

# Hill County Community Plan 2017

## **What Is a Community Plan?**

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The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office (CJD) requires that each county in Texas have a Criminal Justice Community Plan in order to identify gaps in services regarding criminal justice issues.

This document reflects the efforts of Hill County community agencies concerned with assuring that any gaps in services are addressed and needs are documented to the benefit the county. The names of those involved in the process of developing this plan are listed in the following pages, under “Community Planning Team.”

Though the final draft of this plan was completed December 2016, this is a work in progress. As new criminal justice goals are identified, the constituency of the planning team and priorities in the plan are subject to change. Such updates may be reported to the Hill County Community Planning Coordinator throughout the year, and the plan amended accordingly.

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 the Criminal Justice Planner of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. Contact information is provided on page 38 of this document.

The Hill County Commissioner’s Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the Hill County Community Plan. Additionally, the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) and the Heart of Texas Council of Governments’ Governing Board (Executive Committee) invite grant applications from county departments as well as community organizations which address gaps in services identified in the Community Plan.

## Areas Represented

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### Incorporated Communities:

Abbott	Aquilla	Blum	Bynum
Carl's Corner	Covington	Hillsboro	Hubbard
Itasca	Malone	Mertens	Mount Calm
Penelope	Whitney		

### School Districts:

Abbott ISD	Hubbard ISD
Aquilla ISD	Itasca ISD
Blum ISD	Malone ISD
Bynum ISD	Mt. Calm ISD
Covington ISD	Penelope ISD
Hillsboro ISD	Whitney ISD

### Brief Description and History of Hill County:

Hill County, home to 34,321 residents and comprised of 657,452 acres of land, is located in the Central Texas Blacklands, approximately 60 miles south of the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth.

The first settlers of Hill County were attracted to its rolling prairie land because of the rich soil and abundance of timber and artesian wells. With the arrival of the MKT railroad, Hillsboro became a commercial cross-road for Texas and by the turn of the century, Hill County was the second largest cotton producer in the state.

Agriculture still remains the leading industry today, with agricultural commodities sales averaging about \$70,000,000 annually. Average 2007 yields for wheat, cotton, corn, and grain sorghum were 25 bushels/acre, 750 pounds – 1.5 bale/acre, 80 bushels/acre, and 54 bushels/acre, respectively. Other than agriculture, gas exploration, light manufacturing, Hill County is economically driven by light industry and retail outlets.

## Community Planning Team

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Community Plan Coordinator for Hill County: Cindy Rafter the Criminal Justice Planner for the Heart of Texas Council of Governments

In developing this Community Plan, members of the team worked together to provide updates and changes to the previous plan. Some members serve in multiple capacity and categories.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Justin Lewis	Hill County Judge
Tina Lincoln	Hill County Juvenile Probation Department
Judy Chambers	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
Jennifer Gardner	Family Abuse Center
Michael Shaw	Counseling Network
Rick White	Hill County SO
Tom Hemrick	Hill County OEM
Beverly McCarley	Indigent Health Care
Barbara Wright	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children

# Identification of Community Problems

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## General Public Safety Needs and Issues

Crime is a complex and multifaceted problem, and crime control requires the constant and coordinated efforts of a wide range of public and private agencies. Countywide criminal justice planning is an essential precursor to the effective coordination of all varieties of crime amelioration activities in the county. The agencies that compose the Hill County criminal justice system jointly strive to enforce lawful standards of conduct, protect individuals and communities, assist victims, improve institutional capabilities, and engage the community and its citizens in crime prevention while preserving individual civil liberties and protecting basic human rights.

It is necessary to strive toward these goals by helping to facilitate the collaboration of community groups, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts and correctional agencies throughout the County. A broad approach to defining the crime problem and designing methods for its control has been identified as a priority. Issues related to crime have been studied and analyzed on a continuum from the overall social environment to post-crime responses, including community structure and dynamics, crime prevention, early intervention, and various types of criminal and juvenile justice agency responses. Within these parameters, this planning process develops, implements, and refines the community criminal justice plan to help meet the emerging needs of Hill County. The goal of this planning process is to achieve a significant reduction in the frequency and severity of crime to facilitate a sense of pride, health and safety in all our communities by:

- ◆ Promoting the planning and implementation of comprehensive strategies to prevent and control crime in general and violence in particular, throughout the community;
- ◆ Identifying philosophical principles that will promote the participation of law enforcement, judiciary, prosecution, corrections, victims, treatment providers, educators, media, business and citizens throughout the community in the development of strategies to prevent, reduce and control crime and violence in the community;
- ◆ Promoting the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of all segments of the criminal and juvenile justice system.

## PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

The building of assets in youth and the community is an important component of a community plan. Therefore, it is imperative that prevention issues take precedence over those based on incarceration and deterrence, if the long-term impact of crime control spending is to be maximized. Nonetheless, the control of known delinquents who present a clear threat to public safety must also remain an important strategy.

In each of the areas below, problems are identified and data is included that supports both the existence and severity of the problems as they are found in Hill County. Below is a discussion of the problems, the manner in which the problems are being addressed, and strategically how responses to these community problems could be improved. In some problem areas identified, there is not current data to support the problem areas, due to the funding and program cuts taking effect within the last few months. The data collection will be added to the plan as the problem area statistics become available throughout the year.

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

### **1. Juvenile Crime**

#### Data Collection:

1. Truancy
2. Substance Abuse
3. Mental Health needs
4. Gang Activity
5. Sexual Offenses
6. Theft
7. Vandalism
8. Anger Management
9. Relationship & Dating Violence

Schools are generally understaffed with regard to student-teacher and student-counselor ratios and find it difficult to address individual needs. At risk students may be overlooked and are often behind academically before anyone identifies the problem and takes action.

The school, family, and community at large must continue to work together to strengthen awareness and support students' attendance, academic success and graduation.

Greater awareness on the importance of education and its lifelong impact must be provided to intermediate, middle, and high school youth.

First-generation citizens are unable to navigate the complex systems of barriers for attending school.

Communities need to provide the full range of services to youth. In order to meet needs of youth involved in the juvenile justice system, targeted mental health and substance services must be available at all levels of need. Services that target this population include early intervention and prevention programs, diversion programs, services in detention, and aftercare treatment.

Risk factors in children should be identified as early as possible with services to include evaluations in all domains.

Intervention services, if needed, should be available to all children.

There are currently no accessible and coordinated programs for youth experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Access to program and services for youth attending alternative schools needs to be addressed.

There is a lack of interim services for youth on waiting lists.

There is a lack of coordination and lack of funding between the involved systems which results in uneven access to services and programs, duplication of services, missed identification of at-risk youth, philosophical barriers and ineffective intervention/treatment strategies.

Services are often provided in a piecemeal fashion or address only a fragment of the problem. Strategies should include intensive service plan coordination as well as a “wrap around” approach that targets all domains (psychological, academic, physical, family, social, economic, mental health/substance abuse).

Instances of delinquency, violence, and serious misbehaviors from children and youth continue to increase.

Referrals to the Juvenile Probation Department continue to be high numbers. There were 67 referrals in FY 2016, 94% were male, 6% female.

There is a need for education for juveniles regarding sexual crimes and age of culpability.

#### Recommendations:

- Search and obtain grants that will provide local services for juvenile crime prevention.
- Support programs that will allow for the aftercare services that provide extended support, treatment, and prevention for all youth after placement.
- Educate youth and parents on the value of completing high school by exposing them to career opportunities related to school completion.
- Expand stay-in-school, after school, and school appreciation activities for all youth.
- Provide information to youth and parents regarding financial assistance for pursuing advance training opportunities or education.
- Continue programs that reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and strengthen protective factors that prevent such behavior; prevention programs addressing youth issues including a range of behaviors such as impulsivity, bullying, and racial name-calling and threats, as these are precursors to more violent and aggressive behaviors; prevention program addressing coping skills, social competency skills, and enhancement of personal responsibility and respect for others.
- Enhance availability of services, both inpatient and outpatient, for children and adolescents who have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder and mental health issues.
- Develop mechanisms for improving communication and collaboration among providers who serve juvenile offenders.
- Raise awareness among policy makers of funding needs to develop new services or enhance existing services.
- Educate the general public about the behavioral health needs of children and adolescents.
- Create programs addressing Anger Management for children and adolescents.
- Provide programs addressing goal-setting for children and adolescents
- Outpatient counseling programs for children and adolescents.

#### Resources/Successes:

- The Hill County Juvenile Resource Officer/Truancy Prevention Program helps reduce truancy by intervention, filing complaints and education related to truancy and juvenile law to school districts.
- Family Abuse Center provides services to at-risk youth through a teen dating violence curriculum, which also provides group and individual counseling to youth at no cost. Also, provide trainings for school counselors and staff.
- The Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children services and master level counseling are available to juveniles referred for issues related to victimization at no

cost. Staff provide presentations to students on prevention of sexual violence, bullying, etc.

- All Church Homes provide early intervention counseling.
- Hill Co. Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator
- Crime prevention training (emphasis on illegal gang activity, bullying, substance abuse) is provided to all local school districts by the Juvenile Probation Department.
- A substance abuse program has been developed for all parents, teachers, and administrators in Hill County.

## **2. Truancy and School Dropouts**

Truancy is often the least enforced juvenile crime in most communities within Hill County. In current fiscal year 2017, a significant increase in truancy referrals has been experienced. There is substantial evidence that youth who become truant will eventually drop out of school. Truancy, tobacco, alcohol and other drug use are often linked and can lead to other chronic delinquent behaviors. Coupled with academic failure, truancy is an early warning sign of an “at risk” youth. According to the Department of Education/National Center for Education Statistics, over the past decade between 347,000 and 544,000, 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students left school each year without having earned a high school diploma. The high percentage of students dropping out of high school threatens the overall well being of the community.

### **Data Collection:**

There is a need to continue to the efforts of the Juvenile Probation Department through the Hill County Juvenile Resource Officer to decrease truancy and promote completion of high school in Hill County.

- Schools are generally understaffed with regard to student-teacher and student counselor ratio and find it difficult to address individual needs. At-risk students may be overlooked and behind academically and unable to catch up before anyone identifies the problem and takes action.
- The school, family and community at large must continue to work together to strengthen awareness and support students attendance, academic success and graduation.
- Greater awareness on the importance of education and its life long impact must be provided to middle and junior high school youth.
- First-generation citizens are unable to navigate the complex systems of barriers for attending school.
- Communities need to provide the full range of services to youth. In order to meet needs of youth prior to involvement and in the juvenile justice system, targeted mental health and substance services must be available at all levels of need. Services that target this population include early intervention and prevention programs, diversion programs, services in detention, and aftercare treatment.
- Risk factors in children should be identified as early as possible with services to include evaluations in all domains.
- Intervention services, as needed should be available to all children.
- There are currently no easily accessible and coordinated programs for youth experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- Access to program and services for youth attending alternative schools submitted.
- Interim services for youth on waiting lists are lacking.
- There is a lack of communication and coordination between the involved systems which results in uneven access to services and programs, duplication of services, missed identification of at-risk youth, philosophical barriers and ineffective intervention/treatment strategies.
- Services are often provided in a piecemeal fashion or address only a fragment of the problem. Strategies should include intensive service plan coordination as well as a “wrap around” approach that targets all domains (psychological, academic, physical, family, social, economic, mental health/substance abuse).

- Instances of delinquency, violence, and persistent misbehaviors children and youth continue to increase.

**Recommendations:**

- Support programs that will allow for the aftercare services that provide extended support, treatment, and prevention.
- Expand stay-in-school, after school and school appreciation activities.
- Expose youth to the value of pursuing higher education through college visitation programs.
- Provide information to youth and parents regarding financial assistance for pursuing advanced training opportunities or education.
- Educate youth and parents on the value of graduation from high school; expose them to career opportunities or education.
- Educate youth and parents on the value of graduation from high school; expose them to career opportunities related to school completion and advanced education.
- Continue programs that reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and emphasize protective factors that prevent such behavior. Supportive prevention programs should address issues of impulsivity, bullying, and racial name-calling and threats, as these are precursors to more violent and aggressive behaviors. Coping, social competency skills, enhancement of personal responsibility, and respect for others must be included in the curricula.
- Ensure availability of services, both inpatient and outpatient for children and adolescents who have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder.
- Develop mechanisms for improving communication and collaboration among providers who serve juvenile offenders.
- Raise awareness among policy makers of funding needs to develop new services or improve existing services.
- Educate the general public about the behavioral health needs of children and adolescents.
- Develop a tracking system to follow a child through juvenile justice, mental health and/or substance abuse treatment programs.
- Foster outpatient counseling programs for children and adolescents.

**Resources/Successes:**

- The Hill County Juvenile Resource Officer helps reduce truancy by intervention, filing cases and education to school districts. In 2014-2015, all school districts in Hill County met or exceeded the daily population ratio because of the effectiveness of the program.
- Family Abuse Center provides services to at-risk youth through a teen dating violence curriculum, which also provides group and individual counseling to youth at no cost.
- The Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children services and master level counseling are available to juveniles referred for issues related to victimization at no cost. . Staff provide presentations to student s on prevention of sexual violence, bullying, etc.
- All Church Homes offers free counseling services to non-adjudicated youth and their families.

**3. Juvenile Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

**Data Collection:**

- Drug and alcohol abuse continues to be a problem, as substances are easily accessed.
- In FY 2016, 3% of supervised youth tested positive for illegal substances according to the Hill County Juvenile Probation Department. 2319 tests were administered with 56 of those resulting in positives screens.
- There are limited youth substance abuse programs in Hill County. The juvenile has to enter the juvenile justice system before he/she can access these programs. Cenikor has begun substance abuse counseling services through a partnership with the Hill County

Juvenile Probation Department and plans to expand services to school districts in Hill County.

- Creation of “preventive programs” for alcohol and/or drug use intervention services is needed.

**Recommendations:**

- Support and provide funding sources to allow for prevention, treatment and follow-up care for juveniles struggling with addictions and peer pressure.
- Develop a tracking system to follow a child through juvenile justice, mental health and/or substance abuse treatment programs.
- Develop programs that address Anger Management for children and adolescents
- Develop programs that address goal setting for children and adolescents
- Develop early identification and intervention programs that can divert children and adolescents into treatment
- New drug & alcohol prevention program be adopted by Hill County.

**Resources/Successes:**

- The Hill County Juvenile Probation Department and the Hill County Youth Substance Abuse Coalition offers free prevention programs-Schools are encouraged to inquire. They have provided presentations during Red Ribbon week and other times for school districts in Hill County.
- Hill County Juvenile Drug Court Program offers a pre and post adjudicated non-residential program for drug offenders through a partnership with Cenikor and a private MSSW, LMSC in Hill County
- Baylor S&W Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe Program - Education for Drivers (RED) Program- juvenile offenders can be referred to attend the one day program.
- The Hill County Youth Substance Abuse Coalition (HCYSAC) began and provides education to the community and supports and participates in programs that will help reduce substance abuse in youth.
- Crime prevention training (emphasis on illegal gang activity, bullying, substance abuse) is provided to local school districts by the Juvenile Probation Department with four school districts requesting the program in FY 2016.

**4. No Juvenile Detention Center**

In fiscal year 2016, a total number of 23 youth were detained at the Limestone County Juvenile Detention Center or Granbury Regional Juvenile Justice Center. Currently the Juvenile Probation Department pays \$85- \$125 per day to house juvenile offenders dependent on offense and facility use. The total detention expense for FY 2016 exceeded \$34,000.

**Data Collection:**

- The current adult detention facility in Hill County will be utilized by the Hill County Sheriff’s Department.

**Recommendations:**

- None.

**Resources:**

- None currently available.

**5. Increase in Sexual Assault**

Each year males and females are victims of sexual abuse which often leads to shame, emotional and psychological trauma.

#### Data Collection:

- Sexual assault by juvenile offenders continues to be a major problem in Hill County.
- There are no services for juveniles that are sexual offenders available in Hill County. Offenders are expected to go to Waco and Cleburne for services.
- Sexual assault is an extremely personal and potentially devastating form of victimization. Many require years to recover from the physical and emotional effects caused by the sexual assault. Many rape victims of rape experience the symptoms of post- traumatic stress disorder and may exist in a psychological cycle of depression, fear, anger, shame, and secrecy.
- The crime of rape may also greatly impact an entire community in a variety of ways. It can shatter the sense of safety and trust among the citizens. A community may also experience both a psychological and financial toll as well.

#### Recommendations:

Seek and obtain grants for local treatment services for offenders and for treatment placement.

The following services are needed:

- Education of the public about acquaintance rape and sexual assault
- Education of the public about resources available for rape and sexual assault victims
- Expansion of counseling and advocacy services for rape and sexual assault victims
- Expansion of services available to male victims of sexual assault
- Expansion of efforts to increase the reporting of rape and sexual assault incidents
- Expansion of services available to handicapped victims of rape and sexual assault
- Expansion of services available to non-English speaking victims of rape & sexual assault and the elderly

#### Resources/Successes:

- Family Crisis Center
- Family Abuse Center: education curriculum for teens and services for victims of teen dating violence
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children: prevention and education program
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator
- Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT)
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE)
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

#### Stats:

- From 2015-2016 the Advocacy Center offered services to 65 victims of crime through the victims center, 27 forensic interviews and 5 sexual assault exams for Hill County residents . Services included counseling, case management, investigation collaboration with the Hill County Multi-disciplinary team.

## 6. Gang Activity

#### Data Collection:

- Gang activity has been recognized as a problem in Hill County schools and in the community

#### Recommendations:

- Provide gang prevention training to all teachers, law enforcement, school administrators, and juvenile probation officers. Gang Violence Intervention & Prevention training was conducted and hosted by Dallas Police Department, Hillsboro Police Department, and Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator.

Resources:

- Prevention training is being provided through Victims Assistance, Juvenile Probation Department, and Hillsboro PD.
- Crime prevention training (emphasis on illegal gang activity, bullying, substance abuse) is provided to local school districts by the Juvenile Probation Department with four school districts requesting the program in fiscal year 2016.

## **7. Lack of Youth Services**

Data Collection:

- Lack of mentoring programs
- Lack of services for first offender youth
  - First offender programs are needed to divert youth from the juvenile justice system
- Lack of leadership and mentorship training for youth

Recommendations:

Seek grant funding for Juvenile Resource Officer (JRO), intervention programs, and drug court programs.

Resources:

- Drug court offers an alternative to court for first misdemeanor offence. JRO/Truancy Prevention programs provide intervention through truancy referral.
- Current successful programs include Boys and Girls Club

## **8. Lack of Viable Youth Activities**

Data Collection:

- There are limited programs available to the youth of Hill County for after school or summers.
- There are limited public recreational facilities for youth.
- There are limited on-going youth leadership programs available to all youth.

Recommendations:

- Continue with the County Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)

Resources/Successes:

- Hill College continues to sponsor summer programs for youth.
- Fort Graham Baptist Church After School Program
- Summer programs offered for youth at participating school districts
- Boys and Girls Club

## **9. Lack of Job Skills for Youth**

Data Collection:

Per the Hill County Education Forum held in February 2004, suggested strategies are as follows:

- Develop age appropriate in-school programs for schools that focus on career options, job readiness, interview and work-related skills.
- Develop a speakers' bureau of county business persons willing to give presentations to students.
- Develop strategies to utilize the distance learning facilities at Harris Education Center and Hill County schools to be used in speakers' bureau events, career awareness, day events, etc.
- Develop parent education programs and implement in Hill County schools.

- Develop mentoring programs to provide 1:1 partnering with students and representatives from the community/workplace.
- Develop additional General Education Degree (GED) and English as Second Language (ESL) classes and make available to the public.
- Develop community volunteer program to help staff mentoring and parent education programs, etc.
- Develop strategies to promote Partnership in Community Supervision (PACES) in all Hill County high schools; target at-risk students.

**Recommendations:**

None

**Resources/Successes:**

- PACES Program through Heart of Texas Workforce
- Parenting classes offered through All Church Home in Hillsboro ISD
- GED and ESL offered through All Church Home, Hillsboro ISD, Hill College, Hill Education Center, Heart of Texas Workforce

**10. Lack of Transitional Services for Special Needs Youth Exiting Public School**

**Data Collection:**

- Mental health
- Education

**Recommendations:**

- Cooperative Team Building programs are needed.

**Resources/Successes:**

- Independent Living Center and Adult Rehabilitation Center (Arc) of Texas
- Heart of Texas Transitional Council offers a 2 hour training for parents
- Lake Whitney Medical Clinic Behavioral Center

**11. Insufficient Facilities for Existing and New Programming for Youth, Including Region 12, and Juvenile Probation**

**Data Collection:**

None

**Recommendations:**

- Explore resources for juvenile services

**Resources/Successes**

- VOICES, Inc.
- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

**12. Child Safety**

Child safety concerns in Hill County range from lack of appropriate after school care to child abduction and sexual assault to environmental hazards. Lack of safe bike and walking routes to school results in reduction of physical activity for children and adds to parental stress in transporting children.

**Data Collection:**

- Law enforcement
- Health care providers

- School officials
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children

**Recommendations:**

- Put in crosswalks, pedestrian crossings and safety lights in areas that are dangerous to children and other pedestrians
- Develop bike and walking trails which are safe, well-lit and monitored for safety
- Increase number of neighborhood parks
- Increase and fund positive activities for youth after school, evenings and weekends

**Resources:**

- Churches with youth facilities and gyms
- Family Abuse Center – Kid Safe Certified (car seats)
- Voice, Inc.
- Hill County Sheriff's Office Community Resources Deputy
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children – Prevention and Education Program

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

### **1. Lack of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program**

#### Data Collection:

- Hill County Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG) and Domestic Violence Task Force, along with the Advocacy Center, will be contacting local hospitals regarding this issue. Feasibility of having the program brought to the county will be determined.
- Family violence and sexual assault continue to rise

#### Recommendations:

- Explore and support projects to obtain a SANE Nurse program in hospitals
- Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG) in Hill County

#### Resources:

- The Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children has developed a multi-discipline team with a forensic interviewer and case management. The Advocacy Center currently offers a 52 hour SANE certification program.
- The Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children also provides similar training on sexual assault and child abuse: forensic, case management, SANE, SART, and counseling.
- Hospital administrators are informed about pending SANE classes and indicate staff participation. Continued follow-up by the Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator will explore availability of a SANE nurse.

### **2. Limited Services for Domestic Violence Victims**

#### Data Collection:

Family Violence and domestic sexual assault continue to rise

- Stable victim resource revenues to enable organizations to maintain core services
- Resources and accessibility to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Identify and outreach to male victims
- Standardized services and awareness for elderly victims of domestic violence
- Non-English speaking resources for victims of domestic violence
- Outreach and awareness to various cultures represented in the community
- Awareness of available resources in the community
- Transportation to shelter
- Outreach to lesbian and gay population
- Comprehensive case management, transportation, and job search services
- Seamless continuum of care
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement and other local agencies
- Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) for repeat Family Violence offenders
- Need education and counseling for perpetrators
- Need for local emergency shelter
- Need for primary prevention programming
- Need for quicker results with Crime Victim's Compensation (CVC)

#### Recommendations:

- Strengthen relationships between FAC Rural Advocate, transportation, law enforcement, and local agencies
- Creation of batterers intervention program

- Acquire space to see domestic violence victims for Hill County
- Identify and provide services for survivors of sexual violence
- Develop system between FAC and police departments for filing CVC through Presumptive Eligibility

**Resources:**

- Family Abuse Center:
  - Rural program brings services including legal advocacy, counseling, and case management into Hill County for clients
  - Referral form at Hillsboro PD
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator

**Statistical Information:**

- Family Abuse Center
  - On average, each client stays 28 days at the Family Abuse Center
  - Approximately 10% of the calls to Family Abuse Center are from Spanish-only speakers. FAC has Spanish speaking staff to address the needs of these callers.
  - Of Family Abuse Center clients who apply for CVC, less than 10% know the outcome of their application before exiting the shelter
  - From 2015 – 2016 there was a 15% increase in Hotline calls from Hill County

**3. Crimes Against Children and Child Abuse**

**Data Collection:**

Needs of children are complex and varied

- Need for a multi-discipline investigation of crimes against children and child abuse
- There is currently a lack of resources for foster children. Trained volunteers, more foster homes, and emergency shelters are needed in Hill County.
- Need for education and prevention programming
- Counseling and support for secondary victims

**Recommendations:**

- Funds and support programs that will provide for recruitment of volunteers, training, and education for foster care parents and volunteers
- Collaboration between ISDs and colleges to provide prevention education

**Resources:**

- Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA)
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Family Abuse Center
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator

**STATS:**

- Of the 629 forensic interviews between 2015-2016 to children alleging sexual or physical abuse 27 live in Hill County

**4. Limited Victim Services for Family Members Affected by Homicide and Suicide**

**Data Collection:**

**Secondary victims**

Services for family members affected by suicide or homicide

- Counseling and support
- Education and intervention services concerning traumatic grief
- Resources for adults dealing with issues of grief
- Services for mental health issues
- Services to non-English speaking populations
- Awareness of services to address victim rights
- Continue collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement and other local agencies
- Court accompaniment

**Recommendations:**

- Support projects that expand services to secondary victims of violent crimes.

**Resources:**

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Family Abuse Center
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator
- Hill County Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)

**5. Limited Accommodations for Special Need Populations**

**Data Collection:**

Defined as people with physical and mental disabilities, older adults, language barriers, and undocumented status

**Recommendations:**

- Support groups and projects that provide needed services to county residents
- Case management/counseling
- Forensic interviews

**Resources:**

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides forensic interviews, medical exams, case management and counseling to clients with special needs
- Adult Protective Services
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator

**6. DWI Incidents Involving Victims Services for Intoxicated Injury and Death**

**Data Collection:**

Effective and consistent monitoring of DWI offenders is necessary to ensure that offenders are attending and completing court-ordered alcohol education classes, counseling, and other treatment regularly, and that they are complying with all other conditions of supervision. Monitoring is also critical in determining whether offenders' alcohol-related problem and issues are being addressed effectively.

**Recommendations:**

- Support groups and projects that provide these services to the county
- Pursue funding streams and resources to support prevention and treatment programs
- Support Drug and Alcohol Court Programs with mandatory participation
- Seek medically supervised alcohol detoxification services for offenders suffering from acute alcohol abuse

- Need for affordable residential and supportive outpatient services for offenders needing longer term care
- Utilize Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) that provide affordable and appropriate treatment services for employees with alcohol problems
- Ensure supervision of all DWI offenders who are required by law to have an ignition interlock
- Victim Impact Panel may be added through County Attorney's Office
- Counseling and support services for family members and friends
- Forensic interviews for children involved in cases resulting from intoxication or drug endangering incidents

**Resources:**

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- MADD
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator
- The Hill County Youth Substance Abuse Coalition (HCYSAC) began and provides education to the community and supports and participates in programs that will help reduce substance abuse in youth.

**7. Primary Prevention for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**

**Data Collection:**

- Current domestic violence and sexual assault resources are overloaded. The solution is either to increase funding for these resources or prevent such violence from occurring in the first place.
- Children who grow up in homes with domestic violence are more likely to become abusers or victims of domestic violence themselves when they grow up.

**Recommendations:**

- Develop task forces to address domestic violence and sexual assault
- Motivate DA's office, judges, lawyers, and law enforcement to work together and raise awareness about domestic violence in their communities.
- Coordinate with local media to raise awareness and promote cultural change
- Education/support groups for victims of domestic violence and violent crimes
- Partner with schools to provide early education on healthy relationships and crime/violence prevention
- Change the community perception of domestic violence and sexual assault through a community-wide domestic violence prevention campaign. Have a special emphasis on non-criminal justice sectors (such as businesses, churches, libraries, youth sports, etc.)

**Resources:**

- Family Abuse Center: Teen dating violence prevention curriculum for schools; community education and professional training presentations; rural outreach program
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children – case management, counseling, prevention and education staff provide presents on preventing sexual abuse.

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

### **1. Equipment**

#### Data Collection:

- Communication
  - Radios
  - Communication Centers
  - Repeaters
  - Mobile Data Terminals
  - RMS and CAD
  - Telephone/Telephone Service (PDA)
  - Body worn cameras
- Vehicles and associated equipment
  - K-9 units
  - Support vehicles for special usage
    - Juvenile Probation
    - Adult Probation
    - Tactical unit

### **2. Funding Shortages**

#### Data Collection:

- Limited salaries/benefits for attraction and retention of quality law enforcement personnel
  - No available funds for new personnel.
- No funds to create and operate task-specific programs
  - Drug task forces
  - Investigation follow-up
  - Gang and juvenile crime
- Limited law enforcement with issue specific training
  - Victims' assistance
  - Crisis management
  - Mental health issues
  - Training in child passenger safety issues – KidSafe
  - Need for available funding for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and PPE training
- Small cities' police departments constrained in size and funding
  - Note: Population of Whitney increases by 30,000 to 50,000 from Friday to Sunday due to recreational facilities. This creates issues for Whitney and other Hill County communities as this generates unusual levels of traffic and an increase in criminal activity overall.
  - Need for emergency assistance for displaced, homeless, and indigent individuals
- RMS and CAD

#### Recommendations:

- Search and obtain grants and funding sources to support personnel and trainings
- Need for treatment within Criminal Justice System
- Develop agreements with local vendors to provide services
- Training in crisis intervention for sexual assault and domestic violence

#### Resources:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Hill County Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator
- Family Crisis Center, Johnson County

- KidSafe Program at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center
- HOTCOG Law Enforcement Training Program
- Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council offers courses in Critical Incident Stress Management for first responders and other partners

### **3. Victims Services**

#### **Child Abuse**

- Foster and adoptive parents
- Shortage of mental health services reasonably accessed/sliding scale
- Limited number of police, social workers, etc. with second language capabilities for intervention
- Resources and accessibility to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Affordable childcare
- Comprehensive mental health case management services for child victims
- Programs for children who witness violence
- Supervised visitation and exchange center for children to safely visit their parents without repercussions of violence in their homes

#### **Domestic Violence**

- Stable victim resource revenues to enable organizations to maintain core services
- Resources and accessibility to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Support groups for male victims
- Standardized requirements and easier facilitation for obtaining a protective order
- Specialized services and awareness for elderly victims of domestic violence
- Non-English speaking resources for victims of domestic violence
- Outreach and awareness to various cultures represented in the community
- Awareness of available resources in the community
- Transportation to shelter
- Services specific to lesbian and gay population
- Comprehensive case management, transportation, and job search services
- Seamless continuum of care
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement and other local agencies
- Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) for repeat Family Violence offenders.
- Need education and counseling for the perpetrators
- Need for local emergency shelter
- Need for primary prevention programming

#### **Secondary Victims**

Post suicide services for family members affected by suicide or homicide.

Secondary victims of crime often go unnoticed. However, they may experience severe trauma as a result of the crimes. Identified needs include the following:

- Services specific to dealing with traumatic grief
- Education and intervention services concerning traumatic grief
- Resources for adults dealing with issues of grief
- Services for mental health issues
- Organized, identified emergency response team
- Specific training for service providers in trauma issues
- Services to non-English speaking populations
- Awareness of services to address victim rights
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement and other local agencies
- Need for supervised visitation and exchange center

**Recommendations:**

- Support projects that provide outreach and support for victims of violent crimes.
- Establish a supervised visitation/safe exchange center for the HOTCOG geographical area

**Resources/Successes:**

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children and Court Appointed Special Advocates Program
- Family Abuse Center: Rural program brings services including legal advocacy, counseling, and case management into Hill County for clients
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator

**Statistical Information:**

- Family Abuse Center
  - On average, each client stays 28 days at the Family Abuse Center
  - Approximately 10% of the calls to Family Abuse Center are from Spanish-only speakers. FAC has Spanish speaking staff to address the needs of these callers.
  - Of Family Abuse Center clients who apply for CVC, less than 10% know the outcome of their application before exiting the shelter
  - From 2015-2016 there was a 15% increase in Hotline calls from Hill County to the FAC
- Between Oct 2015 and Sept 2016 the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children served 65 clients for case management/counseling, 27 forensic interviews and 5 sexual assault exams for Hill County.

**4. Substance Abuse – Adult and Juvenile**

In recent years the overall crime rate has decreased; however, studies show that a record number of crimes being committed today are driven by drugs. Drug driven crimes can be defined as an offense committed for the sole purpose of obtaining monies for the purchase of illegal substances or the sale of such substances.

**Data Collection:**

In a study conducted by the Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice Statistics, 61,000 convicted prisoners reported that their offenses were committed in order to obtain money for drugs. The study also revealed that of 12,658 homicides committed, 4.5% of the homicides were related to narcotics. Since the mid 1980s, almost every state and federal court system has experienced an overload of drug offenses on its dockets.

The high recidivism rates associated with drug-related offenses has proven that prosecution and incarceration alone will not break the cycle of recurrence of drug related offenses. Based on the belief that drug abuse treatment is demonstrably more effective in reducing both drug addiction and drug-related crime, jurisdictions developed an alternative approach to the traditional adjudication process.

**DUI/DWI**

- High incident rates
- Insufficient law enforcement manpower to process within local jurisdictions, smaller departments have to use DPS services which may not be available

**Recommendations:**

- Seek and obtain grants and funding sources to support additional personnel
- Petition the Governor’s Office to support programs like the methamphetamine program

Resources/Successes:

- Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe
- Voices, Inc.
- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- State certified DWI and Drug Education and substance abuse counseling for adults through the Hill County Community Supervisions and Corrections Department (CSCD).
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Victim Impact Panels are put on twice a year for first and second time DWIs
- Hill County MHMR for Dual Diagnosis clients
- Hill County Supervision's and Corrections Department (Adult Probation) alcohol and drug education for adults
- The Hill County Youth Substance Abuse Coalition (HCYSAC) began and provides education to the community and supports and participates in programs that will help reduce substance abuse in youth.

**5. Enforcement, Education, and Prevention Issues Relating to Methamphetamines**

Data Collection:

- Lack of urban and rural community awareness of increased use, manufacturing techniques, warning signs, and environmental concerns
- Lack of partnership among the retail community enforcement and prevention efforts
- Lack of oversight in remediation (environmental response)
- Anhydrous ammonia theft
- Lack of treatment resources available to identify and treat methamphetamine abuse

Recommendations:

- Establish a resource list with contacts for local agencies to access information and services in their areas.
  - Need up-to-date list of contacts and resources
  - Needs to be updated regularly
  - Develop resource list per county to be distributed to all local agencies
  - Assisting in investigation of crimes of this nature by offering forensic interviews of drug endangered children

Resources:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children

**6. Animal Control Problems**

Data Collection:

- Limited animal sheltering facilities throughout county
- Limited animal control officers due to lack of funding

Recommendations:

- Obtain funding for personnel and equipment

Resources:

- PAW PALS of Hill County
- RNJ Animal Rescue Services

**7. Nuisance Abatement**

Data Collection:

- Limited funding for nuisance abatement

- Limited development of opportunities

**Recommendations:**

- Public/private partnerships for redevelopment
- Obtain funding for personnel and equipment

**Resources:**

None

## **Health and Social Services Issues (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)**

### **1. Limited Services for Individuals with Mental Health Issues**

#### Data Collection:

- Severe eligibility limitations for services. MHMR can only service a specific population.
- Lack of counseling services for individuals with mental health problems
- Lack of out-patient services, especially for youth

#### Recommendations:

- Search and obtain funding streams that will allow for more services to be provided for persons with mental health issues
- Transportation from rural areas to city where services are provided

#### Resources/Successes:

- Lack Whitney Medical Clinic Senior Care
- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Hill County Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator
- Hill County MHMR

### **2. Accessing Healthcare and Dental Services for the Indigent, or the Disabled**

#### Data Collection:

- Transportation from rural areas to the city where the services are provided continues to be a problem
- Lack of education and accessibility to Medicaid and CHIPS systems

#### Recommendation:

- Support projects that will allow for transportation to be provided for persons who have appointments during “non-traditional” hours. Public Health Clinic has been a success in the past; however, due to recent program cuts, not all services needed are being provided to the rural community.

#### Resources:

- Hill County Indigent Healthcare
- Rural Transit

### **3. Substance Abuse – Adult and Juvenile**

#### Data Collection:

- Lack of local resources and limited support groups
- School awareness, prevention and intervention
- Family involvement
- Residential treatment facility

#### Recommendations:

- Support projects that can bring the needed resources into the area, as well to the rural communities

#### Resources:

- The Heart of Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (HOTCADA) provides assessment, referral services, evidence based prevention programs, intervention and family counseling, outreach to promote community and family involvement in the reduction of substance abuse.
- Hill County Juvenile Drug Court Program, for juveniles who have committed an alcohol or drug offense

- Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe Program
- Hill County Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator
- The Hill County Youth Substance Abuse Coalition (HCYSAC) began and provides education to the community and supports and participates in programs that will help reduce substance abuse in youth.

#### **4. Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs**

Tobacco use is a common problem in Texas and Hill County. Although some small progress has been made in the number of “smoke-free” facilities, smokeless tobacco continues to be a problem. Tobacco usage among children and youth continues to be a problem.

##### Data Collection:

- Health Care Providers
- School Districts
- DSHS Office of Tobacco Prevention and Control

##### Recommendations:

- Implement tobacco cessation programs
- Media campaign
- Promote free State Quit-line
- Promotion of tobacco prevention in county schools, targeting youth and middle school students
- Education update on point of purchase and enforcement

##### Success/Resources:

- Point of purchase education and enforcement has been implemented
- Voice, Inc. has a curriculum for K-12

#### **5. Crisis Management**

##### Data Collection:

- Many individuals with mental health issues go untreated until in a crisis or when they come into contact with law enforcement. Recent legislative cuts in Medicaid funding have increased the likelihood of individuals being unable to seek mental health services until they are in crisis.
  - Law enforcement needs training in identifying and dealing with mental health related incidents.
- Accessing health care in general is an issue.
- Issues of teen pregnancy continue to be a concern.
- Under-educated population
- Juvenile gang activity on the rise.

##### Recommendations:

- Support projects that can bring the needed resources into the area, as well as to the rural communities.

##### Resources:

- Lake Whitney Medical Clinic Behavioral Center 24 hour on call
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children maintains 24-hour hotline for crisis intervention and coordinated response to Sexual Assault and other violent crime.

## **Transportation Issues**

### **1. County-wide Transportation System**

- Stations are needed in Hillsboro, Itasca, Whitney, Hubbard, and possibly a link to Waco
- People cannot get to where the services are
- Need buses that run from each station and back to make it easier to get to the services
- Expand access to services to all areas in Hill County

#### Resources:

- Family Abuse Center: Rural Program meets with clients in Hill County to do counseling, case management, and legal advocacy so they don't need to come to Waco. They can also sometimes pick up clients to take to the shelter.

### **2. Child Passenger Safety**

- New CPS law requiring children up to age 8, unless they are 4 foot 9 inches tall to ride in a child safety seat
- County child restraint usage rate is lower than national and state average
- Need for more educational services
- Need for a greater number of no cost or low cost child safety seats for families in need

#### Resource:

- KidSafe Program at Hillcrest
- Family Abuse Center; Kid Safe certified (car seats)
- Hillsboro PD
- LeFluer Transportation, call 48 hours ahead

### **3. Teen Driver's Education**

- 75% of all fatal crashes occur in rural counties in Texas
- Establish county-wide driver's education course

### **4. Alcohol and Drug Awareness**

- Teen driver education
- Need for greater awareness within the community that teen driving safety and use of alcohol and drugs is a problem

#### Resource:

- Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Medical Center KidSafe Program
- The Hill County Youth Substance Abuse Coalition (HCYSAC) began and provides education to the community and supports and participates in programs that will help reduce substance abuse in youth.

### **5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues**

- Limited safe riding routes for bicyclist
- Limited safe sidewalks and pedestrian walking trails
- Low bicycle helmet usage rate in Hill County
- Limited educational services provide on bicycle and pedestrian safety issues
- Need for expanded sidewalks and repair of existing sidewalks
- Need for safe bicycling routes and trails

#### Resource:

- Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council

## **6. Senior Driving Safety**

- High number of senior drivers in Hill County
- High poverty level for residents ages 65 and older
- Limited transportation options for older drivers
- Need for driving awareness and education for older drivers and their families
- Need for intervention services for older drivers and their families
- Hillcrest Mature Driver Program

## **Emergency Management Issues** (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

### **1. Emergency Management Training**

#### Data Collection:

- Emergency management training needed for residents
- VIPS and Neighborhood watch programs
- Community Emergency Response Teams
- “Are you Okay?” programs for the elderly and disabled
- Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator

#### Recommendations:

- Support funding and programs to train the community in emergency response and homeland security issues
- Table top exercise involving all cities within the county

#### Resources/Successes:

- Local jurisdictions oversee community programs. The Heart of Texas Council of Governments helps to facilitate trainings and distribute educational/training supplies
- Heart of Texas Council of Governments 2-1-1 provides information to the public
- Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council (HOTRAC)

### **2. Mandates to School Districts Concerning Emergency Planning**

#### Data Collection:

- School emergency plans completed

#### Recommendations:

- The school districts have begun and will continue to work with the Office of Emergency Management, as well as, Law Enforcement and other first responders to prepare the schools and school-aged children for potential catastrophic events.

#### Resources/Successes:

- Office of Emergency Management
- ESC Region 12
- Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council

### **3. Need for HazMat team**

#### Data Collection:

- Due to the legislation dissolving the Regional Drug Task Force, extensive training and education, as well as equipment for responders and law enforcement will be needed in the counties to safely break down Meth. labs, as well as responding to chemical hazards and spills caused by transportation accidents and accidental releases.
- There are some individuals specifically trained in Hazardous Materials in Hill County, however, there isn't an organized team.

#### Recommendations:

- Support programs and funding that will allow for the training and equipment to all first responders and law enforcement in the county.

#### Resources:

- Regional C.B.R.N.E. Response Team
- HOTRAC

## Resources Available

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

### Juvenile Justice:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
MADD	Victim Services	Alcohol and drug prevention programs that focus on underage drinking, substance abuse, and driving under the influence. There are also several FREE school programs, provisions of speaker for various needs or events and an educational “Minor in Possession” class available for juvenile offenders.
Amie Cheek, MSSW	Private Provider	Provides counseling services for families and youth as well as individual and group counseling.
ESC Region 12	Education	College preparedness for students, student leadership forum.
VOICE, Inc.		Substance abuse prevention services and curriculum for K-12; alcohol, tobacco, drugs. Spring break, after school and summer programs. La Voz Para La Familia program is parenting curriculum delivered to Hispanic families. John Goodnight, Program Director 903.872.0180 <a href="mailto:jgoodnight@voiceinc.org">jgoodnight@voiceinc.org</a> <a href="http://www.voiceinc.org">www.voiceinc.org</a>
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	Substance Abuse Treatment	Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) provides alcohol and drug screenings, as well as assessments, referrals, crisis intervention, education, support, and case management. All services are free. Jamie Schmitt 254.297.7771 or 800-841-1255 jamie.schmitt@bbtrails.org
Hill County Juvenile Probation Department	Juvenile Probation	Supervises youth and provides services (or referrals) for youth that are placed under supervision in Hill County.
Hill County Drug Court Program (Juvenile)	Juvenile Drug Court	A voluntary program that provides intensive services to youth that are using illegal substances and alcohol.
Hill County S.O., Whitney P.D. Itasca P.D., Covington P.D., Hubbard P.D., Hillsboro PD	Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement Agency
HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	Provide a full array of mental health services to children involved in the criminal justice system. Provide truancy court support, provide assessment and treatment services to children in detention facilities, provide cross referencing of all children booked into detention with the State data system, provide specialized intensive casework services to children on Probation in McLennan County.
Family Abuse Center	Nonprofit DV shelter & Resource Center	24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, counseling, case management, legal advocacy, court accompaniment, children’s services, bilingual services, educational presentations and rural outreach, transitional housing, non-residential program, assistance with CVC, ACP, VINE, & utility waivers, Teen dating violence prevention/healthy relationships curriculum, distribute 911 cell

		phones, and other services. Hotline 800.283.8401 Office 254.772.8999 <a href="http://www.familyabusecenter.org">www.familyabusecenter.org</a>
Boys & Girls Club	Nonprofit	Provides after school and summer activities for youth.
Baylor S&W Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe 254.202.6533 866.332.0005 FB: TeenSafe Waco	Hospital	The Teen Safe Youth Traffic Safety Educational program focuses on teen traffic safety, driving responsibility, underage drinking, substance abuse, and driving under the influence. The program also educates parents on the laws relating to teen traffic safety. This prevention program is a combination of videos, simulations and written materials along with computer-based simulations. This program is FREE. Offers juvenile offenders the Reality Education for Drivers (RED) program.
Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children	501C3 Non-Profit	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides 24/7 crisis hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, counseling and case management, court accompaniment, and assistance in filing Crime Victims Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, APS or law enforcement. Educational presentation on victim's issues and prevention are available. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) available. Office: 254.752.9330 Hotline: 254.752.7233 or 888.867.7233 <a href="http://www.advocacyctr.org">www.advocacyctr.org</a>
Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA)		CASA of McLennan and Hill Counties currently employs one full-time supervisor for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. CASA is currently recruiting volunteers to assist with this program to ensure that children do not become lost in the system
Center for Learning and Development	Non-profit Educational Support	Conducts research-based projects and provides workshops, seminars, learning tools, and group processes aimed at preventing and/or intervening with behavioral and educational difficulties.
Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator	Hill County District Attorney's Office & Hill County Attorney's Office	Provides assistance to all victims of violent crime (adult & juvenile) including referrals for resources of legal advocacy, assistance with protective orders, crime victim compensation, 9-1-1 safety phones, plea bargains and court appearances. Training for professionals and the community; participation in Multidisciplinary Team; assistance with law enforcement. Beverly Gerke 254.580.4047
Counseling Network	Counseling services	Multiple counselors available for individuals, children, adolescents, families and group counseling. Specializing in play therapy, EMDR, substance abuse (out-patient) treatment and domestic abuse issues. Bio-psycho-social assessment for drug and alcohol abuse (hair follicle and UA tests available). 211 E. Elm St. Hillsboro, TX 76645 (by appointment only). 214-724-0702 or <a href="http://www.cnimetro.com">www.cnimetro.com</a>
EAGLE Experience at Counseling Network	501(c)(3) Non Profit	Equine Assisted Guidance & Learning Experience (EAGLEExp) offers equine assisted psychotherapy for individuals and groups. <a href="http://www.eaglexp.org">www.eaglexp.org</a>

## Law Enforcement:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
TX Dept of Public Safety	Law Enforcement	All crime victims in region are eligible for services: crisis intervention; personal advocacy; assistance filing for crime victims compensation; court accompaniment;
Hill County S.O., Whitney P.D. Itasca P.D., Covington P.D., Hubbard P.D., Hillsboro PD	Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement Agencies within the County.
VOICE, Inc.		Substance abuse prevention services and curriculum for K-12; alcohol, tobacco, drugs. Spring break, after school and summer programs. La Voz Para La Familia program is parenting curriculum delivered to Hispanic families. John Goodnight, Program Director 903.872.0180 <a href="mailto:jgoodnight@voiceinc.org">jgoodnight@voiceinc.org</a> <a href="http://www.voiceinc.org">www.voiceinc.org</a>
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	Substance Abuse Treatment	Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) provides alcohol and drug screenings, as well as assessments, referrals, crisis intervention, education, support, and case management. All services are free. Jamie Schmitt 254.297.7771 or 800-841-1255 <a href="mailto:jamie.schmitt@bbtrails.org">jamie.schmitt@bbtrails.org</a>
HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	Provide training and consultation services for law enforcement through workshops, jail personnel training, academy trainings and through on-going discussions with line staff. Provide emergency services which include 24-hour crisis supports, inpatient services, evaluation unit placements, and information and referral. Work with jail staff in all six counties providing services to inmates while incarcerated who have mental health issues. Provide specialized intensive casework services in Hill and McLennan Counties pairing mental health staff with probation and parole officers. Provide regional screening and continuity of care services for all inmates in TDC in the Central Texas area.
Family Abuse Center	Non-profit 501 c3 Domestic Violence Shelter & Resource Center	24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, counseling, case management, legal advocacy, court accompaniment, children's services, bilingual services, educational presentations and trainings, rural outreach, transitional housing, non-residential program, assistance with CVC, ACP, VINE, & utility waivers, Teen dating violence prevention/healthy relationships curriculum, distribute 911 cell phones, and other services. Hotline 800.283.8401 Office 254.772.8999 <a href="http://www.familyabusecenter.org">www.familyabusecenter.org</a>
Boys & Girls Club	Nonprofit	Provides after school and summer activity for youth.
Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children	501C3 Non-Profit	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides 24/7 crisis hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, counseling and case management, court accompaniment, and assistance in filing Crime Victims Compensation and VINE

		<p>registration through its Victim Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, APS or law enforcement. Educational presentation on victim's issues and prevention are available. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) available.</p> <p>Office: 254.752.9330 Hotline: 254.752.7233 or 888.867.7233  <a href="http://www.advocacycntr.org">www.advocacycntr.org</a></p>
HOTCOG LE Training Program		<p>Provides 30 + LE training classes each year. Input on TCOLE classes offered comes from regional law enforcement agencies and the Law Enforcement Training Advisory Committee (LETAC).</p>
Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator	Hill County District Attorney's Office & Hill County Attorney's Office	<p>Provides assistance to all victims of violent crime (adult &amp; juvenile) including referrals for resources of legal advocacy, assistance with protective orders, crime victim compensation, 9-1-1 safety phones, plea bargains and court appearances. Training for professionals and the community; participation in Multidisciplinary Team; assistance with law enforcement.</p> <p>Beverly Gerke 254.580.4047</p>
Counseling Network	Counseling and Training	<p>Offering counseling services for first responders (PTSD, marriage and family, individual and group sessions).</p> <p>Training and consultation for law enforcement agencies.  214-724-0702 or <a href="mailto:karin@cnimetro.com">karin@cnimetro.com</a></p>
Hill County Children And First Responders in Every School (Hill Co. CARES)	Advocacy 501(c)(3) Non Profit	<p>Hill Co CARES seeks to establish and grow positive and trusting relationships between the youth of Hill County and the first responders in their community. We seek to do this by coordination of positive interactions between the groups through cooperation with schools, churches and athletic sponsors.</p> <p><a href="http://www.hillcocoares.org">www.hillcocoares.org</a> <a href="mailto:info@hillcocoares.org">info@hillcocoares.org</a></p>

### Victim Services:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
MADD	Victim Services	<p>Free Victims Services to those families who's loved one was killed or injured by an intoxicated driver including failure to stop and render aid &amp; child endangerment cases. Some services include crisis counseling, personal advocacy, help finding financial assistance, assistance filing crime victim;' compensation, emotional support, resource and service referrals, court accompaniment, assistance through the legal process, and support group.</p>
Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children	501c3 non-profit organization	<p>Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides 24/7 crisis hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, counseling and case management, court accompaniment, and assistance in filing Crime Victims Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, APS or law enforcement. Educational presentation on victim's issues and prevention are available. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)</p>

		available. Office: 254.752.9330 Hotline: 254.752.7233 or 888.867.7233 www.advocacycntr.org
Area Agency on Aging HOT Benefits Counseling/Legal Awareness	HHSC	Educational events regarding prevention. Education regarding Texas Law and Elder Law Assistance with filing complaints and making reports to abuse. Links to Texas Legal Services Center and victims compensation.
HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	Full array of mental health services to people who have been victimized who fall into our targeted population identified by State Health Services which include individuals with a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder or Major Depression.
Family Abuse Center	Non-Profit Domestic Violence Shelter	24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, counseling, case management, legal advocacy, court accompaniment, children's services, educational presentations and outreach, rural outreach, transitional housing, non-residential program, assistance with CVC, ACP, VINE, & utility waivers, Teen dating violence prevention/healthy relationships curriculum, distribute 911 cell phones, and other services. Hotline 800.283.8401 Office 254.772.8999 <a href="http://www.familyabusecenter.org">www.familyabusecenter.org</a>
Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator	Victim Services	Services to victims of all violent crimes that include but are not limited to emergency protective orders, legal advocacy, on-scene intervention, transportation, 911 safety phones, information and referrals, legal options for victims of family violence.
Hill County Child Welfare Board		Support to foster children.
Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator	Hill County District Attorney's Office & Hill County Attorney's Office	Provides assistance to all victims of violent crime (adult & juvenile) including referrals for resources of legal advocacy, assistance with protective orders, crime victim compensation, 9-1-1 safety phones, plea bargains and court appearances. Training for professionals and the community; participation in Multidisciplinary Team; assistance with law enforcement. Beverly Gerke 254.580.4047
Counseling Network, Inc.	Counseling Services	Bi-lingual counselors available for individual counseling with survivors of domestic abuse. Supervised Visitation for CPS related cases. Play therapy, EMDR and a variety of evidence based modalities to address PTSD and anxiety related matters. 214-724-0702 or <a href="http://www.cnimetro.com">www.cnimetro.com</a>

### Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
MADD	Victim Services	Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Intervention programs for juveniles and adults.
Area Agency on Aging HOT Benefits Counseling/Legal Awareness	Health and Human Services	Educational events regarding health and wellness, public benefits, health insurance, prevention and resources in the HOT region. Legal documents to protect rights of health care choices
VOICE, Inc.		Substance abuse prevention services and curriculum for K-12; alcohol, tobacco, drugs. Spring break, after school and summer

		<p>programs. La Voz Para La Familia program is parenting curriculum delivered to Hispanic families.  John Goodnight, Program Director  903.872.0180  <a href="mailto:jgoodnight@voiceinc.org">jgoodnight@voiceinc.org</a> www.voiceinc.org</p>
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	Substance Abuse Treatment	<p>Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) provides alcohol and drug screenings, as well as assessments, referrals, crisis intervention, education, support, and case management. All services are free.  Jamie Schmitt 254.297.7771 or 800-841-1255  jamie.schmitt@bbtrails.org</p>
HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	<p>Provide specialized substance abuse services to people who also have a co-occurring psychiatric disorder.</p>
Waco-McLennan County Public Health District	Public Health	<p>HIV/AIDS  STD Clinic</p>
Hill County Department State Health Services	Public Health	<p>STD testing  <a href="mailto:Barbara.blake@dshs.state.tx.us">Barbara.blake@dshs.state.tx.us</a> Marie Valdez 254.582.7331</p>
Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council	Non-profit, 501 (C) (3) State and Federal grant funded	<p>Prevention and education for cardiac, stroke, and trauma.</p>
Cenikor Foundation 254.224.8881 Waco 888.cenikor	501(c)(3)	<p>Addiction treatment, detoxification, short-term only.</p>
HOT Recovers! 254.297.7771 hotrecovers@gmail.com		<p>Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Focus on education, employment, housing, peer support, transitional support, transportation, veterans. Recovery-oriented care is what mental health and substance use treatment and rehabilitation practitioners offer in support of the person's own long-term recovery efforts.</p>
211		<p>Help finding information and referrals to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) community organizations, and volunteer opportunities. <a href="http://www.211texas.org/211">www.211texas.org/211</a> or 2-1-1 option 1 or 1-877-541-7905</p>
Texas STAR and STAR+PLUS Programs		<p>Help with finding Medicaid medical and dental providers, education on benefits, and enrolling with a Medicaid managed care plan. Call 1.800.964.2777.</p>
Texas Health Steps		<p>Education on Medicaid medical, dental, vision, mental health and case management benefits for children birth-age 20 yrs old on Medicaid. Call 1.877.847.8377.</p>
Counseling Network, Inc.	Outpatient counseling	<p>Substance abuse evaluations (bio-psycho-social evaluation) with hair follicle and UA testing available. Group counseling for drug/alcohol treatment available. Medicaid accepted.  214-724-0702 or <a href="http://www.cnimetro.com">www.cnimetro.com</a></p>

**Prevention / Intervention:**

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
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MADD	Victim Services	Alcohol and drug prevention and intervention programs for juveniles and adults.
Hill County Supervision's and Corrections	Adult Probation	Alcohol and drug education for adults
Area Agency on Aging HOT Benefits Counseling/Legal Awareness	HHSC	Educational events regarding, Prevention of ID Theft, Scams, Financial Abuse. Education regarding Texas Law and Elder Law Assistance with filing consumer complaints and making reports to abuse.
Klara's Children's Center ECI	Early Childhood Intervention	Early intervention services to children ages birth to 3yrs who have developmental delays. Services are community based and family focused.
HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	<p>Mental Retardation Services (254-757-3933)</p> <p>MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (254-752-3451) Eligibility-Adults (18+)</p> <p>Serving persons w/ severe and persistent mental illnesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schizophrenia</li> <li>• Schizoaffective</li> <li>• Bipolar and</li> <li>• Severe Major Depression</li> </ul> <p>Fee: Based on monthly maximum fee schedule; accepting insurance, Medicaid and Medicare</p> <p>Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information/referral</li> <li>• Screening/assessment</li> <li>• Crisis services (day/night)</li> <li>• Crisis respite</li> <li>• Psychiatric/pharmacological</li> <li>• Jail-based assessment/ diversion services</li> <li>• Probation/Parole assessment and treatment</li> <li>• Case Management</li> <li>• Service Coordination</li> <li>• Supported Employment</li> </ul>
MCYC-CIS, PACES	School Social Work	Work with students in schools who are at-risk for dropping out. Also work with students who are in juvenile detention.
VOICE, Inc.		<p>Substance abuse prevention services and curriculum for K-12; alcohol, tobacco, drugs. Spring break, after school and summer programs. La Voz Para La Familia program is parenting curriculum delivered to Hispanic families.</p> <p>John Goodnight, Program Director 903.872.0180 <a href="mailto:jgoodnight@voiceinc.org">jgoodnight@voiceinc.org</a> <a href="http://www.voiceinc.org">www.voiceinc.org</a></p>
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	Substance Abuse Treatment	Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) provides alcohol and drug screenings, as well as assessments, referrals, crisis intervention, education, support, and case management. All services are free.

		Jamie Schmitt 254.297.7771 or 800-841-1255 jamie.schmitt@bbtrails.org
Family Abuse Center	Non-Profit Domestic Violence Shelter & Resource Center	24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, counseling, case management, legal advocacy, court accompaniment, children's services, bilingual services, educational presentations and trainings, rural outreach, transitional housing, non-residential program, assistance with CVC, ACP, VINE, & utility waivers, Teen dating violence prevention/healthy relationships curriculum, distribute 911 cell phones, and other services. Hotline 800.283.8401 Office 254.772.8999 <a href="http://www.familyabusecenter.org">www.familyabusecenter.org</a>
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Mature Driver Program 254.202.6539 866.332.0005	Hospital, Non-profit 501c3, grant-funded	The Mature Driver Program is a traffic safety injury prevention program for drivers ages 55 and up. The program offers educational opportunities for family, caregivers, and healthcare providers. Educational opportunities cover a variety of topics; how the aging process affects driving skills, affects of medication on driving, vehicle features that can positively affect driving abilities. Presentations for caregivers on unsafe driving and how to "have the talk" are available.
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe 254.202.6533 866.332.0005 FB: TeenSafe Waco	Hospital, Non-profit 501c3, grant-funded	The Teen Safe Youth Traffic Safety Educational program focuses on teen traffic safety, driving responsibility, underage drinking, substance abuse, and driving under the influence. The program also educates parents on the laws relating to teen traffic safety. This prevention program is a combination of videos, simulations and written materials along with computer-based simulations. This program is FREE.
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Kid Safe 254.202.6538 888.675.0260	Hospital, Non-profit 501c3, grant-funded	The Kid Safe program is an injury prevention program sponsored by the Trauma Center at Hillcrest Hospital, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation. Kid Safe offers free educational classes and presentations to parents, caregivers, children, teenagers, and the community in general. Kid Safe also provides a child safety seat and booster seat distribution program. Kid Safe provides services to McLennan, Bosque, Hill, Falls, Limestone, Coryell, and Bell counties. Currently has a monthly child safety seat fitting station at Hillsboro P.D.
Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator	Victims Services	Services to victims of all violent crimes that include but are not limited to emergency protective orders, legal advocacy, on-scene intervention, 911 safety phones, information and referrals, legal options for victims of family violence.
Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children	501C3 Non-Profit	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides 24/7 crisis hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, short-term counseling and case management, court accompaniment, and assistance in filing Crime Victims Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, APS or law enforcement. Educational presentation on victim's issues and prevention are available. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) available. Office: 254.752.9330 Hotline: 254.752.7233 or 888.867.7233 <a href="http://www.advocacycntr.org">www.advocacycntr.org</a>

ESC Region 12, HOTRAC, Waco PD Hostage Negotiators, DSHS Region 7		Each of the listed agencies will provide crisis intervention training for first responders.
Center for Learning and Development	Non-profit Educational Support	Conducts research-based projects and provides workshops, seminars, learning tools, and group processes aimed at preventing and/or intervening with behavioral and educational difficulties.
Hill County Youth Substance Abuse Coalition	Non-profit	Provides education to the community and supports and participates in programs that will help reduce substance abuse in youth.

**Provides Assistance for the Economically High Risk Populations:**

Lake Whitney Ministerial Alliance	Food Bank & other	Provides food, clothing, and other needed assistance
Hill County Salvation Army	Local unit	Provides temporary housing, medical, and transportation
TXU Energy Aid	Part of Hill County Salvation Army	Provides utility assistance to TXU customers
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Government funding	Provides utility and housing assistance
Potter's Vessel: Hillsboro & Whitney	Pharmaceutical Assistance Program	Provides assistance with long term medication assistance
Hilco Electric Coop		Provides utility assistance to Hilco customers
Hillsboro Interfaith Ministries	Food Bank & other	Provides food and clothing and access to other agencies

**Provides Transportation:**

LaFluer Transportation	877.875.7433 or 254.750.1620	Schedule trips at a minimal cost, call 48 hours ahead for trips to/from Hill, Bosque, Freestone, McLennan, and Falls Counties.
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## **Interagency Cooperation**

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The Hill County Community Planning Team was very involved in the planning process. All agencies were proactive in their approach to identifying the needs of the communities and by putting their own special interests aside, they succeeded in developing a strategic plan to aid in prioritizing and closing the identified gaps in the community.

The Planning Team shared the different services they offer, as well as, services offered by agencies and individuals that were unable to attend the planning meeting. The team maintains a cooperative working relationship.

Law enforcement, juvenile justice, victims services, and social services groups agree to continue to work together to reach the overall objectives of making the Hill County communities a safer environment, as well as, increasing awareness through intervention, prevention, and education.

## **Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Hill 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 Hill County Community Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the plan and make necessary additions and deletions. Agency and community representatives may 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 via e-mail with requests for comments, updates, and changes. Wherever possible, e-mail is used to reduce the need for meetings, printing, postage, etc.

It is the intent of the Community Planning Team to improve outcomes for Hill County families struggling with problems described in the plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Hill County agencies and organizations to address problems with local funds as well as grant funds from multiple state and federal sources. To the extent that these funds are available, the Community Planning Team will continue to urge agencies to provide programming that addresses outlined focus areas.

## **Contact Information**

### ***Hill County Community Planning Coordinator***

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