

Brazoria County Community Plan 2017-2018



December 2017

Brazoria County Community Plan

What Is a Community Plan?

This plan is formally known as the Brazoria County Criminal Justice 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 Community Plans be developed and maintained by counties and regions throughout Texas.

The document that is represented here reflects the efforts of many in Brazoria 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 of 2013, this is a work in progress. New criminal justice 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, Brazoria 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 Becky Bosco, Community Plan Coordinator for Brazoria County, or to a Criminal Justice Program staff member of the (COG). Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

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

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

Alvin	Freeport	Oyster Creek
Angleton	Hillcrest Village	Pearland
Bailey's Prairie	Holiday Lakes	Quintana
Bonney	Iowa Colony	Richwood
Brazoria	Jones Creek	Sandy Point
Brookside Village	Lake Jackson	Surfside
Clute	Liverpool	Sweeny
Danbury	Manvel	West Columbia

Unincorporated Communities:

Amsterdam	Demi-John Island	Peach Point
Anchor	East Columbia	Rosharon
Churchill	McBeth	Shady Acres
Columbia Lakes	Mims	Treasure Island
Commodore Cove	Oak Manor	Velasco
Danciger		

School Districts:

School District	Number of Schools
Alvin I.S.D.	28
Angleton I.S.D.	10
Brazosport I.S.D.	19
Columbia-Brazoria I.S.D.	5
Damon I.S.D. (Pre-K – 8th Grade)	1
Danbury I.S.D.	3
Pearland I.S.D.	23
Sweeny I.S.D.	3

Colleges & Universities

Within Brazoria County:
<u>Alvin Community College</u>
<u>Brazosport College</u>
<u>University of Houston - Clear Lake Pearland Campus</u>

Within 50 Miles of the County Courthouse in Angleton, Tx:
<u>College of the Mainland</u>
<u>Galveston College</u>
<u>Houston Baptist University</u>
<u>Houston Community College</u>
<u>Lee College</u>
<u>Rice University</u>
<u>San Jacinto College</u>
<u>Texas A&M University at Galveston</u>
<u>Texas Southern University</u>
<u>University of Houston</u>
<u>University of Houston - Downtown</u>
<u>University of Houston - Clear Lake</u>
<u>University of St. Thomas</u>
<u>Wharton County Junior College</u>

Private Schools in Brazoria County:
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Angleton Christian School	Angleton
Brazosport Christian School	Lake Jackson
Columbia Christian School	West Columbia
Eagle Heights Christian Academy	Pearland
First Christian Academy	Pearland

Foundation Preparatory Academy	Richwood
Heritage Christian Academy	Pearland
Holy Comforter Episcopal School	Angleton
Living Stones Christian School	Alvin
Montessori School of Downtown	Pearland
Montessori School of Downtown - Silverlake	Pearland
Next Generation Learning Center	Alvin
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School	Richwood
Primrose School of Pearland	Pearland
Primrose School of Pearland Parkway	Pearland
Silverlake KinderCare	Pearland
Silverline Montessori School	Pearland
Silverline Montessori School – Shadow Creek	Pearland
St. Helen Catholic School	Pearland
Sweeny Christian School	Sweeny
Tottenberry’s Private School	Pearland

Charter School:	
West Columbia Charter School	West Columbia

Brief Description and History of Brazoria County

History: Brazoria County was created on March 11, 1836 as one of the original counties and was named for the town of Brazoria. The county was organized on December 20, 1836 with Brazoria as the county seat. In 1897 Angleton became the county seat and remains so today. The first of Stephen F. Austin's authorized 300 settlers in what was then the State of Coahuila, Mexico, arrived at the mouth of the Brazos River in 1821. Many of the events leading to the Texas Revolution occurred or developed here. Santa Anna signed the famous Treaties of Velasco which effectively granted Texas its independence and led directly to the consolidation of the United States' continental empire, where those first settlers arrived in 1821. The county is home to the oldest law enforcement agency in the state, the Brazoria County Sheriff's Department formed in March 1836.

Description: Brazoria County, 1,597 square miles in size, is situated on the Texas Gulf Coast and immediately to the south of Harris County and the city of Houston. The county has a 2010 Census population of 313,162, a 2017 population estimate of 357,982 and a 2022 population projection of 385,436. The county is home to a mixture of both rural and urban communities. It is bordered by Harris, Ft. Bend, Matagorda and Galveston counties and the Gulf of Mexico.

The northern part of the county has experienced phenomenal population growth during the last several years. The city of Pearland experienced a 60% increase in population from 2004 (56,690) to the 2010 Census (90,936). The 2017 population estimate for Pearland is 109,681 and the 2022 population projection is 127,727, so strong population growth will continue for the foreseeable future. Expected growth in Alvin and Manvel will only further add to the large population growth in the northern part of the county.

The construction of numerous petrochemical plants that represent approximately \$28.5 billion of new capital investment has, and will continue to create, a major industrial construction boom in the southern part of the county. The construction of the plants has created the need for about 10,000 construction workers. The construction of the various new plants will be ongoing until at least 2020.

In September 2017, the historic flooding from Hurricane Harvey and its unprecedented rainfall amounts caused major damage in Brazoria County. Over 13,000 dwellings in the county were damaged and 40,000 households in the county requested FEMA disaster assistance, but fortunately there was no loss of life from the flooding.

Economic Development – 2017:

Alvin

Alvin continues its strong housing growth with new homes being built in Forest Heights, Kendall Lakes, Mustang Crossing and Hunters Cove. Sunset Ranch subdivision, currently under construction, will provide even more lot choices in Alvin for new home construction.

The city of Alvin has introduced a downtown business improvement grant for new and existing downtown businesses that will provide a 50% match for business improvements that will enhance the appearance of the business. Also, with the guidance of the Downtown Alvin

Revitalization Team, the city will install sidewalk brick pavers and decorative street lights in downtown as a further effort to enhance the appearance of downtown Alvin.

DaVinci Maker Labs has opened in downtown Alvin. DaVinci Maker Labs is for students and entrepreneurs who want to develop their skills and explore and launch a business venture.

Alvin is located near the Chocolate Bayou petrochemical companies. One of these companies, INEOS Olefins & Polymers, has begun construction on a world-scale \$550 million linear alpha olefins (LAO) plant. The new LAO plant will create 80 new direct jobs, 376 new direct and indirect jobs and 3,200 construction jobs at the peak of construction. Construction on the new LAO plant is expected to be completed in late 2018.

Brazosport

Brazosport, located in the southern part of Brazoria County, is a multi-city community that includes the cities of Brazoria, Clute, Freeport, Jones Creek, Lake Jackson, Oyster Creek, Quintana, Richwood and Surfside Beach.

2017 petrochemical construction projects underway and completed:

- MEGlobal began construction on its \$1 billion ethylene glycol plant in Oyster Creek. The new plant will create 35 new direct jobs, 172 new direct and indirect jobs and 1,400 construction jobs at the peak of construction. Construction on the new plant is expected to be completed in 2019.
- Freeport LNG continues construction on its \$13 billion natural gas liquefaction facility which consists of a pretreatment facility in Oyster Creek and three processing trains in Quintana. Freeport LNG has submitted an application for federal permitting of a fourth processing train. The fourth train represents an additional \$3 billion in new capital investment.
- BASF and Yara International are nearing construction completion of a \$750 million joint venture ammonia production facility in Freeport.
- Dow has completed construction of its \$1.7 billion ethylene cracker as well as construction on its new \$846 million polyolefins and elastomers plant.
- Praxair has completed construction of its \$277 million hydrogen plant and is planning to start construction in 2018 on a \$104 million air separation unit to produce argon, nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide. The new air separation unit will be built near the new hydrogen plant.

Two new hotels are nearing completion in Lake Jackson. The hotels, a StayBridge and Courtyard by Marriott, are located next to the Brazos Mall.

With the petrochemical growth, there is continuing demand for single family homes. Clute and Lake Jackson continue to see strong new home construction, but there is still a need for more developed lots for new home construction.

Iowa Colony

New home construction in Meridiana, a 3,000-acre master planned community on State Highway 288 and located in Iowa Colony and Manvel, continues at a rapid pace.

Alvin ISD is currently building its new football stadium and complex in Meridiana as part of the new Alvin ISD Heritage Complex. The Heritage Complex will be completed in the summer of 2018.

Manvel

As with the other northern Brazoria County cities, Manvel continues the strong trend of new home construction. Pomona, Sedona Lakes, Newport Lake Estates and Rodeo Palms subdivisions are experiencing the bulk of the new home construction.

Pearland

Tool-Flo Manufacturing is nearing completion of its new \$40 million, 78,000-square foot facility that will manufacture carbide metalworking tools and products for the oil and gas, automotive, aerospace and medical industries. The new facility, located on a 15-acre site in the Lower Kirby District, will employ 188 people when completed. Tool-Flo will be located in the Harris County portion of Pearland.

FloWorks has completed construction on its new \$56 million, 225,000-square foot warehouse and operations facility near Pearland High School. The new facility will create 80 new direct jobs. FloWorks International is a leading specialty supplier of metal and HDPE pipe, fittings, flanges, valves, actuators, bar and tubing.

In April 2018 Lonza will complete construction of its \$74 million, 250,000-square foot state-of-the-art biotech facility in the Lower Kirby District and Harris County portion of Pearland. The new biotech facility will be used for viral and immunotherapy development and manufacturing. The new Lonza facility will create 150 new direct jobs.

Base Pair Biotechnologies has moved its local operation into a larger 5,000-square foot location in Pearland. Base Pair develops novel chemical components for research and medical diagnostics made of DNA.

Pearland continues its strong medical growth with the success of Adient Medical. Adient Medical has developed a totally absorbable vascular filter for the prevention of pulmonary embolisms.

On April 28, 2017 the University of Houston-Clear Lake Pearland Campus broke ground on its 69,539-square foot health sciences building. Construction of the new facility is expected to be completed in January 2019.

On June 6, 2017 ground was broken on Brazoria County's segment of the State Highway 288 Expressway. The Expressway construction includes the addition of four toll lanes in the grass median between the existing lanes on 288. The new toll lanes will be from near State Highway 6 to downtown Houston. Construction on the 288 Expressway will be completed in late 2019. The new toll lanes will alleviate the heavy rush hour traffic congestion from Pearland to the Texas Medical Center and downtown Houston.

Also included in the 288 Expressway construction will be the reconstruction of the SH 288 and FM 518 (Broadway) intersection. This intersection reconstruction will alleviate the congestion at this intersection. Enhancements and beautifications will also be made to the portion of the 288 Expressway that passes through Pearland.

The Ivy District, a 40-acre mixed use development in the Lower Kirby District, is in the initial stages of infrastructure construction.

A feasibility study has been completed for a multi-use event center. Discussions are underway on how best to fund the event center as well as how to pay for the event center's operating expenses.

The specific target niche for the event center – conventions, concerts, sporting events, etc. – also needs to be finalized.

Port Freeport

On August 18, 2017 Port Freeport broke ground on its \$21.29 million, 200-acre Parcel 14 Rail Development Project. When completed in the summer of 2018, the rail development project will be a multi-modal facility and warehousing industrial park that will provide for easier movement of products by rail and truck into and out of the Port.

Phillips 66 has completed construction on its new liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) exporting terminal at the Port. The new LPG terminal is part of a \$2 billion capital investment that also includes the construction of a natural gas liquids fractionation unit at the Phillips 66's plant in Sweeny. Phillip 66's first LPG shipment left the Port in December 2016.

Sweeny

Chevron Phillips Chemical Company has completed construction on its two new polyethylene units and rail storage facility at its Sweeny plant. This new facility represents a capital investment of \$1 billion and will create 92 new direct jobs.

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Brazoria County: Becky Bosco / Office Manager, Brazoria County Judge's Office

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/categories.

Juvenile Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Courts, Judy Communities In Schools of Brazoria County Chief Financial Officer	jcourts@cistjx.org 979-849-0321 x1
Garza, Delma, LPC, LCDC Brazoria County Counseling Center	dgarza@bccounselingcenter.com 979-549-0889
Garza, Gracia ADAPT	gracieg@adaptprograms.com 979-480-3327
Lawson, Pamela Youth & Family Counseling Services Director	plawson@yfcs.org 979-849-1577
Morales, Hortencia Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department	hortenciam@brazoria-county.com 979-864-1210 x142
Olivia, Monica	Monica.olivia@hotmail.com 281-706-6428
Spears, Evelyn Redeeming Light Bible Training Center Community Member	sparsekeys@gmail.com
VanCleave, Margie, LPC Manager of Counseling Services for Sweeny Community Hospital Intensive Outpatient Senior Horizons Program and Counseling Associates for Youth, Families and Adults	mvanleave@sweenyhospital.org 979-548-1549
Counseling Connections for Changes, Inc. Dawn Lawless, LCSW, LSOTP-CEO	218-485-9280 281-485-9070 Fax

Judge Jack Brown Precinct 1, Place 1	979-297-4650
Judge Milan Miller Precinct 1, Place 2	979-233-4700
Judge John Vasut Precinct 2, Place 1	979-756-.2410
Judge Richard Davis Precinct 2, Place 2	979.864.1402
Judge Mike Merkel Precinct 3, Place 1	281.331.3524
Judge Gordon Starkenburg Precinct 3, Place 2	281.485.1528
Judge Sharon Fox Precinct 4, Place 1	713.855.2777
Judge Sherry Kersh Precinct 4, Place 2	979.345.2671

Mental Health Committee:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Courts, Judy Communities In Schools of Brazoria County Chief Financial Officer	jcourts@cistjx.org 979-849-0321 x1
Garza, Delma, LPC, LCDC Brazoria County Counseling Center	dgarza@bccounselingcenter.com 979-549-0889
Garza, Gracia ADAPT	gracieg@adaptprograms.com 979-480-3327
Lawson, Pamela Youth & Family Counseling Services Director	plawson@yfcs.org 979-849-1577
Morales, Hortencia Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department	hortenciam@brazoria-county.com 979-864-1210 x142

Olivia, Monica Monica.olivia@hotmail.com
281-706-6428

Spears, Evelyn spearsekeys@gmail.com
Redeeming Light Bible
Training Center
Community Member

VanCleave, Margie, LPC mvanleave@sweenyhospital.org
979-548-1549
Manager of Counseling
Services for Sweeny
Community Hospital
Intensive Outpatient Senior
Horizons Program and
Counseling Associates for
Youth, Families and Adults

Victim Services:

Joshua Collins joshuac@brazoria-county.com
979.864.1254
Brazoria County DA's
Office Crime Victim
Supervisor

Rodriguez, Leticia leticiaro@brazoria-county.com
979.864.1406
Brazoria County CSCD
Victim Services Program

Smith, Bettye bsmith@yfcs.org
979.849.1577
Youth & Family Counseling
Services

Moore, David d.moore.wcbc@att.net
979.849.9553
Women's Center of
Brazoria County

Jolly, Lisa ljolly@cac-bc.org
979.849.2500
Brazoria County Alliance for
Children

Velma Guadiana vguadiana@pearlandtx.gov
281.997.4330
Pearland Police Department
- Victim

Cooper, Maribel mcooper@apd.cityofalvin.com
281.585.7125
Alvin Police Department

Crime Victims Liaison

Berend, Mari mberend@ghac.org
American Red Cross of
Brazoria County 979.849.6439

Toth, Jessica Jtoth@pearlandtx.gov
Pearland Police Department 281.997.4304
– Victim Assistance
Program (Crime Victim
Liaison)

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Ashburn, David Angleton PD	dashburn@angletonpd.net 979.849.2383
George W. Beaman Jr Community Excel	gwbeaman@communityexcel.org 979.297.4419
Herbst, Carl Precinct 1 Constable Dept	carlh@brazoria-county.com 281.756.2491
Tim Higgins III Praise Tabernacle	Bishophiggins@aol.com 979.418.0376
Lamont, Glenn Office of Emergency Management	glennl@brazoria-county.com 979.864.1104
Jon Matherne Pearland PD	jmatherne@pearlandtx.gov 281.997.4130
Rick Park Lake Jackson PD	rpark@lakejacksonpd.net 979.482.1318
Michael Waguespack City of Clute	Michael@cluteems.com 979.482.6491
Raymond Garivey City of Freeport	rgarivey@freeport.tx.us 979.871.0132

Emergency Management / EMS Services:

Rosa, Steve Office of Emergency Management	steverosa@brazoria-county.com 979.864.1801
Lamont, Glenn Office of Emergency Management	glennl@brazoria-county.com 979.864.1801
Ortiz, Fred Lake Jackson, EMS	fred.ortiz@ljems.org 979.415.2714

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

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

Priority #1	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Lack of Mental Health Care for Juveniles.</p>	<p>68,090 total students attending schools in Brazoria County. (Texas Education Agency 2015-2016).</p> <p>905 referrals were received by Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department.</p> <p>601 unduplicated / unique children were referred to the Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department (BJJD) (new cases).</p> <p>145 new cases of juveniles with MH diagnosis were identified by Brazoria County Juvenile Department.</p> <p>312 Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department referrals were referred to mental health and substance abuse services. 1 private practice psychiatrists who accept 14 years and up in Brazoria County.</p> <p>187 patients were seen for Behavioral Health Services at Stephen F. Austin Community Clinic. 26 of these patients were referrals.</p> <p>January 2016 – December 2016 Non-Acute Medical Exams: 60</p> <p>As a preventative tool part of programing for the Boys & Girls Club uses a curriculum called SMART Moves. This program helps members work on self-esteem issues and decision making. The curriculum also helps identify cues from members that maybe struggling with emotional issues. Staff is trained that if they observe these issues with member’s referrals are made to other agencies.</p> <p>593 Brazoria County juveniles were provided services by Youth & Family Counseling Services in 2014-2015.</p> <p>136 students were seen by Communities in Schools (CIS) for emotional crisis, mental health, and crisis intervention or grief services.</p>

	706 students in Alvin ISD participated in Texas A&M AgriLife Extension’s Mega Brain and an energizing relay race which taught the importance of the brain.
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Potential Response to an Issue

The committee completing the Community Action Plan has identified the following needs related to the lack of mental health care available for Brazoria County Juveniles. There continues to be no adolescent psychiatric beds assigned to the children of Brazoria County. There are only 3 psychiatrists who will treat adolescents in Brazoria County and only two accept traditional Medicaid. Harris County Psychiatric Hospital has agreed that Brazoria County adolescents could be readmitted there to maintain a continuity of care. The need for low/no cost mental health care services for children within the County who have been traumatized as a victim, is critical as the inability to pay for services often prevents parents/guardians from seeking these critical services, resulting in the child victim being unable to obtain the treatment necessary to their journey of recovery. Whereas the demand for these services is increasing, there are only two agencies in the county who provide counseling services at no cost. The earlier traumatized children receive help, the greater chance they have to heal, avoiding future re-victimization and breaking the cycle of victimization. Individuals whose lives have been impacted by trauma are more likely to develop responses such as chronic depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorders, problems with identity, post-traumatic disorder and other symptoms. Children experience feelings of shame, distrust, a sense of powerlessness and feelings of isolation and alienation. Psychological effects of trauma may appear immediately or may take years to surface. Young people who have survived victimization can just as easily learn more positive behaviors when the community provides them with appropriate interventions and support. Working with children who have been traumatized requires special skills and expertise, including proven best practices in counseling. Youth & Family Counseling Services (YFCS) is one of the few County agencies offering free or low cost counseling to children, crime victims and the homeless population.

Priority #2	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Substance Abuse by Juveniles (Alcohol & Drugs).	<p>68,090 students attending schools in Brazoria County. (Texas Education Agency 2015-2016)</p> <p>93 substance abuse referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department.</p> <p>244 juveniles had a positive UA’s at Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department.</p> <p>211 students attending Brazoria County schools were charged with having a controlled substance on campus.</p>

	<p>38 students attending Brazoria County schools were charged with having an alcohol violation on campus.</p> <p>80 students attending Brazoria County schools were charged with having tobacco on campus.</p> <p>72 Communities In Schools students received targeted services for substance abuse.</p> <p>2053 Case managed Communities In Schools students received services related to Red Ribbon Week. Boys & Girls Club Formula for Impact uses targeted programs to promote a healthy lifestyle.</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

Law enforcement, schools and juvenile probation identify juvenile substance abuse as a significant problem in Brazoria County. Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department “BCJJD” is seeing an increase in use of synthetic marijuana, bath salts and mollies (ecstasy); however, the chemical make-up of this drug makes it very difficult to test. The ingredients to make synthetic are ever changing to foil the UA tests. Samples must be collected within 48 hours of use to get a positive UA. Agencies including the Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department, Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County, Communities In Schools and Youth & Family Counseling Services, provide prevention programs to Brazoria County youth. Collectively, these groups are only serving 3% of the total youth in Brazoria County who need these services. Many of the juveniles referred to existing prevention and intervention programs are involved, either directly or indirectly through family members, with alcohol and substance abuse. This involvement is often a motivator for further crimes such as assault or theft. Drugs and alcohol abuse contribute to family dysfunction. Children who return to an unsupervised home are more likely to experiment with drugs, alcohol or tobacco. Strategies for dealing with juvenile’s substance abuse include providing more prevention programs to Brazoria County youth, providing intervention programs to youth already struggling with substance abuse and offering counseling to parents, caregivers and families of children involved in all these programs. Agencies should investigate partnerships with school districts to most effectively reach the youth population. Partnerships with law enforcement agencies, as well as interagency cooperatives, would likely prove beneficial in reducing juvenile substance abuse.

Priority #3	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Families In Crisis (Child Abuse, Homeless Issues, Parent Training, Bilingual Programs).	<p>866 referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Justice for juveniles in need of supervision.</p> <p>23 juveniles were placed out of their home through Brazoria</p>

	<p>County Juvenile Justice Department.</p> <p>33 calls were made to CPS related to Brazoria County Juvenile Justice juveniles.</p> <p>246 Homeless students received case managed services through Communities In Schools, 623 CIS families received services including parenting, ESL, self-esteem, and behavior modifications classes or training.</p> <p>247 residents including 11 children were serviced by Project HELP.</p> <p>14 victims were provided Multi-Session Forensic Interviews by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2016.</p> <p>930 victims served (primary and secondary) by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2016.</p> <p>230 victims of child sexual abuse were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2016.</p> <p>15 victims of child physical abuse were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2016.</p> <p>11 children who witnessed a violent crime were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2016.</p> <p>58 children who were at risk of abuse were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2016.</p> <p>82 clients received on-going therapy at Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2016.</p> <p>1,694 students in Brazoria County schools were considered homeless.</p> <p>Boys & Girls Club has partnered with Angleton ISD and Brazosport ISD and the Children’s Center to offer, under the McKinney-Vento Act, free services to all students identified as homeless.</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

The caregivers of juveniles in Brazoria County are frequently single-parents, grandparents or extended family members rather than the presumed traditional two-parent family. These nontraditional family units struggle with typical family issues which are compounded by single-incomes, lower economic status and fewer hours available for strengthening families. Few programs in Brazoria County offer comprehensive family strengthening programs although the need for family programming has steadily climbed. Increasing

family involvement will have a positive impact in areas such as mental health services; however, these services require involvement and commitment from the entire family. Utilization of these services is often hindered as the time when they are offered conflicts with schedules of care-givers who need to work. The Brazoria County Alliance for Children provides forensic interviews, medical examinations and mental health therapy; however, the number of those needing help far exceeds the help available. Brazoria County has a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) certified to conduct acute exams; however, this one individual provides services for the entire county whose population is over 300,000. Youth & Family Counseling Services has Project HELP Program in Brazoria County. Project HELP aides the homeless population in the county. In order for YFCS to expand its programs additional funding is essential. The lack of safe affordable housing within the County also compounds the issue of homelessness.

Priority #4	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of Services for at-risk Children (Including gangs, juvenile delinquency).	<p>866 referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Justice for juveniles in need of supervision.</p> <p>184 juveniles were referred to Brazoria County Juvenile Justice for violent crimes such as aggravated assault, family violence, gang related violations.</p> <p>2044 students were recommended to Communities In Schools for behavior issues.</p> <p>2044 students were assessed and case managed by Communities In Schools for behavior issues.</p> <p>174 Communities In Schools students received services directly related to delinquent conduct.</p> <p>134 Communities In Schools students were assessed for truancy and attendance issues.</p> <p>1,077 students attending Brazoria County schools were assessed for truancy.</p> <p>As gangs have spread across the country, and as their threat has become more national in nature, the interest in finding solutions to the problem has increasingly included all levels of government. Gang-related violence is very likely to remain at high levels as gangs expand their criminal operations into suburban and rural communities. As gangs encounter resistance from other local gangs or drug distributors in these communities, an increase in violent</p>

	<p>incidents such as assaults, drive-by shootings, and homicides can be expected. Neighborhood-based gangs account for the majority of gangs active in the United States; however, national gangs commit more organized criminal activity and continue to expand their networks. Neighborhood-based gangs will continue to consume the resources of local law enforcement in communities that report high levels of gang-related criminal activity, but migration of national gangs into new areas will pose an increasing threat to such communities. (Source: National Gang Threat Assessment 2009).</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

The number of identified gangs in Brazoria County is growing dramatically. Many community and law enforcement agencies including Communities In Schools, Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department and Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County provide programs to deter juveniles from engaging in pre-gang activities such as truancy, substance abuse, violent behaviors and vandalism, generalized delinquency and anti-social behaviors. Several community agencies also offer gang prevention programs but lack of funding has prohibited the expansion of these services to the population at-large. The Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department is offering a gang intervention program to a limited population based on lack of funding. Strategies for reducing the gang problem in Brazoria County include collaborations between law enforcement and community agencies.

987 youth are provided a safe and positive environment by the Boys & Girls Club for 3 hours every day after the school bell rings.

387 youth participate, during the summer, in all day activities, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club, geared towards academic success, good character and citizen, and healthy lifestyles. At one site girls are in a special program called #Girl Strong. The girls learn skills empowering them to not be prey to inappropriate relationship and as a prevention for human trafficking. To combat the attraction to gang behavior and lifestyles, more outreach programs for adolescent substance abusers and their families need to be developed/expanded to successfully reintroduce adolescents to life after incarceration. Further, more facilities that offer fun, safe and respected (both by youth and parents) places for youth to go during the times juveniles typically engage in risky behaviors need to be available. While some organizations do offer such programs, they are overwhelmingly populated by younger children, not the juveniles who are most-likely to join gangs. Efforts should be made to target this secondary education population. Additional training is needed for law enforcement officers and service providers to address issues relating to juvenile gangs. Collaborations between service providers, law enforcement and schools should be encouraged. Finally, adult volunteers from the community should be recruited to serve as adult mentors to those most likely to join gangs.

Priority #5

Issue Identified

Data

Lack of Services (After School Programs, Tutoring, Resources & Unstructured Free Time of Adolescents).

800 students received structured after school mentoring services in 9 schools across Brazoria County- Communities In Schools Afterschool Centers on Education “ACE”

3,165 youth were directly case managed by Communities In Schools and received structured academic tutoring, youth development, character education, violence prevention, health and wellness or mentoring services.

987 youth are provided a safe and positive environment by the Boys & Girls Club for 3 hours every day after the school bell rings.

387 youth participate, during the summer, in all day activities, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club, geared towards academic success, good character and citizen, and healthy lifestyles. Members were served at 18 sites during the school year and 3 sites during the summer all in the Brazosport and Angleton ISD. Member’s age ranged 5-14.

260 child care providers attended the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service child care provider training conferences conducted in Pearland and Angleton

Among the 34.3 million families with children, 84.2% had an employed parent in 2011. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics). A significant majority of children care for themselves or are with a sibling younger than age 13 during their out-of-school hours. Anywhere from 3.6 million to 4.4 million 6- to 12-year-olds with employed mothers care for themselves on a regular basis each week. While some of these children may be mature enough to care for themselves, research suggests that children who are left alone are at greater risk of physical injury and psychological and emotional harm. This may be particularly true among certain groups, for example younger children (such as the 5 percent of 6- to 9-year-olds who are primarily in self-care) or children who are more likely to live in unsafe neighborhoods (such as 19 percent of low-income 10- to 12-year-olds who are primarily in self-care). Children are more likely to be involved in crime, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy in the hours after school, particularly between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m.

	(National Center for Juvenile Justice, 1999).
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>Brazoria County children need safe, reasonably priced, conveniently located, neighborhood facilities to go to after school and to stay during the summer days. Parents must work to provide for their families; therefore, there is a high demand for after school programs and summer programs for young children and youth. This demand exceeds the number of programs available. Youth, while not necessarily needing care-givers, need safe and stimulating places to go to after school and during the summer.</p>	

Priority #6	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Bullying.	<p>2332 CIS youth received services related to bullying/anti-bullying.</p> <p>168 juveniles were referred to Brazoria County Juvenile Justice for bullying offenses.</p>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>Texas' law now mandates any and all school district employees (including bus drivers, food service providers, building maintenance employees, teacher's assistants, coaches and others) report bullying. School counselors and nurses, who often are keepers of the private concerns of students, are now required to report bullying. They must report it even if the confiding student is pleading, "Please don't tell anyone." Guidelines direct that counseling should be made available to the victim, witnesses and the student who engaged in the conduct. "Each school board in Texas is required to adopt local policies that prohibit discipline of students who, after investigation, are found to be a victim of bullying and were acting in self-defense in response to the bullying." Note: Victims are investigated to check for and to prevent false claims. Also, parents of the bullied child can now request their child or the bully be placed in another classroom (or, if serious enough: on another campus) if appropriate and possible. In some cases, such as in special education when only one class might be offered, it's not possible to move students to other classrooms or campuses. In such cases, an ARD committee meets to consider options. Separating students within the classroom with enhanced supervision might be the only available option. School districts in Brazoria County are taking an active role in the national movement. Examples include: creating bullying reporting form; providing opportunities for staff and students to be reminded of the harmful effects of bullying; setting up a bullying Hotline for parents and/or students to call; creating anti-bullying programs in place to teach students to respect their own and others' differences, whether race, gender, religious beliefs or other distinctions. Major programs used include No Place for Hate for middle/junior high schools and Rachel's Challenge for high schools. In addition, ISD campuses are offering many other resources to encourage respect and teach students how to identify and respond to bullying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber bullying awareness and prevention lessons • "Project Wisdom" daily announcements 	

- Empowering Children, Hurdling Obstacles (ECHO) program to increase students' self-esteem
- Confidential programs to report bullying to school personnel
- Peer mediation
- Lessons about the difference between reporting for safety reasons and tattling

Recognition/rewards for students with outstanding character throughout the year
 Members of Boys & Girls Club participate in several programs that deal with personal responsibility and empowerment. Many of these strategies help members not to become victims of bullying and hence deterring the bullies from using negative tactics.

Priority #7	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of services for juveniles at-risk of teen pregnancy & STD's (Diseases).	866 referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Justice for juveniles in need of supervision. 25 students received abstinence education by Communities In Schools. 36 Communities In Schools teen parents received case managed services addressing parenting issues, sex education, social services, and pre-natal or infant care. 9 Students attending Brazoria County schools received pregnancy related services.
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
Lack of juvenile prevention programs due to barriers including proximity to services, lack of adequate service providers/programs and costs. Teen parents are at risk of school drop-out due to lack of affordable infant childcare in Brazoria County. Texas ranks #3 behind only Mississippi and New Mexico respectively in the nation for the number of births to teens. More must be done by elected officials, schools and community agencies to recognize and not ignore the plight of teen pregnancy in Brazoria County. Teen pregnancy is a problem that impacts the lives of both male and female juveniles and their respective families. All groups must be included in prevention programs and intervention/counseling services. Programs addressing the self-esteem of girls must increase in number so the biology of reproduction and psycho-social impact of pregnancy can be addressed before youth become sexually active. Future programs and services for juvenile's at-risk pregnancy should involve schools whenever possible to mitigate transportation issues. Since the cost of programs prohibits some youth from participating in some services, future programs should be offered to juveniles and their families at low to no cost. The Brazoria County Boys & Girls Club implements SMART Moves and #Girl Strong to help members to make healthy decisions especially in terms of their own bodies.	

Priority #8

<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Lack of services for children with obesity issues.</p>	<p>1,239 Communities In Schools -ACE youth participated in nutrition, exercise, health and wellness programs which promoted healthy choices in order to combat obesity.</p> <p>1,239 Communities In Schools-ACE students received nutritional snacks daily after school.</p> <p>216 third grade students in Brazosport ISD and Alvin ISD used the Learn, Grow, Eat and Go curriculum taught by Texas A&M ArilLife Extension office which focused on gardening and nutrition lessons</p> <p>1,000 elementary students in Angleton and Alvin ISDs were taught personal hygiene and handwashing lessons through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office's HiJean Program</p> <p>1,239 CIS – ACE (Afterschool Centers on Education participated in Health & Wellness activities. Brighter Bites has 356 families participating in the program in BISD.</p> <p>Brazosport Cares served 182 BISD students last school year through our weekend backpack program for homeless and chronically hungry students.</p> <p>Brazosport Cares served 701 families with children from Jan - Oct 2017. The total number of children in these families was 515.</p> <p>Brazosport Cares served 247 families with children from Jan - Oct 2017 at our Community Food Fairs which brings fresh produce into low income communities. The total number of children in these families was 498.</p> <p>Houston Food Bank's Kids Café summer program (summer 2017) served 627 students, 11,581 meals in 11 locations. Houston Food Bank served students in Alvin ISD and Pearland ISD for backpacks. Within these school districts the Food Bank served 38 schools with 14,910 bags. Brazoria County Dream Center's Backpack Buddies serving BISD (except Freeport & Jones Creek), C-BISD, Angleton ISD, Sweeny ISD, Damon ISD, and Danbury ISD</p>

	<p>2016-2017: 418 school age children every week</p> <p>2017-2018: 445 school age children every week</p> <p>Dream Pantry Program (all of Brazoria County) (unduplicated)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016(Jan-Dec): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3215 Families ○ 550 children ages 0-6 yrs. ○ 1030 children ages 7-18 yrs. • 2017 (Jan-Oct): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6040 Families, ○ 931 children ages 0-6 yrs. ○ 1701 children ages 7-18 yrs.
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Potential Response to an Issue

The increasing prevalence of overweight and obese children and adults is a serious concern from Texas. Being overweight increases a person’s risk of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, and other serious medical conditions that impact quality of life and have substantial economic consequences for the healthcare system. The economic costs of overweight and obesity in Texas during 2001 were an estimated \$10.5 billion. This includes direct healthcare costs, such as medicines and hospital stays, and indirect costs, such as lost productivity and wages due to illness and death. If the trend in increasing prevalence of overweight and obesity persists, the annual costs associated with excess weight in Texas is projected to reach \$15.6 billion by 2010 and could skyrocket to \$39 billion by the year 2040. (Source: Texas State Health Services – Updated: January 12, 2012). Brazoria County has a lack of available and accessible resources offering instructions on proper nutrition and physical fitness for children and youths with obesity issues. Many at-risk juveniles are unable to participate in services that are offered due to barriers including proximity to services (transportation needs), lack of adequate service providers/programs and costs. Additionally, research shows children from traditional minority groups and those identified as Economically Disadvantaged are most likely to suffer from obesity. Partnerships among social service agencies, city and county government, hospitals and law enforcement agencies should be expanded. Sports-based clubs should be established in low-income communities allowing at-risk juveniles to participate in sports and fitness at reduced prices. Additionally, fitness areas should be maintained and improved in communities’ service at-risk youth to encourage active and healthy lifestyles. Involving entire families in health and fitness activities would likely reduce obesity issues. Partnerships between local law enforcement and social service agencies could result in a sharing of fitness and recreational resources. Additionally, agencies should reach-out to hospitals, public health agencies, food pantries and grocery

stores to provide nutritional education to at-risk youth.

Priority #9	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of transportation services for at-risk juveniles.	<p>190 youth received no-cost bussing home after the Communities In School-ACE program, over 20%.</p> <p>35% of the students referred to Brazoria County Juvenile Justice reported lack of transportation for needed services. Since the opening of Brazoria County Alliance for Children (BCAC) in March 2004 through December 2016 the organization has served over 6,884 total victims.</p> <p>BCAC employs three full time therapists to see children (at no charge to the family) whose lives are impacted by abuse or neglect.</p>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>Juveniles are unable to participate in services such as community counseling, secure care, day programming, after-school programs, tutoring, and prevention programs due to barriers including proximity to services (transportation needs), lack of adequate service providers/programs and costs. Brazoria County does not have a mass transit system leaving those who need access to community programs and services without a means of accessing them. Organizations like Communities In Schools (serving 9 after school sites) provide transportation services to their program participants through partnerships with school districts. The most promising strategy for addressing the transportation problem includes agency, school and government collaboration allowing for program delivery at multiple sites that are easily accessible to at-risk populations. An increase in public funding for public transportation would also prove beneficial. Finally, providing more dollars for school district transportation departments to access would allow for a greater number of youth to be bussed home from after-school programs and other specialized at-risk initiatives. Boys & Girls Club being open for 3 hours afterschool allows parents adequate time to pick up members after school. However parents whose work schedule does not allow for this or have limited transportation issues have no choice but to allow their child to ride the bus home afterschool to an empty house. Sweeny ISD has partnered with us to provide bus service at 6:30.</p>	

Priority #10	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of transitional services	Children in foster care are discharged when they reach 18 or

<p>for juveniles.</p>	<p>when they complete high school as long as they graduate by their 22 birthday.</p> <p>Courts do not discharge a child from or track them when they leave foster care as a result of aging out.</p> <p>Boys & Girls Club Formula for Impact allow young people that who need us the most plus outcome-driven club experience will lead to priority outcomes. Every year Boys & Girls Club survey members to determine if we are giving members the optimum club experience. 84% of our members last year reported that they felt as they belong here.</p> <p>78 children were served through Youth & Family Counseling Services CASA Program in Brazoria County alone. The 78 children were moved to 484 placements. This is an average of 6.2 different placements per child. Unfortunately, due to reduced numbers of volunteers and limited staffing CASA had to reduce the number of cases. CASA is in great need of volunteers willing to participate in the program.</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

Youth need more extensive assistance before leaving care. Teaching of basic life skills, financial stability, and mentoring before heading out on their own. Youth who have been in the system and aged out have no clue where to begin or who to call for help when they run into a crisis. If the child is not adopted or returned home before they are 18, then the case will continue in a review status until the child turns 18 at which time the court case is dismissed absent exceptional circumstances. Whereas the state has initiatives in place for youth who have aged out, there needs to be a stronger emphasis in assuring that youth have the necessary tools before they leave the facility or foster home. Programs should be developed that provided services before the child has aged out and are on their own. This would include a plan/timeline of those necessary items that need to be done as they begin life on their own and are no longer a ward of the state. Initiatives designed to assist foster youth aging out include extended Medicaid until age of 21 (to the age of 23 if they are still in post-secondary school). Assists youth to get a driver's license. Tuition/fee waivers for foster youth that have aged out of care to attend any state college or university. Youth Leadership Program. FYSB Funded Transitional Living Programs. PAL Programs to help prepare youth for skills needed when aging out of the system. Current DFPS policy includes transition planning support to meet the youth's educational goals. This policy speaks to providing life skills, training and support focusing on education. Also, tuition fee waivers are available for young people who age out of care which enables them to have tuition fully paid forever, as well as education training voucher programs.

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

Priority #1	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Mental Health Providers and Facilities.	The Brazoria County local mental health authority, the Gulf Coast Center, offers mental health services to consumers in Brazoria County and Galveston County. The Gulf Coast Center contracts with Saint Joseph Hospital for the provision of inpatient mental health services. Brazoria County and the Gulf Coast Center also utilize other mental health facilities in the Houston area when necessary. In crisis situations, the Brazoria County Sheriff’s Office works with the Gulf Coast Center to locate and transport consumers to available mental health facilities. As the Brazoria County population increases Brazoria County and the Gulf Coast Center encounter challenges in securing mental health facilities for consumers and providing transport to such facilities. In addition to Gulf Coast Center, Youth & Family Counseling Services, Counseling Connections, and local private providers, among others, provide mental health services in Brazoria County. These organizations experience similar challenges in providing services due to resources that do not correspond with the increasing population.
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
Communicate the appeal to providers to open programs or work with existing programs to service the community. Create a network between the various current providers to share a record of the types of services that are needed in the community to then appeal to the local, state, and federal governments for funding to increase the ability to provide services the community. Communicate to representatives at the state and federal level the need for increased mental health services available throughout the community.	

Priority #2	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Certified Mental Health Deputies/Officers.	As residents seek a different environment to reside with more affordable housing, specified industrial careers, and the desire to live in less densely populated areas, the community of Brazoria has continuously increased in popularity. As this appeal grows, as does the number of residents for which the Sheriff’s Office provides services. Further, the majority of municipalities within Brazoria County do not allocate

	resources to law enforcement mental health services, requiring the Sheriff's Office to provide such services in their jurisdictions.
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Potential Response to an Issue

Increase the number of certified mental health deputies with a background in mental health/social service industries. In addition, provide additional education to all current officers in suicide intervention and mental health crisis, primarily evidence-based practices that have been proven in other jurisdictions. Provide officers/deputies additional educational opportunities on crisis intervention, mental health diagnosis, medication knowledge/side effects, as well as interventions for de-escalation. Provide additional education to officers/deputies on the mental health services available in the community. Collaborate with existing providers to help support the officers/deputies.

Priority #3	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Emergency Care and Facilities.	Brazoria County's population is growing and the number of citizens requiring mental health services is increasing. Due to a lack of funding from state and federal sources, the number of contracted treatment facilities available is limited. Law enforcement agencies are often the first to interface with consumers in need and, at times, there are limited facilities available to assist those in crisis and needing detoxification, stabilization, or medication management on an emergency basis. This is inclusive of suicidal, homicidal, addicted, self-harming, severely depressed, and homeless mental health consumers.
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
Until mental health facilities within the County are available, collaborate with facilities in neighboring jurisdictions to secure availability for treatment services and placement. Request support from state and federal representatives for funding to support mental health services. Provider continuing education for local officials, local hospitals, and emergency providers to understand methods for identifying mental health crises and resources available when mental health issues arise.	

Priority #4

Issue Identified

Data

Coordination of Resources Between Service Providers, Facilities, and Entities.

When handling a mental health incident, the coordination between law enforcement, the local mental health authority, hospitals, and mental health facilities is critical. In addition, the tracking and sharing of data between providers (mental health care and general health care), law enforcement, and other entities interacting with mental health consumers is needed to identify the County's needs for mental health services.

Potential Response to an Issue

Create a current reference guide of resources or literature that can be distributed to treatment providers, citizens, and the multitude of agencies and entities that have some type of contact or involvement with mental health consumers. The adoption of processes to track the number and types of interactions that involve mental health consumers, as well as possible contributing factors in such incidents. That way, one agency could refer a consumer to another agency in a manner that ensures adequate responses and follow-up services. Even though Brazoria County is home to the largest Alzheimer's screening program in the United States (Dale Libby and Associates), provide more focus on long-term care for consumers. For those that are involved with the Criminal Justice System, awareness and utilization of the specialty courts available in the County.

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

Priority #1	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>There is a need for a pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner to <i>provide acute sexual exams</i> for child victims. There is also a need for additional medical and follow-up services for child victims of abuse and neglect, specifically assault child victims.</p>	<p>January 2011 – December 2011 Non-Acute Medical Exams New Medical Exams: 88 Follow-Up Medical Exams: 33</p> <p>There are 23 law enforcement agencies in Brazoria County who have to send sexual assault victims to facilities in either Harris or Galveston County for SANE exams.</p>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>Children who are victims of abuse need medical attention from personnel with specialized skills and the ability to provide appropriate care. Children within the county that have made a disclosure to Brazoria County Alliance for Children forensic interviewers are referred to an on-site medical program for a non-acute sexual assault exam. Acute medical exams must be referred to facilities in Houston or Galveston. Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) are specifically trained in caring for child victims of sexual assault. The main objective is to tend to the victims’ physical and emotional needs, as well as assist with evidence collection to help prosecute the assailant. The need for SANE nurses is evident in the current lack of support available to child sexual assault victims, as well as the lack of trained personnel capable of collecting forensic evidence properly in cases of sexual assault. Unfortunately, Brazoria County only has one Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) certified to conduct acute exams for the entire county whose population is over 300,000, but there are no hospitals currently facilitating acute exams. Victims and their families, law enforcement and CPS personnel must drive approximately 45 miles into Houston or Galveston to obtain these services when they are not available in Brazoria County. There is a critical need for additional pediatric SANE nurses in the county. Children within the county who have made a sexual abuse disclosure to a Brazoria County Alliance for Children forensic interviewer are now referred to the on-site medical component for a non-acute sexual assault exam. Since the opening of Brazoria County Alliance for Children’s medical component in August 2005, the center has hired a pediatric/adult SANE certified Forensic Nurse Examiner who has conducted child abuse and/or neglect as well as non-acute sexual abuse exams to child victims, and who provides follow-up care to these children. Non-acute sexual assault exams are conducted on site at Brazoria County Alliance for Children’s office utilizing a colposcope, a specialized piece of equipment used specifically in sexual assault exams. The Forensic Nurse Examiner is available 2 days a week and is supervised by a medical director who oversees clinical services.</p>	

Priority #2

Issue Identified

Data

A growing population means a greater need for assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

2016 monthly averages

- Shelter residents: 15
- Domestic violence non-residential clients served: 25
- Sexual assault victims served: 15
- Supervised Visitation families served: 10
- Crisis Hotline Calls: 90

Potential Response to an Issue

The Women’s Center operates 2 shelters for victims of domestic violence. One shelter has been in existence since 1982 in the south end of the county. The second (funded by VOCA) was opened in September of 2003 in the north end of the county (where municipalities include Pearland, Alvin, and Manvel) because of exponential growth and to give victims in that area the opportunity to have safety, shelter, and services in their home area/county. Brazoria County has a very limited public transportation system and domestic violence victims are systematically denied privileges, such as cars, by their batterers, so many had no way to get from the north end of the county to the south end shelter, a trip of up to 40 miles one-way. Because of the north end’s proximity to Harris and Galveston counties, many victims were instead going out of county for help, only to discover that because of residency requirements they did not qualify for certain services essential to many victims fleeing violent homes. The agency also operates 4 offices for benefit of both domestic violence and sexual assault victims. An array of services, including a Supervised Visitation Program and a gateway to the shelters, are offered at several of these locations. Agency staff of 19 includes 5 bilingual, Spanish speaking, individuals who are able to reach out to the growing Hispanic population in the county. During 2016, 28% of the victims we served were Hispanic; 16% were African-American; 54% were Caucasian; 1% were Asian; and 1% Native American. To address law enforcement/judicial concerns of victims, the Women’s Center facilitates a Sexual Assault Response Team. Currently the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program only has 1 SANE and she is infrequently utilized because of staffing issues. The Sexual Assault Response Team continues to meet quarterly to coordinate the efforts of law enforcement, the medical community, and the Women’s Center to better serve sexual assault victims. We are continuing to collaborate with a local area hospital in order to reestablish the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program. The agency also works closely with CPS and assists the Sheriff’s Office by providing assessments when civil stand-bys are requested. Experts agree sexual assault and domestic violence are the nation’s 2 most under-reported crimes. The agency believes that more services mean more victims will come forward; and that more victims coming forward will translate into more perpetrators being held accountable and an interruption of the very costly cycle of violence that otherwise passes from one generation to another. The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program received funding for operations in October 2016 but did not begin operating until March 2017; therefore the program does not have statistics for a full year. The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program was established to promote victim safety, increase offender accountability, and provide consistent judicial decision making for cases involving domestic violence. The program represents a collaborative effort of victim

advocates, law enforcement, treatment providers, the District Attorney's Office, Brazoria County Community Supervision and the Court working together to break the cycle of violence. This partnership will provide the opportunity for the Court to hold offenders accountable for their violent and/or controlling behaviors while providing early intervention to victims and offenders. The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program utilizes evidence-based practices in its delivery of services and works in collaboration with community providers, Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) treatment providers, victim services, law enforcement and mental health professionals. BIPP, support groups, and other cognitive behavioral programming and enhanced accountability are essential aspects of the program. The Program is set up to provide long-term victim services to victims who choose to participate. The Program offers a free 8 week interactive evidence based program to women who are survivors of violence to assist victims with identifying abuse, gaining insight that will foster behavior change and uncover resources to assist them with their particular situation. The Program is offered every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month and is promoted within Adult Probation, Child Protective Services, and Domestic Violence Court. The Domestic Violence Court Program serviced 23 victims from March 2017 to September 2017 by providing court for criminal cases and protective order cases, crimes victim compensation assistance, resume creation with job search assistance, victim impact statement assistance and criminal justice process notification. The Program is based on a collaborative community approach and provides victim services to Child Protective Services clients along with self-referrals and criminal case referrals.

Priority #3

<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Insufficient services for crime victims and lack of full-time victim programs at many of the law enforcement agencies.</p>	<p>Total number of law enforcement agencies: 26. Number of law enforcement agencies that have full-time victim programs: 3 – Alvin P.D., Freeport P.D and Pearland P.D. The Sheriff's Department does have a victim liaison officer whose duties include assisting crime victims and managing the Crime Stoppers Program.</p> <p>Number of total victims provided service by the DA's Office Victim Program for grant years:</p> <p>2017: 1605 of these 1522 were provided services by VOCA grants funds.-(updated information)</p> <p>2016: 2,170 of these 2,061 were provided services by VOCA grant funds.- (updated information)</p> <p>2015: 3,485 of these 1,832 were provided services by</p>

	<p>VOCA grant funds.</p> <p>Number of victims served by Brazoria County Community Supervision & Corrections Department's Victim Services Program in the following grant years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012: 722 • 2013: 777 • 2014: 764 • 2015: 763 • 2016: 753 • 2017: 750 <p>Number of victims who received services from Pearland Police Department's Victim Assistance Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January to December 2012 Annual stats: 1126 victims provided direct services • January to December 2013 Annual stats: 1296 victims were provided direct services • January to September 2014 Annual stats: 1074 victims were provided direct services • January to September 2015 Annual stats: 926 • January to September 2016 Annual stats: 1151 <p>Number of Victims who received services from Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Victim Assistance Program from:</p> <p>Jan thru Dec. 2012: 742 Jan thru Dec. 2013: 823 Jan thru Oct. 2014: 791 Jan thru Oct. 2015: 700</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

Many family violence cases still face legal issues in regards to custody and divorce. Due to lack of financial and legal assistance, the majority of these cases fail to proceed and the majority of victims return to their abusive environment. Even though now there is some assistance in filing, the paper work is not friendly when it comes to unknowledgeable victims to apply. They face problems such as no computer access, or just don't understand the documents needed to file for pro-se divorce. (NO Legal Aid services for custody and divorce cases for victims of circumstances. Not having enough money for paying attorney's fees and services and financial unstable to afford some custodial legal process of services of attorney and filing fees.) While identity theft cases are non-violent they are more time consuming to process. Due to the nature of the crime, victims are required to

provide affidavits, a copy police report and proof of theft sent to three different credit agencies. Our program assists victims in obtaining the required documentation to mail them for the victims. The elderly are being targeted for these types of crimes as they are most vulnerable to trust that they are being taken care of until they realize it is too late and notice they have no money left from their social security and retirement accounts. We have seen an increase in the number of cases involving abuse of prescription drugs. Our department has a drop box for assisting the community with disposing of excessive or left over prescriptions from their homes to make it safe rather than allowing the drugs to be flushed down any of the people's homes into the city water supply.

Shelter and lack of services for the homeless are still an issue for the county. Finding homes for people has been very difficult considering that many families and people are out of homes due to financial reasons and have no place to go to start back up.

Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Victim Assistance program has seen an increase of Spanish speaking people seeking services and referral for further assistance through our program. (Year of 2012 assisted 63, year 2013 assisted 83 and for year Jan. – Oct. 2014 assisted 114 and Jan – Oct. 2015 assisted 85 Spanish speaking individuals through our victim assistance program.) Due to not having a Victim Assistance Program available at other law enforcement agencies in Brazoria County, victims seek assistance through the Alvin Police Department for crime victim services because it has a full time Crime Victim Assistance Program available. Other agencies call out to our program because it is to their convenience to have translation done for them to assist their agencies as well, since we are a bilingual program. In Jan. – Dec. 2012, 51 victims were referred by other law enforcement agencies needing assistance through our office and Jan. – Dec. 2013, a total of 87; and Jan. – Oct. 2014 a total of 78, Jan. – Oct. 2015 a total of 85 crime victims referred from other law enforcement agencies. The demand has increased for assistance through our program to help them fill out the crime victim compensation application, funeral emergency funds, etc... The increase of victims seeking assistance for direction for their cases is due to the fact that most law enforcement agencies are unable to have a full time victim assistance program to meet their needs. In Brazoria County, we have three law enforcement agencies with full time positions of liaisons throughout the county (Alvin Police, Pearland Police and Brazoria County Sheriff's Office.) This year crime victims are needy of more assistance through the judicial systems and even after for healing due to the grief process that they endure because of the crime committed to them and their families. These victims continue to stay active even after the trials are over to assist other victims and helping them through the system which become members of the Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach. Our program also supports the Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach Support Group. This group supplies emotional support and information to other crime victims. The number of victims attending has steadily increased. On average, fifteen victims attend monthly meetings with an increase in teenagers participating. This year the crime victims in this group have become more involved in attending and participating in each other's court trials, candlelight vigils, fund raising memorial activities, ceremonies, and memorial walks having a representation for Brazoria County of 28 crime victim members at other surrounding counties events. The crime victims have considered attending other surrounding counties to bring awareness to other agencies that they are there and exist to help other crime victims not knowing where to turn to even if it means after hours. The Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Victim Assistance Program is also involved with these events and in support the Brazoria County

Crime Victim Outreach involvement in all activities. Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Department's Victim Services Program provides judicial support and advocacy services to victims whose offenders have been placed on probation, in addition to educational information of the judicial process. Probation typically ranges from one to ten years, depending on the term of the defendant's court ordered probation. This is the only program in Brazoria County that provides direct services to victims of violent crime whose offenders are on community supervision. This program supports the Victim Services Coordinator to foster a close communication and coordination with the probation department and the Office of the District Attorney to provide judicial notice and court accompaniment services to crime victims. The Victim Services Coordinator also works closely with the Domestic Violence Court Program and is a member of the Domestic Violence Court Team which helps ensure decisions are conducive to victim safety. The Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Department's Victim Services Program also facilitated restitution collected and disburse to victims.

Priority #4

<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Insufficient free local professional counseling services for victims.</p>	<p>Total number of victims served during September 1, 2015 thru October 31, 2017: The first quarter: 21 carried over and 06 new victims. The second quarter: 20 carried over and 21 new victims. The third quarter: 31 carried over and 18 new victims. The fourth quarter 35 carried over and 07 new victims. Of the 52 new victims, 3 are Asian, 6 are African American, 15 are Hispanic, and 23 are Caucasian. There are 15 male victims and 37 female victims. 34 victims are minors and 18 are adults. Youth & Family Counseling Services provided 555 hours of counseling to the victims of crime mention above. The total numbers served by Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court for FY2017 is not available due to the program beginning October 2017.</p>
<p><i>Potential Response to an Issue</i></p>	
<p>Youth and Family Counseling Services and Brazoria County Alliance for Children use VOCA funding to provide free professional counseling to victims of crimes in Brazoria County. These non-profit agencies are the only organizations in the county that offer free counseling by licensed professionals. Professional counseling helps victims and their families who have experienced sexual abuse, domestic violence, drunken driving accidents, homicide and burglaries, recover from trauma suffered due to a criminal act. If left untreated victims can become unable to function in their everyday lives. Child victims frequently have problem behaviors later in life as a result of their early trauma. Some even become perpetrators. Assistance in recovering from victimization is critical to many individuals and families. The goal is to provide services to aid the victim and their families</p>	

in obtaining homeostasis. A case management component of this program provides information and referral to victims, support during prosecution of the crime, assistance with Crime Victim Compensation paperwork, victim's right information, and assistance with locating additional services the victim and their families may need. Continuation of these counseling, case management services and the potential for growth of these programs are essential to Brazoria County victims. Child Sexual Assault is currently the leading cause of victimization and still growing, creating the need for experienced, licensed professionals to increase as well. Without the funds to supplement this demand, victims are left untreated and fail to recover to function in daily living. Without the services that Youth and Family Counseling Services and Brazoria County Alliance for Children provide, the victims of Brazoria County would not have access to free, local professional counseling or program services.

The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program offers a free women's support group for victims of violence. The Program offers a free 8 week interactive evidence based program to assist victims with identifying abuse, gaining insight that will foster behavior change and uncovering resources to assist them with their individual situations. The Program is offered every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month and is promoted within Adult Probation, Child Protective Services, and Domestic Violence Court and through public outreach events.

Priority #5	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>There is currently a lack of no/low cost emergency therapeutic services and follow-up mental health case management for child victims of crime, including abuse and neglect, especially child victims of sexual assault.</p>	<p>Youth & Family Counseling Services (YFCS) takes great pride in the ability to provide professional counseling for those in need. With much needed funding YFCS could expand and improve the services we have to offer to the crime victims of Brazoria County. Over the course of the last grant years: October 1, 2015 through October 31, 2017 the following victimizations have occurred:</p> <p>2 adult sexual assaults, 4 adults molested as children, 17 cases of child abuse or neglect, 53 cases of child sexual assault, 52 cases of domestic violence, 9 cases of DUI/ DWI, 3 cases of kidnapping, 6 survivors of homicide, and 1 home invasion. YFCS is honored to serve the victims of crime in Brazoria County.</p>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>Youth and Family Counseling Services use VOCA funding to provide free professional counseling to victims of crimes in Brazoria County. Youth & Family Counseling Services and Brazoria County Alliance for Children are the only organizations in the county that offer free counseling by licensed professionals. Professional counseling helps victims and their families who have experienced sexual abuse, domestic violence, drunken driving</p>	

accidents, homicide and burglaries, recover from trauma suffered due to a criminal act. If left untreated victims can become unable to function in their everyday lives. Child victims frequently have problem behaviors later in life as a result of their early trauma. Some even become perpetrators. Assistance in recovering from victimization is critical to many individuals and families. The goal is to provide services to aid the victim and their families in obtaining homeostasis. Children within the county who have made a disclosure of abuse to Brazoria County Alliance for Children forensic interviewers are referred to an on-site therapist following the interview to lessen the trauma experienced after the child's outcry. The therapist speaks with the clients in an initial session to assess their needs and schedules follow up appointments as needed. The need for mental health services at no cost is critical since the inability to pay for services often prevents clients from seeking these critical services, which in turn prevents the child from beginning the much needed journey of recovery. The growing demand for these services and only having one full time and one part time staff member who can provide these services requires referrals be made to outside counseling services. Since no-cost therapy services are only available at one other agency, many families don't pursue seeking counseling services and the children are left to struggle with coping with the residual effects of abuse. For those clients who are referred to alternative services, the on-site therapists place follow up calls to ensure that clients referred for off-site counseling services are receiving treatment. BCAC employs one full time and one part time therapist to see children (at no charge to the family) whose lives are impacted by abuse or neglect. The earlier abused children receive help, the greater chance they have to heal from their abuse, avoid future re-victimization and break the cycle of abuse. Individuals whose lives have been impacted from child abuse are more likely to develop responses such as chronic depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorders, problems with identity, post-traumatic disorder and other symptoms. Children experience feelings of shame, distrust, a sense of powerlessness and feelings of isolation and alienation. Psychological effects of abuse may appear immediately or may take years to surface. Young people who have survived sexual abuse can just as easily learn more positive behaviors when the community provides them with appropriate interventions and support. Working with children who have been abused requires special skills and expertise, including proven best practices in counseling. The full and part time therapist are both trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, an evidence based therapy tool utilized assist children recover from the trauma of child abuse. BCAC anticipates the need for another full time therapist, as well as contract therapists that can provide services for remote areas of Brazoria County.

Continuation of these counseling, case management services and the potential for growth of these programs are essential to Brazoria County victims. Without the services that Youth and Family Counseling Services and Brazoria County Alliance for Children provide, the victims of Brazoria County would not have access to free, local professional counseling or program services.

Priority #6

<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Insufficient low cost legal services for victims of domestic violence and related violent crimes.	Currently there is only one agency – Lone Star Legal Aid - that offers no cost or low cost assistance for victims who need help with family law matters. Lone Star Legal Aid services 3 other counties, in addition to Brazoria Co. (population 313,166 – U.S. Census Bureau), with only 2 attorneys. The number of requests for service far exceeds the agency’s ability to provide services for all – or even most – victims.
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>Domestic violence victims and families that have been victimized by violent crime often have no financial resources to hire private attorneys to assist with divorce, child custody and community property issues. Their perpetrator is their breadwinner, the controller of the family’s resources. Victims frequently have bank accounts emptied, utilities disconnected, vehicles repossessed, eviction notices served, and potentially no school supplies or shoes for the kids, all for lack of legal counsel. Catholic Charities sends a representative to the Women’s Center every 2 months to help victims with immigration issues and the Legal Aid office in Houston has recently begun a series of seminars to help people with eviction issues; the D.A.’s office provides the Women’s Center with 2 attorneys to do protective orders. But these services neither address all the areas of law in which help is needed by victims in order to be productive citizens, nor do they, because resources named are so limited, meet the demand.</p>	

Priority #7

<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Insufficient bilingual services for crime victims.	<p>Number of agencies with bilingual crime victim service providers: 4</p> <p>27.7% of county citizens are Hispanic (an increase of 22% over the last 10 years). The only agencies that offer full time bilingual services to crime victims are Alvin PD Comprehensive Crime Victim Program, Pearland PD Crime Victim Program, and The Women’s Center, Community Supervision and Corrections Department and the D.A.’s office.</p>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>Despite the effort of many of the agencies in Brazoria County, there is still a shortage of bilingual front-line service providers. Brazoria County covers 1,597 square miles. Staffs from the above mentioned agencies are frequently dispatched all over the county in order</p>	

Priority #8

Issue Identified

Data

High volume court system
There is a continued need for forensic interviewing, family advocacy, medical and mental health services as well as crime victim's assistance services to child abuse victims and their families through a Children's Advocacy Center model. There is also a need for the provision of bilingual services for these clients.

Since the opening of Brazoria County Alliance for Children (BCAC) in March 2004 through December 2012 the organization has served over 4,044 total victims. Services include conducting forensic interviews, providing both medical exams and mental health therapy, family advocacy, crisis intervention, case review team staffing, crime victim's assistance and coordination of services to partnering agencies. Brazoria County Alliance for Children provides services to victims of abuse and neglect from the point of the initial outcry to the final disposition of each case referred to the center. BCAC understands the critical importance of continuing to provide services that otherwise are not provided for children in Brazoria County; a comprehensive array of services not provided by any other single organization. In addition, BCAC serves as a first responder to children and families in crisis, as it is one of the first organizations utilized by partnering investigative agencies charged with cases of child abuse and neglect.

Through forensic interviews, children who have experienced abuse and/or neglect are able to relay their traumatic experience to a trained forensic interviewer while the information is recorded and is later utilized by Children's Protective Services, the assigned law enforcement agencies and the office of the District Attorney for case determination and completion. The forensic interviewer is also responsible for facilitating the Case Review Team meetings where discussions are held regarding updates and recommendations are made for each of the cases. Crime Victims Assistance services are provided by a designated staff member at BCAC. As a first responder, the Crime Victims Program Assistant greets families and upon finding that a victim has disclosed abuse and or neglect through the forensic interviewing process, assists the families with the process of Crime Victims intake forms and tracks information through the office of the Attorney General. The program assistant provides constant updates to the families and furnishes them with information regarding the progress of the Crime Victims Compensation application. The Family Advocate serves as the case liaison with non-offending family members, providing support in the form of referrals to needed social services, court accompaniment and case updates. Follow-up services, including medical and mental health services, as well as referrals to needed social services are facilitated through BCAC's family advocacy

	<p>program. Referrals and continued support are essential to families in order for them to receive a continuum of services that may be unaffordable to a family in crisis. These services are essential in the healing process and for the future well-being of the victim and their non-offending family members. The family advocate is the primary source of information and assistance for the victim and non-offending family members and continues to coordinate service contacts between victim/family and their investigative agency (ies).</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

Youth and Family Counseling Services use VOCA funding to provide free professional counseling to victims of crimes in Brazoria County. Youth & Family Counseling Services and Brazoria County Alliance for Children are the only organizations in the county that offer free counseling by licensed professionals. Professional counseling helps victims and their families who have experienced sexual abuse, domestic violence, drunken driving accidents, homicide and burglaries, recover from trauma suffered due to a criminal act. If left untreated victims can become unable to function in their everyday lives. Child victims frequently have problem behaviors later in life as a result of their early trauma. Some even become perpetrators. Assistance in recovering from victimization is critical to many individuals and families. The goal is to provide services to aid the victim and their families in obtaining homeostasis. Children within the county who have made a disclosure of abuse to Brazoria County Alliance for Children forensic interviewers are referred to an on-site therapist following the interview to lessen the trauma experienced after the child's outcry. The therapist speaks with the clients in an initial session to assess their needs and schedules follow up appointments as needed. The need for mental health services at no cost is critical since the inability to pay for services often prevents clients from seeking these critical services, which in turn prevents the child from beginning the much needed journey of recovery. The growing demand for these services and only having one full time and one part time staff member who can provide these services requires that we make referrals to outside counseling services. Since no-cost therapy services are only available at one other agency, many families don't pursue seeking counseling services and the children are left to struggle with coping with the residual effects of abuse. For those clients who are referred to alternative services, the on-site therapists place follow up calls to ensure that clients referred for off-site counseling services are receiving treatment. BCAC employs one full time and one part time therapist to see children (at no charge to the family) whose lives are impacted by abuse or neglect. The earlier abused children receive help, the greater chance they have to heal from their abuse, avoid future re-victimization and break the cycle of abuse. Individuals whose lives have been impacted from child abuse are more likely to develop responses such as chronic depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorders, problems with identity, post-traumatic disorder and other symptoms. Children experience feelings of shame, distrust, a sense of powerlessness and feelings of isolation and alienation. Psychological effects of abuse may appear immediately or may take years to surface. Young people who have survived sexual abuse can just as easily learn more positive behaviors when the community provides them with appropriate interventions and support. Working with children who have been abused requires special skills and expertise, including proven best practices in

counseling. The full and part time therapist are both trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, an evidence based therapy tool utilized to assist children recover from the trauma of child abuse. BCAC anticipates the need for another full time therapist, as well as contract therapists that can provide services for remote areas of Brazoria County.

Continuation of these counseling, case management services and the potential for growth of these programs are essential to Brazoria County victims. Without the services that Youth and Family Counseling Services and Brazoria County Alliance for Children provide, the victims of Brazoria County would not have access to free, local professional counseling or program services.

Priority #9

<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
High volume court system	No. of District Court cases September 1 to August 31
*District Courts cases fluctuate at any given time between 2300-2500.	2015: 2,118 2014: 2,358 2013: 2,263
	No. of County Court at Law cases September 1 to August 31
	2015: 4,537 2014: 5,128 2013: 4,859

Potential Response to an Issue

The District Attorney’s Office Crime Victim Program has three full-time liaisons to assist victims with criminal justice issues. From 09/01/14 through 08/01/15 service was provided to 3,485 victims by the DA’s office. The DA’s victim program provides information regarding court hearings, trials, pleas, assistance with Crime Victim Compensation Applications, court accompaniment, information on courtroom procedures, parole protest letters, provides emotional support and works with funeral homes, medical providers, and refers victims who need assistance with rent, utilities and counseling to the appropriate agencies. This past year the county has seen an increase in crime. The downturn in the economy and the county’s close proximity to Harris County are considered to be factors in the increase. Home invasions, burglaries, homicides, domestic violence and assaults are on the rise. Abuse of prescription drugs, alcohol, synthetic marijuana, and other illegal substances have increased the number of intoxicated assault auto accidents. Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Assistance Program has seen an increase in family violence and identity theft cases. When the economy suffers domestic violence tends to increase. More children are being targeted for sexual abuse and injury in family violence cases. While identity theft cases are non-violent they are more time consuming to process. Due to the nature of the crime, victims are required to provide affidavits and proof of theft to three different credit agencies. Our program assists victims in obtaining the required documentation. We have seen an increase in the number of cases involving abuse of prescription drugs. Shelter and lack of services for the homeless are still an issue for the county. Our program also supports the Brazoria County Crime Victim Support Group. This group supplies emotional support and information to other crime victims. The number of victims attending has steadily increased. On average, ten victims attend monthly meetings. The Brazoria County Drug Court was established in July 2009 and has seen continued growth in services provided for offenders with substance abuse issues

within the Brazoria County Court System. The DWI Court was established in 2014 and continues to grow and serve offenders as well. The Veterans Court began as a pilot program in Spring 2016, but just received grant funding and will continue to grow to serve veterans in our community. These specialty court programs provide a judicially supervised regime of treatment and innovative case management to substance abuse offenders with the goal of returning to sober, law-abiding citizens in the community. The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program was established in October 2016 to promote victim safety, increase offender accountability, and provide consistent judicial decision making for cases involving domestic violence. The program represents a collaborative effort of victim advocates, law enforcement, treatment providers, the District Attorney's Office, Brazoria County Community Supervision and the Court working together to break the cycle of violence. This partnership will provide the opportunity for the Court to hold offenders accountable for their violent and/or controlling behaviors while providing early intervention to victims and offenders. The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program provides individuals with an opportunity to change future behaviors and refrain from utilizing domestic violence in their current or future relationships. The goal of a future free from violence can be accomplished through the utilization of holding offenders accountable while assisting them with accepting responsibility for assaultive behaviors. Through recognizing unacceptable and violent behaviors, participants can learn to refrain from those behaviors and acquire new behaviors to replace previous assaultive/controlling behaviors. The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program utilizes evidence-based practices in its delivery of services and works in collaboration with community providers, Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) treatment providers, victim services, law enforcement and mental health professionals. BIPP and other cognitive behavioral programming and enhanced accountability are essential aspects of the program.

Priority #10											
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>										
<p>There is a critical need for a Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) in Brazoria County. The purpose of a child fatality review team is to develop an understanding of the causes and incidence of child deaths, promote public awareness and make recommendations to the governor and legislature for changes in law, policy and practice to reduce the number of preventable child deaths.</p>	2009- 2010 Child Deaths										
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Age</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Number of Deaths</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">43</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1-4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5-14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">15 - 24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">73</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>	1	43	1-4	11	5-14	12	15 - 24	73
	<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>									
	1	43									
	1-4	11									
5-14	12										
15 - 24	73										
39% of child deaths in Brazoria County occurred among infants birth to four years of age.											
According to Texas Department of State Health records, the											

	<p>following information indicating deaths from accidents, suicide, and homicide for individuals ages birth to 24 was determined to be:</p> <table> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>36</td> </tr> </table>	2009	30	2010	36
2009	30				
2010	36				

Potential Response to an Issue

CFRTs are multidisciplinary, multiagency working groups that review child deaths on a local level from a public perspective. By reviewing circumstances surrounding child deaths, teams identify prevention strategies that will decrease the incidence of preventable child deaths by:

- Developing an understanding of the causes and incidence of child deaths in the county
- Recommending changes to agencies through an agency representative member, in order to reduce child deaths,
- Advising state committees on potential changes to law, policy or practice that will assist the team and the agencies represented on the team in fulfilling their duties.
- Providing assistance, direction, and coordination to investigation of child deaths.
- Promoting cooperation, communication and coordination among agencies involved in responding to child fatalities.

The rate of suicide in the United States rose sharply during the first few years since the start of the recession, a new analysis has found. In the report, which appeared Sunday on the Web site of The Lancet, a medical journal, researchers found that the rate between 2008 and 2010 increased four times faster than it did in the eight years before the recession.

Priority #11

<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Insufficient affordable housing for the indigent, including crime victims who are displaced because of their victimization.</p>	<p>Currently there are 477 individuals or families on the county's waiting list for subsidized (Section 8) housing. Last year (2011), there were 1,565 individuals or families; in 2010, 1,664 individuals or families; in 2009, 1,110; in 2008, 948. Brazoria County holds 586 vouchers, but funding has been reduced by \$25,000 - \$30,000 a month, so only 550 – 580 units are available. Our attrition rate is roughly 5 families or individuals per month. New applicants are not being added to the waiting list at this time, but it is expected to be reopened in April of 2013. The list was recently purged and is smaller because of deaths, a change in applicant circumstances, and increased monitoring of criminal activity, unreported income, and other fraudulent issues.</p>

Potential Response to an Issue

County Welfare reports a critical need attributable to different causes. They are seeing more indigent families and individuals. People have lost jobs; families have been foreclosed on, and there are more victims. Domestic violence and sexual assault victims frequently need to move for safety reasons or because they experience loss of support or reduced income when the perpetrator is missing or incarcerated or they lose their job because of time spent away from work necessitated by court hearings, witness interviews, etc. or because of harassment on the job by the perpetrator. While Crime Victim Compensation offers relocation costs for domestic violence victims (and sexual assault victims, under certain circumstances), it does not provide assistance to stop repossession of cars, foreclosure on homes, or other necessities that contribute to community stability and productivity. There are 3 shelters in the county – 2 for domestic violence victims and 1 for individuals who are homeless. All three are temporary shelters. Finally, while available low-to-moderate income housing has always been scarce, it is now practically non-existent.

Priority #12

Issue Identified

Data

Limited public transportation for county residents, including victims and the indigent.

Connect Transit recently began bus routes in southern and western Brazoria County. Taxi service is also limited.

Potential Response to an Issue

Connect Transit does not provide service in the evening, on weekends, or on established holidays. It is not unusual for riders to wait as long as 1 ½ hours after their appointed time for Connect to arrive. There are two taxi services in Brazoria County one in the Brazosport area and the other located in Alvin. The taxi service is of no use to the neediest citizens. They can't afford a car; they can't afford a taxi, either. The newly instituted bus routes in central and southern Brazoria Co. connecting Angleton, Freeport, Lake Jackson, and Clute and a portion of the county west of the Brazos operate 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Residents who do not own reliable transportation or to whom taxis and the bus routes are out of reach have their access to jobs, service providers, social services, medical care, courts, daycare and schools restricted due to lack of public transportation. Victims of domestic violence, often forced to leave their homes and possessions behind, have difficulty finding transportation to appear for court proceedings or, especially on the weekends, to take care of everyday needs, like going to the grocery store. Limited, inadequate public transportation results in staff from agencies like the Women's Center, police departments, and the DA's Crime Victim Department providing transportation to victims. Not only does this result in a much higher cost for transportation services, but regular duties are postponed while these staff members are providing transportation.

The lack of public transportation, including limited taxi service, during evening and weekend hours has other consequences. DWI incidents within the county increase because intoxicated individuals have limited options when facing the decision how to get home after becoming intoxicated. Each intoxicated driver on the road increases the possibility of creating future victims. One preventive measure that is being taken in other communities throughout the nation is the promotion of accessible taxi service to provide transportation to individuals who

have become intoxicated. Brazoria County will prevent victimization by promoting and developing more public transportation options for the evening and weekend hours.

Priority #13

Issue Identified

Data

An insufficient number of crime victim support groups.

Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach – Volunteer Crime Victim Support Group- Offers emotional support and assists victims with understanding the process of the Criminal Justice System. They meet every month on third Tuesday in Angleton, Texas.

Potential Response to an Issue

For over ten years, Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach had been the only existing volunteer support group that is located in Angleton, Texas the central part of the county. Currently it has 14 active members. The support group members steadily keep involved in victim activities having at least 28 to 30 active members participating in events in Brazoria and in other surrounding counties during crime victim’s rights week. Support group members volunteer their time and efforts to assist other crime victims who begin the criminal justice process with their existing cases. New members require support and understanding involving what is required of them as victims to pursue and to keep notified on retrials and trials, etc...

Brazoria County is geographically large covering 1,488 square miles. There is a need for volunteer support groups within the county where victims can meet and share their experiences. Victims face hard times when their cases preceding the district attorney office as it can be extremely stressful and it is helpful for victims to meet and discuss their cases. When meeting seasoned victims who have already been through the system and who can share similar experiences, victims can be directed to the right resources rather than staying confused. For victims to know that they are not alone and that they can find support from others who have experienced tragedy can help in them with the healing process. Even though the crimes are different, victims have a common connection and bond that they find through the support groups. Many crime victims in the support group have created their own private events to memorialize their losses. The Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach provides the assistance and support to the victims’ as they get involved and participate in those private events, memorials, and ceremonies to be enforce the victim that they are all in this together and not alone. The support group has seen an increase in crime victims from month to month seeking assistance and needing compassionate listening ears for their losses in loved ones through the support group. Crimes existing from: sexual assaults of adults and children, homicides, intoxicated manslaughter, and family violence. A substantial amount of teens participate in the support group. The Crime Victims Adult Support Group is beginning a teen group due to that the teen support group member in the support group has graduated and moved on unable to continue this need for the teens in the group. The support group members have been actively involved all year long and participate in helping other victims through court proceedings, and through fundraising events for memorial ceremonies. The support group continues to grow and notices that there is a need in assisting victims with parole boards meetings as the criminals are

up for parole. The support group volunteer to attend, assist and guide victims in the parole meetings and fighting the process with letters and petitions. Annually, the event of a thanksgiving dinner hosted and supplied by Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach members was created to promote a network environment for the community to be invited for awareness, participation and involvement. Increasing attendees for this event has increased from 42 attendees in 2014 to 57 attendees for 2015; this demonstrates that victim's participation for more involvement with their own family. This event offers additional support during the holiday season for the other holidays as well. During National Crime Victims Right Week, the group members take many days off of their personal employments to participate and support all of the crime victims events, private events and service providers program events such as the Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Victim Assistance Program Annual Luncheon, the Brazoria District Attorney's Office Crime Victims Program Candlelight Vigil, etc. with the events they host by other counties during that week. The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program offers a free women's support group for victims of violence. The Program offers a free 8 week interactive evidence based program to assist victims with identifying abuse, gaining insight that will foster behavior change and uncovering resources to assist them with their individual situations. The Program is offered every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month and is promoted within Adult Probation, Child Protective Services, Domestic Violence Court and through public outreach events.

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

Priority #1	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for increased recruitment, training, and retention of qualified employees.	Agencies nation-wide have faced a critical shortage of quality, tenured personnel. Additionally, Brazoria County's population has increased exponentially; and economic growth indicates that such growth will continue here. We have become home to approximately 40,000 contract/construction workers, who will be calling Brazoria County home for up to the next four years. With that thriving economy and booming population comes a need for more personnel so that adequate emergency services can be provided. Combine these issues with the facts that officers are having to handle an increased call load and more use-of-force incidents, while being forced to use antiquated, low-grade, and worn-out equipment. Due to this, the desire for qualified employees who want to dedicate their careers to public service has dwindled even further. Officers have to continually strive to learn new methods in all aspects of their jobs, so they can adapt to the newer crime trends that surface every day.

	<p>The demand for digitally recorded evidence has created new challenges for law enforcement agencies, as the need for a new breed of crime technicians and evidence custodians has peaked. Departments have begun creating new positions, whose sole responsibility is maintaining, processing, and coordinating the gathering, storage, and dissemination of digital evidence.</p>
<p><i>Potential Response to an Issue</i></p>	
<p>Leaders of law enforcement agencies throughout Brazoria County have considered the possibilities of offering a certification academy for new recruits, paying recruits who participate in the certification academy, increasing pay for employees who hold higher levels of education/training, and offering more incentives for longer-tenured employees. Although each of these issues depends greatly on fiscal resources, the need for ethical, uncompromising officers and staff has to be a priority.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">Priority #2</p>	
<p><i>Issue Identified</i></p>	<p><i>Data</i></p>
<p>Lack of facilities, treatment options, and trained officers to serve the needs of mental health consumers.</p>	<p>The State of Texas has, for years, failed to increase funding and resources to provide for the treatment and welfare of its mental health consumers. Emergency responders, law enforcement agencies, and service providers have seen an enormous increase in the number of mental health calls and cases they have had to handle. The increase in juvenile mental health consumer calls and cases has also had a major impact on emergency responders, as parental consent concerns and a difference in treatment options have to be addressed. Local treatment facilities and options have not increased, while demand for services has skyrocketed. Between both Brazoria and Galveston Counties, there are only twenty (20) dedicated beds in contracted treatment facilities. The main facility is in Galveston County. The mental health cells at the county jail are rarely vacant. Since there is a high volume of calls for Brazoria County's six (6) trained mental health deputies, response times have increased, and regular officers/deputies have to improvise ways to quell potentially hazardous situations until a Mental Health Deputy can arrive on scenes. Even after mental health deputies take custody of persons who need treatment,</p>

	<p>those deputies are often forced to sit on the side of the roads while calling around to find a facility who can accept the persons. These same six mental health deputies are required to respond to ALL mental health issues in every jurisdiction, including over 40 schools. There are no cities in Brazoria County with Mental Health officers. Brazoria County has one of the highest suicide rates in the state. So far in 2017, Brazoria County Mental Health Deputies responded to 3,856 calls; over half of which required evaluations. A typical call can last for three to twenty hours. This figure does not account for calls that were handled before a mental health deputy could respond.</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

The growing need for Brazoria County’s emergency responders to obtain more mental health training and treatment options has become paramount. Since the State of Texas has, for years, failed to sufficiently increase funding and resources, the burden of locating and/or providing funding for additional mental health deputies has fallen onto the local agencies. Brazoria County intends to take a proactive strategy in addressing the State’s shortfall, as we continue to contract with out-of-county facilities allow mental health deputies to work extended hours. Hospitals are becoming more reticent to offer beds to indigent mental health patients. For the few that do, we must compete with several other counties to find beds. A quick stop-gap measure would be to build a small, 15 – 20 bed triage facility that can keep patients for one to two days, until permanent facilities can be arranged or the patient is “post-crisis”. Agencies will continually examine the possibilities of recruiting additional mental health personnel and contracting with any local health care providers who are willing to provide necessary services.

Priority #3

<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Rising cost of equipment and manpower to support the ever-increasing demand for electronic evidentiary requirements, especially those created by the advent and mandated use of body cameras.</p>	<p>Recent governmental mandates, and associated funding mechanisms such as the Smart Policing Initiative of 2015, provide some avenues for competitive grant funding to cover the actual cost of adding technologies such as body cameras. Such programs fail to address the cost of storing and processing the huge data files created when the relatively small number of in-car cameras is increased many times over by the addition of a body camera on every officer. The researching of needed footage, assembling all the data into a case file, and then transferring the files onto digital media for use by prosecutors and courts can take many hours for a single large case. Each increase in the number of cameras utilized creates a like increase in file size and time to process. Most law enforcement agencies do not have additional personnel to assign to these duties,</p>

	<p>creating a backlog of evidence requests and a delay in prosecutions. Thus, processing and storing the data from body cameras has become cost prohibitive for some agencies. The processing of video for open records requests must also be factored in. Because of the litany of protected information items, and the fact that the body camera “sees and hears everything,” including bystanders, passing motorists, children, license plates, etc., someone is required to watch and listen to every minute, to assure redaction of required information. This process alone can add dozens of man hours weekly, which is another unfunded cost of operation. The cost of software and hardware to redact such information from HD video can be staggering. Additionally, the effects of Senate Bill 1611, better known as the Michael Morton Act, which became effective in 2014, has created concerns that evidentiary items, including video and audio, may need to be maintained indefinitely for retrial or appeal, which may carry the need for storage well beyond the normal retention periods. This further taxes storage systems, and creates the need for large depositories for long term data retention.</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

It is essential that the implementation of body cameras and other technology be viewed in a “true cost” format, rather than a cost of implementation concept. Continued funding of hardware is essential in the early phases of this implementation, and has been available through the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, as well as other sources. The true cost, however, will come in personnel expenses to process, manage, and transfer this data efficiently and on time, whether for criminal prosecution or open records use. These positions may or may not be sworn officers, but certainly require a moderate level of technical knowledge and clear understanding of the statutes pertaining to each use of data. A related avenue of possibility is to fund research, acquisition, and implementation of CJIS compliant systems that can transfer these files electronically so as to reduce or eliminate the substantial amount time and materials spent creating physical copies of paper, audio, and video records for delivery to the prosecutor’s office, other police agencies, the media, or the public.

Priority #4	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Need to upgrade training and equipment for emergency responders, especially in the areas of properly identifying and handling impaired</p>	<p>Although LEOSE funding has been reinstated, it has not been increased to reflect the increased cost of educating officers; thus, agencies have had to provide some training through supplemental sources. As technology has evolved, officers have been confronted by newer crime trends and the increased demand for training and equipment. It is now a</p>

<p>drivers/persons and becoming more aware of the current generation of synthetic drugs. More recent trends of training that need to be emphasized include racial tensions, anti-government groups, and de-escalation methods.</p>	<p>must that officers wear body cameras, so that their individual actions can be recorded at all times. Law enforcement agencies are required to, upon request; deliver a copy of video to a defendant who was accused of certain intoxication offenses. Up-to-date training and equipment are necessities for job performance.</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

Along with the potential implementation of the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office regional public safety training facility, law enforcement administrators county-wide have recognized the need for specialized training and equipment that can be utilized in many areas of law enforcement. Just a few topics administrators are looking to address this year are the recognition of and analysis of modern synthetic street drugs, the need for body cameras, and replacing obsolete mobile data terminals. As is the case with any governmental entity, law enforcement agencies must maintain an accelerated level of service quality through both training and equipment.

Priority #5	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Need additional certified SANE nurses, Pediatric SANE Nurses, and follow-up victim services.</p>	<p>Brazoria County only has one Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) who is certified to conduct acute exams for the entire county, which has an estimated population of over 0,000 350,000. This SANE nurse, who is contracted through the Children's Assessment Center (CAC), is not affiliated with any hospital that is contracted with Brazoria County. Over the past two years, UTMB in Galveston and Memorial Hermann Hospital and other medical facilities in Houston have had to conduct the SANE examinations for all of Brazoria County's law enforcement agencies. Brazoria County's local hospitals are not willing to contract SANE services because of the great number of staff members they would have to hire and retain, and the expense they would have to incur to provide adequate services. A facility would need to certify and retain eight to ten SANE examiners to be effective; a program that costs \$15,000 per certification and \$3,000 per annual re-certification. Law enforcement</p>

	<p>officers, victims' family members, and CPS investigators have to spend many hours travelling to facilities in adjacent counties and waiting for examinations to be completed so victims can be treated and evidence can be processed properly. The smaller, rural cities lose the only officer they have working in their city for this to be done.</p> <p>Also, as stated above, Brazoria County's one SANE nurse is contracted through the (CAC).. The examination room at the CAC lends itself to distractions for a victim, because of noisy children who occupy the adjacent room during assessment periods. Thus, there is a great need for more SANE nurses here.</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

Brazoria County is open to negotiating SANE contract services with local facilities. Victims would be more comfortable, more cooperative, and less traumatized, if the examination process could be completed at a local medical facility. Treatment and investigation processes would be much shorter, travel time would be reduced, and conviction rates would be apt to increase – a great benefit for all.

Priority #6

Issue Identified

Data

Need for the expansion and upgrade of training and equipment for the collection, processing, and analysis of evidence.

As a precedent, several years ago DPS and FBI laboratories standardized many evidence collection and submission processes. These, along with changing technological advances, have required the law enforcement community to implement new methods of collecting, processing, and analyzing physical evidence. As the most advanced crime lab in Brazoria County, the BCSO crime lab is once again in the process of renewing its ISO 17025 accreditation. Many of the county's smaller agencies do not have access to the resources that are available to the larger agencies for the collection and processing of evidence; thus, they have to rely on BCSO for the collection, processing, and analysis of evidence. Technological and scientific advancements have brought about stricter standards and expectations of those who handle and process evidence. Those same advancements have brought about the inventions of processing chambers which use HEPA filters, rather than needing to be vented externally, and forensic software for searching cell phones and computers. Some departments are considering the possibility of employing an evidence technician, who can perform some of the less complex processing, which does not need to be done by BCSO, DPS,

	<p>or other labs with specialized equipment. The chemists and analysts at BCSO not only process and analyze evidence for law enforcement agencies throughout the county, they also process specimens submitted by the Probation Office. The BCSO crime lab is in need of additional trained personnel and upgraded equipment, especially with the increased number of synthetic drug cases. In addition to needing another Chemist/Toxicologist, a Liquid Chromatographer Mass Spectrograph (LCMS) would enable the lab to perform tests in a timelier manner, or those test specimens which are currently sent out of state for processing.</p> <p>Municipal agencies need to obtain, replace or upgrade the more basic or outdated lab equipment, such as fingerprinting supplies, cameras, latent processing chambers, chemicals, and electronic equipment, only to name a few items. As with any law enforcement agency, the need to train personnel in the different aspects of evidence collection, processing, and analysis is crucial. Along with the demand for more digital evidence, law enforcement agencies have been faced with the problem of safely and securely storing evidence from body cameras, as well as mobile video cameras, hand-held video cameras, and still-shot digital cameras. Agencies have begun contemplating potential methods of storage, from a minimum of multi-terra-bite servers to cloud-based solutions. Sound infrastructure is paramount for maintaining an uncompromised chain of custody in both, the criminal and civil sides of law enforcement.</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

Since accreditation requirements changed during the 2015 legislative session, the BCSO lab has worked diligently to maintain its ISO 17025 accreditation. Smaller agencies will be acquiring any training and equipment they can, so that they will be able to process more evidence, faster, and without adding to the load the BCSO lab has to carry. Faster processing times equate to faster case clearances and prosecutions. With the need for increased electronic storage capacities, procurement and implementation of a better computerized infrastructure and software has to be secured as soon as possible.

Priority #7	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need additional traffic enforcement units and crash	Since Brazoria County's northern population has grown exponentially and increased border security has become a

investigation capabilities.

top priority for our state government, meaning more DPS Troopers are moved to the border and less are stationed in Brazoria County, BCSO deputies have had to take on the additional tasks of increasing traffic law enforcement and investigating more traffic crashes in the rural areas. A decreased number of available Troopers and Deputies, coupled with the increased number of traffic offenses and crashes, only compound a Deputy's workload. By the same standard, increased population, especially in cities in the central and southern parts of the county, has resulted in an increase in traffic offenses and crash rates. Since the northern end of the county has become saturated with new residents, the central part of the county is experiencing that same population overflow and increase.

Due to construction at the Phillips 66 Refinery, Freeport LNG Plant, and the Phillips 66 Export Terminal, and the enlarging of the Port of Freeport, the southern and western parts of the county are seeing an additional 20,000 temporary workers living here for up to five years. Those factors, along with the increased commercial vehicle traffic and the number of workers who commute from outside the county each day to work those projects add to every department's workload to reduce accidents, whenever possible.

According to BCSO statistics, Reckless Driver complaints increased by 20%, general traffic complaints increased by 22%, unknown type accidents increased by 22%, minor accidents increased by 24%, major accidents increased by 14%, and speeding complaints increased by 10%; and these were only the calls that were handled through BCSO. Brazoria County also has one of the highest DWI arrest rates in the State of Texas; ranking 19th out of the 254 counties.

Potential Response to an Issue

Since most Brazoria County law enforcement agencies do not have a designated Traffic Division, they rely on DPS Troopers to patrol the roadways to enforce the traffic laws, conduct DWI investigations, and investigate crashes that occur within their jurisdictions. With the limited number of DPS Troopers available, BCSO Deputies have also had to become more of a presence in traffic law enforcement, increase the number of crash reports they complete, and process more drunk drivers than ever before.

Agencies are beginning to increase participation in programs such as Click-It-Or-Ticket, and DWI task forces, both of which are fiscally supported by state funding. Another beneficial option for traffic law enforcement in several cities has been the implementation of or increasing the size of motorcycle traffic divisions. The presence of additional officers on the roadways not only ensures safer roadways and shorter response times to calls, but it acts as a deterrent to other types of crime as well.

Priority #8

Issue Identified

Data

Need additional of specialized computer software for documenting, retaining, and reporting crime victim's assistance.

Although there is no State-required reporting of assistance that is given to crime victims by the various agencies and organizations throughout the State of Texas, many agencies are finding it difficult to produce statistics on the many ways victims are given assistance. There is no common database that does, or is able to, track data on the number of victims that have been helped, the manner in which victims have been helped, the agencies that have helped a particular victim, and the amount of resources each agency contributed that went into helping each particular victim. Most criminal justice software programs do not contain a module that compiles and/or collates such reports. Most criminal justice agencies utilize reports that were either generated manually, on paper, or in some type of spreadsheet formatted report. Agencies who utilize grant funds to provide assistance are usually required to complete some form of reporting system.

There is no common software that is utilized by multiple agencies/entities that allows those different providers to review assistance that was given to a particular victim. It would be very beneficial if not only different employees within a providing entity could refer to actions that were taken by another employee, but also assistance that was given by another provider. The Brazoria County District Attorney's Office, the Pearland PD, and Alvin PD are the only three criminal justice agencies who employ fulltime victim's assistance coordinators; however, they currently have no means through which to share information on their activities.

Potential Response to an Issue

The utilization of a universally (statewide) acceptable software could help greatly in allowing agencies/entities to share data on victim's assistance. Although there is not currently a statewide database for assistance that is given to crime victims, there are programs available that can be used to compile data, track victims, funds, and types of assistance given, and produce reports on aide that has been given to victims.

Priority #9

Issue Identified

Data

Need additional communications within the County and fire department dispatching.

Brazoria County's population has increased over thirty percent in the last decade; and it is now home to an estimated population of over 350,000 people. The county's 26 law enforcement agencies, over 25 fire departments, at least 12 ambulance services, 6 hospitals, and numerous emergency operation centers (EOC) have complied with federal requirements for P-25. Not only have federal mandates affected governmental entities, they have also affected many of the large industrial and chemical plants in the county. Brazoria County is home to Dow Chemical, BASF, Ineos, Phillips 66 Refinery, Phillips 66 Exporting terminal, and potentially, one of the largest LNG plants in the world – a plant that is currently doubling in size so that it can export LNG. While most of those agencies/organizations are in compliance, some smaller departments are not, especially some of the fire departments. Without having all agencies in compliance, there still remains a large hindrance in communication. Fire departments are beginning to have difficulties sharing such a large communications system and no dedicated dispatching procedure.

Potential Response to an Issue

Getting most of the agencies/organizations up and running on the mandated 700 MHz communications system has been a major task and efforts will be made to reach a goal of 100%. The upgrades will allow different types of agencies/entities to communicate with each other, which is paramount while responding safely and properly to any type of major incident.

Resources Available

Included below are resources identified by the Brazoria 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>
Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department	Probation Department	Detention Center Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program Residential Program Probation services located in 5 different cities

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Alvin Police Department (281) 388-4370	Law Enforcement	Provides law enforcement, criminal investigation, juvenile crime investigations, crime prevention & victim assistance, as well as code enforcement, health inspections, animal control/enforcement and emergency management operations
Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Crime Victim Assistance Program 281.585-7125 Maribel Cooper mcooper@apd.cityofalvin.com	Law Enforcement	Providing information to victims regarding the investigation of their case and assistance with Crime Victim compensation
Angleton Police Department (979) 849-2383 David Ashburn dashburn@angletonpd.net	Law Enforcement	Provides law enforcement, criminal investigation, juvenile crime investigations, crime prevention & victim assistance, as well as code enforcement, health inspections, animal control/enforcement and emergency management
Rush Quenton qrush@angletonpd.net		

Brazoria County Crime Stoppers	Law Enforcement / Citizen Program	operations Provides monetary incentives to witnesses to come forth with information to solve crimes.
Brazoria County District Attorney's Office Crime Victim Assistance Program – 979.864-1245	Prosecution	Provides information, referrals, assistance with Crimes Victim Compensation, court notification, court accompaniment

Victim Services:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Joshua Collins joshuac@brazoria-county.com Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach	Volunteer Crime Victim Support Group	Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach – Volunteer Crime Victim Support Group- Offers emotional support and assists victims with understanding the process of the Criminal Justice System. They meet every month on third Tuesday
Brazoria County Community Supervision Crime Victim Assistance Program	Adult Supervision	The Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Victim Services Program provides justice support, personal advocacy, court accompaniment, interagency referrals, Crime Victim Compensation assistance, education, liaison assistance with payment of court ordered restitution. Services may be for a period up to 10 years of probation to protect, guide and empower victims of crime. Bilingual staff is available to assist

(Other Focus Group Area):

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
American Red Cross		

(979) 849-6439

Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria
County
(979) 373.9668

Non-Profit Agency

Provides programs for youth ages 6-18 after school and in summer at 15 locations in Brazoria County. The agency is a safe place to learn and grow – while having fun. The focus is on the young people that need services that most and provide them with and outcome-driven club experience with focus on academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. BGCBC is a place where great futures are shared each and every day.

Brazoria County Alliance for
Children
(BCAC)
(979) 849-2500

Multidisciplinary
team approach to
child abuse
Investigations

Lisa Jolly
ljolly@cac-bc.org

Brazoria County Alliance for Children, in partnership with the District Attorney's Office, Child Protective Services and 23 Law Enforcement Agencies provide victim services to child abuse victims that are referred to BCAC. Referrals to BCAC are made from the above partnership agencies. BCAC and its partner agencies work together under an agreed protocol to provide services to child victims and their families to reduce the effects and trauma of childhood sexual and /or physical abuse

(Other Focus Group Area):

Name of Agency

Agency Type

Description

Alvin ISD
(281) 245-2006

Independent School
District

Federal and Special Programs professional staff facilitate a wide range of programs and activities designed to address fundamental social, emotional, behavioral, and academic barriers on a child's educational path. Teacher and parental support, as well as universal and targeted interventions are provided to meet student's primary needs; thereby maximizing their potential for greater academic success.

Alvin ISD
(281) 245-2453

Independent School
District

Denise Babb, Director of Federal
Programs
dbabb@alvinisd.net

Federal and Special Programs professional staff facilitate a wide range of programs and activities designed to address fundamental social, emotional, behavioral, and academic barriers on a child's educational path. Teacher and parental support, as well as universal and targeted interventions are provided to meet student's primary needs; thereby maximizing their potential for greater academic success.

Angleton ISD
(979) 864-8029

Independent School
District

Bonnie Brothers, Human
Resources
bbrothers@angletonisd.net

Angleton ISD has a mission to prepare each student academically and socially to become a responsible and productive citizen. AISD constantly reviews and updates district and campus goals to make sure they are aligned with that mission. Each year, the district creates an improvement plan that determines priorities for the school year and helps AISD raise the achievement and performance of every student

in the district. AISD has implemented a Goal Focus campaign, making sure students, staff and community members are aware of the district's mission, vision, values, goals and strategies.

Brazoria County
Economic Development Alliance
for Brazoria County
(979) 848-0560

The Economic
Development
Alliance For
Brazoria County

"To promote and diversify the economic base, attract high-wage jobs in target industries to Brazoria County, and support and champion the interests of existing businesses."

Debbie Pennington, VP of
Operations
debbiep@eda-bc.com

Gary Basinger, Vice President,
Existing Business
garb@eda-bc.com

Brazoria County Office
(Emergency Management)
(979) 864-1801

Emergency
Management

To save lives and prevent loss of property. The community needs to be aware of the elements that can threaten their lives and property. Once the threat is identified, the essential resources can be determined to assist in restoring the area back to an acceptable status. Accomplished through education and disaster planning

Steve Rosa
stevenrosa@brazoria-county.com

Glenn Lamont
glennl@brazoria-county.com

Brazoria County
(Judge's Office)
(979) 864-1200

Judge's Office

A county judge serves as both presiding officer of the Commissioners' Court with voting rights and as a judge of the county court. They are often thought of as an executive official in county government, offering advice and guidance on county issues when required. A county judge's duties entail a rich mixture of both

County Judge L. M. Sebesta Jr.
matts@brazoria-county.com

Cathy Hughes,
Chief Administrator

cathyh@brazoria-county.com

Brazoria County Juvenile
Justice Department
(979) 864-1210 X114

Hortencia Morales MA, LPC
Coordinator
Brazoria County Juvenile
Justice Department
Ph: (979) 864-1210 X 142
Fx: (979) 864-1076
hortenciam@brazoria-county.com

Juvenile Justice

administrative and judicial duties.

The Texas Education Code requires the development of a “juvenile justice alternative education program” by the juvenile board of a county with a population of 125,000. In 1995, the Brazoria County Juvenile Board and the eight school districts throughout Brazoria County entered into an agreement establishing the Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program. The Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department provides juvenile probation officers, advisors, support staff and the physical facility necessary to operate the program. The Angleton Independent School District provides the educational aspects.

Medical / Social Services

Provides sexual assault exams for victims of sexual assault

Brazoria County Community
Adult Supervision
(979) 864-1406
Cara Drenner
(Assistant Director)
carad@brazoria-county.com

Supervision and Corrections Department

The Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Department provides adult supervision officers and support staff to operate the department programs. Provides supervision of offenders while referring to resources for substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, sex offender treatment and veterans issues.

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Brazoria 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 Brazoria 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 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 Brazoria County families struggling with problems described in the Plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Brazoria 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 encourage agencies to provide programming that addresses the outlined focus areas.

Contact Information

Brazoria County Community Planning Coordinator

Becky Bosco, 111 E. Locust, Suite, 102A, Angleton, TX 77515
(979) 864-1200

Community Planning Liaison from Houston-Galveston Area Council

Larry Smith, *Public Safety Program Planner*
(713) 993-2455

This Plan is available on-line at brazoria-county.com
Under Government / County Judge / Community Plan