



**PUBLIC
SAFETY
COMMUNITY PLAN**

For

2017-2018

DECEMBER 2017

Austin County Criminal Justice Community Plan

What Is a Community Plan?

This plan is known as the Austin County Public Safety Community Plan, the purpose of which is to identify gaps in services regarding criminal justice issues. The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office (CJD) requires that Criminal Justice/Public Safety Community Plans be developed and maintained by counties and regions throughout Texas.

The document that is represented here reflects the efforts of many in Austin County that are concerned with assuring that any 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 section entitled Community Planning Team.

Though the final draft of this Plan was completed in December 2016, this is a work in progress. New criminal justice and public safety goals are identified, the Planning Group changes as a result of individual and agency circumstances, and requirements concerning the makeup of the Plan are subject to change from year to year. Thus, Austin County is interested in keeping up with these changes, and including them in updates that will be posted from time to time.

If you are reading this Plan and have not been involved in its development, you are invited to join in this ongoing effort. Any questions you may have can be addressed to either Kortney Estep, Community Plan Coordinator for Austin County, or to a Criminal Justice Program staff member of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Contact information is provided within this document.

The Austin County Commissioners Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the Austin County Public Safety Community Plan. Additionally, the Commissioners Court supports grant applications from county departments as well as community organizations that address gaps in services identified in the Community Plan.

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

Bellville	Sealy	Wallis	Industry
San Felipe	Brazos Country		

Unincorporated Communities:

Cat Spring	New Ulm	Kenney	Bleiberville
Nelsonville	Frydek	Burleigh	Raccoon Bend
Shelby	Cochran	Millheim	Buckhorn
Peters	New Wehdem	Welcome	Oak Hill

School Districts:

Bellville ISD	Brazos ISD	Sealy ISD
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Brief description and history of Austin County:

Austin County is located in Southeast Texas. The County's estimated population is 28,417 according to the 2010 U.S. Census. This figure computes to a 20 1/2% increase over a span of 10 years. Bellville is the county seat and other municipalities included are Sealy, Wallis, Brazos Country, Industry, and San Felipe. Total area in square miles is 663. Austin County is rural in nature but is networked by two main thoroughfares, those being Interstate 10 and State Highway 36.

The manufacturing, trade, service, and local government sectors fuel the county's employment. Primary employers located in Austin County are Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Wal-Mart Super Center, Acme Brick Co., Western International Gas, Weyerhaeuser Co., Bellville Tube Corp., Tesco Industries Inc., Systems Painters Inc., Blencor, the school districts of Bellville, Sealy and Brazos, and local governments. Austin County lost the employment population of both BAE Systems PLC and US Steel in 2013 due to closures and layoffs which greatly reduced the manufacturing base.

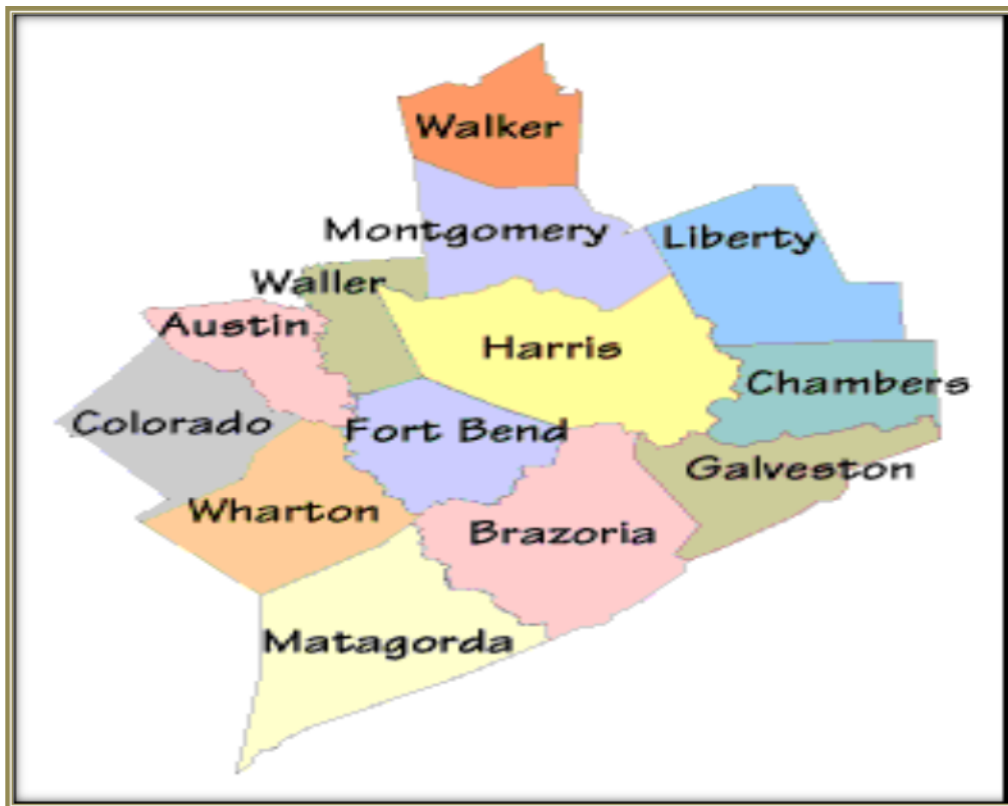
Countywide, the population continues to increase proportionately. The race/ethnicity of Austin County's population is changing with a significant increase in the Hispanic population (see attached)

Austin County is the home of Stephen F. Austin State Park and is named for Stephen Fuller Austin, also known as the "Father of Texas". Austin County was selected by Stephen F.

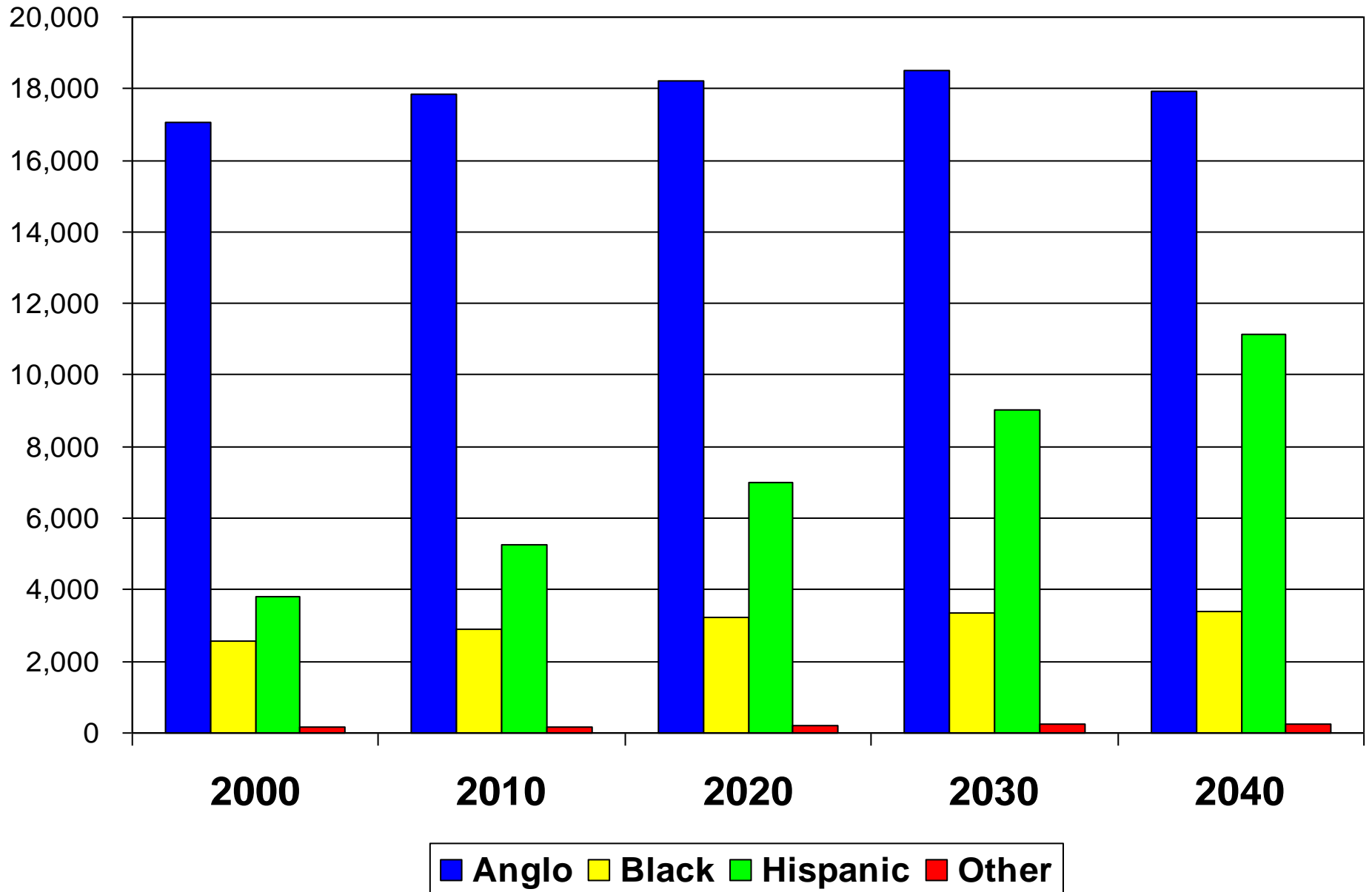
Austin in 1823 as the central site for his colony, the first Anglo-American settlement in Texas and is one of the oldest counties in Texas, organized in 1837 during the Republic of Texas. San Felipe was the County Seat of Austin County until 1848 when it was moved to Bellville. The first Capital of Texas was located in Austin County in the town of San Felipe and was the site for the first postal system. The first organized police force, which became the Texas Rangers, had its beginnings in San Felipe's committees of public safety for protection against Indians.

The Texas Legislature designated San Felipe, Austin County as the Colonial Capitol of Texas in the 2005 legislative session. There is continued research and effort to revitalize the Texas historical roots of San Felipe, Austin County, Texas.

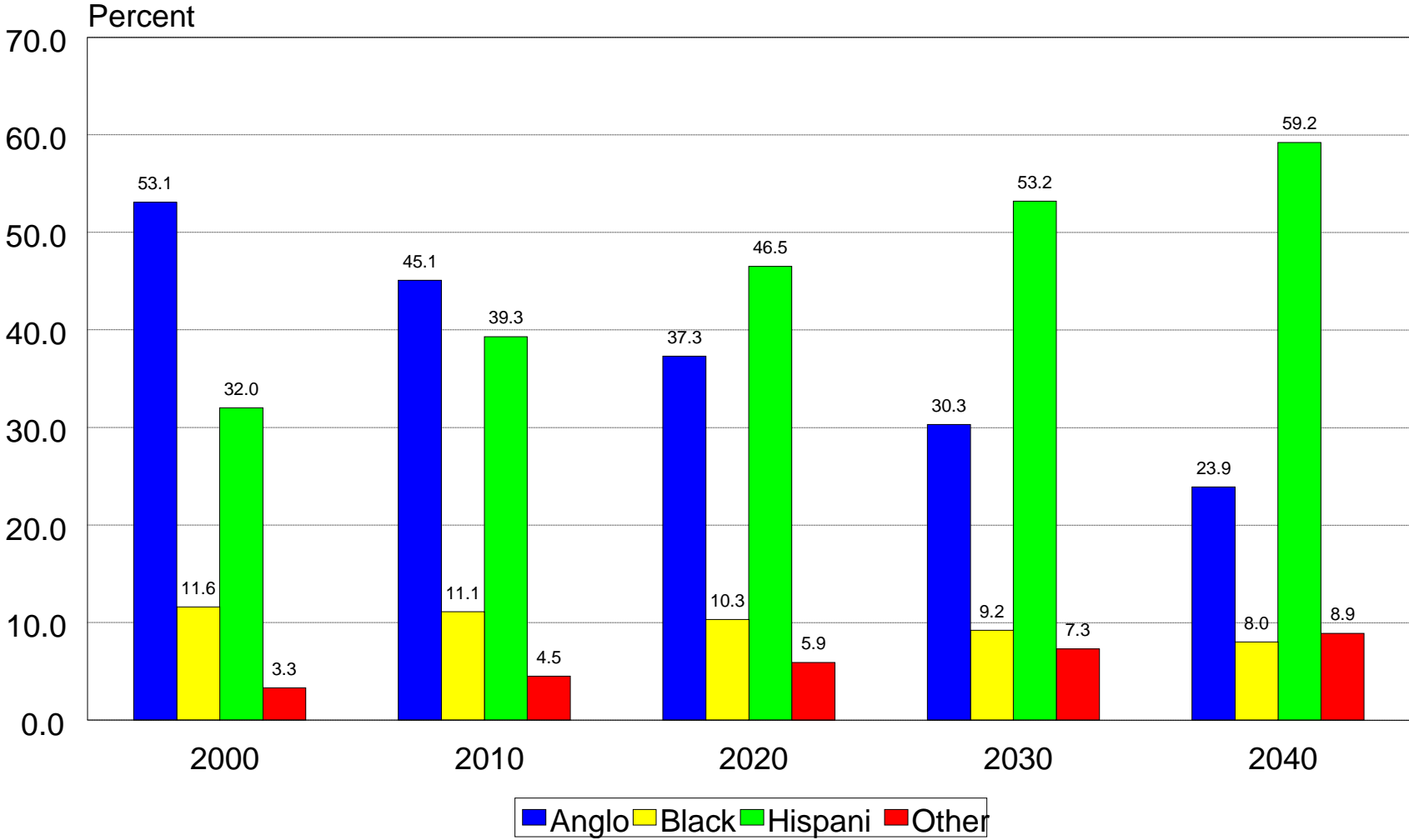
HB12, Texas Government Code, Chapter 442, allows for expansion of state historical sites and Friends of the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site continues actively working to engage local effort.



Population Change Austin County 2000-2040

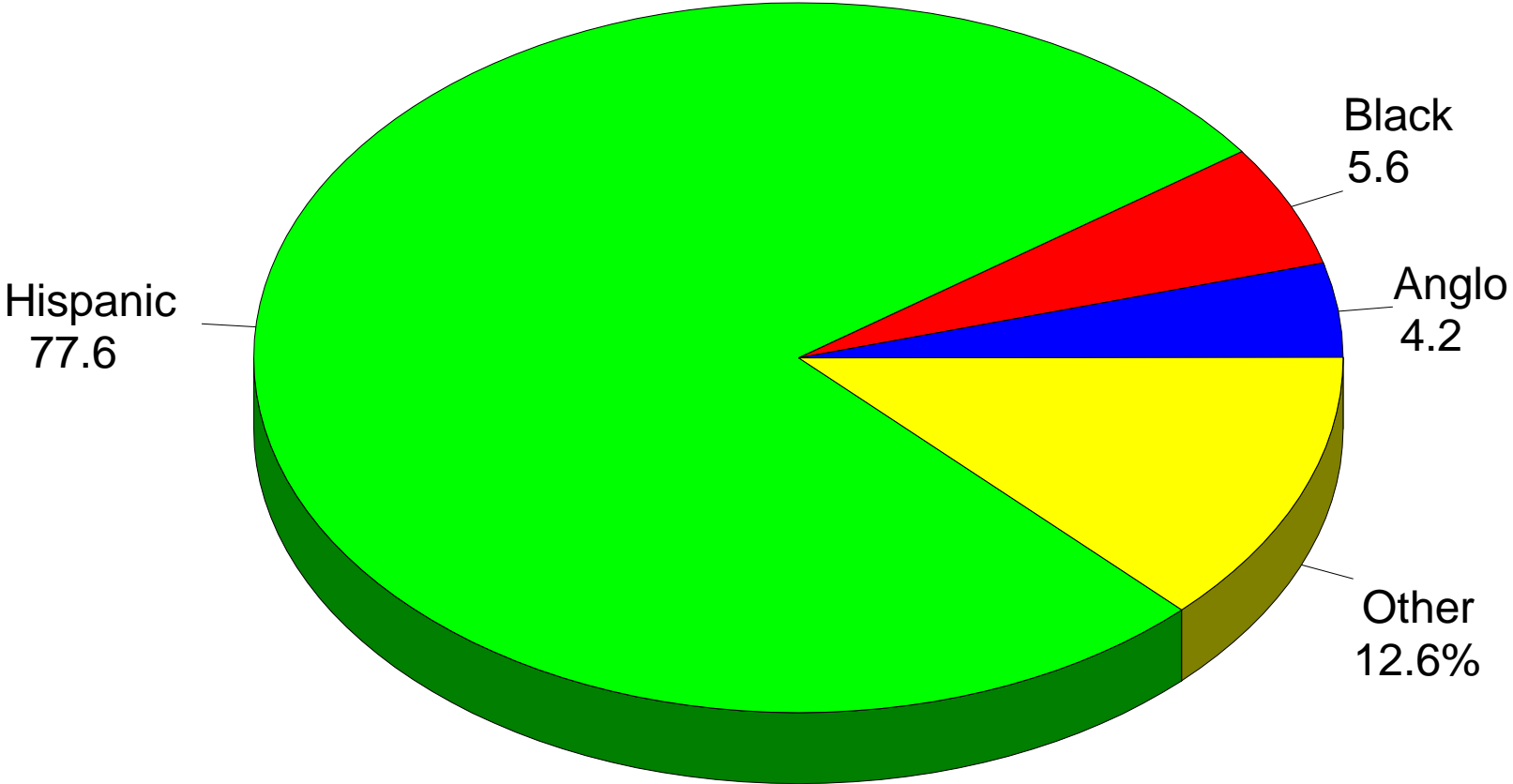


Texas Projected Population Race/Ethnicity 2000-2040



U.S. Census 2000 & Texas State Data Center 1.0 population

Projected Change in Ethnicity 2000-2040



Community Planning Group

Community Plan Coordinator for Austin County:

Dianna Grobe – Administrative Assistant to County Judge

COMPOSITION - Attendees as follows for the 2017-2018 Planning meeting:

Juvenile Services:

Robin Pean

Austin County Juvenile Probation

Victim/Family Services:

Chad Cryer

Austin County CSCD

Victor Perez

Boys and Girls Club of Austin County

Sharon Stephens

Boys and Girls Club of Austin County

Norma Rodas

Combined Community Action

Kim Mathis Goodrum

Focusing Families

Jessica Cason

Youth & Family Services

Behavioral Health Services:

Medical Health Services:

Sharon Glentzer

Bellville St. Joseph Health Center

Kurt Sunderman

Bellville St. Joseph Health Center

Darlene Wood

Bellville St. Joseph Health Center

Law Enforcement:

Captain Al Cordeiro

Austin County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Nathan Hale

Austin County Sheriff's Office

Chief Larry Matthews

Bellville Police Department

Captain Scott Riske

Sealy Police Department

Sergeant Fred Palmer

Sealy Police Department

Sergeant James Long

Sealy Police Department

Chief Shannon Huebner

Sealy ISD Police Department

Officer Lela Sharpe

Wallis Police Department

Education:

County Government:

Hilda Gomez

Austin County JP Court Clerk

HGAC:

Breann Stewart

Public Safety Program Information Specialist

Identification of Community Problems

General Public Safety Needs and Issues

Significant problems identified continue to be experienced by youth, adults and families alike in the areas of substance abuse, domestic violence and mental illness. Child abuse and neglect figures continue in increasing numbers and the problem is compounded by the decrease in number of foster care homes. There is a continued need for local victim assistance programs as well as mentoring, after-school, summer programs and activities for youth. Transportation continues to be an issue faced by all agencies involved. The lack of transportation impedes those in need of services. Colorado Valley Transit is in operation providing public transportation but is experiencing a need for expanded hours of operation. There is a significant increase in traffic in Austin County which compounds the need for increased manpower, equipment and services. Overall, agencies are experiencing the need, and demand, to increase services while enduring a decrease in funding. Limited resources and lack of funds experienced at the local level demonstrate the need to increase funding and for the continued emphasis in providing solutions for all of the problems identified for effective changes to occur. Addressing public safety needs and issues are foremost.

In each of the areas below, problems are identified that support the existence and severity of the problems as they are found in Austin County. Many needs have been given consideration with solutions presented. Below is a discussion of the problems and the needs to be addressed.

Juvenile Issues (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for expanded after-school, evening, and summer programs for at-risk youth	The Boys & Girls Clubs of Austin County continues to do an excellent job of providing more than 700 youth in Bellville and Industry with after-school, spring break, and summer programs. The YMCA serves the youth in the Sealy area.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Continued & Increased funding of this resource is highly recommended and expansion of these services to expand hours of service is greatly needed. Also service provided by Boys & Girls Club or similar affordable program to serve other areas of the county is needed.	

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for adequate counseling facilities for youth/families; family support classes	Youth and Family Services at their Sealy office, and Focusing Families in Waller County provide counseling to Austin County residents. YFS served ___ adolescents and ___ families in 2016 at their facility, in the home and at the adolescent's school. Focusing Families provided counseling services for ___ families, ___ adolescents, and ___ adults.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Both of these agencies have continued to see an increase and will need to expand facilities or refer families to other local for-profit service providers to keep up with the increased demand.	

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Need for teenage pregnancy programs outside the school districts</p>	<p>Data that has been collected through the Center of Disease Control is as Follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2013 - __ pregnancies ages 15-17 __ pregnancies ages 18 & 19</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2014 - __ pregnancies ages 15-17 __ pregnancies ages 18 & 19</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2015 - __ pregnancies ages 14-17 __ pregnancies ages 18 & 19</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2016 - __ pregnancies ages 14-17 __ pregnancies ages 18 & 19</p> <p>Teen pregnancies in Austin County is still considered by many community plan members to be a problem that warrants attention.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>A baseline has been established through the CDC and we will continue to monitor this issue as a priority in Austin County. Focus also needs to be on the prevention side of teen pregnancies to further reduce this number.</p> <p>The Boys & Girls Clubs of Austin County is a resource to assist on the prevention side of this problem through classes implemented through their prevention programs; however additional funding is needed to implement classes needed.</p> <p>Sealy Resource Service Center is a resource in Sealy, TX.</p>	

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Need for aftercare services when released from residential placement</p>	<p>Aftercare services are provided by Juvenile Probation and Texana Center for those youth who are active in either system. More local resources for families on their own seeking this service are needed. 3</p> <p>Served through after care services</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>More local providers are needed to assist in providing aftercare services to avoid further placement into more restrictive environments.</p>	

Priority #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Maintain anti-bullying programs</p>	<p>The Austin County School Districts have established anti-bullying guidelines for disciplinary purposes. Bellville ISD, Sealy ISD, and Brazos ISD provide anti-bullying programs to all students K-12.</p> <p>Focusing Families provided a total of __ anti-bullying programs with 2,760 kids attending in 2015. 4 programs were held in Austin County.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Local providers and the school districts have implemented programs to address this issue so as to prevent serious consequences to the victims of this behavior. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Austin County is another great resource to respond to this problem through their Smart Moves, Passport to Manhood, Smart Girls and Mentoring programs. Additional Funding is needed to provide extended afterschool programming.</p>	

Priority #6	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for alternatives to residential placement i.e. short-term transitional living	DFPS provides this option for children under their care but more programs are needed for those that are “homeless” or “kicked out” of their living environments. Homeless students in Austin County: 29 in Bellville ISD; 5 in Sealy ISD and 24 in Brazos ISD.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
More resources are needed to provide for a smoother transition to adulthood and to lessen the risk that these individuals do not turn to criminal means to obtain basic living necessities and further burden the criminal justice system.	

Priority #7	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for expanded and more intensive services for Alcohol and Drug Abuse	No residential substance abuse service provider is located within Austin County and residents must go into larger counties such as Fort Bend or Harris County to access this service. Austin County Juvenile Probation placed 2 juveniles into residential substance abuse treatment
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
As the need increases, local service providers such as Youth and Family Services (YFS) will take a greater role in providing more intensive services. For services outside Austin County, OSAR (Outreach Screening and Referral) is to be accessed for referral to the Bay Area Council or the Houston Council for these services. Residential services are accessed through Austin County Juvenile Probation with appropriate at the closest proximity to the family.	

Priority #8	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Intervention and Counseling services	16 juveniles were in need of substance abuse services in 2016 according to Austin County Juvenile Probation.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
More Juvenile Probation resources were directed to this problem area to prevent further involvement into the criminal justice system.	

Priority #9	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Emergency Shelters/Foster Care Homes	Focusing Families provided 4 emergency shelter placements for victims of Domestic Violence.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Additional shelter is needed for children and adolescents. Austin County CPS uses Chimney Rock Center which is located in Harris County.	

Priority #10	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Community Service Restitution programs for juvenile offenders; Mentor programs	<p>Juvenile Probation provides community service primarily thru the Adopt-a-Highway program 38 juveniles completed community service for a total of 899.25 hours in 2016.</p> <p>The RAP program, which is located in the Austin County schools, provided mentors for 70 “at risk” youth.</p> <p>Boys & Girls Club, through OJDP, provided weekly mentoring with a program strictly for boys called Passport to Manhood and a program strictly for girls called Smart Girls. These programs served 120 boys and 84 girls.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Local non-profits such as Friend’s Animal Shelter, the Bellville and Sealy Chamber of Commerce, Gordon Memorial Library, and the Silver Lake Retirement Community have provided supervision to juveniles to expand the use of community service. In addition, the Bellville WIC office has received a 3 year grant to establish a Community Garden Project for.	

Community Issues (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Need to maintain organized after-school, spring break, evening and summer programs for youth</p>	<p>The Boys & Girls Clubs of Austin County has been the primary provider of this service. More than 700 youth were served in Bellville and Industry. In addition, local churches also provide limited programming after school, evenings, weekend, spring break, and in the summer for local youth.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Although the above services are being provided, more is needed to occupy the youth of Austin County to channel their energies into more positive lifestyles. Extended hours are needed through Boys & Girls Clubs for evenings and weekends and additional club locations.</p>	

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Need for day time transportation for MH clients, court order requirements, job, etc. A continued need to expand operation hours for early a.m./late p.m. and weekend transportation</p>	<p>The Colorado Valley Transit District has been the main provider of this service for those in need of low-cost transportation. In 2015, the CVT District provided one-way trips as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juveniles transported trips: 210 • Community transported trips: 3073 • Focusing Families transport trips: 3 • Mental Health transport trips: 13,321 • School / Work trips: 7,200 <p>The Colorado Valley Transit District provided limited one-way trips. Due to limited funding, early morning, late evening, and weekend transportation is not available. 23,597 transports were provided by the Transit District in 2015.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Additional funds and Continued funding is needed to keep and expand this existing service to meet the needs of Austin County residents.</p>	

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for alcohol/substance abuse awareness, education, counseling programs and DWI Awareness classes	Austin County Juvenile Probation provided this service for 25 of the juveniles identified as needing substance abuse services. Youth and Family Services provided substance abuse services for 9 youth and 38 adults in 2015. The Austin County Community Supervision and Corrections Department has probationers who are court-ordered to attend DWI classes in Rosenberg, Hempstead, Brenham, and Columbus for this service. 67 DWI cases were filed in 2015.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
As the numbers indicate, this area has increased from the prior year and more resources are need in both the public non-profit and private counseling arenas. Funding for Boys & Girls Clubs of Austin County would be beneficial to assist in this area of providing alcohol/substance abuse and DWI awareness classes. Ideally, it would be advantageous to have these classes in Austin County to provide greater access for those clients that have transportation issues.	

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for alcohol/drug treatment programs for adolescents/adults	Youth and Family Services, Austin County Juvenile Probation, and Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) provide this service or refer their clients to providers that are identified. This service is lacking in Austin County and many have to seek help in Washington/ Waller/ Fort Bend or Harris County for this treatment. Youth and Family Services served 9 adolescents and 38 adults. Austin County Juvenile Probation referred 25 juveniles.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Expanded services are needed in Austin County to address this growing problem in the community. Additionally, support groups are needed for both adolescents and adults to provide added support to live a sober lifestyle.	

Victim Issues (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Emergency Protective Orders	Focusing Families assisted 23 victims that requested information concerning protective orders from Austin County. Wallis Police Department received 4 request for Temporary Protective Orders. They issued 2 temporary protective orders. None of these victims received a final protective order.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
At the present time in Austin County, it is reported that the Criminal District Attorney's Office does not provide legal assistance in the processing of Emergency Protective Orders. Focusing Families is able to assist victims with the following: Pro Se Protective Orders are sometimes a viable option as well as going thru Lone Star Legal Aid or the Texas Advocacy Project.	

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Emergency Shelter/Basic Shelter Services for Victims of family violence	Fifty-six victims received emergency shelter at Focusing Families in 2016.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Focusing Families provides emergency shelter and basic shelter services for victims of family violence and sexual assault for Austin County.	

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for sexual assault/domestic violence prevention and victim assistance programs to include legal advocacy	Focusing Families served 73 Austin County residents that were victims of family violence/sexual assault in 2016. Wallis Police Department reported 20 cases of family violence, 2 of those victims were over the age of 60. Wallis PD reported 1 Sexual Assault, 5 Stalking cases and 6 Family Violence with arrest.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Focusing Families continues to see an increase in demand for services from victims of family violence with a particular demand for services increasing for victims of sexual assault in Austin County. Legal advocacy is still greatly needed for both victims of family violence and sexual assault.	

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for collaboration among victims of crime, advocates and law enforcement	Would like to see some cross trainings for law enforcement on victim issues along with the District Attorney and victim organizations. Focusing Families would like to start a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) in Austin County.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Collaboration remains paramount among victims of crime, advocates and law enforcement. The need for referrals to local entities such as Focusing Families benefits law enforcement to have a “safe place” to refer victims of crime who are in need of services law enforcement cannot provide.	

Priority #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Abuse of the Elderly in particular financial abuse. These include: investment scams, bogus lottery schemes and stolen jewelry, identity theft, credit card misuse and forged checks.	Wallis Police Department has reported an increase in the number of fraud cases being reported to their agency. They reported 35 cases of fraud, 5 of those victims were senior citizens.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Educational resources for seniors and the community to help identify potential scams and those elderly that may be affected. Community involvement to help identify, prevent and minimize the risk of abuse of the elderly.	

Law Enforcement Issues (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for new & updated communications equipment for law enforcement officers	Number of sworn officers in Austin County = 122
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Maintenance and continued upgrades of radio equipment, vehicles, and equipment needed for case investigation is ongoing. Narcotic equipment remains a major need for law enforcement officers in Austin County. With the advancement in technology, smaller size agencies struggle financially with the enhancement & replacement of old & outdated equipment essential in providing for the safety & protection of the citizens as well as the officers themselves in Austin County, which primarily remains rural in nature.</p>	

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Traffic Monitoring Cameras	Due to burglaries and robberies in Bellville, Sealy, Wallis and Austin County. Additionally, Austin County is used as an evacuation route from the coast during a hurricane.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>The ability to locate a vehicle that was involved in a crime and to monitor traffic during emergency management incidents.</p>	

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator.	Number of victims assisted: 80 Number of adults: 75 Number of juveniles: 5
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>The continued need for the Crime Victim's Liaison at the Austin County Sheriff's Office is substantiated by the increase in Victims assisted.</p>	

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for mental health officer, transport, and training in handling mental health subjects for patrol officers and Jailers who frequently come in contact with subjects.	47 Referrals were made by law enforcement in 2015. 2 youth 45 adults
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Texana Center located in the Brookshire Behavioral Healthcare Clinic received approximately 47 referrals for crisis and intake from Austin County law enforcement. Of the 47 referred, 2 were youth and 45 were adults.	

Priority #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Transportation Officer for mental health clients, juvenile detainees and adult prisoners to appropriate facilities.	30 adult inmate transports were made in 2015 from jail to MHMR facilities by officers.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
The need remains for Transportation Officer(s) to relieve the caseload from regular patrol officers who would otherwise be pulled off the street of their regular shift.	

Priority #6	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for law enforcement officers located in ALL schools in the County.	At this time Sealy ISD employs three full-time officers. Infractions requiring police officer involvement in the schools 180 Sealy ISD, 21 Bellville ISD, 45 Wallis ISD.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
With the increase in violence on school campuses across the nation, the need for law enforcement presence is becoming a priority on local school campuses in the County. Sealy ISD is the only school district with its own police force.	

Priority #7	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Human and/or Sex Trafficking and the Smuggling of Illegal Alien cases are posing an increased threat to law enforcement and the communities in Austin County.	4 cases reported with 8 illegal aliens being caught and detained in 2015.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Approximately 9 pursuits were reported resulting in the fleeing of illegal immigrants from vehicles after officers initiate certain traffic stops at locations along highways and thoroughfares many more than 16 fled into the fields. Increased manpower is called in to assist in the search and apprehension of these subjects. One vehicle stop, alone, resulted in approximately 14 illegals fleeing from the officer at the scene of the traffic stop.</p>	

Priority #8	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for law enforcement assistance in investigations of victims of crimes to include Crime Victim Training.	<p>80 crime victims assisted through Austin County Sherriff's Office. 25 legal services for victims of domestic violence referred to BPD.</p> <p>36 Victim Impact Statements were sent out through the Austin County Criminal District Attorney's Office. 14 victim impact statements sent from BPD.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Each police agency has a crime victim assistance coordinator. In addition, the Austin County Criminal District Attorney's Office employ their own Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator.</p>	

Priority #9	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for screening of mental health clients within reasonable amount of time while in law enforcement custody, PREFERABLY EVALUATION PRIOR TO INCARCERATION.	47 mental health clients were referred to Texana from Austin County law enforcement.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>While law enforcement officers agree the time has continued to be minimized through evaluation by mental health providers, the need remains for the continuation of screening prior to the person being incarcerated.</p>	

Priority #10	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for affordable Regional Law Enforcement Training	All 122 Sworn Officers employed in Austin County are required to have a minimum of 40 hours of ongoing training every two years. 95% of officer training is done outside of the county.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>The need for Regional Training remains on the forefront for officers because the law enforcement agencies have very limited training budgets. Law Enforcement should be afforded the opportunity for continued education without the burden of financial constraints. Most training is now conducted at Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Training Academy which is approximately 2 hours of travel time to and from.</p>	

Priority #11	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Regional Criminal Justice coordination, communication and collaboration	Approximately 122 , Sworn Police Officers wear the badge in Austin County.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>With the increase in violent crimes in surrounding counties, regionalization of law enforcement equipment and manpower is a priority. Bellville Police Department is the agency in the County that maintains the vehicle utilized by the Austin County Special Response Team (ACSRT) which is a combined effort of the Austin County Sheriff's Office, Sealy P.D. and Bellville P.D. with officers assigned to the Team.</p>	

School Issues (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for additional I.S.D./School Resource Officers	<p>Only Sealy ISD has Resource/Police Officers. Two officers cover the Sealy High School, Sealy Jr. High, and Selman Elementary. Sealy ISD P.D. handled 180 students in 2015 for requested assistance by the administration. They additionally filed 8 cases on students for truancy and 10 cases on parents. 221 students and 167 parents were counseled regarding truancy.</p> <p>All other schools in the County rely upon the local police departments to cover incidents that involve criminal activity.</p> <p>Calls for assistance by police were 21 to Bellville ISD and 45 calls to Brazos ISD.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Expansion of additional officers to Bellville ISD and Brazos ISD would greatly improve the safety and attendance of students.	

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need to establish a county-wide JJAEP (Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program)	<p>Bellville ISD, Sealy ISD, and Wallis ISD have their own alternative schools to handle youth that could be served in a JJAEP setting. This number has increased over the past years and the need will become greater as the county grows in population. Students placed in alternative education in 2015 22 Bellville ISD 12 Brazos ISD.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
The Austin County Juvenile Probation Department will continue to monitor this area and co-ordinate with the local school districts to adequately serve this delinquent population. At present, Juvenile Probation Officers travel to visit and monitor the behavior of those students that fall under the criminal justice jurisdiction to address compliance of school rules and regulations while at the alternative school campuses.	

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for additional K-9 resources, units and vehicles for random drug searches in the Austin County Schools	<p>Random drug searches have confirmed that students are bringing drugs on campus and transporting them in vehicles. 14 arrests were made in 2015 for possession of marijuana in a drug free zone. Austin County is in need of their own unit to aide in the prevention and intervention of drugs on campuses. Austin County Sheriff's Office has a K-9 unit but is mainly used for traffic stops & drug interdiction.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Presently, the Austin County Schools are contracting with private companies for K-9 units to facilitate this service. This has been identified as the number one need relating to schools to provide for a safe and secure environment.	

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Mentors and services for At-Risk students; truancy and drop-out prevention	RAP (Raising Academic Performance Inc.) provides 60 mentors that volunteer 30 minutes to an hour one day a week with the same student to keep them on track to stay in school and became a successful graduate. RAP provides this service for all Austin County Schools upon identification of the need by school counselors, principals or teachers. 70 at-risk students were served in 2015 by the RAP program.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Expansion of this program is needed to provide for the significant need that is not being served throughout Austin County. More recruitment and funding is needed to assist students to reach their academic goals.	

Priority #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for all school districts to provide opportunities for classes on: computers to receive diploma, parent education.	Alternatives to regular academics is needed to address the students and parents who are in need of GED and a high school diploma who are no longer able to receive this service due to age or financial circumstances.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Sealy ISD and Bellville ISD have developed inter local agreements with Wharton County Jr. College to provide Adult Education and Literacy Program for GED preparation and ESL classes.	

Priority #6	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for programs for Alternative Education Program (AEP) students and parents	The alternative education programs address the academic standing of the students who they serve. Many need additional services to be successful upon return to their main campus setting and not return to the AEP in a non-productive cycle. Parents are also in need of receiving the necessary skills to assist their children in this transition. Alternative Education placements in 2015 – 22 Bellville ISD and 12 Brazos ISD
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Austin County schools have a transition section written into the exit documentation which is completed on students who leave AEP to return to their main campus.	

Priority #7

Problem Identified

Data

Need for Regional school-to-work programs; skills-based training; vocational; scholarship programs

As provided in HB5, Sealy ISD, Bellville ISD, and Brazos ISD have Co-op programs that allow students at the upper grade levels to work ½ day and to go to school for ½ day. In addition, these Districts have skill-based or vocational programming as classes that can teach marketable skills to students that are more vocational/career oriented. School counselors provide students with access to scholarship opportunities and assist those interested in furthering their education.
Work program participants - **55** Bellville ISD, **25** Brazos ISD

Potential Response to Problem

More access to school-to-work programs are needed along with greater opportunities to enroll in vocational oriented programming. Development of part-time job opportunities for these students is needed by working with local businesses in the county.

Mental Health Issues (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for long-term care for mentally ill and mentally challenged with disabilities	<p>312 patients were served by Texana Non-residential services are provided on a long term basis. Residential services are still lacking for this population.</p> <p>Crisis services provided by Texana Center, Brookshire: 31 crisis screenings were provided to youth in Austin County (4 were referred by law enforcement) 92 crisis screenings were provided to adults in Austin County (about 46 referred by law enforcement)</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Texana is the Behavioral Healthcare Clinic which sees the demand for increased services in an area not serviced by any other mental health care facility. The Texana Center for Austin County is located in Brookshire.	

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for continued mental health services for youth in the school environment	<p>312 patients were served by Texana 62 youth were referred which approximately 30% of all clients is served. Approximately 40 Austin County youth received services in the school setting.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Texana is the Behavioral Healthcare Clinic that assists the school districts located in Austin County for the screening and evaluation of youth who are in need of services other than what the schools are able to provide.	

Statistical Data for Austin County Issues, Services and Programs

Juvenile Issues – 2016

- 1. Delinquency – Austin County Juvenile Probation:**
 - # of juveniles (total) referred: **66**
 - # of juveniles referred for Misdemeanor Offenses: **30**
 - # of juveniles referred for Felony Offenses: **7**
 - # of juveniles adjudicated to Probation: **7**
 - # of juveniles placed on Deferred Prosecution: **26**
 - # of juveniles committed to TJJD: **0**
 - # of juveniles certified: **0**
- 2. Children in Need of Supervision – Austin County Juvenile Probation:**
 - # of juveniles referred for CINS behavior: **24**
- 3. Services – Austin County Juvenile Probation:**
 - # of juveniles needing substance abuse services: **25**
 - # of juveniles needing mental health services: **9**
 - # of juveniles performing community service: **38** for **899.25 hours**

Community Issues – 2016

- 1. Substance abuse – Youth and Family Service:**
 - # of adults referred to: **38**
 - # of adolescents referred: **9**
- 2. Star services – Youth and Family Service:**
 - # of adolescents served: **85**
 - # of adolescents referred: **121**
 - # of families served: **85**
 - # of crisis intervention calls: **4**
 - # of referral calls: **28**
 - # of individual Youth Counseling Sessions: **471**
 - # of family Counseling Services: **262**
- 3. Family issues – Focusing Families:**
 - # of families referred: **31**
 - # of adolescents referred: **10**
 - # of adults referred: **31**
- 4. Youth programs – Boys and Girls Club, Austin County:**
 - # of youth participated: **728**
 - # of youth served through the Passport to Manhood: **120**
 - # of youth served through Smart Girls: **84**
 - # of youth served through Smart Moves: **135**
 - Bellville: **588**
 - Industry: **140**
- 5. Transportation services – Colorado Valley Transit District:**
 - # of juveniles transported: **238**
 - # of transportation trips to activities & Services: **9,486**
 - # of transports to mental health clinic: **531**
 - # of transports to school/work: **2,473**
 - # total number of trips for the County: **21,441**
 - **Numbers are lower due to the ending of the JARC-Job Access Reverse Commute Grant funding and the Texana Center closing its operations in Austin County.**

Crime Victim Issues – 2016

1. Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault – Focusing Families:

- # of domestic violence/sexual assault victims referred: **69**
- # of legal advocacy services for victims of domestic violence/sexual assault: **22**
- # of emergency shelter for victims of family violence: **10**
- # of individuals who received crisis intervention: **69**
- # of individuals who received crisis counseling: **69**

School Issues – 2016

1. School Resource/I.S.D. Officers – Sealy I.S.D.:

- # of student infractions requiring officer involvement: **180**
- # of contacts made to parents and students regarding Truancy Tickets and Court action citations: **18**

Bellville ISD

- # of student infractions requiring officer involvement: **21 Bellville PD**

Brazos ISD

- # of student infractions requiring officer involvement: **45 Wallis PD**

2. Truancy – Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1:

- # of Truancy cases filed: **All records expunged**
- # of parents contributing to Truancy: **10**

Law Enforcement Issues – 2016

1. Mental Health:

- # of adolescents referred to Texana in Austin County.: **4**
- # of adults referred to Texana in Austin County: **46**

2. Victim's:

- # of victims assisted by Austin County Sheriff's Office Victim's Liaison: **80**
- # of adults: **75**
- # of juveniles: **5**

Mental Health Issues – 2016

1. Mental Health – Texana Center:

- # of adolescents referred: **62**
- # of adults referred: **250**

Resources Available

Included below are resources identified by the Austin County Community Planning Group that are available to provide services as it relates to the issues noted.

Criminal Justice:

Austin County Juvenile Probation	County Government	Treatment, training, and rehabilitation for young offenders ages 10-16
Austin County Community Supervision and Corrections Department	Judicial District	Treatment, training, and rehabilitation for adult offenders ages 17 and above
Austin County Criminal District Attorney	County Government	Prosecution of juvenile and adult offenders
Austin County Court at Law / Juvenile Court	County Government	Disposition of cases regarding juveniles/Misdemeanor A & B adults
155th Judicial District Court	State Government	Disposition of cases regarding adult Felony offenders
Austin County Justice of the Peace Courts	County Government	Disposition of cases regarding juveniles and adults, Class C Misdemeanors
Municipal Courts	Local Government	Disposition of cases regarding juveniles and adults, Class C Misdemeanors

Law Enforcement:

Austin County Sheriff's Office	County Government	Law enforcement for unincorporated county
Bellville Police Department	City	Law enforcement for incorporated city
Sealy Police Department	City	Law enforcement for incorporated city
Wallis Police Department	City	Law enforcement for incorporated city
San Felipe Police Department	City	Law enforcement for incorporated city
Sealy I.S.D. Police Department	School District	Law enforcement in the public school setting
Texas Department of Public Safety	State Government	Traffic safety, drug and other investigations

Social / Behavioral / Health State Agencies:

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)	State Government	Protects children, the elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation
Texas Department of Health and Human Services (HHSC)	State Government	First stop in obtaining tax-funded public assistance
Texas Department of State Health services (DSHS)	State Government	Protects and promotes the health of individuals
Texana Center	State Government	Primary state provider of mental health services
Bellville St. Joseph Health Center	For-profit corporation	Medical care and wellness

Prevention / Intervention/Assistance:

Youth and Family Services	Non-Profit	Promotes positive, healthy individual and families serving Austin, Colorado, & Fayette Counties since 1991
Boys and Girls Club, Austin County	Non-Profit	Education, leadership training and character-building for young people; after-school programs serving Austin County since 1996
RAP (Raising Academic Performance)	Non-Profit	A mentoring program since 1995 in Austin County to encourage and innovate students to stay in school who are at risk of dropping out
Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)	Nonprofit/ Community Collaboration	Case review team for children and youth of Austin County in need of input / resources from multiple entities
United Way	Non-Profit	Primary source of funding for many social services agencies
Family Ties	Non-Profit	Counseling and programs for youth and families
Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)	State Government	Statewide program for families with children, birth to three, with disabilities and developmental delays
Rainbow Room	Non-Profit	An emergency resource center available to CPS caseworkers to help them Meet the critical needs of abused and neglected children.

Combined Community Assistance	Non-Profit	In existence since 1966 assisting people to become independent and self sufficient
YMCA (Sealy)	Non-Profit	Strengthening community involvement
The East Side Foundation	Non-Profit	Organized in 1989 to act as a catalyst for addressing the concerns and wellbeing of youth and senior citizens of the community
Goodwill Houston	Non-Profit	Provide educational training and job opportunities
The Work Source	State Government	Comprehensive services for unemployed, underemployed, and benefit-dependent
Faith Mission, Brenham	Non-Profit	Multiple emergency assistance, food and medical programs; faith-based link to network of providers
Helping One Another / Meals on Wheels	Non-Profit	Hot meals delivered to senior citizens
Protective Day Care Centers	For Profit	Licensed by the state of Texas
Texas Agricultural Extension Service	State Government	Outreach and continuing education programs and services utilizing services of the AgriLife extension office
Family Service Center	Non-Profit	Counseling, support services for youth, families
Focusing Families	Non-Profit	Multitude of services for family issues and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault including crisis intervention, counseling, legal advocacy, and emergency shelter
Salvation Army	Non-Profit	Emergency assistance, temporary housing, spiritual guidance
West End Christian Community Organization WECCO	Non-Profit	WECCO is a coalition of seven Christian congregations in the West End area of Austin County. Providing monthly food & clothing distribution, mission meals, & community celebrations
Youth Advisory Commission (YAC)	Sealy Community Based Organization	Serves as a liaison between the youth of the city and the city council
Colorado Valley Transit District	Non-Profit	A rural transit system that has served Austin, Colorado, Waller, & Wharton County since 1986

Local Agencies/Entities:

Bellville I.S.D.

Sealy I.S.D.

Brazos I.S.D.

Ministerial Alliance

Bellville St. Joseph Health Center

County Government

Municipal Governments

Churches

Businesses/Industry

Others:

Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC)

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Austin 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 Austin County Community Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the Plan and make necessary additions and deletions. At least one formal meeting of the entire team 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, and etc.

It is the intent of the Community Planning Team to improve outcomes for Austin County families struggling with problems described in the Plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Austin 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.

Contact Information

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