

Brazoria County Community Plan 2021-2022



December 2021

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 Lacey Powell, 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:
Alvin Community College
Brazosport College
University of Houston - Clear Lake Pearland Campus

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

Private Schools

Private Schools in Brazoria County:	
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 Schools

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 Republic of Texas was founded on March 2, 1836 and its first capitol was located in West Columbia, so Brazoria County is "Where Texas Began". 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, 1,609 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 2020 Census population of 372,031, and a 2025 population estimate of 425,148. From the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census, the county's population grew by 19%. 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, and continues to, experience strong population and new home construction growth during the last decade. The city of Pearland is by far the largest city in the county and has a 2020 Census population of 125,828 and a 2025 population estimate of 133,918. From the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census, Pearland's population grew by 38%. Booming new home construction in Manvel and Iowa Colony, immediately south of Pearland, will only further add to the large population growth in the northern part of the county.

In addition to the county's \$30 billion of new petrochemical plant construction since 2013, there are several large capital investment projects planned for the next couple of years. The COVID pandemic caused delays in the start of construction on these projects, until 2022 or 2023, which would add \$3 billion more to the inventory of new chemical plants in the county.

As with the rest of the country, Brazoria County has struggled with the COVID pandemic. The county's retailers and restaurants have been critically impacted by the pandemic, and one issue that has hurt southern Brazoria County retailers and restaurants is the major chemical companies, such as Dow and BASF, continue to have their non-plant, office and administrative personnel working from home. This results in hundreds of employees being at home all day and not visiting retailers or restaurants during working hours, but on a positive note, it is anticipated that these working-at-home employees will start returning to work in the office in early 2022.

Economic Development – 2021:

Alvin

In October, Medica Development Company announced that it will build a 88,000 square foot, two-story, 32-bed hospital in Alvin near Steele Road and on the SH 35 Bypass. If needed, the \$133 million hospital can be expanded to 90 beds. The groundbreaking for the start of construction is expected by the end of January 2022.

In November the city held the grand opening of its new Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services building.

Alvin Community College is nearing completion of numerous renovations and improvements on campus that were approved by the ACC Board of Regents as part of a \$25 million maintenance tax note in 2018.

One of the major campus improvements is an extensive interior renovation of the 12,000 square foot Nolan Ryan Center. The renovations will include an expanded state of the art culinary arts teaching facility, as well as multi-use rooms that can be used for community events, conferences and meetings. The multi-use rooms will be available for rent to the community.

Dr. Robert Exley has been chosen to succeed Dr. Christal Albrecht as President of Alvin Community College. Dr. Albrecht retired on August 31, 2021.

Alvin is located near the Chocolate Bayou petrochemical companies. One of these companies, INEOS Olefins & Polymers, is near the completion of construction on a \$145 million poly alpha olefins (PAO) plant. The new PAO plant will create 15 new direct jobs, 37 new direct and indirect jobs.

MarkWest Energy is still considering the construction of a \$460 million natural gas liquids fractionation unit at Chocolate Bayou, but this is one of those projects that the pandemic has put the start of construction on hold until at least mid-2022.

Thus far in 2021 (through September), Alvin has issued 275 new single-family residential building permits and 15 new commercial building permits as compared to 234 new single-family building permits and 14 new commercial building permits issued for the same time period in 2020.

Through October 2021, the city had collected \$7,278,557.34 in sales tax revenues which is a 3% increase over the \$7,062,467.11 collected during the same time period in 2020 which was the height of the COVID pandemic.

Angleton

In 2021 Angleton experienced great strides in infrastructure development, and some new home construction, on the developments listed below.

- Windrose Green – 700 houses
- Rancho – 400 houses
- Riverwood Ranch - 300 houses
- Rosewood III – 26 houses
- Greystone – 110 houses

- Green Trails – 50 houses
- Kiber Reserve – 92 houses
- Brownstone Apartments – 423-unit, three-story apartment complex

In November 2021, the city broke ground on a 46-acre nature park, Lakeside Park, that will have a multi-purpose outdoor pavilion, kayak launch, fishing pier, walking trail, playground, boardwalk, and aquatic and coastal grassland habitats. The city will invest \$3.3 million on the construction of the new park.

In 2021, Gambit Energy, an Elon Musk-owned company, finished construction of a 100MW energy storage facility located adjacent to a Texas-New Mexico Power substation.

Two other energy-related projects that started construction in 2021 near Angleton are WattBridge’s Brotman and Mark One peaker power plants.

The 288MW Brotman peaker power plant is being built near Rosharon and the 480MW Mark One peaker power plant is being built north of Angleton. When completed, these natural gas-powered peaker plants can be remotely started and begin producing electricity in only seven minutes. These peaker plants will be used whenever there is a need for more power on the electric grid.

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.

In November 2021 BASF completed construction of a \$90 million fertilizer distribution and blending warehouse that will create 45 new direct jobs and 74 new direct and indirect jobs. This facility will be operated by NeuAG to blend and package fertilizer using the ammonium sulfate manufactured at BASF.

Dr. Millicent Valek, President of Brazosport College since 1996, will retire in January 2022. Dr. Vincent Solis has been selected by the Board of Regents to be Dr. Valek’s successor.

As mentioned on a preceding page, a pandemic-related issue that is still negatively impacting Brazosport retailers and restaurants is the major chemical companies, such as Dow and BASF, continuing to have their non-plant, office and administrative personnel working from home. This results in hundreds of employees being at home all day and not visiting retailers or restaurants during working hours, but it is anticipated that these working-at-home employees will start returning to work in the office in early 2022 giving retailers and restaurants a much needed boost.

Iowa Colony

Thus far in 2021 (through September), Iowa Colony has issued 675 new single-family residential building permits as compared to this same time period in 2020, when Iowa Colony had issued 579 new single-family building permits. A major portion of these new houses are being built in Meridiana, a 3,000-acre master planned community on State Highway 288.

Also, Alvin ISD has built a new junior high school and is currently building a new high school in Meridiana.

Manvel

Thus far in 2021 (through September), Manvel has issued 746 new single-family residential building permits as compared to this same time period in 2020, when Manvel had issued 563 new single-family building permits.

Opened in 2020, Del Bello Lakes, a new residential development on SH 288, with over 40 acres of lakes, a five-mile trail system and 15 acres of parks and open space has seen a large number of new homes built in 2021.

In June 2021 ground was broken on the 273-acre Manvel Town Center at the SH 288 and SH 6 intersection. When construction is completed, the Manvel Town Center will have over one million square feet of retail, entertainment, hospitality, medical and office space. H-E-B will be the retail anchor for the Weitzman-developed Town Center.

Pomona, Sedona Lakes, Newport Lake Estates, Blue Water Lakes, Lakeland, Rodeo Palms, Meridiana and now Del Bello Lakes subdivisions are where the bulk of the new home construction is occurring in Manvel.

Pearland

The city is currently constructing a new \$178 million Surface Water Treatment Plant that will have the capacity to treat ten million gallons per day of raw water from the Gulf Coast Water Authority canal. The new plant is scheduled to be completed in 2023.

The construction of the 39,000 square foot Shadow Creek Library located on Shadow Creek Parkway is very near the end of construction. The new library will replace the temporary one on Business Center Drive.

On June 27, 2021 HCA Houston Healthcare celebrated the grand opening of its HCA Healthcare Center for Clinical Advancement. The 48,400 square-foot, state-of-the-art training center houses high-fidelity hospital simulation labs, connected classrooms and de-briefing rooms. The HCA health system's nearly 7,000 nurses will receive ongoing clinical education and training at the new facility.

Construction has been completed on the SH 288 north-bound frontage lanes. The new frontage lanes will improve access to Silverlake Shopping Center by creating two new entries and will ease congestion at the SH 288 and Broadway intersection.

Millar, Inc, a manufacturer of pressure sensor-related devices, has selected a five-acre site on Kirby Drive in Pearland as the site of a new 56,000 square foot headquarters, R&D, manufacturing and warehouse facility. The new facility, which will open in 2022, will have approximately 120 employees.

The Pearland City Council has appropriated \$309,000 per year for three years for the creation of an entrepreneurship hub. The hub will provide entrepreneurs with events, programs and activities to stimulate the entrepreneurial process.

In August 2021, the Pearland EDC sold the 46,000 square foot former Cardiovascular Systems, Inc. building on Kirby Drive to The Welcome Group.

Thus far in 2021 (through September), Pearland has issued 517 new single-family residential building permits and 22 new commercial building permits as compared to 299 new single-family building permits and 22 new commercial building permits issued during the same time period in 2020.

Through October 2021, the city had collected \$32,082,508.56 in sales tax revenues which is a 15.6% increase over the \$27,745,999.62 collected during the same time period in 2020 which was the height of the COVID pandemic.

Millar, Inc. announced that it will build a 56,000 square-foot headquarters and manufacturing facility in Pearland's Lower Kirby District. The new facility, located on a five-acre site on Kirby Drive just south of Beltway 8, will also house the company's R&D and warehouse functions and will be home to approximately 120 employees.

HCA Houston Healthcare celebrated the grand opening of its Center for Clinical Advancement in Pearland Town Center. The 48,400 square-foot, state-of-the-art training center houses high-fidelity hospital simulation labs, connected classrooms and de-briefing rooms, where the health system's nearly 7,000 nurses will receive ongoing clinical education and training.

After approval by the PMMD#2 Board, the PEDC Board of Directors and City Council, a contract was awarded for the final phase of the State Highway 288 Master Plan Improvements. The first three phases of improvements including brick pavers, wet and dry detention ponds, bridge and barrier painting, decorative form liners, lighting conduit, pond edging, pear sculpture foundations, and upgraded decorative signal poles, were incorporated into Brazoria County's managed toll lanes construction plans. Now that the initial improvements are complete and the toll lanes are open to the public, construction will start in early 2022 on the next phase of improvements from Beltway 8 to Magnolia, including landscape elements, irrigation, lighting, water fountains, pear sculptures, and sidewalks and gateway markers. The improvements are expected to be complete in 2024.

PEDC is partnering with The Cannon Workplace, LLC to create and implement an Entrepreneurship Hub for the community. The Hub will enhance Pearland's innovation entrepreneurship culture by creating events, programs, and activities for entrepreneurs and small business owners to inspire ideation, innovation and entrepreneurship and will connect the city to local and regional entrepreneurship assistance programs, service providers and funding sources to ensure local entrepreneurs and small businesses in Pearland connect with these resources to maximize their growth potential and overall success. Offerings of the Hub will include business plan competitions, proactive coaching, networking events and student programs to encourage entrepreneurship

Port Freeport

In January 2021:

Port Freeport received its second round of federal funding, \$24.9 million, for the Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project. These funds will be used to further the deepening and widening project that has been under development at the Port for many years.

In April 2021:

Port Freeport held the official groundbreaking for the long-awaited Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project. This channel deepening and widening project will take the Port channel from its current depth of 46' depth to depths ranging from 51' to 56'. The total cost of this project is \$295 million. Of this amount the federal government will provide \$165 million and the remaining \$130

million will be provide by a 2018 voter-approved bond package. This deepening and widening project will take approximately five years to complete.

In June 2021:

The Port welcomed the M/V DOLE AZTEC vessel to the Port's Velasco Container Terminal. This was the vessel's first call to Port Freeport and to the United States. The vessel, built in 2021, has a 900 reefer container (FEU's) capacity which are used to transport goods that require refrigeration.

Ongoing Project:

Construction on the \$129 million Velasco Container Terminal expansion, which started in late 2019, continues to progress. The Velasco Terminal expansion features over 925 feet of new berth space which will accommodate post-Panamax gantry cranes. The new berth space will be dredged to a depth of 51 feet which matches the current depth of the ship channel. Construction on the Velasco Terminal Expansion is expected to be completed by August 2022.

Sweeny

Praxair is expected to finish construction on its new hydrogen plant on Phillips 66 land near Sweeny in 2021. This new hydrogen plant represents a \$232.3 million new capital investment and 10 new direct jobs and an estimated 23 new direct and indirect jobs.

Phillips 66 has started construction on a fourth natural gas liquids fractionation unit at its Old Ocean facility. This fourth fractionator represents a \$500 million new capital investment and 10 new direct jobs and an estimated 23 new direct and indirect jobs.

Chevron Phillips Chemical Company has started construction on a \$230 million 1-hexene plant at its Old Ocean facility. The new plant will create 15 new direct jobs and 33 new indirect jobs. Construction is expected to be completed in 2023.

Community Planning Team

Coordinator for Brazoria County: Jami Geserick 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:

Name	Agency
Gillaspey, Stacy Communities In Schools of Brazoria County Grants Officer	sgillaspey@cistxjv.org 713-825-2139
Garza, Delma, LPC, LCDC	delgarza6@gmail.com
Hebert, Sharon Abundo, Evie Brazoria County Counseling Center	sharonga2@yahoo.com eabundo@bcounseling.org 979-997-0051
Gardzina, Joe ADAPT	admin@adaptprograms.com 979-480-3327
Gundy, Shalonia Smith, Bettye Youth & Family Counseling Services Director	sgundy@yfcs.org bsmith@yfcs.org 979-849-1577
Smith, Meecca S. Newman Amber Boys and Girls Club	msmith@bgcbrazoria.org anewman@bgcbrazoria.org
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
Manager of Counseling Services for Sweeny Community Hospital Intensive Outpatient Senior Horizons Program and Counseling Associates for Youth, Families and Adults	979-548-1549
Counseling Connections for Changes, Inc.	218-485-9280 281-485-9070 Fax
Lawless, Dawn, LCSW, LSOTP Co-founder and CEO	
Judge Jack Brown Precinct 1, Place 1	979-297-4650
Judge Robin Rape 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 Roy Castillo Precinct 3, Place 2	281.485.1528
Judge Sara Linder Precinct 4, Place 1	713.855.2777

Judge Sherry Kersh Precinct 4, Place 2	979.345.2671
Clawson Stephanie Refuge for Women Texas Gulf Coast	stephanie.clawson@refugeforwomen.org (502) 780-2644
Williams, Tina Kidz Harbor	kidzharborshelter@yahoo.com (281)-581-2505
George, Brenda S.T.O.P	stopglobalinc@yahoo.com (979) 665-7712
Kerri Taylor United Front Coalition	Kerri.taylor@unboundnow.org (346) 313-3220
Kristi Belluomini Alliance for Children	kbelluomini@cac-bc.org (979) 849-2500

Mental Health Committee:

Name	Agency
Gillaspey, Stacy Communities In Schools of Brazoria County Grants Officer	sgillaspey@cistxjv.org 979-267-6799
Garza, Delma, LPC, LCDC	delgarza6@gmail.com
Gardzina, Joe ADAPT	admin@adaptprograms.com 979-480-3327
Gundy, Shalonia Smith, Bettye Youth & Family Counseling Services Director	sgundy@yfcs.org bsmith@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
Spears, Evelyn Redeeming Light Bible Training Center Community Member	spearsekeys@gmail.com 281-706-2428
Manager of Counseling Services for Sweeny Community Hospital Intensive Outpatient Senior Horizons Program and Counseling Associates for Youth, Families and Adults	979-548-1549
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Hebert, Sharon Brazoria County Counseling Center	sharonga2@yahoo.com (979) 997-0051
Pabst, Penny Community Health Network	ppabst@sfachc.org (281) 824-1480
Lawless, Dawn Counseling Connections for Change	dawn@counselingconnections.org (281) 485-9280
Melis, Jan NAMI Gulf Coast	jmelis@namigulfcoast.org (281) 585-3100
Kristi Belluomini Brazoria County Alliance for Children	kbelluomini@cac-bc.org (979) 849-2500
Seartent Michael Vandergriff Brazoria County Mental Health Deputy	Michaelv@brazoria-county.com (979) 236-8655

Groller, Amanda Gulf Coast Center	amandag@gulfcoastcenter.org (409) 502-1446
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Victim Services:

Name	Agency
Collins, Joshua Brazoria County DA's Office Crime Victim Supervisor	joshuac@brazoria-county.com 979.864.1254
Gonzalez, Laura Brazoria County Sheriff's Office Crime Victim Liaison	Lauram@brazoria-county.com 979-864-2343
Rodriguez, Leticia Brazoria County CSCD Victim Services Program	leticiaro@brazoria-county.com 979.864.1462
Quadri, Maria Youth & Family Counseling Services	mquadri@yfcs.org 979.864.1577
Moore, David Women's Center of Brazoria County	d.moore.wcbc@att.net 979.849.9553
Belluomini, Kristi Brazoria County Alliance for Children	kbelluomini@cac-bc.org 979.849.2500
Guadiana, Velma Angleton Police Department Crime Victim Liaison	vguadiana@angletonpd.net 979.848.5658
Cooper, Maribel Alvin Police Department Crime Victims Liaison	mcooper@apd.cityofalvin.com 281.585.7125
Berend, Mari American Red Cross of Brazoria County	mberend@ghac.org 979.849.6439
Gillaspey, Stacy Communities in Schools of Brazoria County Grants Officer	sgillaspey@cistxjv.org 979-267-6799
Jones, Rozlyn Pearland Police Department Crime Victim Liaison	rjones@pearlandtx.gov 281.997.4330
Poe, Jessica Pearland Police Department Crime Victim Liaison	jpoe@pearlandtx.gov 281.997.4304

Law Enforcement:

Name	Agency
Mitchell, Greg Angleton PD	gmitchell@angletonpd.net 979.848.5681
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Higgins, Tim, III Praise Tabernacle	Bishophiggins@aol.com 979.418.0376
Mayville, David Pearland PD	dmayville@pearlandtx.gov

	281.997.4128
Lake Jackson PD	979.482.1318
Waguespack, Michael City of Clute	Michael@cluteems.com 979.482.6491
Garivey, Raymond City of Freeport	rgarivey@freeport.tx.us 979.871.0132

Emergency Management / EMS Services:

Name	Agency
Office of Emergency Management	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

Juvenile Priority #1

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>There is a lack of services for juveniles considered to be at-risk for sexual exploitation, including, human trafficking, increased incidence of sexting/display of harmful material, a need for after school care programs, and lack of transitional services from juvenile correction and foster care.</p>	<p>The average age of entry into sex trafficking is 14 years of age It is estimated that 79,000 minors and transitional Texas youths are victims of sex trafficking According to the DFPS, 25% of foster children have been touched by human trafficking Those most at risk of being targeted by a trafficker are young, single, unemployed students. Of juveniles who fall into that category, especially at risk are those with low self-esteem, a history of physical or sexual abuse, those who live below the poverty line, runaways, those orphaned or in foster care, those involved in gangs, those with an excess of unstructured, unsupervised free time, those already a part of the system of juvenile justice, and those who identify as LGBTQ. Latest research indicates that fully 1/3 of ten-year olds are accessing violent, degrading internet pornography. 689 Unduplicated/unique juveniles were referred to the Brazoria County Juvenile Department. This is increased from the previous year, in which there were 656 recorded referrals. Data from Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department from 12/1/17 to 10/25/18 indicates: There were 95 substance abuse referrals There were 75 referrals for juveniles in need of supervision There were 109 juveniles referred for violent crimes such as aggravated assault, deadly conduct, murder, family violence, and gang related violations Referrals for bullying offenses including threatened offenses were numbered at 95 44 juveniles referred for possession of weapons/unlawfully carrying a weapon (an increase from 11 in 2019) 167 juveniles sought mental health services 51 juveniles were placed outside of their home 341 juveniles were referred for various counseling services including general counseling, mental health services, or substance abuse counseling 20 juveniles identified homeless/in CPS care Juveniles who were identified as sex trafficking victims. Identified by the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (Only implemented in 8/2019) 23 were a clear concern and 108 were a possible concern o There were 5 referrals for distribution of harmful material including sexting/nude images</p> <p>Data from Communities In Schools for the 2020-2021 school year: 998 students had a Family conflict 200 were assessed for mental health crisis 70 students were assessed for delinquent conduct 47 students were assessed for grief/loss 171 homeless youth were served</p>

Potential Response to Problem

Law enforcement, the Department of Juvenile Justice, educators, healthcare providers, advocacy groups, business owners and the community at large have begun a journey toward increased awareness and prevention of human trafficking in our community. This year, The Brazoria County United Front Coalition to Fight Human Trafficking has been established in order to draw the community together to fight human trafficking in our county by providing a platform for effective communication, a sharing of knowledge through cross-training, efficient coordination, and development of a continuum of services for trafficking victims and survivors so that service providers and victims know how to find resources for prevention, recognize and identify victims, and refer to appropriate services, providing hope for restoration.

In conjunction with UnBound, Brazoria County Juvenile Justice has initiated special education programs for girls on probation and students in detention to understand their risk for human trafficking, the methods and lures of traffickers, online dangers, and the connection between porn, sexting, coercion and the life of manipulation, control and abuse that is trafficking.

Several school districts have invited advocacy groups such as Love 146, UnBound and others to present educational programs for students ages 7th grade and up to equip and empower them to be on the lookout for themselves and their peers for the dangers of trafficking. Awareness for educators, counselors, transportation officials, and parents have been a part of these programs.

Advocacy groups such as S.T.O.P. and UnBound have begun interaction with local authorities and elected officials to explore city ordinances and codes that would make trafficking more difficult in Brazoria County.

There is recognition that 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 family units struggle with typical family issues which are compounded by single incomes, lower economic status and fewer hours available for strengthening families and child supervision.

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. Gang activity is associated with increased violence, trafficking in drugs and trafficking in persons. Unfortunately, the number of identified gangs in Brazoria County is growing dramatically.

Communities In Schools, Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County and others provide programs to deter juvenile participation in pre-gang activities. Several community agencies also offer gang prevention programs: however, these programs are reduced and offered to limited groups of students due to lack of funding. Juvenile Justice offers gang prevention programs, but also is limited by lack of funding for these programs.

Children in foster care are discharged when they reach age 18, or when they complete high school as long as they graduate by their 22nd birthday. Courts do not track a child when they leave foster care as a result of aging out. Youth need more extensive assistance before leaving care. Although current DFPS policy includes transition planning support and there are tuition fee waivers for young people who age out of foster care to meet the youth's educational goals, more emphasis on teaching basic life skills, financial stability, and employability during transition to adulthood is a necessary tool for victims of trafficking and foster children who are highly at risk for trafficking once they age out of the system. Funding for establishment and extension of transitional youth programs such as those offered by Kidz Harbor, FYSB and Life Skills House is needed.

Funding to facilitate functionality of the Brazoria County United Front Coalition to establish a webpage and online

directory as well as ongoing educational initiatives would facilitate collaborations and referral for services within the continuum of services for human trafficking victims.

Juvenile Priority #2

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>There is a lack of wraparound services for youth/adolescents which is relative to increased incidence of bullying, terroristic threats/violence, substance abuse, and suicidal ideation.</p>	<p>From 12/1/17 to 10/25/18: 689 Unduplicated/unique juveniles were referred to the Brazoria County Juvenile Department. This is increased from the previous year, in which there were 656 recorded referrals. Data from Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department from 12/1/17 to 10/25/18 indicates: There were 95 substance abuse referrals There were 75 referrals for juveniles in need of supervision There were 109 juveniles referred for violent crimes such as aggravated assault, deadly conduct, murder, family violence, and gang related violations Referrals for bullying offenses including threatened offenses were numbered at 95 44 juveniles referred for possession of weapons/unlawfully carrying a weapon (an increase from 11 in 2019) 167 juveniles sought mental health services 51 juveniles were placed outside of their home 341 juveniles were referred for various counseling services including general counseling, mental health services, or substance abuse counseling 20 juveniles identified homeless/in CPS care trafficking victims. Identified by the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (Only implemented in 8/2019) 23 were a clear concern and 108 were a possible concern There were 5 referrals for distribution of harmful material including sexting/nude images Data from Communities In Schools for the 2020-2021 school year: 998 students had a Family conflict 200 were assessed for mental health crisis 70 students were assessed for delinquent conduct 47 students were assessed for grief/loss</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>The committee completing the Community Action Plan has identified that there remains a gap in mental health care services for juveniles in Brazoria County. Further, the committee has found that issues of bullying, lack of empathy, suicidal ideation and school violence are worsened and potentially increased by the fact that mental health care services in Brazoria County are limited for juveniles.</p> <p>Unchanged from previous reports is the fact that there are no psychiatric beds designated to the children of Brazoria County. The number of psychiatrists who treat adolescents in Brazoria County is also limited. Data collected and submitted for this report indicate that there are only four such mental health practitioners, and of those, two accept Medicaid. Although this number is slightly increased from last year, gaps remain, especially in the southern part of the county.</p> <p>Although Harris County does allow Brazoria County adolescents to be transferred there in order to maintain continuity of care, the significant shortage of low and no cost mental health care services for minors here in Brazoria County contributes to a reduction in the number of families who are able to access this care for their children.</p>	

Reduced accessibility to mental health care services becomes more significant in light of increased understanding of the negative effects of trauma on brain development and socio- emotional development. These effects warrant special attention. Complex PTSD, which is associated with long-term, ongoing trauma during youth, contributes to chronic depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorders, more serious and complex mental disorders, suicide and violence. These may manifest as bullying, terroristic threats and gun violence.

The fact that Texas law now mandates any and all school district employees to report trafficking victims. Identified by the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (Only implemented in 8/2019) 23 were a clear concern and 108 were a possible concern

- o There were 5 referrals for distribution of harmful material including sexting/nude images

Data from Communities In Schools for the 2020-2021 school year:

998 students had a Family conflict

200 were assessed for mental health crisis

70 students were assessed for delinquent conduct

47 students were assessed for grief/loss

171 homeless youth were served

bullying highlights a shortage of referral options. Guidelines direct that counseling should be made available to the victims, to witnesses and to the student who engaged in the conduct. These mandates increase the need for counseling services.

Currently, school districts in Brazoria County are taking an active role in prevention and reporting of bullying with implementation of a hotline number for reporting, creation of anti-bullying programs and other resources designed to encourage respect and teach students how to identify and respond to bullying. Members of organizations like Boys and Girls Club participate in programs that deal with personal responsibility and empowerment as well. These efforts to reduce the incidence of bullying show great potential; however, it is logical to say that greater access to psychiatric services and counseling services would contribute to improved responses to and recovery from victimization and trauma. Youth and Family Counseling Services (YFCS), Brazoria County Alliance for Children (BCAC) and Counseling Connections are a few agencies identified in Brazoria County that provide such services.

It is believed that funding for improved mental health services for minors, including psychiatric and counseling services, is important for the long-term health of children and future adults in Brazoria County. Additional mental healthcare accessibility in the form of facilities (designated beds for minors), treatment, and counseling are needed at low cost and no cost availability.

Juvenile Priority #3

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>There is a lack of transitional services from juvenile correction and foster care.</p>	<p>From 12/1/17 to 10/25/18: 689 Unduplicated/unique juveniles were referred to the Brazoria County Juvenile Department. This is increased from the previous year, in which there were 656 recorded referrals. Data from Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department from 12/1/17 to 10/25/18 indicates: There were 95 substance abuse referrals There were 75 referrals for juveniles in need of supervision There were 109 juveniles referred for violent crimes such as aggravated assault, deadly conduct, murder, family violence, and gang related violations Referrals for bullying offenses including threatened offenses were numbered at 95 44 juveniles referred for possession of weapons/unlawfully carrying a weapon (an increase from 11 in 2019) 167 juveniles sought mental health services 51 juveniles were placed outside of their home 341 juveniles were referred for various counseling services including general counseling, mental health services, or substance abuse counseling 20 juveniles identified homeless/in CPS care trafficking victims. Identified by the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (Only implemented in 8/2019) 23 were a clear concern and 108 were a possible concern There were 5 referrals for distribution of harmful material including sexting/nude images</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Children in foster care are discharged when they reach age 18, or when they complete high school as long as they graduate by their 22nd birthday. Courts do not track a child when they leave foster care as a result of aging out. Youth need more extensive assistance before leaving care. Although current DFPS policy includes transition planning support and there are tuition fee waivers for young people who age out of foster care to meet the youth's educational goals, more emphasis on teaching basic life skills, financial stability, and employability during transition to adulthood is a necessary tool for victims of trafficking and foster children who are highly at risk for trafficking once they age out of the system. Funding for establishment and extension of transitional youth programs such as those offered by Kidz Harbor, FYSB and Life Skills House is needed.</p>	

Juvenile Priority #4

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
There is a lack of services for families in crisis and homeless families/students.	<p>In 2019: 41 calls were made to DFPS related to BCJJD juveniles who were identified as homeless or in CPS care 689 Unduplicated/unique juveniles were referred to the Brazoria County Juvenile Department. This is increased from the previous year, in which there were 656 recorded referrals. Data from Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department from 12/1/17 to 10/25/18 indicates: There were 95 substance abuse referrals There were 75 referrals for juveniles in need of supervision There were 109 juveniles referred for violent crimes such as aggravated assault, deadly conduct, murder, family violence, and gang related violations Referrals for bullying offenses including threatened offenses were numbered at 95 44 juveniles referred for possession of weapons/unlawfully carrying a weapon (an increase from 11 in 2019) 167 juveniles sought mental health services 51 juveniles were placed outside of their home 341 juveniles were referred for various counseling services including general counseling, mental health services, or substance abuse counseling 20 juveniles identified homeless/in CPS care trafficking victims. Identified by the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (Only implemented in 8/2019) 23 were a clear concern and 108 were a possible concern There were 5 referrals for distribution of harmful material including sexting/nude images Data from Communities In Schools for the 2020-2021 school year: 998 students had Family 200 were assessed for mental health 70 students were assessed for delinquent conduct 47 students were assessed for grief/loss 171 homeless students were served</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Law enforcement, the Department of Juvenile Justice, educators, healthcare providers, advocacy groups, business owners and the community at large have begun a journey toward increased awareness and prevention of human trafficking in our community. This year, The Brazoria County United Front Coalition to Fight Human Trafficking has been established in order to draw the community together to fight human trafficking in our county by providing a platform for effective communication, a sharing of knowledge through cross-training, efficient coordination, and development of a continuum of services for trafficking victims and survivors so that service providers and victims know how to find resources for prevention, recognize and identify victims, and refer to appropriate services, providing hope for restoration.</p>	

There is recognition that 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 family units struggle with typical family issues which are compounded by single incomes, lower economic status and fewer hours available for strengthening families and child supervision.

Youth & Family Counseling Services has seen a marked increase in the number of children and families who are at risk of or currently homeless. With the advent of the Covid-19 Pandemic many families were unable to work and consequently unable to pay rent. There has been some relief provided due to the moratorium on evictions, but now many of those families are faced with eviction due to the inability to repay thousands of dollars in back due rent. YFCS is finding that there are some landlords who are circumventing the law and evicting families unlawfully. Families are in need of rental housing counseling and advocacy. The rental housing counseling would provide a structured plan for residents to make their owed rental payments and the advocacy would provide relief for both the tenant and the landlords as they both struggle to make ends meet. Housing Counseling Services are desperately needed in Brazoria County to assist the housed to maintain their housing and to assist the homeless with attaining safe, decent, and affordable housing.

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. Gang activity is associated with increased violence, trafficking in drugs and trafficking in persons. Unfortunately, the number of identified gangs in Brazoria County is growing dramatically.

Juvenile Priority #5

Priority #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
There is a lack of afterschool care programs.	<p>In 2019: 689 Unduplicated/unique juveniles were referred to the Brazoria County Juvenile Department. This is increased from the previous year, in which there were 656 recorded referrals. Data from Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department from 12/1/17 to 10/25/18 indicates: There were 95 substance abuse referrals There were 75 referrals for juveniles in need of supervision There were 109 juveniles referred for violent crimes such as aggravated assault, deadly conduct, murder, family violence, and gang related violations Referrals for bullying offenses including threatened offenses were numbered at 95 44 juveniles referred for possession of weapons/unlawfully carrying a weapon (an increase from 11 in 2019) 167 juveniles sought mental health services 51 juveniles were placed outside of their home 341 juveniles were referred for various counseling services including general counseling, mental health services, or substance abuse counseling 20 juveniles identified homeless/in CPS care trafficking victims. Identified by the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (Only implemented in 8/2019) 23 were a clear concern and 108 were a possible concern There were 5 referrals for distribution of harmful material including sexting/nude images</p> <p>Data from Communities In Schools for the 2020-2021 school year: 998 students had a Family conflict 200 were assessed for mental health crisis 70 students were assessed for delinquent conduct 47 students were assessed for grief/loss</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	

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. Gang activity is associated with increased violence, trafficking in drugs and trafficking in persons. Unfortunately, the number of identified gangs in Brazoria County is growing dramatically.

Communities in Schools, Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County and others provide programs to deter juvenile participation in pre-gang activities. Several community agencies also offer gang prevention programs: however, these programs are reduced and offered to limited groups of students due to lack of funding. Juvenile Justice offers gang prevention programs, but also is limited by lack of funding for these programs.

Mental Health Issues

Mental Health Priority #1

Priority #1	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Lack of Mental Health facilities with a youth/adolescent focus.</p>	<p>In 2019: 6 Brazoria County mental health deputies 25% of the fatal police shootings in the nation werementally ill civilians 1 in 5 adults suffer mental illness at least once peryear 1.2 million people in jails have mental illnessnationally Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department reported: 95 substance abuse referrals 95 juveniles referred for bullying offenses relatedto threatening offenses 167 juveniles sought mental health services 4 successful suicides in Northern Brazoria Countyof persons under 18 Youth & Family Counseling Services reported: Serving 767 unduplicated target clients There were 1,927 individual services provided to thetarget clients and their families, not including crisis intervention calls and suicide intervention calls. 379,641 residents in Brazoria County in 2020</p> <p>1 in 5 adults and children will experience a mental health illness in a given year according to National Alliance on Mental Health 75,928 residents, according to this ratio, within Brazoria County will be in need of mental health assistance at a given time within a year.</p> <p>Brazoria County ranks 49th county in Texas in Mental Health services</p> <p>Data from Communities In Schools for the 2020-2021 school year: 998 students had a Family conflict 200 were assessed for mental health crisis 70 students were assessed for delinquent conduct 47 students were assessed for grief/loss</p> <p>Gulf Coast Center, serving Galveston and Brazoria Counties, reported serving 1,417 youth in FY21 in the entire service area, increasing from 1,143 in FY20. 23 Youth were served in FY21 for substance use disorder. Since the COVID pandemic began, disaster services specific to COVID support at Gulf Coast Center served 54 youth individually and 37 participants in groups in Brazoria County.</p>
<p><i>Potential Response to an Issue</i></p>	

The shortfall of inpatient stabilization is one tenant of the difficulties Brazoria County is faced with, as there are few providers within the County. While the 2017 year offered in an increase in local providers, there still remains a large segment of the population that is unable to afford services and are not eligible for some sliding scales and/or programs offered at the existing provider's locations. Those that are eligible often have a wait to be serviced (days to months) due to the limited number of providers against the great need of services. The demand surpasses the supply immensely, and is directly tied to the need for additional funding opportunities to allow for expansions of services that exist and creation of new services that do not catch those that are ineligible due to financial statuses.

Mental Health Priority #2

Priority #2	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of Mental Health Providers	<p>In 2019: 6 Brazoria County mental health deputies 25% of the fatal police shootings in the nation were mentally ill civilians 1 in 5 adults suffer mental illness at least once per year 1.2 million people in jails have mental illness nationally Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department reported: 95 substance abuse referrals 95 juveniles referred for bullying offenses related to threatening offenses 167 juveniles sought mental health services 4 successful suicides in Northern Brazoria County of persons under 18 Youth & Family Counseling Services reported: Serving 767 unduplicated target clients There were 1,927 individual services provided to the target clients and their families, not including crisis intervention calls and suicide intervention calls. 379,641 residents in Brazoria County in 2020 1 in 5 adults and children will experience a mental health illness in a given year according to National Alliance on Mental Health 75,928 residents, according to this ratio, within Brazoria County will be in need of mental health assistance at a given time within a year. Brazoria County ranks 49th county in Texas in Mental Health services</p> <p>Data from Communities In Schools for the 2020-2021 school year: 998 students had a Family conflict 200 were assessed for mental health crisis 70 students were assessed for delinquent conduct 47 students were assessed for grief/loss</p> <p>Gulf Coast Center, serving Galveston and Brazoria Counties, reported serving 1,417 youth in FY21 in the entire service area, increasing from 1,143 in FY20. 23 Youth were served in FY21 for substance use disorder. Since the COVID pandemic began, disaster services specific to COVID support at Gulf Coast Center served 54 youth individually and 37 participants in groups in Brazoria County.</p>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>Brazoria County has consistently been in a deficit for affordable mental health resources with no inpatient facilities within the county to support mental health crisis and stabilization needs. According to the CDC, Texas overall ranks 49th in mental health providers, indicating heightened need for attention more providers state wide, inclusive of Brazoria County. There currently are no inpatient facilities within Brazoria County. Gulf Coast</p>	

Center (the Center) maintains the state-contract offering treatment as an outpatient facility for mental health consumers in Brazoria and Galveston counties, combined. There are only eleven mental health beds that are contracted and dedicated for the treatment of mental health consumers from both counties housed in Galveston County. Due to there being no beds in locally contracted treatment facilities, consumers must be transported facilities as near as Houston, but further in many cases.

The shortfall of inpatient stabilization is one tenant of the difficulties Brazoria County is faced with, as there are few providers within the County. While the 2017 year offered in an increase in local providers, there still remains a large segment of the population that is unable to afford services and are not eligible for some sliding scales and/or programs offered at the existing provider's locations. Those that are eligible often have a wait to be serviced (days to months) due to the limited number of providers against the great need of services. The demand surpasses the supply immensely, and is directly tied to the need for additional funding opportunities to allow for expansions of services that exist and creation of new services that do not catch those that are ineligible due to financial statuses.

Providers are limited within the county to Gulf Coast Center, Youth & Family Counseling Services, Counseling Connections for Change, ADAPT, Attachment & Trauma Centers of Houston, Brazoria County Alliance for Children, Downtown Counseling Services, Pearland Center for Couples and Families, Majestic Counseling & Consulting, LLC, Brazoria County Counseling Services, and local private practice providers. These few providers are for a county with approximately 362,547 residents, spanning roughly 1,609 square miles. Most of these services are only offered in the northern most region of the county, leaving the mid, western, eastern, and southern regions underserved. The county is mostly rural, leaving the transport to these services a taxing prospect for the consumers. There are often waiting lists to receive assessments, referrals, counseling/case management services, and treatment planning. The services are also limited due to funding streams having been fluctuating in recent years. Many providers are limited in the types of funding they receive, thus reducing the options for clients in need. There are fewer providers accepting insurances and Medicaid, forcing clients to leave the county to gain access to services. There are a few providers with programs that are funded to allow for free/reduced fee services, but they are limited to an average of 2-5 programs in the county. Many consumers come from families with income that is at or below poverty level and those families often do not have transportation to a treatment facility or offices that are in northern or central county, resulting in reduction of utilization of services.

Mental Health Priority #3

Priority #3	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of public transportation for juveniles needing Mental Health services.	
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	

Mental Health Priority #4

Priority #4	
Issue Identified	Data
Lack of Mental Health collaboration including data sharing	<p>In 2019: (Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department reported: 95 substance abuse referrals 95 juveniles referred for bullying offenses related to threatening offenses 167 juveniles sought mental health services 5 referrals for distribution of harmful material / sexting / nudes Youth & Family Counseling Services reported: Serving 767 unduplicated target clients</p> <p>Brazoria County has consistently been in a deficit for affordable mental health resources with no inpatient facilities within the county to support mental health crisis and stabilization needs. According to the CDC, Texas overall ranks 49th in mental health providers, indicating heightened need for attention more providers state wide, inclusive of Brazoria County. There currently are no inpatient facilities within Brazoria County. Gulf Coast Center (the Center) maintains the state-contract offering treatment as an outpatient facility for mental health consumers in Brazoria and Galveston counties, combined. There are only eleven mental health beds that are contracted and dedicated for the treatment of mental health consumers from both counties housed in Galveston County. Due to there being no beds in locally contracted treatment facilities, consumers must be transported facilities as near as Houston, but further in many cases.</p> <p>The shortfall of inpatient stabilization is one tenant of the difficulties Brazoria County is faced with, as there are few providers within the County. While the 2017 year offered in an increase in local providers, there still remains a large segment of the population that is unable to afford services and are not eligible for some sliding scales and/or programs offered at the existing provider's locations. Those that are eligible often have a wait to be serviced (days to months) due to the limited number of providers against the great need of services. The demand surpasses the supply immensely, and is directly tied to the need for additional funding opportunities to allow for expansions of services that exist and creation of new services that do not catch those that are ineligible due to financial statuses.</p> <p>Providers are limited within the county to Gulf Coast Center, Youth & Family Counseling Services, Counseling Connections for Change, ADAPT, Attachment & Trauma Centers of Houston, Brazoria County Alliance for Children, Downtown Counseling Services, Pearland Center for Couples and Families, Majestic Counseling & Consulting, LLC, Brazoria County Counseling Services, and local private practice providers. These few providers are for a county with approximately 362,547 residents, spanning roughly 1,609 square miles. Most of these services are only offered in the northern most region of the county, leaving the mid, western, eastern, and</p>

	<p>southern regions underserved. The county is mostly rural, leaving the transport to these services a taxing prospect for the consumers. There are often waiting lists to receive assessments, referrals, counseling/case management services, and treatment planning. The services are also limited due to funding streams having been fluctuating in recent years. Many providers are limited in the types of funding they receive, thus reducing the options for clients in need. There are fewer providers accepting insurances and Medicaid, forcing clients to leave the county to gain access to services. There are a few providers with programs that are funded to allow for free/reduced fee services, but they are limited to an average of 2-5 programs in the county. Many consumers come from families with income that is at or below poverty level and those families often do not have transportation to a treatment facility or offices that are in northern or central county, resulting in reduction of utilization of services.</p> <p>There were 1,927 individual services provided to the target clients and their families, not including crisis intervention calls and suicide intervention calls.)</p> <p>Gulf Coast Center, serving Galveston and Brazoria Counties, reported serving 1,417 youth in FY21 in the entire service area, increasing from 1,143 in FY20. 23 Youth were served in FY21 for substance use disorder. Since the COVID pandemic began, disaster services specific to COVID support at Gulf Coast Center served 54 youth individually and 37 participants in groups in Brazoria County</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

There were 1,927 individual services provided to the target clients and their families, not including crisis intervention calls and suicide intervention calls.)

Gulf Coast Center, serving Galveston and Brazoria Counties, reported serving 1,417 youth in FY21 in the entire service area, increasing from 1,143 in FY20. 23 Youth were served in FY21 for substance use disorder. Since the COVID pandemic began, disaster services specific to COVID support at Gulf Coast Center served 54 youth individually and 37 participants in groups in Brazoria County

(In 2017, Brazoria County Juvenile Justice collaborated with some local agencies, such as Youth & Family Counseling Services, Counseling Connections for Change, and Adapt to provide counseling services. There are many more opportunities for collaboration that are not being fulfilled that would better serve the county if given the means to carry out such collaboration. Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Department utilizes counseling/mental health services for the individuals rehabilitation process as well. Local schools utilize some agencies, as does Child Protective services. The county has an abundant need for mental health services, lacks and adequate system of collaboration of information and resources between services within the county for mental health supports. This limits a county with such heavily pressured resources. When providers do not collaborate or sharedata and supports, it causes a gap in support for the consumer. This results in lack of services being provided to those in need and over abuse by those misusing the resources. Brazoria County Juvenile Justice received 656 unduplicated juvenile referrals and 904 referrals for supervision during 2017. Of those 904 children, only 300 received mental health services. 182children were referred due to violent crimes, 100 for substance abuse, 125 for bullying behaviors (threats of some sort to another or entity), and 114 made terroristic threats. Youth &Family Counseling Services provided services to 909 unique target clients, not inclusive of their family

members in 2017. There are over 362,547 residents in Brazoria County and, according to National Alliance on Mental Health, one in five adults and children will experience a mental health illness in a given year. 72,509 residents, according to this ratio, within Brazoria County will be in need of mental health assistance at a given time within a year. The county is currently in a deficit as a service area and there is a lack of effective and consistent communication amongst all partners. When a client is not eligible for one program/service, there may be existing resources elsewhere that providers are not aware of. United Way of Brazoria County works to maintain interagency meetings and the various chambers of commerce to keep everyone apprised of local resources, but an updated, adequate resource manual, system database, and routine meetings would assist in managing the needs, the adequacies and inadequacies within the county. There are fewer than 15 county resources for mental health, and the lack of resources combined with the lack of collaboration leaves some programs over used and others under, resulting in underserved communities.)

Mental Health Priority #5

Priority #5	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of Certified Mental Health Deputies/Officers	<p>In 2019: (Brazoria County is the 14th largest county by population and 28th by land area. 6 Brazoria County mental health deputies 25% of the fatal police shootings in the nation were mentally ill civilians</p> <p>1 in 5 adults suffer mental illness at least once per year 1.2 million people in jails have mental illness nationally</p> <p>Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department reported: 95 substance abuse referrals 95 juveniles referred for bullying offenses related to threatening offenses 167 juveniles sought mental health services 4 successful suicides in Northern Brazoria County of persons under 18</p> <p>Youth & Family Counseling Services reported: Serving 767 unduplicated target clients There were 1,927 individual services provided to the target clients and their families, not including crisis intervention calls and suicide intervention calls.)</p>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>(Brazoria has recently increased the number of deputies, but we are severely lacking in mental health supports for the calls for residents that are pertaining to mental health. Nearby counties have mental health crisis intervention teams that are dispatched to de-escalate and provide support services to those that are suffering from mental health deficiencies and/or suffering with substance abuse concerns versus punitive legal action being implemented. The successes of other agencies implementation of crisis intervention teams and collaborations with local mental health providers to support suicide intervention calls, mental health de-escalations, and substance abuse issues. The lack of facilities that the county is dealing with impacts the manner in which the deputies can respond. Without hospitals, providers, and detoxification supports locally based, the deputies are forced to transport outside of the county, leaving unaddressed calls for hours. The department has a need to have additional training around mental health for all officers as well as collaborations with mental health providers to support the community. This will assist the current deputies in not needing to be dispatched out as frequently if the responding officers are equipped to identify, recognize, and appropriately respond to mental health calls. Law enforcement officers are often the first call made for supports with mental health issues and they are in need of education and supports with the mental health community to support those that are in need of health. In 2015, NAMI identified that Brazoria County's northern neighbor, Houston, and nearby San Antonio lead in implementing the 1988 legislation for Crisis Intervention Teams and have dove into the education to decrease the 25% of the fatal police shootings in the nation, who were mentally ill civilians, showing the need to support the safety of the police and those within the community. These calls endanger the community, civilians, and the officers, but this risk can be decreased through training and education. Suicide intervention calls have increased and mental health complainants are becoming younger. The mental health deputies are often being called to school campuses to support the staff/administration with students under 18 with mental health de-escalation and crisis. When factoring in the entire population in need of supports, there is a dire need for more funded positions and collaborations to help the mental health crisis within Brazoria County.)</p>	

Victim Issues

Victim Issues Priority #1

Priority #1	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>There is a need for a pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner to provide acute sexual exams for child victims.</p> <p>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 2019 – October 2021 Non-Acute Medical Exams provided on site at Brazoria County Alliance for Children: 259 Acute Medical Exams (SANE) 27 exams provided at an area children’s hospital.</p> <p>There are 23 law enforcement agencies in Brazoria County who must 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 an outcry to a forensic interviewer and/or child abuse investigator are referred to a non-acute sexual assault exam performed by a Texas Children’s Hospital child abuse specialist on-site at Brazoria County Alliance for Children. Additionally, a child may be referred for an exam if there is reason to believe that abuse may have occurred but no outcry has been made 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 disclosure of abuse to a forensic interviewer and/or child abuse investigator are referred to the on-site or contract therapist following the interview to lessen the trauma experienced after a child’s outcry. Since the opening of Brazoria County Alliance for Children’s medical component in August 2005, the center has contracted with the Texas Children’s Hospital to conduct non-acute sexual abuse exams and 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 SANE Nurse is available 2 days a month and is supervised by a medical director who oversees clinical services.</p>	

Victim Issues Priority #2

Priority #2	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
A growing population means a greater need for assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.	<p><u>2019-2020 monthly averages of Family / Rape Crisis Center (Women’s Center of Brazoria County)</u></p> <p>Shelter residents: 17 Domestic violence non-residential clients served: 25 Sexual assault victims served: 5</p> <p>Supervised Visitation families served: 10 Crisis Hotline Calls: 225</p> <p>During the 2020-2021 school year, Communities In Schools Crisis Program provided services to 214 victims. These victimizations ranged from bullying, child physical abuse or neglect, children sexual abuse/assault, domestic violence, teen dating victims, multiple victimizations, etc.</p>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>The Women’s Center operates two 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 can reach out to the growing Hispanic population in the county. During 2019-2020, 14% of the victims we served were Hispanic; 20% were African American; 64% were Caucasian; 1% were Asian; and 1% Native American. To address law enforcement/judicial concerns of victims, the Women’s Center facilitates, and the Executive Director of the agency is the presiding officer of the Sexual Assault Response Team as of 2021 due to legislative changes. The county currently has adult sexual assault nurse examiners provided by Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners who have conducted 88 adult forensic exams within the county over the last 10 months 2021. 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. The agency also works closely with CPS and assists the Sheriff’s Office by providing assessments when a civil stand-by is requested. Experts agree sexual assault and domestic violence are the nation’s two 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</p>	

violence that otherwise passes from one generation to another. The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program began operations in February 2017 with the assistance of grant funding through VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program was established to promote victim safety, increase justice-involved individual(s) 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, the Community Supervision and Corrections Department and the Courts, working together to break the cycle of violence. This partnership provides the opportunity for the Court to hold individuals accountable for their violent and 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; Batter's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) treatment providers, victim services, law enforcement, and mental health professionals. BIPP, support groups, other cognitive behavioral programs and enhanced accountability are essential aspects of the program. The program is set up to provide long-term services to victims who choose to participate. The program has provided direct services to at least 106 victims from September 2019 to August 2020. The program has provided direct services to at least 136 victims of domestic violence from September 2020 through August 2021. Direct services include a free, - eight weeks interactive support group, individual meetings and mentoring, assistance in applying for Crime Victims Compensation and other public benefits, criminal case status notifications, referrals to outside victim services, law enforcement interview and court accompaniment, crisis intervention and safety planning, assistance with Victim Impact Statements, and resume creation/job search assistance. Justice-involved individuals are ordered to participate in the program for a minimum of 10 months, and a maximum of 18 months. These individuals are under intensive supervision, which includes reporting to their case manager twice per month, appearing for Domestic Violence Court compliance hearings twice per month, attending BIPP weekly for 36 or 52 weeks, completing substance abuse and psychological evaluations, and being placed in a curfew check program. If a no contact order is in place, the individual's compliance is monitored intensely, and a GPS device may be ordered. Violations result in swift sanctions by the Domestic Violence Court Judge and continued serious violations may result in court action. The Domestic Violence Court program consistently checks in with victims whose abusers are involved in the program to ensure compliance with no contact orders or to ensure violence is not occurring in the home.

Victim Issues Priority #3

Priority #3	
Issue Identified	Data
Insufficient services for crime victims and lack of full-time victim programs at many of the law enforcement agencies.	<p>Total number of law enforcement agencies: 29. Number of law enforcement agencies that have full-time victim programs: 4 – Alvin P.D., Pearland P.D., Angleton P.D and Brazoria County Sheriff’s Department who is also the Coordinator who manages Brazoria County Crime Stoppers Program full time. The Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Department has a part-time Victim Services Coordinator.</p> <p>Number of total victims provided service by the DA’s Office Victim Program for grant years</p> <p>2020: 4493 of these 1750 were provided services however, due to COVID-19, 2,743 services increase. 2019: 1750 of these 1750 were provided services 2018: 1073 of these 1084 were provided services 2017: 1605 of these 1522 were provided services by VOCA grants funds.- (updated information)</p> <p>Number of victims served by Brazoria County Community Supervision & Corrections Department’s Victim Services Program in the following grant years:</p> <p>2017: 750 2018: 685 2020: 141 2021: 154</p> <p>Number of victims who received services from Pearland Police Department’s Victim Assistance Program:</p> <p>January to September 2018 Annual stats: 1083 January to September 2019 Annual stats: 713 January to December 2020 Annual stats: 753</p> <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> <p>Number of victims who received services from Angleton Police Department Victim Assistance Program:</p> <p>October to December 2019 :73</p>

	<p>January to December 2020: 400</p> <p>Number of victims who received services from Brazoria County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Program:</p> <p>January to December 2020: 805</p>
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Potential Response to an Issue

Many family violence cases still face legal issues in regard to custody and divorce. Due to lack of financial and legal assistance, most of these cases fail to proceed, and most victims return to their abusive environment. Even though now there is some assistance in filing, the paperwork 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 is 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 since most law enforcement agencies are unable to have a full-time victim assistance program to meet their needs. In Brazoria County, we have four law enforcement agencies with full time positions of liaisons throughout the county (Alvin Police, Angleton 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 29 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 violent crime victims whose offenders have been placed on community supervision. Community supervision can range from one to ten years. This is one of two programs in Brazoria County that assist victims of probated offenders, allowing the victim to be empowered by playing an active role in the offender's supervision. This Program also provides direct services to victims such as: notification of offenders' status, court hearings, amendments, personal advocacy, court accompaniment and referrals to needed services. This program supports the Victim Services Coordinator in fostering close communication and coordination with the community supervision department and other county and community-based agencies to assure a seamless continuum of services to crime victims. The BC CSCD Victim Services Program also facilitates restitution, which is collected and disbursed to victims.

Victim Issues Priority #4

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 November 1, 2017 – October 31, 2021 by the Brazoria County Alliance: 32 child victims and 7 adults. 1,555 total hours: 1,402 individual therapy hours; 90 family therapy hours; and 31 crisis therapy hours. 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 and Family Counseling Services provided 555 hours of counseling to the victims of crime mention above.</p> <p>During the 2020-2021 school year, Communities In Schools Crisis Program provided services to 214 victims. These victimizations ranged from bullying, child physical abuse or neglect, children sexual abuse/assault, domestic violence, teen dating victims, multiple victimizations, etc. Communities In Schools also provided 677 sessions of individual counseling (provided at no-cost to the families through the various grants)</p>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<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 because 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. 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.</p>	

Victim Issues Priority #5

Priority #5	
<i>Problem 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) take 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.</p> <p>YFCS is honored to serve the victims of crime in Brazoria County.</p> <p>During the 2020-2021 school year, Communities In Schools Crisis Program provided services to 214 victims. These victimizations ranged from bullying, child physical abuse or neglect, children sexual abuse/assault, domestic violence, teen dating victims, multiple victimizations, etc. Communities In Schools also provided 677 sessions of individual counseling (provided at no-cost to the families through various grants).</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</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 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 because 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 a forensic interviewer and/or child abuse investigator are referred to an on-site or contract 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 requires that BCAC made referrals to contract or community 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 on-site and contract therapists 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 must 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 on-site and</p>	

contract therapists are trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, an evidence based therapy tool utilized assist children recover from the trauma of child abuse. Due to the size of Brazoria County, BCAC anticipates the need to increase the number of 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.

Victim Issues Priority #6

Priority #6	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Insufficient low-cost legal services for victims of domestic violence and related violent crimes.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</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. 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 to be productive citizens, nor do they, because resources named are so limited, meet the demand.</p>	

Victim Issues Priority #7

Priority #7	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Insufficient bilingual services for crime victims.	Number of agencies with bilingual crime victim service providers: 5 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, Angleton PD Crime Victim Program, The Women's Center, the DA's office. Community Supervision and Corrections Department has a part-time bilingual Victim Services Coordinator
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
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	

Victim Issues Priority #8

Priority #8	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>

<p>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.</p> <p>There is also a need for the provision of bilingual services for these clients.</p>	<p>Since the opening of Brazoria County Alliance for Children (BCAC) in March 2004 through October 2021 the organization has served over 5,975 child 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 can 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 program. Referrals and continued support are essential to families 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 because 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 a Brazoria County Alliance for Children forensic interviewer and/or child abuse investigator are referred to an on-site or contract 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. Total number of victims served during November 1, 2017 – October 31, 2021: 32 child victims and 7 adults. 1555 total hours: 1402 individual therapy hours; 90 family therapy hours; and 31 crisis therapy hours. The growing demand for these services requires that Brazoria County Alliance for Children made referrals to contract or community 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 on-site and contract therapists 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 must 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 on-site and contract therapists are trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, an evidence-based therapy tool utilized to assist children recover from the trauma of child abuse.

Due to the size of Brazoria County, BCAC anticipates the need to increase the number of 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.

Victim Issues Priority #9

Priority #9	
Issue Identified	Data
High volume court system: District Courts Cases fluctuate at any given time between 2300 - 25000	Number of District Court cases September 1 to August 31 2018: 2,411 2017: 2,306 2016: 2,393 2015: 2,118 2014: 2,358 Number of County Court at Law cases September 1 to August 31 2016: 4,689 2015: 4,537 2014: 5,128
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>The District Attorney's Office Crime Victim Program has three full-time liaisons to assist victims with criminal justice issues. From 10/1/19 through 9/30/21 service was provided to 10,156 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 proximity to Harris County is 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 individuals with substance use issues within the Brazoria County Court System. The Brazoria County Recovery (DWI) Court Program was established in 2014 and continues to grow and serve individuals with alcohol and/or DWI-related offenses. The Brazoria County Veterans Court Program began as a pilot program in Spring 2016 and continues to serve justice-involved veterans in our community. These specialty court programs provide a judicially supervised regime of treatment and innovative case management to individuals with substance use issues with the goal of returning</p>	

recovered, law-abiding citizens to our communities. The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program was established in February 2017 to promote victim safety, increase the accountability for justice-involved individuals, 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 CSCD, and the Court working together to break the cycle of violence. This partnership provides an opportunity for the Court to hold individuals accountable for their violent and/or controlling behaviors while providing early intervention to victims and individuals. The Brazoria County Domestic Violence Court Program provides individuals with an opportunity to change abusive behaviors and refrain from domestic violence in their current or future relationships. The goal of a future free from violence can be accomplished through holding offenders accountable while assisting them with accepting responsibility for abusive behaviors. Through recognizing unacceptable and violent behaviors, participants can learn to acquire new pro-social 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.

Victim Issues Priority #10

Priority #10					
Issue Identified	Data				
<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>	<p>2016-2018 Child Death Investigations in Brazoria County:</p> <p><u>Abuse/Neglect</u></p> <p>2016: 2 2017: 3 2018: 4</p> <p><u>Non-Abuse Neglect</u></p> <p>2016: 4 2017: 7 2018: 6</p> <p>Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Office of Child Safety 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 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>3</td> </tr> </table>	2009	30	2010	3
2009	30				
2010	3				
<p><i>Potential Response to an Issue</i></p>					
<p>A Brazoria County CFRT meeting was held in FY 2017 and facilitated by staff from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an understanding of the causes and incidence of child deaths in the county. • Recommending changes to agencies through an agency representative member, 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. • Helping assistance for direction, and coordination to investigation of child deaths. • Promoting cooperation, communication and coordination among agencies involved in responding to child fatalities. <p>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.</p>					

Victim Issues Priority #11

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>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>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 help 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</p>	

Victim Issues Priority #12

Priority #12	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
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.
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>Connect Transit does not provide service in the evening, on weekends, or on established holidays. It is not unusual for riders to wait 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

Victim Issues Priority #13

Priority #13	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
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 Danbury, Texas.
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>For over ten years, Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach had been the only existing volunteer support group that is located in Danbury, 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.</p> <p>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 asit 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 number 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 allof the crime victim 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</p>	

during that week.

Law Enforcement Issues

Law Enforcement Issues Priority #1

Priority #1	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Interoperability and Communications (Addition of a Radio Tower in the North end of the county)	<p>The continued need for an additional radio tower on the north end of the county is our highest First Responder Priority. The lack of a radio tower in the north end of the county has resulted in severe and numerous communication dead zones in the most densely populated region of the county. The growth in the 288 and Highway 6 corridor has exploded in recent years and the lack of a communications tower has put First Responders and citizens at a significant disadvantage in this area. Brazoria County has extreme deficiencies in emergency portable radio signal in many of the County's most populated areas of the County. Brazoria County is 1,609 square miles and neighbors Harris County, Galveston County, Fort Bend County and Matagorda County. With a population near 375,000, Brazoria County's most populated areas are in the Northern areas around the Alvin, Manvel, Iowa Colony, Rosharon and Pearland. The County's expected growth is estimated to reach near 417,000 by 2024 with much of the expected growth happening in these northern areas of Brazoria County. It is in these areas that first responders, such as Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, Independent School District Police Departments and Emergency Medical Services experience poor to no portable radio signals on a daily basis. Brazoria County is a system owner and a system partner with Harris County Radio Services. Brazoria County's current infrastructure includes three tower sites in Freeport, Brazoria and Angleton. Many of the northern areas of Brazoria County (roughly 445 square miles) are depending on the Angleton tower site for communications which is resulting in many "dead spots" and poor signal areas caused by distance to tower sites along with structure and environmental interferences. County wide we will also be experiencing an end of life issue for our handheld (Portable) and mobile (Vehicle mounted) radios in 2023 and 2025 respectively. A scalable plan to order radios over the next two or three years is a priority.</p>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>Adding an additional tower site at the Manvel Precinct location (Brazoria County owned property) will strengthen Brazoria County's radio infrastructure and significantly decreased the signal gap we currently experience. The addition will allow first responders and emergency personnel to communicate reliably during their daily duties and during emergency situations. The purchase of handheld and mobile radios over the next two-year period to ensure no gaps in serviceable and operable equipment.</p>	

Law Enforcement Issues Priority #2

Priority #2	
Issue Identified	Data
<p>building of a Regional Intelligence Fusion Center and associated equipment and personnel</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 allof 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 beeffective; a program that costs \$15,000 per certification and \$3,000 per annual re-certification. Law enforcement 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 iscontracted through the (CAC). The examination room at theCAC 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>
<p><i>Potential Response to an Issue</i></p>	
<p>The building of a County wide multi-jurisdictional real time Fusion or Crime analysis center. This would increase Officer safety by allowing real time research and information to be directly relayed to responding law enforcement personnel. In addition to adding to Officer safety the fusion center would greatly increase County wide crime solvability and enhance communication among law enforcement agencies to help solve criminal activity. The addition of a centralized regional Fusion center would also aid in streamlining the storage and processing of large amounts of digital data. Exploration of adding a small footprint onto an existing project that is not started or completed to help offset construction and implementation of the facility</p>	

Law Enforcement Issues Priority #3

Priority #3	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
The building of a Brazoria County Regional Training Center	In the past year, law enforcement and the citizens we are sworn to serve and protect have grown increasingly apart in views and tolerances of one another. While this is more evident in some regions than others, what has become apparent throughout the Country is a need for continued and sustained quality law enforcement training and instruction. Typically, in the past, this is done at each individual agency and is that agencies responsibility to conduct their own training and instruction. While this can still be done to a certain extent, the building of a Regional Training Facility that could encompass all aspects of law enforcement training, from classroom instruction, firearms and tactics, simulator or scenario-based training dealing with mental health patients, de-escalation, driving and any other aspects of continuing education for law enforcement. With over 26 law enforcement partners in the County, it would be a huge asset to utilize subject matter experts and instructors from all different agencies within the county to teach the most up to date and best practices. This type of collaborative effort by agencies throughout the county would increase the level and quality of training, without creating additional expenses for travel outside of the county to find the best instruction and resources available.
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
Many agencies within the County do not have the resources to send personnel to outside training, that in many instances, is necessary for compliance with State mandates or laws. The funding of a building to encompass this training facility would help give the county law enforcement partners a nuclear location to send personnel to receive vital and necessary training and give Brazoria County a premier law enforcement training center. The addition of certain equipment and facilities to remain current with changing trends in law enforcement	

Law Enforcement Issues Priority #4

Priority #4	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Cost of Digital Data and Communication/Video retention hardware and software</p>	<p>The continued use and advancement in video technology used by law enforcement and by the civilian population is continuing to place a strain on the data storage and retention solutions. 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, 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. These further taxes storage systems, and creates the need for large depositories for long term data retention. The purchasing of analytical software has also become necessary to help in investigating and prosecuting the most basic of criminal cases. The expectation of the public is growing increasingly more technologically advanced every year and they expect the law enforcement agencies to be on the forefront of this technology.</p>
<p><i>Potential Response to an Issue</i></p>	
<p>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</p>	

Law Enforcement Issues Priority #5

Priority #5	
Issue Identified	Data
Need to upgrade training and equipment for emergency responders, especially in the areas of specialized rescue operations/natural disasters and other mass casualty events.	In the years since Hurricane Harvey the focus of additional resources and trained rescue personnel has improved overall, but the vast majority of improvements have been with Fire Departments and their personnel. Hurricane Harvey provided insight to the fact that everyone needed improved training and also equipment. Brazoria County not only has a large border with the Gulf of Mexico it is home to numerous rivers, waterways, streams and bayous. Many of these waterways are located in rural areas and pose logistical challenges to getting rescue personnel and equipment into these areas due to being in swampy, low lying areas with little or no roadway access. During these storm events, numerous rescues were conducted by Law Enforcement personnel throughout the county, but the lack of equipment and training greatly reduced the ability of law enforcement first responders to assist in these rescues. Additionally, the county only has one mobile command vehicle, which is owned and operated by the City of Pearland. While Pearland helps during major events and disasters, it has needs within its city boundaries during these major events that it must utilize the resources to assist with efforts inside the City of Pearland. An additional mobile command vehicle within the county is desperately needed to serve the central and southern half of the county during these events. Also identified, is the lack of proper storage facilities for existing and new equipment that is potentially grant funded.
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
The purchase of smaller more maneuverable boats, dive equipment, wet suits/dry suits and the training of personnel to properly operate and sustain rescue operations. The purchase of a mobile command vehicle to assist the central and southern portions of the county during man made or natural disasters, mass casualty events or law enforcement related events. Additionally, the construction of a secure storage facility that can house various types of rescue or first responder vehicles where they can be maintained and kept out of the harsh south Texas weather.	

Law Enforcement Issues Priority #6

Priority #6	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of facilities, treatment options, and trained officers to serve the needs of mental health consumers.	<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, 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>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>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".</p> <p>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.</p>	

Law Enforcement Issues Priority #7

Priority #7	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Expansion/Construction of County Animal Control Facility	The current Animal Control Facility is severely in needed of repairs and expansion. The current facility is severely undersized and inadequate for the number of animals that are brought into the facility on a monthly basis. The county currently brings in well over one hundred animals a month that need to be placed into the facility and current conditions are not adequate to accommodate even half of the animals. Options are being explored to make renovations to the existing structure and possibly purchase an existing kennel in the area. Even if these options are completed, significant cost will be associated with both options.
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
The purchasing of new equipment to help offset the cost of renovations or purchasing of existing kennels. The possible construction of a new Animal Control Facility on County owned land.	

Law Enforcement Issues Priority #8

Priority #8	
<i>Issue Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need additional traffic enforcement units and crash investigation capabilities.	<p>Since Brazoria County’s northern population has grown exponentially and increased border security has become a 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<i>Potential Response to an Issue</i>	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

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 Resources:

<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 Resources:

<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	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

Angleton Police Department
 Comprehensive Crime
 Victim
 Assistance Program
 Guadiana, Velma
 979.848.5658
 vguadiana@angletonpd.net

Providing information to victims regarding
 the investigation of their case and assistance
 with Crime Victim compensation

Brazoria County Sheriff
 Office Comprehensive
 Crime Victim Assistance
 Program
 Gonzalez, Laura
 lauram@brazoria-county.com
 979-864-2343

Providing information to victims regarding
 the investigation of their case and assistance
 with Crime Victim compensation

Brazoria County Crime
 Stoppers 800.460.2222 or
 land line 979.864.2279

Law Enforcement / Civilian
 Board

Provides monetary incentives to witnesses to
 come forth with information to solve crimes
 and stay 100% anonymous.

Brazoria County District
 Attorney’s Office Crime
 Victim
 Assistance Program
 Joshua Collins
 joshuac@brazoria-county.com
 281.331.6100

Prosecution

Provides information, referrals, assistance
 with Crimes Victim Compensation, court
 notification, court accompaniment

Victim Services Resources:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
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 Adult Supervision
 Supervision Crime Victim
 Assistance Program
 Leticia Rodriguez
 leticiaro@brazoria- county.com

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

Non-Profit Resources

<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 Kristi Belluomini kbelluomini@cac-bc.org	Multidisciplinary team approach to child abuse Investigations	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

Schools Resources:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
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 Denise Babb, Director of Federal Programs dbabb@alvinisd.net	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.
Angleton ISD (979) 864-8029 Bonnie Brothers, Human Resources bbrothers@angletonisd.net	Independent School District	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 Contact Resources:

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

Steve Rosa
stevenrosa@brazoria-
county.com

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

Brazoria County
(979) 864-1200

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

Lacey Powell,
Chief Administrator
laceyp@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
Fax: (979) 864-1076
hortenciam@brazoria-
county.com

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. Our County Judge is often thought of as an executive official in county government, offering advice and guidance on county issues. A County Judge's duties entail a rich mixture of both administrative and judicial duties.

Juvenile Justice

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 and Corrections Department (979) 864-1406 Cara Drenner (Assistant Director) carad@brazoria-county.com	Adult Supervision	The Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Department provides community supervision officers and support staff to operate the department programs. Provides supervision of justice-involved individuals 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

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This Plan is available on-line at www.brazoriacountytx.gov Under Government / County Judge / Community Plan