such as restorative justice programs, to keep youth in school and out of alternative education and/or juvenile justice systems,

Commercial Exploitation of Children –

- Provide local law enforcement and judicial courts an alternative to arrest and jail for those identified as victims of exploitation.
- Provide resources and programs for victims of exploitation and their families to break the mental hold pressed on them by those who would exploit them.
- Long-term program options outside the current residential area where those who would exploit them would continue to have easy access to the victim.
- Prevention education for minors who may fall victim to those who would exploit them.
- Education programs for parents on those most vulnerable types of minors and how the exploitation business works from recruitment to full human trafficking.
- Increase government, criminal justice and law enforcement training on sexual trafficking.
- Community Education Programs that increase awareness and reduce social blaming of victims.
- Review and Revamp laws to better address the issue.
- Increase law enforcement investigation programs.

Victim Issues:

Listed in order of priority:

1. Domestic Violence
2. Child Abuse and Neglect
3. Sexual Assault
4. Human Trafficking
5. Disabled/Elder Abuse

Identified Problem

Data Collection

1. Child Abuse and Neglect

- **2,986** CPS referrals for Galveston County in 2015: **up** from 2,443 in 2014 (Galveston County Child Welfare; 2015)
- **2,148** completed CPS investigations in Galveston County in 2014: **up** from 2,018 in 2014 (Child Protective Services; 2015)
- **705** confirmed victims of child abuse in Galveston County in 2015 – **up** from 569 in 2014 (CPS; 2015)
- **299** Galveston County children (CPS, 2015) in foster care: **up** from 270 in 2014.
- **290,471** alleged child abuse reports in Galveston County (DFPS Data Book 2015)
- **108,167** child abuse cases confirmed.
- **17,151 children were removed from their homes due to confirmed child abuse.**
- **185** Texas children will be the victim of abuse each day (CACTX.org).
- **65,000** cases of child abuse were confirmed in Texas each year (CACTX.org).
- **25%** of girls are sexually abused before their 18th birthday (CACTX.org).
- **1 in 6** boys is sexually abused before his 18th birthday (CACTX.org).

- **33%** of sheltered adults were victims of or had children that were victims of child abuse (The Children’s Center Intake Survey, 2015).

Discussion

Galveston County children continue to be at risk for personal injury. The statistics of child abuse cases investigated by CPS in 2015 and the numbers of confirmed victims reflects the critical and continuing need for services to child survivors of abuse, domestic violence and witnesses to those same acts.

Children who are exposed to and survive child abuse and other acts of violence are 58% more likely to become involved in violent crime as a child than children who are not exposed to violence, national statistics reveal. They are also more likely to be involved in violent crime as an adult.

Due to limited resources, government agencies and non-profits mostly focus on victims’ immediate needs rather than long-term prospects. These immediate needs are well-served through the collaborative efforts of Children’s Protective Services, the Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department, Galveston County Social Services, the Galveston County Criminal District Attorney’s Office, Friendswood Police Department, the Galveston County Sheriff’s Office, The Advocacy Center for Children, the Family Service Center, Innovative Alternatives, the Resource and Crisis Center, child abuse investigators and many other agencies. However, more resources are needed by these agencies to ensure survivors of child abuse, domestic and sexual assault and other violent crimes do not revisit violent situations in the future.

The Advocacy Center for Children of Galveston County coordinates a multidisciplinary approach to the investigation, assessment, prosecution and treatment of sexual and serious physical abuse of children. Services include forensic interviewing, family advocacy, case management, and therapy and sexual assault exam referrals. Coordination in all aspects of the investigation, treatment and prosecution of these cases is crucial for mental health and medical treatment, protecting the children from further abuse and developing sound prosecutorial cases.

The Children’s Center, Inc. has been serving traumatized victims since its inception in 1878. The agency is currently serving victims in homelessness - while sheltering them in the Family Crisis Center and other programs. As a VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) grantee the organization has the ability to gauge the severity of victimization in our area as reported by our clients.

The Children’s Center has discovered of the total numbers of victims that provided us with intake data about their specific level of victimization:

- 33% are victims of multiple types and instances of victimization including crimes of rape, assault, domestic abuse, child abuse and other forms of violent crime.
- 46% were victims of violent crimes.
- 27% were victims of rape.
- 60% were victims of domestic abuse
- 33% were victims of or had children that were victims of child abuse.

The Children’s Center, Inc. is a partner of National Safe Place and works with organizations and retail outlets throughout Galveston and Lower Harris County. The TCCI Crisis Response Team assists Runaway and Homeless Youth who call from Safe Place Locations. Over 95% of those youth are victims of some form of abuse and/or human trafficking. The Children’s Center, Inc. continues to expand the social safety net that serves the greater Galveston County Community.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

1. Domestic Violence

- Police Departments across Galveston County responded to **2,360** family violence incidents – **up** from 2,264 in 2014 (2015 Crime in Texas Report).
- 60% of sheltered women were victims of domestic abuse (The Children’s Center Intake Survey, 2015).
- There were 3 domestic violence related murders in Galveston County in 2015.
- **33%** of sheltered families present as victims of multiple types and instances of victimization including crimes of rape, assault, domestic abuse, child abuse and other forms of violent crime (The Children’s Center Intake Survey, 2015).
- **33%** of sheltered adults were victims of or had children that were victims of child abuse (The Children’s Center Intake Survey, 2015).

Discussion

The Resource and Crisis Center of Galveston County (RCC) is the only provider of both residential and non-residential services for victims of family violence and sexual assault in Galveston County. Though RCC provides safe shelter for hundreds of victims of family violence each year, we never have sufficient space to help every person seeking refuge. In addition to residential services, RCC provides individual, family and child therapy; legal assistance in the form of protective orders; case management; medical and legal accompaniment and a 24/7 hotline. In addition to recognizing the necessity to permanently expand the physical space available for both residential and non-residential services, RCC has acknowledged the necessity to include transitional housing as a future goal and will be working toward that end result.

In the northern portion of the county, the Friendswood Police Department Crime Victim Assistance Program provides an array of services to victims and their families. In Harris County, Texas, Bay Area Turning Point Family Violence Program and Innovative Alternatives, Inc., provides six (6) hours of *free* individual counseling and up to eighteen (18) hours of free group sessions for crime victims.

The Family Service Center provides clinical assessment and treatment of all Victims of Crime. The clients' ages cross the lifespan and each are assisted on an individual and/or family needs basis. The services are provide to reduce the long term traumatic impact on the victim, enhance coping skills and promote comprehensive victim restoration in a culturally sensitive fashion.

The Resource and Crisis Center of Galveston County provides shelter to victims of family violence at a Family Violence Center located in Galveston County. The primary facility houses women and their children and an off-site location provides a safe haven for men or women with older male children. Services offered to all clients include therapeutic, legal, case management, medical accompaniment and multiple opportunities to gain self-sufficiency. Financial abuse, while less commonly understood, is one of the most powerful methods of keeping a survivor trapped in an abusive relationship and deeply diminishes her ability to stay safe after leaving an abusive relationship. Research indicates that financial abuse is experienced in 98% of abusive relationships. As with all forms of abuse, it occurs across all socio-economic, educational and racial and ethnic groups.

Despite these varied services, the Community Planning Group believes there are insufficient resources to meet, in a timely, comprehensive manner, the needs of all persons who are in situations of domestic violence. There are also insufficient resources for legal aid services to address the need of indigent persons with civil aspects of their crises. In addition, support services

and other basic needs such as job skills training, child care and housing are lacking for many residents experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence. A new expanded and enhanced shelter for battered women and children with additional bed space is being developed to alleviate the gap in services for this victim population.

Support services and basic needs, including child care and housing, are lacking for many residents experiencing domestic problems.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

2. Child Abuse & Neglect

- **2,986** CPS referrals for Galveston County in 2015 (2015 Data Book, CPS)
- **2148** completed CPS investigations in Galveston County in 2015 (DFPS Data Book 2015)
- **705** confirmed victims of child abuse in Galveston County in 2015 (DFPS Data Book 2015)
- **299** Galveston County children (CPS, 2015) in foster care.
- **290,471** alleged victims of child abuse were reported in 2015, 108,167 children were in confirmed cases and **17,151** were removed from their home. (DFPS Data Book 2015)

Discussion

Galveston County children continue to be at risk for personal injury. The statistics of child abuse cases investigated by CPS in 2015 and the numbers of confirmed victims reflects the critical and continuing need for services to child survivors of abuse, domestic violence and witnesses to those same acts.

Children who are exposed to and survive child abuse and other acts of violence are 58% more likely to become involved in violent crime as a child than children who are not exposed to violence, national statistics reveal. They are also more likely to be involved in violent crime as an adult.

Due to limited resources, government agencies and non-profits mostly focus on victims' immediate needs rather than long-term prospects. These immediate needs are well-served through the collaborative efforts of Children's Protective Services, the Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department, Galveston County Social Services, the Galveston County Criminal District Attorney's Office, Friendswood Police Department, the Galveston County Sheriff's Office, The Advocacy Center for Children, the Family Service Center, Innovative Alternatives, the Resource and Crisis Center, child abuse investigators and many other agencies. However, more resources are needed by these agencies to ensure survivors of child abuse, domestic and sexual assault and other violent crimes do not revisit violent situations in the future.

The Advocacy Center for Children of Galveston County coordinates a multidisciplinary approach to the investigation, assessment, prosecution and treatment of sexual and serious physical abuse of children. Services include forensic interviewing, family advocacy, case management, and therapy and sexual assault exam referrals. Coordination in all aspects of the investigation, treatment and prosecution of these cases is crucial for mental health and medical treatment, protecting the children from further abuse and developing sound prosecutorial cases.

The Children's Center, Inc. is a partner of National Safe Place and works with organizations and retail outlets throughout Galveston and Lower Harris County. The TCCI Crisis Response Team assists Runaway and Homeless Youth who call from Safe Place Locations. Over 95% of those youth are victims of some form of abuse and/or human trafficking. The Children's Center, Inc. continues to expand the social safety net that serves the greater Galveston County Community.

Innovative Alternatives, Inc. (IA) is a nonprofit agency located just north and east of Galveston County in the Bay Area, which offers free counseling to any victim of violent crime, regardless of when that crime happened, and whether or not it was ever reported to authorities, each crime victim received up to eight individual sessions and 18 hours of a combination of group, advocacy services or psychoeducational classes related to the symptoms of the crime. There are no income eligibility criteria, but the client must wish to resolve the issues surrounding the crime, in order to receive services without charge, IA serves children from 4 years old in play therapy, offers all services in Spanish and faith-based services on the request and definition of clients.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

3. Sexual Assault

- According to the 2014 Uniform Crime Report, there were **214** sexual assaults in Galveston County.
- **78** were forcible rapes and **57** of them were in the city of Galveston.
- Police Departments across Galveston County responded to **2,264** family violence incidents – up from 2,040 in 2014 (2015 Crime in Texas Report)
- **218** sexual assaults were reported in Galveston County in 2014 (2014 Crime in Texas Report)
- **78** forcible rapes were reported in Galveston County – **57** of those occurred in the city of Galveston (2014 Uniform Crime Report)

Discussion

Every 109 seconds an American adult is sexually assaulted. One in six women has experienced an attempted or completed rape. One in thirty-three men has experienced attempted or completed rape. Self-report studies show that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident.

Every 8 minutes, the victim is a child. Thirty-four percent of child victims are less than 12 years of age and sixty-percent are age 12-17. The National Center on Child Sexual Abuse cites studies by David Finkelbor, Director of the Crimes Against Children Research Center show:

- **1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys** is a victim of sexual abuse;
- During a 1-year period in the US, **16%** of youth ages 14-1 had been sexually victimized;
- Over the course of their lifetime, 28% of US youth ages 14 – 1 have been sexually victimized;
- Children are most vulnerable to abuse between the **ages of 7 and 13.**

Services are provided specially for rape victims by the Resource Crisis Center and the University of Texas Medical Branch. Innovative Alternatives, Inc. serves all types of sexual assault, including childhood sexual harassment and rape victims; but staffing issues and coordination between law enforcement and service providers are sometimes problematic.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

4. Human Trafficking

- According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, there were **433** cases and **1,731** hotline calls received in 2015.
- **221** Sexual Assaults were reported in 2015 (Crime in Texas Report) 39% were reported in the City of Galveston.

Discussion

Human trafficking is a growing problem in the US – and around the world. As one of the largest border states, Texas has long been considered both a major destination and transit state for US human trafficking. According to a report by Greg Abbott, almost 20% of all trafficking victims in the U.S. travel through Texas, usually on the Interstate 10 corridor. Though these critical safety net programs are designed to provide services across the nation, the limited funding appropriated to support these programs creates geographic gaps in services.

Resources for survivors of human trafficking are scarce, and depending on location, some trafficking survivors may not have access specialized services such as emergency shelters after rescue from traffickers or to transition into housing for independent living. Also needed is therapeutic counseling intervention to address the impact of trauma experienced by trafficking victims. Financial resources are needed to fund programs offering these critical services for this population to end dependence and exploitation of victims by trafficking crime organizations. The Houston-Galveston area has been ranked high among U.S. cities thought to have the most victims of human trafficking. Identifying and outreach to these victims remain a challenge due primarily to the hidden nature of the population.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

5. Disabled/Elder Abuse

- Population of elderly (age 65-plus) in Galveston County: **32,804** (11% of County population) (2010 US Census);

Department of Family Protective Family Services – Adult Protective Services 2013 Statistics (APS)

- **1,359** Galveston County Adult Protective Services (APS) clients receiving services in 2015 (**up** from 1,010 in 2015)
- **455** confirmed abuse, neglect or exploitation confirmed (down from 505 in 2015)

- **377** received short-term case management services.
- **70%** of cases are considered self-neglect cases where individuals are not caring for themselves (e.g., medication, grooming, utilities, food, etc.).
- **30%** of cases are verbal/sexual/physical abuse or exploitation where a caretaker (related or non-related) takes financial advantage of an elderly individual.

Discussion

Elderly people may be isolated, ill without a capable person to care for them or without resources to meet basic needs. This makes them an easy target and very susceptible to situations of abuse, exploitation and neglect. Texas has more than 2.1 million residents age 65 or older and nearly half of them are disabled in some capacity. More than 80% of the allegations of maltreatment that are validated in APS are in-home cases. Abuse can be physical, mental, financial or a combination. Neglect may result in starvation, dehydration, over or under medicating and/or unsuitable living conditions. Exploitation of the person's resources such as identity theft, misuse of financial resources or internet victimization and scams are also common. Maltreatment of the elderly can be the act of a caretaker, family member, or other individual (known or unknown) to the victim.

Financial exploitation is the illegal or improper use of another person's money or property for personal profit or gain. Financial exploitation of adults who are elderly or disabled is an increasing problem and protecting them from becoming victims is everyone's business. The Galveston County Sheriff's Office assists seniors through staff involvement in several programs beneficial to seniors and their safety.

When an alleged perpetrator is a caretaker or paid caretaker, family member, or other individual who has an ongoing relationship with the alleged victim, financial exploitation is defined as the illegal or improper act or process of an alleged perpetrator using, or attempting to use, the resources of the alleged victim, including the alleged victim's Social Security number or other identifying information for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain; and without the informed consent of the alleged victim.

The absence of informed consent occurs when consent is:

- Not voluntary;
- Induced by deception or coercion; or
- Given by a victim who the perpetrator knows or should have known to be unable to make informed or rational decisions because of diminished capacity or mental disease or defect.

Financial exploitation does not include Theft in the Texas Penal Code when the perpetrator is a family member, friend or caretaker. If the caretaker is a paid caretaker or facility, financial exploitation includes Theft according to the law.

The Victim Assistance Program of the Galveston County Criminal District Attorney's Office provides a full array of services to crime victims who are experiencing trauma from the impact of crime.

The lack of infrastructure in North County areas present various challenges and barriers for victims seeking services provided at the Criminal Justice Center at the County seat. Efforts to assist rural or remote populations in Galveston County will continue by means of a new grant funded position in locations central to community areas in the County for victims who might not otherwise have access to those services. With the development of the new position, we will continue to work hard to create and foster working relationships with agencies throughout the community to best serve our clients.

Services provided will include the following:

- Crisis intervention;
- Assistance with exercising constitutional and/or statutory rights;
- Assistance with establishing and maintaining personal safety;
- Assistance with Victim Impact Statements and Crime Victim Compensation applications;
- Referrals to community agencies;
- Educational and emotional support throughout the criminal justice process;
- Ensuring continuity of services and collaboration between community partners;
- Referrals to appropriate community agencies that provide therapeutic responses to the emotional needs of crime victims.

Innovative Alternatives, Inc. provides presentations to the public and groups of elderly in the community as well as their caretakers, in one to two-hour modules on all the aspects of *'Abuse in Later Life'*, including *Financial Exploitation, Self-Neglect, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Caregiver Neglect, Verbal, Emotional & Psychological Abuse*. These workshops are free to the public under their VOCA grant for the purpose of identifying victims in need of information and referrals to the appropriate agencies.

IA also offers 8-hr provider trainings at nominal fees using curriculum developed and trained by the National Center on Abuse in Later Life for preparation in recognizing and coordinating community response in situations of elder abuse. Training is delivered to multidisciplinary groups of healthcare and mental health workers, assisted living community program staff, law enforcement and criminal justice personnel. The training is delivered by multidisciplinary trainers as well.

One of the issues with the statistics is the under-reporting of crimes against the elderly in general and financial exploitation in particular. Members of the public report repeatedly to service providers that they have tried to report financial exploitation, to no avail since many law enforcement personnel are trained in the academy that financial exploitation is a civil crime and charges are often not filed in the criminal justice system under the abuse statute. This is a frequent comment from personnel working in the financial/banking industry who have opportunity to observe caregivers attempting to exploit or literally exploiting the elderly. They frequently claim that police will not take their reports, or that if they do, that prosecutors will not bring the charges against non-family types of fraudulent acts in particular. There is a need for more training on elder abuse and exploitation to service providers, law enforcement and criminal justice personnel.

Possible Victim Program Response:

Response to issues surrounding domestic violence and child abuse could be improved by focusing on the following strategies:

Domestic Violence –

- Increased violence prevention training for potential victims;
- Increased availability of transitional housing for victims and their families;
- Expand long-term counseling for all survivors;
- Increased violence prevention training for potential victims;
- Expand legal assistance for survivors – specifically a family law attorney to assist survivors of domestic violence who wish to permanently remove themselves and their family from the abuser through divorce and custody proceedings;
- Expand interdisciplinary training and education for all professionals dealing with domestic violence to allow for coordination and building of regional collaborations;
- Expand funding for dedicated victim liaisons in police departments;
- Expand Batterer Programs across the county and expand to additional languages;
- Establish programs/services which empower families with safe and effective strategies to prevent the escalation of conflict to violence.

Child Abuse and Neglect –

- Provide specialized training for teachers and school administrators who encounter children who have been victimized on campus;

- Provide additional assistant district attorneys to prosecute child victim and domestic violence cases;
- Expand resources needed for court preparation, support and liaison services for child victims/witnesses and non-offending family members, through conclusion of their cases;
- Provide ongoing, interdisciplinary child abuse training for all entities involved in child abuse investigation and treatment to allow for coordination and building regional collaborations.
- Expand legal advocacy for children in the care of Children’s Protective Services through the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program;
- Continue Drug Endangered Children’s (DEC) program for handling children found in dangerous drug environments;
- Expand long-term counseling for survivors of child abuse;
- Expand legal assistance for families of survivors of crimes (divorces for moms in sexual assault of a child; child custody for grandparents when parents have abandoned, etc.);

Sexual Assault –

- Increased prevention/education programs;
- Increase public awareness campaigns;
- Expand long-term counseling for all survivors;
- Expand training and education for all professionals dealing with survivors;
- Expand funding for dedicated victim liaisons in police departments;
- Expand trafficking and sexual assault response teams;
- Expand funding for dedicated victim liaisons in police departments;
- Expand interdisciplinary training to identify and effectively combat sexual and labor trafficking and to allow for coordination and building of regional collaborations;
- Develop a task force to investigate the impact of Human Trafficking in Galveston County and develop a plan/services to address the issue (i.e., identification, awareness and training).

Human Trafficking –

- Increased prevention/education programs;
- Increase public awareness campaigns;
- Establish programs within the courts to handle cases involving trafficking victims;

- Expand trafficking and sexual assault response teams;
- Expand funding for dedicated victim liaisons in police departments;
- Expand training to identify and effectively combat sexual and labor trafficking;
- Develop a task force to investigate the impact of Human Trafficking in Galveston County and develop a plan/services to address the issue (i.e., identification, awareness and training).

Disabled/Elder Abuse -

- Expand home and satellite based services for elderly survivors;
- Expand legal assistance for elderly survivors;
- Expand counseling/ social work services to assist elderly with accessing community services;
- Increase outreach and education about resources to help potential victims and their families;
- Expand interdisciplinary training and education for all professional dealing with elder abuse and financial exploitation to allow for coordination and building of regional collaborations;
- Educate adult children on aging.
- Expand counseling and psychological services to older adults, preferably within their own homes to reduce the need for transportation.

Law Enforcement Issues

Listed in order of priority:

1. **Equipment/Technology**
2. **Training**
3. **Mental Illness of Offenders**
4. **Interoperability**

Identified Problem

1. Equipment/ Technology

Data Collection

- **965** Commissioned Officers in Galveston County (Source: Texas Department of Public Safety) Down 13% from last year.
- **521** civilian personnel, including jailers and dispatchers (Source: Texas Department of Public Safety) Down 8% from last year.

Discussion

Storage, Access and Production of Electronic Information. As of November 2016, the Galveston County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) Records Division had received over 90 Public Information Act (PIA) requests and over 50 jail video preservation requests year to date. GCSO recently created a computer storage folder to assist the GCSO and the Galveston County Legal Department with processing these requests in a more efficient manner. The PIA requests are time sensitive and require a response within ten working days. The creation of this shared folder will be require the storage of duplicate copies of all video and audio records and duplicate copies of reports. These duplications will require increased data storage.

The GCSO also has a computer drive that is shared with the District Attorney's office on which photographs and videos are stored to assist with the prosecution of cases. As of this writing, the GCSO recently deleted approximately 10 terabytes of data from cases that were 4 to 5 years old. The deletion of older cases will continue to happen on a yearly occurrence. However, with the increase in caseloads and the future issuance of body cameras, the need for data storage will surge. (One of the reasons the GCSO has not yet placed body cameras into service is the amount of data storage space that will be required.) With additional storage space, GCSO would be one step closer to putting body-cams into widespread service.

Other law enforcement agencies across Galveston County are facing similar storage space issues as well as similar logistical hurdles concerning access to and production of information in response to PIA requests.

Equipment. Across the county, there is a growing need, not only new equipment but also, for the replacement of old outdated and worn out equipment. New technologies available to law enforcement to better their service delivery are needed throughout the law enforcement community, including the increase in open records request for patrol and jail video. Commonly identified equipment needs include: body armor, laptop/mobile computers, radar units, portable breath test equipment, surveillance equipment, forensic equipment, training aids, radio/communications equipment, photography equipment, body cameras and electronic storage systems, standard patrol equipment and specialized SWAT, negotiations equipment. Some of the major barriers to obtaining law enforcement equipment include financial and budget constraints, lack of trained personnel, limited manpower impeding the ability to acquire new technology to keep up with the growing open record requests and lack of available training.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

2. Training

- **965** Commissioned Officers in Galveston County (Source: Texas Department of Public Safety). **Down 13%** from last year.
- **521** civilian personnel, including jailers and dispatchers (Source: Texas Department of Public Safety). **Down 8%** from last year.

Discussion

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) sets minimum basic training, enrollment, licensure, and proficiency standards for peace officers, jailers, and telecommunicators. Local law enforcement agencies have very limited training budgets. Currently, TCOLE mandates 40 hours of continuing education for each officer, jailer and tele-communicator every two years, with limited funding available, some agencies will be stressed to provide the basic training classes to their officers.

Police officers and telecommunicators should consistently sharpen their skills and learn new strategies to combat crime. Training courses that teach communications skills including: report writing, verbal tactics, crisis intervention techniques and courtroom testimony are skills needed by police officers and telecommunicators in a majority of daily situations, yet very little quality, cost-effective training exists. Another topic includes tactical training for patrol officers, such as active shooter intervention, tactics for off-duty officers, combat-casualty care for first responders, and low light shooting

skills. The skill set is imperative to prepare officers to fulfill their role in homeland security as first responders.

First responders would particularly benefit from increased effective training in dealing with persons affected by mental health issues:

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, in 2014, there were an estimated 43.6 million adults aged 18 or older in the United States with AMI (Any Mental Illness) in the past year. This number represented 18.1% of all U.S. adults. Mental disorders are also common among children in the United States, and can be particularly difficult for the children themselves and their caregivers. While mental disorders are widespread, the main burden of illness is concentrated among those suffering from a seriously debilitating mental illness. Just over 20 percent (or 1 in 5) children, either currently or at some point during their life, have had a seriously debilitating mental disorder.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI), each year, 2 million jail bookings involve a person with mental illness. Approximately 15% of men and 30% of women in local jails have a serious mental illness. 1 in 4 people killed in officer-involved shootings has a serious mental illness. These numbers just begin to show some of the relationships—and consequences—of a sad truth: With our failing mental health system so inadequate, law enforcement agencies have increasingly become de facto first responders to people experiencing mental health crisis.

In Galveston County, there are limited officers and programs established to properly respond, handle and treat those citizens who are experiencing a mental health crisis. GCSO Mental Health Division currently provides assistance with services to most of the law enforcement agencies in Galveston County. This sometimes requires officers in the field to wait for extended periods of time when dealing with individuals with mental health issues. Officers could be better prepared to provide assistance to mental health patients with increased training. Officers with sufficient training would be better equipped to possibly evaluate and assess the needs of a person, and potentially transport that person to a health provider facility in a more timely fashion. The increased training could also help with the de-escalation of situations and provide for a safer interaction between law enforcement and the mental health population.

Identified Problem

3. Mental Illness of Offenders

Data Collection

- **17%** of inmates have a mental health diagnosis that requires medication (Source: Galveston County Sheriff's Department)
- Estimated **2/3** of all persons incarcerated have mental health issues that often go untreated.
- In 2014, The Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) provided behavioral health services for **11,848** offenders, along with case management services for **1,464** juvenile and **5,857** adult offenders (Source: Texas Department of Criminal Justice Annual Review 2014).
- According to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, about **17%** of the incarcerated population (approximately **25,000** inmates) have some form of mental illness and are on an inpatient or outpatient caseload. The majority of mentally ill inmates (**67%**) have also been identified with a chemical dependency problem (Source: Senate Committee on Criminal Justice Interim Report to the 84th Legislature).
- The Galveston County Adult Probation Department currently has **81** offenders on specialized caseloads for mentally ill defendants with a diagnosis of major depression, schizophrenia, or bi-polar disorder.
- In 2012, TDCJ released **858** ex-offenders back to the county, an average of 72/month.
- 12 (**1%**) of those released, were released to Community Supervision;
- 489 (**57%**) of those released, were released to Parole Supervision; and
- 357 (**42%**) of those released, were released on Flat Discharge – with no supervision of any type.
- Of those released, only offenders released on probation or parole receive a continuum of care

for severe mental illnesses, which leaves an potential of **236** individuals untreated and unsupported upon re-entry to the county and our communities. (Source: Texas Adult Criminal Justice Data Sheet, based on TDCJ, Statistical Report).

- For additional information on mental illness, see the section on Mental Illness in this plan.

Discussion

Mental Health Crisis Intervention by Law Enforcement. The Galveston County Sheriff's Office staffs a Mental Health Division 24 hours / 7 days a week. GCSO Mental Health deputies assist law enforcement agencies across the County with individuals who are suffering from a mental health crisis. This Division was the first of its kind in Texas and in the nation. GCSO has five full time deputies and one office manager, with offices located in the City of Galveston but serving all of Galveston County.

When the division was implemented and up until Hurricane IKE hit Galveston in 2008, GCSO Mental Health deputies transported all individuals in crisis to the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston. This is no longer the case because UTMB no longer has any in-patient beds. The Gulf Coast Center, the local mental health authority, secured 20 beds at the St. Joseph Medical Center in Houston, which now serves as the in-patient unit. GCSO Mental Health deputies must now transport individuals in mental health crisis from locations across Galveston County to downtown Houston in order for them to receive services. Brazoria County also makes use of the in-patient beds at St. Joseph, which further restricts access to these valuable services.

Additionally, Mental Health deputies are tasked with transporting individuals to and from the State Hospitals across Texas in response to Court orders. This travel usually requires the presence of two deputies and sometimes requires overnight stays.

The GCSO Mental Health Division has not expanded in many years, despite population growth in Galveston County. Demand for crisis intervention by law enforcement remains high and local access to mental health care remains scarce.

Mental Health Treatment Post-Arrest. According to Dan Moore, Director, Galveston County Adult Probation, "The Galveston County GSCD (Adult Probation) has two specialized caseloads for 80 mentally ill defendants with a diagnosis of major

depression, schizophrenia, or bipolar disorder. National estimates are that at least one third of those involved in the criminal justice system have a mental health diagnosis. Currently, another special caseload could be easily filled with one third of the approximately 90 probationers in jail with probation violations.”

According to the National Association of Counties (NACO), counties provide services to an estimated 2 million people with serious mental disorders booked into jail each year. Prevalence rates of serious mental disorders in jails are three to six times higher than the general population.

Correction Officers have become the mental health workers of our age; with little or no official training on mental health. Filling our new County Jail with the mentally ill is frequently the decision of last resort for law enforcement officers who are charged with the primary duty of ensuring public safety. Not only is “warehousing” mentally ill citizens in jails an inadequate solution in terms of short and long term treatment, it is extremely costly. Moreover it utilized valuable jail space better suited for criminals.

Individuals returning to Galveston County after incarceration recognize both direct service needs and capacity building service needs for self-sufficient independent living in the County after a period of incarceration. Particular attention needs to be paid to reaching out to the 357 (42%) of individuals who are released after incarceration that do not receive any type of community supervision through parole or probation to determine their mental and behavioral health needs and refer them to appropriate community services.

In its first six months of seeing clients, the Galveston County Restorative Justice Community Partnership saw 68 ex-offenders seeking re-entry services, far below the actual need of the county. Approximately one-third of restorative justice clients had a serious mental health condition of either: PTSD, Major Depression, or Bi-polar Disorder and were most likely to be homeless. The effectiveness of this program is limited by its current capacity to serve less than a tenth of the known returning offenders to Galveston County.

Identified Problem

4. Communication Interoperability (information exchange pathways and methodologies)

Data Collection

- Of the county’s **9** largest law enforcement agencies, **8** of them share computer data bases with the Criminal District Attorney’s Office (Galveston District Attorney’s Office, 2015).
- **6** law enforcement agencies share a computer database using League City as a database hub. Similarly, the Galveston County Sheriff’s Office and the La Marque Police Department share a computer database (Galveston District Attorney’s Office, 2015).

- Those **8** law enforcement agencies in the county are capable of seamlessly transmitting data and graphic files to the Criminal District Attorney's Office (Galveston District Attorney's Office, 2015).
- Number of law enforcement agencies in the county that can electronically receive warrant and arrest data from the Sheriff's Office while in their patrol vehicles: **10** (Galveston District Attorney's Office, 2015).

Discussion

Interoperable communications, or communication between diverse agencies charged with maintaining public safety and providing emergency services, is a critical focal point of service delivery. Broadly publicized issues brought about as a result of the

9/11 disasters clearly indicate critical and potentially dangerous breakdowns in both communication pathways and methodologies chosen to exchange information.

Beyond the evident potential terrorist targets within Galveston County, there is a distinct need to establish new and reinforce current efforts to develop linked communications systems, enabling ready exchange of information between the dozens of law enforcement and public safety agencies within Galveston County. Such efforts, in addition to a focus toward homeland security, will provide for instantaneous exchange of information involving criminal activities and events that affect the safety and well-being of citizens and visitors. Any efforts in this light will include the "hardware" – devices of all types that support information exchange – and the "software" – concepts, ideas, protocols, and education – that bolster efforts to keep the public safe from threats.

The Law Enforcement Issues group believes the term "interoperable communications" requires a second definition, which highlights a second service gap.

The "languages" spoken by the community and public safety are often so arcane and obscure that neither has a true understanding of the other's message, much less what the other truly needs. Efforts to bridge this communications gap have yielded individualized successes, but don't often result in long-term relationships designed to solve long term problems.

Thus, the additional definition of "interoperable communications" includes developing channels, messages, and methods of communicating between law enforcement and the public that provide meaning and utility to both stakeholder groups.

Adapting the “hardware” described previously, this secondary definition encompasses the hardware of devices and systems (of all types) geared to create and enhance both asynchronous and real-time communications between public safety and the community as a whole. The “software” concept, also mentioned earlier, fits this second definition in a more complex fashion, involving education of both groups in each other’s “language” so that the intention and relevance of one’s message is completely relayed and fully understood.

Possible Law Enforcement Program Response

Response to law enforcement issues could be improved by focusing on the following strategies:

Equipment/Technology -

- Funding for law enforcement technology and specialized equipment purchases;
- Funding for technical information storage;
- Programs and system upgrades to accommodate the open records requests.

Training –

- Funding for in-service courses;
- Support specialized training in a variety of communications skills and tactical skills and in dealing with individuals suffering from mental illness;

Mental Illness of Offenders –

- Funding for additional law enforcement staff specifically trained to work with individuals suffering from mental illness;
- Additional mental health treatment resources at the local level;
- Specialized probation programs for offenders with mental illness;
- Mental Illness Liaison programs for law enforcement departments;
- Specialized mental health training programs for correction facility personnel;
- Case Management Programs for ex-offenders being released into the county;

Communication interoperability -

- More funds are needed to support existing and create new efforts toward enabling interagency and intra-agency communications. Not only is this geared toward hardware and software, this should also point toward educating public safety and government officials on the critical importance of information-sharing.
- Funding is needed for programs involving law enforcement agencies, groups focused toward handling quality-of-life matters within the community, and the public as a whole. These funds could be used for training law enforcement and key community groups in community-oriented, intelligence-led, and problem-oriented policing methods; supporting law enforcement overtime programs designed to enhance community interaction and support; and furthering development of channels, messages, and methodologies of communications targeting information interchange between all stakeholders.

Mental Health Issues

Listed in order of priority:

- 1. Juvenile Mental Health Issues**
- 2. Substance Abuse**
- 3. Adult Mental Health Issues**
- 4. Domestic Violence**

Identified Problem

Data Collection

1. Juvenile Mental Health

Mental Health needs identified among formal referrals to the Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department based upon MAYSI-2 scores, within the Warning category for FY 2013:

- **68** Juveniles identified with high anger issues.
- **44** Juveniles identified with serious alcohol/drug abuse issues.
- **25** Juveniles identified with depression/anxiety issues.
- **72** Juveniles identified with suicidal ideation.
- **36** Juveniles identified with thought disturbances.

MHMR Child & Adolescent Services (C&A) (Mental Health Mental Retardation) Gulf Coast Center:

- **15,678** Child and Adolescent (C&A) Mental Health services provided to Galveston County residents. **Doubled** from 7,734 in 2016.
- **4,974** individual, family, and group therapy sessions provided to children and youth in Galveston County.
- **192 unduplicated children and youth received crisis services in Galveston County.**
- **567** unduplicated children and youth received routine outpatient services in Galveston County.
- **1,037** Family Partner Support encounters provided to the primary caregivers of children.

Discussion

Most families are not aware that an evaluation may be needed until a mental health crisis occurs. Because of a shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrist diagnostic services are limited and a high need for the county; there is a minimum two to three month wait to

see a psychiatrist for insured individuals, with more limited resources for the uninsured resulting in even longer wait times. Education is needed for families who are managing children mental health disorders. Families need the tools and resources to maneuver an often confusing mental health system.

Many children depend on mental health services to help them function in school, in their family, and among peers in the community. Youth who do not receive essential medication and accompanying cognitive-behavioral therapy frequently find themselves expelled from school, delinquent in the community, or runaways. The suicide rate among children is a major cause of death.

On a national level, 20% of children have a diagnosable mental, emotional or behavioral disorder; and up to one in 10 may suffer from a serious emotional disturbance. Fifty percent of children, however, do not receive mental health services (NIMH, 2013). As many as one in every 33 children and one in eight adolescents may have depression (CMHS, 1998); and once a child experiences an episode of depression, he or she is at risk of having another episode within the next five years (CMHS, 1998).

Teenage girls are more likely to develop depression than teenage boys (NIMH, 2000); and both children and teens who have some chronic illness are at increased risk for depression. Today, suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth in the 15 to 24 year old range; and is the 6th leading cause for younger children, ages 5 to 14. These statistics are even more disconcerting when one realizes that there are proven, short-term, effective treatments for most depressions, if treatment is only made available.

Youth with serious mental health problems are often first identified in the juvenile justice and the children's protective services systems. These are key points at which mental health services should be made available. In addition, diagnostic and early intervention services should focus on school systems.

The Gulf Coast Center's Children's Services in League City, Family Service Center of Galveston County (FSCG) with locations on the Island and in Dickinson, Devereaux Hospital in League City, and various private practitioners.

As previously noted, Galveston County does fund FSCG to locate two mental health clinicians in their Juvenile Detention Center, and a ½-time clinician to work with youth on probation on the Island. These resources provide a core of expertise upon which to build.

In the general population of Texas in 2003, the Mental Health Association estimated that there were 151,464 children in the state who had a significant impairment due to mental illness, but only 39,598 (26%) received any services. In Galveston County, the same report found that of 1,688 youth in need, only 181 (11%) received services. While this data does not speak directly to youth in the juvenile justice system, there is reason to believe that a disproportionate number of youth with mental illness do come in contact with the police and courts. If youth with mental illnesses were identified early and

appropriate mental health services provided, some youth would not advance further in the juvenile, and later, adult justice systems.

There is substantial evidence that a high percentage of youth who are being held in county detention facilities and who are in the county's juvenile probation system have unmet mental health needs. In a 2006 report, the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice reported that 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system suffer from mental disorders, and 20% with disorders so severe that their daily functioning is substantially impaired. In Texas, the Criminal Justice Policy Council estimated that 22.4% of youth who are under supervision of the juvenile courts have identifiable mental health needs (2001).

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health estimates that 1 in 5 youth in the Texas juvenile justice system has serious mental health problems. Most of these youth who are on probation have committed relatively minor crimes, but their mental health problems may still be significant.

In 2001, the Texas Legislature mandated the use of the MAYSI-2, a mental health screening tool. They have found that about 1/3 of those screened with the MAYSI-2 score high enough to be flagged as a precautionary measure. They also found a positive relationship between the seriousness of the crime and MAYSI-2 score, suggesting that better mental health might correlate with less severe youth crimes.

For many of these youth, the juvenile justice system represents a last hope for help, as their illnesses include major depression, bipolar disorder, conduct disorder, and other disabling conditions. In Galveston County, the Juvenile Justice Board provides mental health services to youth through a contract with Family Service Center for serving youth on probation and in secure custody. While this is very helpful, youth should not have to enter the juvenile justice system to receive mental health services; and whenever possible, youth should be diverted to alternative mental health resources. Regardless, whether sentenced to detention or probation, or diverted to community services, contact with the police, courts, and juvenile authorities presents an important opportunity for youth and their families to receive the help that is so needed. To be successful, there must be a close partnership among community agencies, the police, and the courts.

Identified Problem

2. Substance Abuse among the Mentally Ill

Data Collection

- According to the Gulf Coast DSHS PATH (Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) 2014 Annual Report, **54%** of individuals interviewed indicated "Community Mental Health" as a service gap/need. The Housing and Homeless Outreach target population most often have a diagnosis of mental illness and/or substance abuse.
- It is estimated **32%** of unsuccessful Drug Court participants fail due to relationship skill issues.

Gulf Coast Center services the Galveston County area and provided the services in 2016:

- **116** COPSD clients were provided substance abuse treatment services.
- **79** women received Intensive Residential Specialized Female Treatment.
- **149** women received Outpatient Specialized Female Treatment.
- **49** women received Supportive Residential Specialized Female Treatment.
- **17** youth received Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment.
- **28** youth received Outpatient wrap-around services.
- **188** adults received ambulatory detox services.
- **584** adults received Intensive Residential Treatment.
- **659** adults received outpatient treatment.
- **174** adults received Supportive Residential Adult Treatment.

Discussion

According to Sue J. Davis, LCDC, LBSW, Former Executive Manager, Addiction Recovery & Services for the Homeless, The Gulf Coast Center, "There is identified and documented need in all areas of treatment, prevention, and homelessness for the mentally ill and/or substance involved target populations as indicated above. In addition, medication costs related to mental illness and detoxification needs are consistently an issue and need. There is a clear indication that prevention education targeting the entire family group impacted by substance dependence and/or mental issue is a critical gap and need in the community.

According to the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (2015) "Individuals with untreated mental health and substance abuse use disorders are **eight times** more likely to be incarcerated, often due to a lack of access to appropriate crisis services and ongoing care."

According to Galveston County Adult Drug Court, relationship issues are one of the most significant unmet issues impacting relapse for individuals seen in drug court. Most of the clients seen receive some relationship counseling in residential treatment, but it is not sufficient to help the individual develop healthy relationship habits. In all, Galveston County's Adult Drug Court has had 38 successful graduates and **12 unsuccessful discharges**, one of the most successful percentages in the state. It is estimated that good relationship counseling could cut the number of unsuccessful discharges in half and strengthen all clients who come through the Drug Court.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

3. Adult Mental Health

- **12,699** Mental Health services provided to Galveston County Residents.
- 158 unduplicated adults received routine outpatient services in Galveston County.
- **1,290** unduplicated adults received Crisis Services in Galveston County.
- **4,366** calls to the Crisis Line (Up from 2,767 in the FY 2016 report)
- **1,028** adults received mental health Crisis Intervention encounters (up from 988 in the 2016 report)

- **3,398** Crisis Follow-Up and Prevention Service encounters up from 492 reported in the 2016 report)

NAMI Gulf Coast (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

- **106** support group meetings for individuals affected by mental illness and their families were held in 2016. Up from 80 in 2015.
- **151** individuals attended one of 12 Compartiendo Esperanza classes, which were created to fill the mental health knowledge and resource gap for the Hispanic community.
- **286** individuals attended one of three ASK Suicide Prevention classes where they learned how to ask if someone is considering suicide, how to respond, and how to refer to appropriate resources.
- **465** families and consumers were provided with information, referrals and local resources. Down from 539 in 2015.
- **23** families and consumers received emergency financial assistance. Down from 55 in 2015.
- **2,199** families, professionals and consumers were provided local mental health resource manuals as a tool to maneuver through a complicated mental health system. Down from 2,788 in 2015.
- **81** individuals attended classes to help them manage their loved one's mental illness. Up from 68 in 2015.
15 people with mental illness were provided with affordable housing at the Westover Cove.

Discussion

The 2010 census Galveston county population count was 291,302. That means that there are approximately 72,825 people in Galveston County affected by mental illness (National NAMI: 1 in 4 people are affected by mental illness). There are two distinct types of mental illnesses. First, is serious to persistent mental illnesses which are caused by psychological, biological, genetic, or environmental conditions, and second, situational mental illnesses due to severe stress which may be only temporary. Serious mental illness consists of Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Schizophrenia, Anxiety disorders, eating disorders, personality disorders, ADHD and more.

Anyone can have mental illness, regardless of age gender race or socioeconomic level. Many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time. Nearly 45% of those with any mental disorder meet criteria for two or more disorders, with severity strongly related to morbidity. Mental illness can and should be treated. Nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable mental disorder do not seek treatment. That means 24,275 people in Galveston County may be seeking treatment within a year. With proper treatment, many people affected with mental illness can return to normal, productive lives.

Services in Galveston County are concentrated in certain areas; leaving other area underserved. There is almost no therapy/counseling in the Highway 6 area and certainly no psychiatric services. A fair number of kids are in schools in that area where there is almost no referral source there for counseling. If residents in that area need help they have to go north or south to get it. With no money/insurance your chances of help are very small. Crisis services are the only services Galveston county residents have. Crisis oriented services versus prevention services are a huge concern when healthy community approaches are proven to reduce the number of catastrophic incidences.

People experiencing mental health issues who reach out for help are directed to an up to 2 year waiting list. While waiting the possibility of crisis, hospitalization, jail, homelessness, etc. become a reality. Local MHMR authority continues to serve almost double the clients than the number of clients state funding is provided for. State funding is stretched to maximum capacity and local resources are limited. This places an additional burden on local mental health/recovery non-profit agencies.

Consumers (people affected by mental illness) are in need and interested in support groups but face many challenges when it comes to transportation and location of services. Families and consumers need guidance when maneuvering through a complicated mental health system. Families from all socio economic levels need education and support so they can learn how to navigate the county mental health system when trying to get their family member care and services.

Suicide prevention education through the state is a system or concept of volunteer organizations and individuals. With little to no funds that trickle down to counties suicide prevention education training available is little to none.

Inpatient psychiatric beds remain a need for Galveston County. In many instances, beds are limited and scarce with mental health deputies calling area hospitals to find an open bed for people who are a danger to themselves or others. Those people looking for inpatient psychiatric treatment do not have many options until they become a danger to self or others.

There is a need for funding to expand wraparound services to this highly motivated population to reduce recidivism and alter the trajectory of families destined for

criminal justice involvement. Community based sentencing is proven far more effective and cheaper than jails. According to the US Department of Justice, **50%** of US prison and jail inmates have been diagnosed with a behavioral health disorder (MMHPI, 2015).

Veteran access to mental health programs and benefits are often complicated and overwhelming to those in the most serious need. **One in 10** returning soldiers seen at the VA has a problem with alcohol or other drugs (MMPHI, 2015) Additional Veteran programs need to be available and more accessible. County collaborative Veteran’s initiatives do exist but are limited and some are time restricted grants.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

4. Domestic Violence

- Police Departments across Galveston County responded to **2,360** family violence incidents – **up** from 2,264 in 2014 (2015 Crime in Texas Report).
- **60%** of sheltered women were victims of domestic abuse (The Children’s Center Intake Survey, 2015).
- There were **3** domestic violence related murders in Galveston County in 2015.
- **33%** of sheltered families present as victims of multiple types and instances of victimization including crimes of rape, assault, domestic abuse, child abuse and other forms of violent crime (The Children’s Center Intake Survey, 2015).
- **33%** of sheltered adults were victims of or had children that were victims of child abuse (The Children’s Center Intake Survey, 2015).

Discussion

The Resource and Crisis Center of Galveston County (RCC) is the only provider of both residential and non-residential services for victims of family violence and sexual assault in Galveston County. Though RCC provides safe shelter for hundreds of victims of family violence each year, we never have sufficient space to help every person seeking refuge. In addition to residential services, RCC provides individual, family and child therapy; legal assistance in the form of protective orders; case management; medical and legal accompaniment and a 24/7 hotline. In addition to recognizing the

necessity to permanently expand the physical space available for both residential and non-residential services, RCC has acknowledged the necessity to include transitional housing as a future goal and will be working toward that end result.

In the northern portion of the county, the Friendswood Police Department Crime Victim Assistance Program provides an array of services to victims and their families. In Harris County, Texas, Bay Area Turning Point Family Violence Program and Innovative Alternatives, Inc., provides six (6) hours of *free* individual counseling and up to eighteen (18) hours of free group Sessions for crime victims.

The Family Service Center provides clinical assessment and treatment of all Victims of Crime. The clients' ages cross the lifespan and each are assisted on an individual and/or family needs basis. The services are provide to reduce the long term traumatic impact on the victim, enhance coping skills and promote comprehensive victim restoration in a culturally sensitive fashion.

The Resource and Crisis Center of Galveston County provides shelter to victims of family violence at a Family Violence Center located in Galveston County. The primary facility houses women and their children and an off-site location provides a safe haven for men or women with older male children. Services offered to all clients include therapeutic, legal, case management, medical accompaniment and multiple opportunities to gain self-sufficiency. Financial abuse, while less commonly understood, is one of the most powerful methods of keeping a survivor trapped in an abusive relationship and deeply diminishes her ability to stay safe after leaving an abusive relationship. Research indicates that financial abuse is experienced in 98% of abusive relationships. As with all forms of abuse, it occurs across all socio-economic, educational and racial and ethnic groups.

Despite these varied services, the Community Planning Group believes there are insufficient resources to meet, in a timely, comprehensive manner, the needs of all persons who are in situations of domestic violence. There are also insufficient resources for legal aid services to address the need of indigent persons with civil aspects of their crises. In addition, support services and other basic needs such as job skills training, child care and housing are lacking for many residents experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence. A new expanded and enhanced shelter for battered women and children with additional bed space is being developed to alleviate the gap in services for this victim population.

Support services and basic needs, including child care and housing, are lacking for many residents experiencing domestic problems.

Possible Mental Health Program Solutions:

Juvenile Mental Health –

- More collaboration between mental illness service providers, schools, and law enforcement;
- More individual, group, and family mental health outpatient services for youth;
- Substantially more public education about mental illness and its treatment, especially as it relates to youth;
- More outpatient treatment options available to the court system for youthful offenders who are exhibiting mental illnesses, can be safely maintained in the community, and who may not benefit from confinement in a detention facility;
- Community-based group programs that teach essential behavioral skills;
- Innovative interventions, such as building partnerships between police officers and mental health professionals;
- Programs to insure that children with mental illness are appropriately diverted to treatment settings and away from an overcrowded detention system;
- Outpatient counseling for adjudicated youth charged with sexual crimes, and for children ages 12 and under who have been chronically acting out sexually.

Youth in Detention or on Probation -

- Collaboration – Efforts to improve the collaboration and services integration among public and private providers of mental health services;
- Identification – Efforts for improved and systematic ways to identify youth in need of mental health services, such as the tele-psychiatry initiative at Ball High;
- Diversion – Efforts to divert youth with mental health needs to appropriate treatment services in the community;
- Treatment – Efforts to provide needed mental health services to youth and their families within the juvenile justice system.

Adult Mental Health -

- Re-entry Services: Individuals returning to Galveston County after incarceration recognize both direct service needs and capacity building service needs for self-sufficient independent living in the County after a period of incarceration;
- Offenders who have a serious mental illness released with full-time served receive no mental health treatment. Both substance abuse treatment and mental health services are limited in Galveston County and target individuals only with long term compromise to their ability to function;
- Prevention and early intervention services are needed to re-direct the path of addiction and mental illness for a substantial portion of the population. When the severity and prevalence of substance abuse and mental illness is reduced collateral damage to co-existing vulnerable populations is diminished;
- Nonviolent offenders need to be assigned to community based programs instead of jail time which ultimately cost the county \$80 per day (Marketplace Morning Report, Tuesday, August 11, 2009) versus community programs that can run \$12 – \$13 per day (Health Management Associates, Impact of Proposed Budget Cuts to Community-Based Mental Health Service, March 2011) and with minimal reentry challenges to face upon release.
- Veterans returning to Galveston County recognize both direct service needs and capacity building service need for self-sufficient – independent living.
- Fostering healthy community approaches seems to show the most success. With prevention, education and information families can look to healthy living styles. Without these elements the possibility of crisis only related services continues to be the norm for many.

Domestic Violence –

- Increased violence prevention training for potential victims;
- Increased availability of transitional housing for victims and their families;
- Expand long-term counseling for all survivors;
- Increased violence prevention training for potential victims;
- Expand legal assistance for survivors – specifically a family law attorney to assist survivors of domestic violence who wish to permanently remove themselves and their family from the abuser through divorce and custody proceedings;
- Expand interdisciplinary training and education for all professionals dealing with domestic violence to allow for coordination and building of regional collaborations;
- Expand funding for dedicated victim liaisons in police departments;
- Expand Batterer Programs across the county and expand to additional languages;

- Establish programs/services which empower families with safe and effective strategies to prevent the escalation of conflict to violence.

Resources Available

Included below are resources identified by the Galveston County Community Planning Team that are available to provide services that could potentially help in closing criminal justice gaps:

Juvenile Justice:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Children's Protective Services	State government	Investigates child abuse and neglect
Barbour's Chapel Community Dev. Corp.	Faith-based Org.	Academic support, parent support, Summer Enrichment Program
Family Service Center	Non-profit	Outpatient treatment of juvenile sex offenders (Oasis) Program
Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department	County Government	Treatment, training and rehabilitation for young offenders ages 10-16
Galveston County Criminal District Attorney	County Government	Prosecution of violent juvenile offenders
Galveston County Juvenile Referee	County Government	Adjudication of troubled youth 10-16
Galveston Independent School District	School District	Operates truancy reduction program
JP, County and District Courts	Local/State Government	Disposition of cases regarding juveniles
Texas Youth Commission	State Government	Confines juveniles in the state system for committing unlawful acts

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Galveston County Sheriff's Office	County Government	Law enforcement for unincorporated county
Municipal police departments	City Government	Law enforcement for incorporated cities
School District Police Departments	School Districts	Law enforcement in the public school setting
Texas Department of Public Safety	State Government	Traffic safety, drug and other investigations

Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas	Non-profit	AIDS awareness, prevention and treatment
Alcohol-Drug Abuse Women's Center	Non-profit	Residential program for women with substance abuse problems
Alcoholics Anonymous	Non-profit	Regular meetings for participants confronting alcohol problems
Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol	Non-profit	Primary provider of education and services for drug- and alcohol-dependent youth and adults
Bay Area Recovery Center	Non-profit	Treatment facility
Beacon House	Non-profit	Treatment facility
Devereaux Hospital	Non-profit	Treatment facility
DePelchin Children's Center	Non-profit	Treatment facility

Family Service Center Galveston County Health District	Non-profit Special District	Outpatient treatment facility for youth and families Health services for indigent; health and safety for community at large
Gulf Coast Alliance for the Mentally Ill	Non-profit association	Advocates for mentally ill
The Gulf Coast Center	State government	Primary state provider of mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, and prevention
Mainland Medical Center	For-profit corporation	Medical care, wellness activities, partnerships for prenatal care and social services screening
Mothers Against Drunk Driving Gulf Area	Non-profit	Advocate for alcohol-free highways
Pathway to Recovery	Non-profit	Treatment facility, LaMarque, Texas
School-based health clinics (Galveston, Texas City, La Marque) Teen Health Clinic	School district/non-profit partnership	Free and reduced-price primary health care for students and school district employees
TexCare Community-Based Program	Non-profit	Coordination and education regarding children's health insurance coverage through CHIP and Children's Medicaid
University of Texas Medical Branch	State government	Primary, secondary, tertiary care multi-county region

Prevention/Intervention:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Advocacy Center for Children	Non-profit	Multitude of services for victims of child abuse and neglect, and their families
American Red Cross	Non-profit	Emergency assistance to individuals and families
Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families	Non-profit	Services for youth and families
Bay Area Turning Point	Non-profit	Shelter for families in need; community education about crime prevention
Beacon Place	Non-profit	Transitional housing for women/ children victims of domestic violence
Big Brothers-Big Sisters	Non-profit	One- to-one mentoring program that matches caring adults with at-risk children between the ages of 6-17. Program includes community-based and school-based mentoring.
Boys and Girls Club of Galveston County	Non-profit	Education, leadership training and character-building for young people; after-school programs
Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts	Non-profit	Education, leadership training and character-building for young people; after-school programs/day care
Champions of Children	Non-profit	Advocate for government/community/non-profit alliances to better serve children and families
City of Galveston Families, Children and Youth Board	Non-profit association	Collaboration of non-profits and citizens focusing on children, youth and families

Community Resource Coordination Group for Children and Youth	Non-profit/government/ community collaboration	Case review team for children and youth of Galveston County in need of input/ resources from multiple entities
Community Youth Development Program	Community-based organization	Academic support, summer job-shadowing, mentoring, recreation, substance abuse prevention and youth leadership development
Connect Transportation	State government	Variable route transportation provider for mainland Galveston County
The Children's Center, Inc.	Non-profit	Provider of multiple services for children, youth, families, the homeless
Communities in Schools (GISD, DISD, CCISD, and TCISD)	Non-profit	Provider of counseling, crisis intervention, academic support, tutoring, mentoring, teen pregnancy prevention, gang prevention and intervention in area schools. Improves student outcomes
Community Assessment Program	Non-profit (Jesse Tree)	Tracks users of social services; connects families to medical home
Early Childhood Coalition of Galveston County	Non-profit association	Advocate for services for young children and provider of community education on children and families
Family Service Center of Galveston County	Non-profit	Counseling, support services for youth, families
Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health	Non-profit association	Mental health counseling and support
Friendswood Police Department Victim Assistance Program	City government	Comprehensive services for crime victims and their families

Galveston Boys Rites of Passage	Non-profit	Education, leadership, training mentoring and character-building for young people
Galveston County Parks and Senior Services	County government	Recreational opportunities for all age groups
Galveston Family Shelter and Transitional Living Center	Non-profit	Emergency shelter/ transitional living for various age groups
Galveston County Social Services	County government	Emergency assistance for needy (rent, utility bills, medical bills)
Galveston County TRIAD	Non-profit association	Advocates for protection of elderly
Galveston Partnership for Better Living	Non-profit	Dedicated to improved outcomes for youth and families; focus on Galveston Island quality of life
Gulf Coast NAMI	Non-profit	Counseling & other services for mentally ill and their families
H.I.S. Ministries	Non-profit	Faith-based emergency assistance provider on mainland
Immunization Coalition	Non-profit association	Working to boost immunization rates countywide
Indigent Health Care Task Force	Non-profit association	Seeking permanent funding solutions for health care for uninsured
Island Transit	City government	Federally funded public transportation for Galveston
Families Consortium	Non-profit association	Advocates for families
Innovative Alternatives	Non-profit	Counseling for youth and families

The Jesse Tree	Non-profit	Multiple emergency assistance, food and medical programs; faith-based link to network of providers
Lone Star Legal Aid	Non-profit	Legal services for indigent
Mainland Children's Partnership	Non-profit	Intensive case management, counseling and education for families with young children
Meals on Wheels	County government	Hot meals delivered to senior citizens
Metro Counseling Associates	For profit	In home & school counseling
Nia Cultural Center-Girls Rites of Passage	Non-profit	Education, leadership training and character-building for young people
Our Daily Bread	Non-profit	Soup kitchen for homeless
Resource and Crisis Center	Non-profit	Multiple services for women, men and children related to domestic violence, abuse and neglect, and sexual assault
St. Vincent's House	Non-profit	Medical, social and educational services for large north-of-Broadway Ave. (Galveston) neighborhood
Salvation Army	Non-profit	Emergency assistance, temporary housing, spiritual guidance
Save Our Hood	Non-profit	Neighborhood revitalization
Texas Department of Human Services	State government	First stop in obtaining tax-funded public assistance
Texas Rehabilitation Commission	State government	Rehabilitation and vocational assistance for disabled

The Work Source-Galveston, Texas City	State government	Comprehensive services for unemployed, underemployed and benefit-dependent
United Way, Mainland	Non-profit	Primary source of funding for many social services agencies
United Way, Galveston Island	Non-Profit	Primary source of funding for many social services agencies

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Galveston County Community Planning Team works in conjunction with other planning groups in the county 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 Galveston County Community Planning Team strives to meet annually to review the plan and make necessary additions and deletions. At least one formal meeting of the entire group is held each fall, but agency and community representatives typically submit suggestions and changes via telephone and e-mail throughout the year to the Community Planning Coordinator.

Drafts and annual updates of the Community 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 Community Planning Group to improve outcomes for Galveston County families struggling with problems described in the plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Galveston County 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 Community Planning Team will continue to urge agencies to provide programming that addresses the outlined focus areas.

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