

Brazoria County Criminal Justice Community Plan 2014-2015



December 2015

Brazoria County Criminal Justice Community Plan

What Is a Community Plan?

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

The document that is represented here reflects the efforts of many in Brazoria County that are concerned with assuring that any gaps in services are closed, thus making our communities safer places in which to live and work. It is with grateful acknowledgement that the names of those involved in the process of developing this Plan are listed in the section entitled Community Planning Team.

Though the final draft of this Plan was completed in December of 2013, this is a work in progress. New criminal justice goals are identified, the Planning Group changes as a result of individual and agency circumstances, and requirements concerning the makeup of the Plan are subject to change from year to year. Thus, Brazoria County is interested in keeping up with these changes, and including them in updates that will be posted from time to time.

If you are reading this Plan and have not been involved in its development, you are invited to join in this ongoing effort. Any questions you may have can be addressed to either Becky Bosco, Community Plan Coordinator for Brazoria County, or to a Criminal Justice Program staff member of the (COG). Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

The Brazoria County Commissioners' Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the Brazoria County Criminal Justice 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.	23
Angleton I.S.D.	10
Brazosport I.S.D.	19
Columbia-Brazoria I.S.D.	5
Damon I.S.D. (Pre-K – 8th Grade)	1
Danbury I.S.D.	3
Pearland I.S.D.	23
Sweeny I.S.D.	3

Colleges & Universities

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

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

<u>Angleton Christian School</u>	Angleton
<u>Brazosport Christian School</u>	Lake Jackson
<u>Columbia Christian School</u>	West Columbia
<u>Dayspring Christian Academy</u>	Lake Jackson
<u>Eagle Heights Christian Academy</u>	Pearland
<u>Lighthouse Christian Academy</u>	West Columbia
<u>Living Stones Christian School</u>	Alvin
<u>Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School</u>	Richwood

Brief Description and History of Brazoria County

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

Description: Brazoria County, 1,597 square miles in size, is situated on the Texas Gulf Coast and immediately to the south of Harris County and the city of Houston. The county has a 2010 Census population of 313,166, a 2012 population estimate of 324,769 and a 2018 population projection of 356,116. The county is home to a mixture of both rural and urban communities. It is bordered by Harris, Ft. Bend, Matagorda and Galveston counties and the Gulf of Mexico.

The northern part of the county has experienced phenomenal population growth during the last few years. The city of Pearland experienced a 60% increase in population from 2004 (56,690) to the 2010 Census (90,934). The 2013 population estimate for Pearland is 97,024 and the 2018 population projection is 114,198, so strong population growth will continue for the foreseeable future. Expected growth in Alvin and Manvel will only further add to the large population growth in the northern part of the county.

The construction of numerous petrochemical plants that represent several billion dollars of new capital investment will create a major industrial construction boom in the southern part of the county. The construction of the plants will create the need for about 10,000 construction workers. The construction of the various new plants will be ongoing until about 2020.

Economic Development – 2013:

Alvin

Airgas is constructing a \$9.9 million carbon dioxide processing facility. The new facility, located near Denbury Resources' carbon dioxide pipeline terminal and in the Alvin extraterritorial jurisdiction, is expected to be completed in early 2014. The new Airgas facility will process carbon dioxide from the Denbury Resources' pipeline into food grade carbon dioxide. The new facility will create 14 new direct jobs.

CenterPoint Energy is building a new service center that will consolidate the operations of two CenterPoint offices in Alvin into the new service center.

AMS Manufacturing is constructing a 20,000 square foot expansion of its manufacturing facility.

Southwest Refractor is expanding its facility on State Highway 35 Business North.

Frank's International, a global oil services company, is building a 17,000 square foot office building and a 37,000 square foot manufacturing facility.

Team Industrial Services, founded in Alvin and currently the largest specialized industrial services company in North America, is currently constructing a 47,850 square foot building adjacent to its existing facility. The construction of the new building and remodeling of existing buildings represent a \$14.4 million new capital investment. Each year Team brings hundreds of its employees to Alvin for training and the new and remodeled facilities will allow Team to better accommodate the company's growth and its employee training.

Construction on Phase 1 of University General Hospital Alvin should begin in 2014. Phase 1 will include the construction of a 10-bed hospital, a 10-bay emergency room and a diagnostic imaging center. The new hospital will be located on State Highway 35 across from the Kendall Lakes subdivision.

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.

Freeport LNG, located in Quintana, announced in 2012 plans to invest at least \$4.8 billion to construct a natural gas liquefaction facility so that it can export liquefied natural gas (LNG). In 2013 Freeport LNG became only the second company in the U.S. to gain approval from the U. S. Department of Energy to export LNG to countries that don't have a free trade agreement. The final federal permit that Freeport LNG needs before it can start construction on the LNG export facility is a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) permit. The FERC permit is expected to be issued by the end of the first quarter of 2014.

The new liquefaction facility will create 163 new direct jobs and about 3,000 construction jobs at the peak of construction. Construction on the new facility, which will be phased for each of the three planned production trains, is expected to begin in late summer 2014 with the construction of the first train and be completed in 2020 with the completion of the third train. Freeport LNG has signed 20-year liquefaction tolling agreements with Osaka Gas, Chubu Electric Power Company, Toshiba Corporation, SK E&S LNG, LLC and BP Energy Company for the liquefied natural gas production from all three of the planned trains.

In late 2013 the Dow Chemical Company in Freeport, the largest chemical complex in North America, was wrapping up the construction of its new \$850 million chlor-alkali plant. The new plant, which will create 50 new direct jobs, is a joint venture between Dow and Mitsui.

Dow began construction on its new propane dehydrogenation (PDH) unit and ethylene cracker both of which are located in Oyster Creek. The new PDH unit represents a \$1 billion capital investment and 80 new direct jobs. Construction is expected to be completed in 2015. The new ethylene cracker represents a \$1.7 billion capital investment and 100 new direct jobs. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2017. At the peak of construction the PDH unit and ethylene cracker could create as many as 3,000 construction jobs.

Dow AgroSciences began construction on a \$150 million dichlorophenol plant. The new plant will create 10 new direct jobs. Construction is expected to be completed by the middle of 2014.

Dow announced that it will build new polyolefins and elastomers plants in Freeport. Construction on the new plants is expected to start in 2014 and be completed in 2017. The two new plants represent an \$846 million new capital investment and the creation of over 50 new direct jobs.

BASF Corporation began construction on an \$89 million emulsion polymers plant that will create 25 new direct jobs. Construction is expected to be completed by the middle of 2014.

With the number of large-scale petrochemical projects either planned or under construction in Brazoria County, developers have begun to consider new housing developments for the new direct and indirect employees and also the need for either more RV parks or other housing options for the construction workers. It is estimated that the petrochemical projects announced since 2012 for Brazoria County represent almost 10,000 construction jobs. The future need for additional housing is also exacerbated by the Tenaris pipe manufacturing facility that is under construction in Matagorda County near Bay City. When completed the facility will have 600 employees many of which will live in Brazoria County because of a lack of housing in Matagorda County.

The numerous petrochemical projects has also created the need for Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas Gulf Coast to build a 50,000 square foot \$11 million office and training complex in Freeport. The new facility will be located on land adjacent to the current ABC offices and will be large enough to accommodate the future training needs that will be created by the construction of the numerous petrochemical plants.

HEB is quickly moving forward with plans to build an 82,000 square foot store in downtown Lake Jackson. Other retail stores will also be located with HEB on the 38 acre site that is referred to as the old government part of downtown Lake Jackson.

Iowa Colony

Performance Contractors started construction on its new 40,000 square foot pipe fabrication facility on SH 288. The new facility, which will create the need for 45 new Performance Contractors employees, will be completed in 2014.

Pearland

Ref-Chem, a heavy industrial construction and engineering company, completed construction on its new 39,000 square foot office building in Pearland which is located on an 11-acre site at Beltway 8 and Tom Bass Parkway. Ref-Chem has approximately 125 employees at its new facility, which includes management personnel, engineers, designers and administrative staff. Ref-Chem employees were consolidated from various Ref-Chem offices in the Houston region into the new facility.

Kelsey-Seybold completed construction on its new 170,000 square foot administration building in Pearland. The new building is located on an 18-acre site at Kirby Drive and Shadow Creek Parkway. There are approximately 800 Kelsey-Seybold employees located in the \$21 million

building. Kelsey-Seybold employees were consolidated from various Kelsey-Seybold offices in the Houston region into the new facility.

At approximately the same time that Kelsey-Seybold was completing construction on its new administrative building, it was completing construction on its new 55,000 square foot clinic on SH 288 next to Sam's Club. Kelsey-Seybold has consolidated the physicians and staff of its two Pearland clinics into the new clinic which provides space for 27 physicians.

Dover Energy broke ground on its 150,000 square foot manufacturing and operations center. The new facility will be completed in 2014 and will provide office space for approximately 200 employees which will be consolidated to the new facility from various other Dover Energy offices. The new facility is located on a 14-acre site in Pearland's Lower Kirby Urban District.

In early 2014 Merit Medical will complete construction on its new 107,000 square foot manufacturing and office building which is located next to the new Dover Energy building. This new facility will be staffed by the approximately 220 Merit Medical employees that are located in Angleton. Merit Medical's Angleton facility will be closed once the equipment and employees have been relocated to the new building.

Please note that while the new Ref-Chem, Dover Energy and Merit Medical buildings are in the city of Pearland, they are located in the portion of Pearland that is in Harris County.

Memorial Hermann broke ground on its new medical campus which will include a 64-bed hospital and a convenient care center on a 40-acre site on SH 288 near FM 518. The new hospital and care center will open in 2015.

HCA Gulf Coast Division broke ground on its new \$71 million, 30-bed, acute care Pearland Medical Center hospital. The new hospital will be located at Highway 288 and Shadow Creek Parkway and will be completed in late 2014. The 144,000 square foot hospital will employ approximately 288 people.

During the 2013 Texas Legislative session, the Pearland Municipal Management District No. 2 was created that will allow for the aesthetic improvement of the 288 corridor and surrounding commercial area. The MMD No. 2 runs along the 288 corridor between Beltway 8 and County Road 59. MMD No. 2 will help reinforce a positive image of the city and supplement public services by funding infrastructure, beautification, mobility/transportation, security and economic development projects along the corridor.

Port Freeport

Port Freeport, a deep water port with a 400 foot wide and 45 foot deep ship channel, located three miles from the Gulf of Mexico is currently the 16th largest port in the U. S. in terms of foreign tonnage. Port Freeport continues its efforts to deepen and widen its ship channel in anticipation of the opening of the expanded Panama Canal in 2014. A deeper and wider ship channel will allow the Port to accommodate the much larger container ships that in 2014 will be able to make passage through the expanded Panama Canal.

Also to accommodate the expected increase in container ships after the Panama Canal expansion, Port Freeport has completed the construction of its Velasco Terminal. The new terminal has

three berths and 90 acres of land to store, load and process the container shipments. It is estimated that the new Velasco Terminal will generate 3,000 direct jobs and an equal number of indirect jobs.

In 2014 Port Freeport is expected to receive and install two container cranes that were purchased for \$14.1 million in Shanghai, China. The 345-foot tall cranes will be used to load and off-load cargo containers at the new Velasco Terminal.

In May 2013, Port Freeport Chairman Bill Terry signed a long-term agreement between the Port and Tenaris. The lease will allow Tenaris to use a Port Freeport storage yard and dock for shipments of 40-foot billets that the new Tenaris steel pipe manufacturing facility in Matagorda County will process into steel pipe. The pipe fabrication facility is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2016.

Sweeny

Apache Oil Company is planning to build a \$3 million distribution facility in the Sweeny Industrial Park. The new facility will create 10 new direct jobs. The new facility will be comprised of a 6,000 square foot building and tank farm.

Phillips 66 is planning to build a 10,000 square foot \$2 million pipeline maintenance office and warehouse building in the Sweeny Industrial Park. The new facility will create 10 new direct jobs.

Community Planning Team

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

In developing this Community Plan, members of the team were divided into several focus groups for the purpose of narrowing the scope of research and data that are incorporated into the Plan. Some members may serve in multiple capacities/categories.

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Judge Milan Miller Precinct 1, Place 2	979.233.4700
Judge John Vasut Precinct 2, Place 1	979.756.2410
Judge Richard Davis Precinct 2, Place 2	979.864.1402
Judge Mike Merkel Precinct 3, Place 1	281.331.3524
Judge Gordon Starkenburg Precinct 3, Place 2	281.485.1528
Judge Sharon Fox Precinct 4, Place 1	979.798.7777
Judge Sherry Kersh Precinct 4, Place 2	979.345.2671

Victim Services:

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Jolly, Lisa Brazoria County Alliance for Children	ljolly@cac-bc.org 979.849.2500
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Herbst, Carl Precinct 2 Constable Dept	carlh@brazoria-county.com 281.756.2491
Hopkins, Myles Danbury PD	hopkinsdanburypd@yahoo.com 979.922.1551 / 281.650.3946
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In each of the areas on the following pages, problems are identified and data is included that supports both the existence and severity of gaps as they are found in Brazoria County. Below the description and data are a discussion of the problems, the manner in which the problems are being addressed, and strategically how responses to these community problems could be improved.

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

Priority #1	
Lack of Mental Health Care for Juveniles	<p>66,226 total students attending schools in Brazoria County. (Texas Education Agency 2011-2012)</p> <p>27.2% of 324,769 people in Brazoria County’s population are 18 years and under (2012 Quick Facts U.S. Census Bureau).</p> <p>941 unduplicated/unique children were referred to the Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department 188 of these youth, 1 out of every 5, have a serious mental health problem.</p> <p>0 adolescent psychiatric inpatient hospital beds in Brazoria County.</p> <p>3 private practice psychiatrists who accept patients under the age of 18 in Brazoria County (Only 2 accepts Traditional Medicaid).</p> <p>2 victims were provided Extended Forensic Interviews by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>342 victims served (primary and secondary) by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>211 victims of child sexual abuse were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>22 victims of child physical abuse were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>4 victims of child neglect were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>10 children who witnessed a violent crime were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>90 children who were at risk of abuse were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>24 clients received Crisis Counseling at Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>63 clients received on-going therapy at Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>413 counseling hours were provided by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>290 students were seen by Communities in Schools (CIS) for emotional crisis, mental health, crisis intervention or grief services.</p> <p>Youth and Family Counseling Services has served 1,499 families in 2012-2013.</p> <p>67 unique child and adolescents living in Brazoria County received Crisis Services through Gulf Coast (MHMR) in</p>

	<p>2012-2013.</p> <p>335 total different crisis services were provided to the 67 individuals served through the Gulf Coast (MHMR) in 2012-2013.</p> <p>48 total Hotline Calls were received through the Gulf Coast (MHMR) in 2012-2013.</p> <p>54 crisis interventions were provided to youth through the Gulf Coast (MHMR) in 2012-2013.</p> <p>75 crisis interventions were provided to youth through the Gulf Coast (MHMR) in 2012-2013.</p> <p>27 Crisis Tele-med events were provided to youth through the Gulf Coast (MHMR).</p> <p>359 individual counseling/therapy sessions were provided by the Gulf Coast (MHMR).</p> <p>767 skills training services were provided and 40 parent training services through the Gulf Coast (MHMR).</p> <p>After the initial call is made to the Gulf Coast Center (MHMR) there is a 62 day wait time before the intake is scheduled.</p> <p>Nearly half (45%) of those with any mental disorder meet criteria for 2 or more disorders, with severity strongly related to co-morbidity.</p> <p>The State of Texas is the largest provider for mental health services in Brazoria County.</p>
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To close the gaps in access to mental health services for adolescents and youth in the Brazoria County community is a goal for the committee completing the Community Action Plan. There continues to be no adolescent psychiatric beds assigned to the children of Brazoria County. There are only 3 psychiatrists who will treat adolescents in Brazoria County and only two accepts Traditional Medicaid. Harris County Psychiatric Hospital has noted Brazoria County adolescents could be readmitted as the result of a lack of continuity of care.

Children within the county who have been traumatized as a victim, 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 is increasing and there are only two agencies in the county who provide counseling services at no cost. Since the cost involved may place an extra burden on finances, many families don't pursue seeking counseling services and the children are left to struggle with coping with the residual effects of trauma. The earlier traumatized children receive help, the greater chance they have to heal, avoiding future re-victimization and breaking the cycle of victimization. Individuals whose lives have been impacted by trauma are more likely to develop responses such as chronic depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorders, problems with identity, post-traumatic disorder and other symptoms. Children experience feelings of shame, distrust, a sense of powerlessness and feelings of isolation and alienation. Psychological effects of trauma may appear immediately or may take years to surface. Young people who have survived victimization can just as easily learn more positive behaviors when the community provides them with appropriate interventions and

support. Working with children who have been traumatized requires special skills and expertise, including proven best practices in counseling.

Priority #2

**Substance Abuse by
Juveniles (Alcohol & Drugs)**

66,226 total students attending schools in Brazoria County. (Texas Education Agency 2011-2012)
 213 students attending Brazoria County 8 School Districts were charged with having a controlled substance on campus.
 35 students attending Brazoria County 8 School Districts were charged with having an alcohol violation on campus.
 72 students attending Brazoria County 8 School Districts were charged with having a tobacco on campus.
 21 students attending Brazoria County 8 School Districts were charged with having a felony controlled substance violation on campus.
 146 substance abuse referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department were at a Class B misdemeanor or above (9/1/12-8/31/13)
 131 CIS students received targeted services for substance abuse.
 376 Case managed CIS students received services related to Red Ribbon Week.
 342 children participated in the Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) SMART Moves (Skills Mastery and Resistance Programs) that help youth resist the pressure to engage in sexual promiscuity and indulge in alcohol, tobacco, drugs and truancy. This is up from 199 in 2011.
 7 court-ordered juveniles attended the Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) SMART Moves program (Skills Mastery and Resistance Programs) (01/2010-12/2010)

Potential Response to Problem BCJJD is seeing an increase in use of synthetic marijuana, bath salts and mollies (ecstasy). The synthetic marijuana is very difficult to test. The ingredients to make synthetic are ever changing to foil the UA tests. We have to collect the sample within 48 hours of use to get a positive UA. Law enforcement, schools and juvenile probation identify juvenile substance abuse as a significant problem in Brazoria County. Agencies including the Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department, Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County, Communities In Schools and Youth & Family Counseling Services, provide prevention programs to Brazoria County youth. Collectively, these groups are only serving 3% of the total youth in Brazoria County who need these services. Only one program, Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) court-ordered SMART Moves is serving as a substance abuse intervention program. It is no surprise, then, county district administrators claim substance abuse in Brazoria County is reaching

an epidemic level. Furthermore, many of the juveniles referred to existing prevention and intervention programs are involved, either directly or indirectly through family members, with alcohol and substance abuse. Many times this is a motivator for further crimes such as assault or theft. Drugs and alcohol abuse contribute to family dysfunction. Children who return to an unsupervised home are more likely to experiment with drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

Strategies for dealing with juvenile’s substance abuse include providing more prevention programs to Brazoria County youth, providing intervention programs to youth already struggling with substance abuse and offering counseling to parents, caregivers and families of children involved in all these programs. Agencies should investigate partnerships with school districts to most effectively reach the youth population. Partnerships with law enforcement agencies, as well as interagency cooperatives, would likely prove beneficial in reducing juvenile substance abuse.



Priority #3

Families In Crisis (Child Abuse, Homeless Issues, Parent Training, Bilingual Programs)

	<p>941 referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Justice for children in need of supervision.</p> <p>2 victims were provided Extended Forensic Interviews by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>342 victims served (primary and secondary) by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>211 victims of child sexual abuse were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>22 victims of child physical abuse were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>4 victims of child neglect were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>10 children who witnessed a violent crime were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>90 children who were at risk of abuse were provided services by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>24 clients received Crisis Counseling at Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>63 clients received on-going therapy at Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>413 counseling hours were provided by Brazoria County Alliance for Children in 2012</p> <p>4500 direct client contact hours, which translates to about 100 clients each weeks were provided by Counseling</p>
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	<p>Connections</p> <p>62 Homeless students received case managed services through CIS.</p> <p>519 CIS families received services including parenting, ESL, self esteem, and behavior modifications classes/training.</p> <p>147 children were served through Youth and Family Counseling Services CASA Program in Brazoria County alone. The children were moved a total of 537 times in a year, with an average of 4 moves a year and there were 337 schools for these children in the year.</p> <p>Youth and Family Counseling Services served 1,499 families in various capacities in 2012-2013.</p> <p>62% of Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) members are considered “Economically Disadvantaged” which means there is a huge family crisis.</p> <p>41% of Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) members (667 children) are from single parent households.</p>
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The Brazoria County Alliance for Children provides forensic interviews, medical examinations and mental health therapy. Unfortunately, Brazoria County only has one Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) certified to conduct acute exams for the entire county whose population is over 300,000. The caregivers of juveniles in Brazoria County are frequently single-parents, grandparents or extended family members rather than the traditional two-parent family. These untraditional family units struggle with typical family issues that are compounded by single-incomes, lower economic status and fewer hours available for strengthening families. Few programs in Brazoria County offer comprehensive family strengthening programs. Individual programs would be strengthened by collaborations. Increasing family involvement will have a positive impact in areas such as mental health services, where some service packages include wrap-around services, parent skills training and family partner services (parent mentoring). These services require involvement and commitment from the entire family. Services which are provided are at times inadequate for the children of this county. The need for family programming has greatly increased. In 2012 (412) different family member participated in Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) family nights which teaches basic parent training and gives the parents a chance to interact with their children in the Club setting. This is up from only 147 in 2011.

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Priority #4	
Bullying	
	<p>410 CIS youth received services related to bullying/anti-bullying.</p> <p>In 2012 (342) youth ages 6-18 received Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BCGBC) SMART Programs. A</p>

prevention education program that addresses problems such as drugs and alcohol use, premature sexual activity and promotes a “Say No” message to peer pressure. This is up from 199 in 2011.

102 children at the Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) were able to receive anti-bullying programming through a grant which was focused on bullying.

Boys and Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) statistics show that 1 in 5 kids have personally been bullied in the last year.

Texas’ law now mandates any and all school district employees (including bus drivers, food service providers, building maintenance employees, teacher’s assistants, coaches and others) report bullying. School counselors and nurses, who often are keepers of the private concerns of students, are now required to report bullying. They must report it even if the confiding student is pleading, “Please don’t tell anyone.” Guidelines direct that counseling should be made available to the victim, witnesses and the student who engaged in the conduct. “Each school board in Texas is required to adopt local policies that prohibit discipline of students who, after investigation, are found to be a victim of bullying and were acting in self-defense in response to the bullying.” Note: Victims are investigated to check for and to prevent false claims.

Also, parents of the bullied child can now request their child or the bully be placed in another classroom (or, if serious enough: on another campus) if appropriate and possible. In some cases, such as in special education when only one class might be offered, it’s not possible to move students to other classrooms or campuses. In such cases, an ARD committee meets to consider options. Separating students within the classroom with enhanced supervision might be the only available option.

School districts in Brazoria County are taking an active role in the national movement. To name of few: as a district, Angleton ISD takes a stand against bullying in every form. During the month of October, they provided opportunities for staff and students to be reminded of the harmful effects of bullying. Brazosport ISD created a bullying reporting form for parents and students to report incidents of bullying along with a bullying Hotline for parents and/or students to call. Pearland ISD has put some anti-bullying programs in place to teach students to respect their own and others’ differences, whether race, gender, religious beliefs or other distinctions. Major programs used include No Place for Hate for middle/junior high schools and Rachel’s Challenge for high schools. In addition, Pearland ISD campuses offer many other resources to encourage respect and teach students how to identify and respond to bullying:

- Cyber bullying awareness and prevention lessons
- “Project Wisdom” daily announcements
- Empowering Children, Hurdling Obstacles (ECHO) program to increase students’ self-esteem
- Confidential programs to report bullying to school personnel
- Peer mediation
- Lessons about the difference between reporting for safety reasons and tattling
- Recognition/rewards for students with outstanding character throughout the year

Priority #5

Lack of Services for at-risk Children (Including gangs, juvenile delinquency)

941 referrals for children in need of supervision in Brazoria County (9/1/12-8/31/13)
502 Class A & B Misdemeanors
260 juvenile violent crimes occurred between (9/1/12-8/31/13) such as homicide, sexual assault, aggravated assault, assaults, robbery and weapons violations.
2 out of the 8 Justice of the Peace courts have reported that 14 juveniles between the ages 10-14 were filed for a Class C Misdemeanors.
1,211 students were recommended to CIS for behavior issues, 1,260 were assessed and case managed for behavior issues.
34 CIS students received services directly related to delinquent conduct.
311 CIS students were assessed for truancy and attendance issues.
Youth and Family Counseling Services served 1,499 families in various capacities in 2012-2013.
1803 youth ages 6-18 received Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) programming at 14 locations in 2012. This programming includes tutoring, mentoring, character and leadership development, health and life skills, art, sports, and education/career development.
Many youth in Brazoria County without services from the Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) because they are at capacity at many of their locations.

In general, gang-related crimes fall within the jurisdiction of state and local law enforcement. As gangs have spread across the country, and as their threat has become more national in nature, the interest in finding solutions to the problem has increasingly included all levels of government. Gang-related violence is very likely to remain at high levels as gangs expand their criminal operations into suburban and rural communities. As gangs encounter resistance from other local gangs or drug distributors in these communities, an increase in violent incidents such as assaults, drive-by shootings, and homicides can be expected. Neighborhood-based gangs account for the majority of gangs active in the United States; however, national gangs commit more organized criminal activity and continue to expand their networks. Neighborhood-based gangs will continue to

consume the resources of local law enforcement in communities that report high levels of gang-related criminal activity, but migration of national gangs into new areas will pose an increasing threat to such communities. (Source: National Gang Threat Assessment 2009) The Stop Houston Gangs Task Force is made up of street officers, investigators, instructors and support staff, all of whom were dedicated to eliminating or drastically reducing the gang and graffiti problem. It collects and reports information on all types of gangs and does not focus on any individual or gang solely because of ethnic or socioeconomic status. In response to increased gang activity, the Gang Task Force has created a website to keep Houston a safe place to live and work. The website allows residents to report anonymous tips and suspicious criminal gang activities in an effort to thwart the threat. (Source: Website: www.stophoustongangs.org) Houston area streets are active with a growing number of gang members, with police saying there are almost 20,000 in the region, an increase of 29 percent since 2012. (Source: Houston Chronicle, Friday – November 2nd, 2012). *Drug cartels are enlisting gang members to protect and distribute their loads. In Southeast Texas they have seen juveniles enlisted and paid well to be their mule.* The number of identified gangs in Brazoria County is growing dramatically. Many community and law enforcement agencies including Communities In Schools, Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department and Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County provide programs to deter juveniles from engaging in pre-gang activities including generalized delinquency and anti-social behaviors. Several community agencies also offer gang prevention programs but lack of funding has prohibited the expansion of these services to the population at-large. The Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department is offering a gang intervention program to a limited population based on lack of funding. Strategies for reducing the gang problem in Brazoria County include collaborations between law enforcement and community agencies. More should be done to deter juveniles from engaging in pre-gang activities such as truancy, substance abuse, violent behaviors and vandalism. Additionally, more outreach programs for adolescent substance abusers and their families and expanded efforts to successfully reintroduce adolescents to life after incarceration need to be developed. Brazoria County needs to create fun, safe and respected (both by youth and parents) places for youth to go during the times juveniles typically engage in risky behaviors. While some organizations do offer such programs, they are overwhelmingly populated by younger children, not the juveniles who are most-likely to join gangs. Efforts should be made to target this secondary education population. Additional training is needed for law enforcement officers and service providers to address issues relating to juvenile gangs. Collaborations between service providers, law enforcement and schools should be encouraged. Finally, adult volunteers from the community should be recruited to serve as adult mentors to those most likely to join gangs.

Priority #6

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

2,100 CIS-ACE (Afterschool Centers on Education) students received structured after school mentoring services.

1,377 youth were directly case managed by CIS and received structured academic tutoring, youth development, character education, violence prevention, health and wellness or mentoring services.

1,499 families were served in 2012-2013 at Youth and Family Counseling Services. Specifically, there were 109 children served in a new program for the Angleton Independent School District in the first three months on initiation.

3 out of 10 kids locally will not graduate on time. Kids who attend the Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) at least 50 times throughout the year have a 98% chance of advancing to the next grade level.

When kids have unstructured free time and no place to go, crime rates go up. The time when juvenile crime rate is at its worst is between 3-7 p.m. during the school year. Kids need safe, positive places to be such as the Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC).

The Freeport Traditional Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC) could serve approximately 300 children, but due to lack of budget and transportation at the current time they only serve 90 children per day.

800 children per day receive programming, tutoring and academic services from the Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (BGCBC).

There is a high demand for after school programs. Youth today need safe and stimulating places to go to after school.

- Among the 34.3 million families with children, 84.2% had an employed parent in 2011. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- From another perspective, however, it is also clear that a significant majority of children care for themselves or are with a sibling younger than age 13 during their out-of-school hours. Anywhere from 3.6 million to 4.4 million 6- to 12-year-olds with employed mothers care for themselves on a regular basis each week. In addition, findings show that:
 - The use of *self-care* is clearly associated with age; for example, the likelihood that a child will regularly spend any hours in self-care rises steadily with each year of age—from 7 percent of 6-year-olds to 44 percent of 12-year-olds.
 - Though relatively few young school-age children are in self-care, the numbers are not insignificant when considering how young these children are. In particular, 5 percent of 6- to 9-year-old children (approximately 570,000 children) with employed mothers are in self-care as their primary arrangement, and for an average of seven hours a week (the equivalent of about 1.5 hours a day, assuming a 5-workday week). The proportion grows to 10 percent (approximately 1.2 million children) when looking at those children who are reported to spend any regular time in self-care.
 - One in four 10- to 12-year-olds (approximately 2 million children) are reportedly in self-care as their primary arrangement while their mother works. This number

grows to about one in three when looking at the proportion who spend *any* number of hours in self-care on a regular basis. Interestingly, older school-age children who are in self-care are there for the same length of time as younger school-age children. These findings are important for a number of reasons. First, while some of these children may be mature enough to care for themselves, research suggests that children who are left alone are at greater risk of physical injury and psychological and emotional harm. This may be particularly true among certain groups, for example younger children (such as the 5 percent of 6- to 9-year-olds who are primarily in self-care) or children who are more likely to live in unsafe neighborhoods (such as 19 percent of low-income 10- to 12-year-olds who are primarily in self-care).

The self-care findings are also important in light of the growing recognition of the importance of constructive activities in supporting children's development and helping to prevent problem behaviors. Finally, the fact that the self-care estimates are likely to actually *under represent* the incidence of self-care—due to the unwillingness of some parents to acknowledge their use of this kind of care—makes these findings even more striking.

Regardless of the reasons behind these patterns, these findings have important implications. They demonstrate simultaneously that there are many children who are potentially at risk because they are not being supervised and that the proportion of children participating in before- and after-school programs is relatively small, particularly among 10- to 12-year-olds who may be at risk for problem behaviors

It is clear that these issues will continue to be an important focus for parents, policymakers, and professionals in the child care field. The growing awareness of the needs of school-age children during their out-of-school-hours has led to increased public investments in before- and after-school programs, as well as an increased effort to ensure the quality and appropriateness of these activities. It is also clear that a continued focus on the needs of these children is essential—for the development and safety of children and young adolescents, for the peace of mind and stable employment of their parents, and for the well-being of our communities. (Source: Urban Institute Research of Record 2011)

- At least 6 million, and as many as 13 million, "latchkey children" go home to an empty house on any given afternoon. (Center for Family Policy & Research 2011, Children's Defense Fund estimate 2011)
- Children are more likely to be involved in crime, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy in the hours after school, particularly between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. (National Center for Juvenile Justice, 1999)

Priority #7	
Lack of services for juveniles at-risk of teen pregnancy & STD's (Diseases)	
	<p>941 referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department for children in need of supervision.</p> <p>60 students received abstinence education by CIS.</p> <p>14 CIS teen parents received case managed services addressing parenting issues, sex education, social services, and pre-natal or infant care.</p> <p>11 fathers were referred to Youth and Family Counseling Services Teen DADS program.</p>
<p>Lack of juvenile prevention programs due to barriers including proximity to services, lack of adequate service providers/programs and costs. Teen parents are at risk of school drop-out due to lack of affordable infant childcare in Brazoria County. Texas ranks #3 behind only Mississippi and New Mexico respectively in the nation for the number of births to teens. More must be done by elected officials, schools and community agencies to recognize and not ignore the plight of teen pregnancy in Brazoria County. Teen pregnancy is a problem that impacts the lives of both male and female juveniles and their respective families. All groups must be included in prevention programs and intervention/counseling services. Programs addressing the self-esteem of girls must increase in number so the biology of reproduction and psycho-social impact of pregnancy can be addressed before youth become sexually active. Future programs and services for juvenile's at-risk pregnancy should involve schools whenever possible to mitigate transportation issues. Since the cost of programs prohibits some youth from participating in some services, future programs should be offered to juveniles and their families at low to no cost.</p>	

Priority #8	
Lack of transportation services for at-risk juveniles	
	<p>435 youth received no-cost bussing home after the CIS-ACE program, over 20%.</p> <p>147 children were served through Youth and Family Counseling Services CASA Program in Brazoria County alone. The children were moved a total of 537 times in a year, with an average of 4 moves a year and there were 337 schools for these children in the year.</p>

Juveniles are unable to participate in services such as community counseling, secure care, day programming, after-school programs, tutoring, and prevention programs due to barriers including proximity to services (transportation needs), lack of adequate service providers/programs and costs. Brazoria County does not have a mass transit system leaving those who need access to community programs and services without a means of accessing them. Some organizations like Communities In Schools (serving 24 schools sites) and Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County (serving 13 school sites) provide transportation services to their program participants through partnerships with school districts. Youth & Family Counseling Services, working with individual school districts, has provided teen dad's the basic skills required to be a responsible dad. The most promising strategy for addressing the transportation problem includes agency, school and government collaboration allowing for program delivery at multiple sites that are easily accessible to at-risk populations. An increase in public funding for public transportation would also prove beneficial. Finally, providing more dollars for school district transportation departments to access would allow for a greater number of youth to be bussed home from after-school programs and other specialized at-risk initiatives. Connect Transit established the Southern Brazoria County Transit with the cities of Angleton, Lake Jackson, Freeport and Clute in 2010. The city officials budgeted to have a fixed route to transport residents to and from city to city. Since June 2010 there has been 260,424 riders utilizing the Southern Brazoria County Transit. Most bus stops now have benches and shelters have been built for better accessibility for those using the service. Southern Brazoria County Transit has now implemented Saturday service running from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. it is projected that this service will continue running until August 2014.

Priority #9

Lack of transitional services for juveniles

147 children were served through Youth and Family Counseling Services CASA Program in Brazoria County alone. The children were moved a total of 537 times in a year, with an average of 4 moves a year and there were 337 schools for these children in the year.

Youth need more extensive assistance before leaving care. Teaching of basic life skills, financial stability, and mentoring before heading out on their own. Youth who have been in the system have had adults take care of their every day needs and once aged out have no clue where to begin or who to call for help when they run into a crisis.

The majority of youth in care are discharged because they reach the age of discharge or because they are no longer enrolled in a school program. Youth can stay in foster care until they complete high school as long as they will graduate by their 22nd birthday.

The judge is responsible for dismissing from foster care if it is before the age of majority. Once a youth reaches 18 they can choose to stay in care if they are still in high school or they can choice to leave. Once a youth turns 18, the caseworker is the primary decision maker as to dismissing the youth from care. Courts have no checklist. Courts do not discharge a child from foster care. They either return the child home if the home is

stabilizes and is safe or they terminate the parental rights and continue the child in a foster care home or placement until they can be adopted or the child ages out of the system. If the child is not adopted before they are 18, then the case will continue in a review status until the child turns 18 at which time the court case is dismissed although the child can continue in care under certain circumstance. Basic Services are provided by the state if the youth age is between 14-21, with emphasis on youth ages 16-21, that are in out-of-home care are eligible. Youth in out-of-home care on their 18th birthday are eligible for care until the age of 22. Even though the state has initiatives in place for youth aging out there needs to be a stronger emphasis in really securing that the youth have the necessary tools before they leave the facility or foster home. Once aged out and on their own the youth will have a plan/timeline of those necessary items that need to be done as they begin life on their own and are no longer a ward of the state. Initiatives designed to assist foster youth aging out include extended Medicaid until age of 21 (to the age of 23 if they are still in post secondary school). Assists youth to get driver's license. Tuition/fee waivers for foster youth that have aged out of care to attend any state college or university. Youth Leadership Program. FYSB Funded Transitional Living Programs. PAL Programs to help prepare youth for skills needed when aging out of the system.

DFPS policy includes with transition planning support youth's educational goals. Policy speaks to it- provides life skills, training and support focusing on education. Also, tuition fee waivers for young people who age out of care can have tuition fully paid forever, as well as education training voucher program.

Priority #10

Lack of services for children with obesity issues

2,100 CIS-ACE youth participated in nutrition, exercise, health and wellness programs which promoted healthy choices in order to combat obesity. These students also received nutritional snacks daily after school.

The increasing prevalence of overweight and obese children and adults is a serious concern from Texas. Being overweight increases a person's risk of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, and other serious medical conditions that impact quality of life and have substantial economic consequences for the healthcare system. The economic costs of overweight and obesity in Texas during 2001 were an estimated \$10.5 billion. This includes direct healthcare costs, such as medicines and hospital stays, and indirect costs, such as lost productivity and wages due to illness and death. If the trend in increasing prevalence of overweight and obesity persists, the annual costs associated with excess weight in Texas is projected to reach \$15.6 billion by 2010 and could skyrocket to \$39 billion by the year 2040. (Source: Texas State Health Services – Updated: January 12, 2012). Brazoria County has a lack of available and accessible resources offering instructions on proper nutrition and physical fitness for children and youths with obesity issues. Many at-risk juveniles are unable to participate in services that are offered due to barriers including proximity to services (transportation needs), lack of

adequate service providers/programs and costs. Additionally, research shows children from traditional minority groups and those identified as Economically Disadvantaged are most likely to suffer from obesity. Partnerships among social service agencies, city and county government, hospitals and law enforcement agencies should be expanded. Sports-based clubs should be established in low-income communities allowing at-risk juveniles to participate in sports and fitness at reduced prices. Additionally, fitness areas should be maintained and improved in communities' service at-risk youth to encourage active and healthy lifestyles. Involving entire families in health and fitness activities would likely reduce obesity issues. Partnerships between local law enforcement and social service agencies could result in a sharing of fitness and recreational resources. Additionally, agencies should reach-out to hospitals, public health agencies, food pantries and grocery stores to provide nutritional education to at-risk youth.

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

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

Priority #2

<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
A growing population means a greater need for assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.	<u>2013 monthly averages</u> Shelter residents: 29 Domestic violence non-residential clients served: 40 Sexual assault victims served: 20 Supervised Visitation families served: 17 Crisis Hotline Calls: 230

Potential Response to Problem

The Women’s Center operates 2 shelters for victims of domestic violence. One shelter has been in existence since 1982 in the south end of the county. The second (funded by VOCA) was opened in September of 2003 in the north end of the county (where municipalities include Pearland, Alvin, and Manvel) because of exponential growth and to give victims in that area the opportunity to have safety, shelter, and services in their home area/county. Brazoria County has a very limited public transportation system and domestic violence victims are systematically denied privileges, such as cars, by their batterers, so many had no way to get from the north end of the county to the south end shelter, a trip of up to 40 miles one-way. Because of the north end’s proximity to Harris and Galveston counties, many victims were instead going out of county for help, only to discover that because of residency requirements they did not qualify for certain services essential to many victims fleeing violent homes. The agency also operates 5 offices for benefit of both domestic violence and sexual assault victims and 3 transitional living houses. 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 4 bilingual, Spanish speaking, individuals who are able to reach out to the growing Hispanic population in the county. During 2013, 25% of the victims we served were Hispanic; 10% were African-American; 41% were Caucasian; 1% were Native American; 1% were Asian; and 22% were mixed race or failed to identify. To address legal issues, the agency has a special working relationship with the District Attorney’s office to expedite protective orders for victims. To address law enforcement/judicial concerns of victims, the Women’s Center facilitates a Sexual Assault Response Team. Currently the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program only has 1 SANE and she is infrequently utilized because of staffing issues. The Sexual Assault Response Team continues to meet quarterly to coordinate the efforts of law enforcement, the medical community, and the Women’s Center to better serve sexual assault victims. We are continuing to collaborate with a local area hospital in order to reestablish the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program. The agency also works closely with CPS and assists the Sheriff’s Office by providing assessments when civil stand-bys are requested. Experts agree sexual assault and domestic violence are the nation’s 2 most under-reported crimes. The agency believes that more services mean more victims will come forward; and that more victims coming forward will translate into more perpetrators being held accountable and an interruption of the very costly cycle of violence that otherwise passes from one generation to another.

Priority #3

Problem 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: 26. Number of law enforcement agencies that have full-time victim programs: 2 – Alvin P.D. and Pearland P.D. The Sheriff’s Department does have a victim liaison officer whose duties include assisting crime victims and managing the Crime Stoppers Program.</p> <p>Number of total victims provided service by the DA’s Office Victim Program for grant years:</p> <p>2012: 3,886 of these 2,737 were provided services by VOCA grant funds. 2011: 4,384 of these 3,179 were provided services by VOCA grant funds.</p> <p>Number of victims served by Brazoria County Community Supervision & Corrections Department’s Victim Services Program in the following grant years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2009: 733• 2010: 736• 2011: 733• 2012: 722• 2013: 777• 2014: 764 <p>Number of victims who received services from Pearland Police Department’s Victim Assistance Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• January to December 2009 Annual stats: 1,534 victims were provided direct services• January to December 2010 Annual stats: 1,141 victims were provided direct services• January to December 2011 Annual stats: 902 victims were provided direct services• January to December 2012 stats: 1126 victims provided direct services• January to December 2013 stats: 1296 victims were provided direct services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January to September 2014 stats: 1074 <p>Victims were provided direct services</p> <p>Number of Victims who received services from Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Victim Assistance Program from:</p> <p>Jan thru Dec. 2011: 784 Jan thru Dec. 2012: 742 Jan thru Dec. 2013: 823 Jan thru Oct. 2014: 791</p>
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Potential Response to Problem

The county population in 2008 was estimated by the United States Census Bureau to be 301,228 and in 2013 it increased to 330,242. From September 1st, 2013 through August 2014 the three Crime Victims Coordinators in the District Attorney’s Office served 3,869 victims of violent crimes. These victims are generally intimidated by and have no understanding of the prosecution process, accessing resources or the needed support to cope with or to recover from trauma. Without dedicated full-time liaisons and advocates to intervene, support, and educate them, victims will certainly experience more suffering preventing or at least delaying their recovery.

Crime	September 1 st 2008 – August 1 st 2009	September 1 st 2013-August 31 st 2014
Child Physical Abuse	291	103
Child Sexual Assault	701	350
Domestic Violence	1196	1036
Elder Abuse	12	16
Survivors of Homicide Victims	207	154
Assault	967	634

*Please advise that the Brazoria County District Attorney’s Office numbers fluctuated due to staff gaps, and turnover in the Crime Victims department.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation “About every 20 minutes in Texas, someone is hurt or killed in a crash involving alcohol.” Using this statistic it is possible that in a 24 hour period, 72 people in Brazoria County could be hurt or killed in via DIU/DWI accidents. Potentially in 365 days that could swell to 26,280 victims of DUI/DWI alone that the 6 full time victim liaisons in Brazoria County would be serving.

Of the 3 Crime Victim Coordinators in District Attorney's Office one is bi-lingual which is very advantageous for the large Spanish speaking population in Brazoria County. The District Attorney's office's 2 VOCA coordinators and 1 VCLG coordinator assisted 1545 victims with completing and submitting crime victim compensation applications and provided court accompaniment to 546 victims in 2013-2014. Victims seem to have few resources in their personal lives and require more individual assistance and support. It's paramount that a crime victim service provider be available to victims in the district attorney's office for awareness of rights, education, support, options, available assistance and community referrals. In addition, crime victim coordinators intervene on behalf of victims with prosecutors, law enforcement, funeral homes, employers/schools, service providers and the Board of Pardon and Paroles.

Deliberate, personal contact must be made and information shared with county law enforcement agencies/officers and the community to promote the services and provide victims with access to service providers. This action has had a favorable impact as we have experienced the difference with local funeral homes when prior direct contact has been made. For instance, this past year we mailed Christmas cards to local funeral homes. Establishing relationships enhances our ability to seek help for or to refer the victims. Personal face to face contact with law enforcement has resulted in parole officers providing victims with our contact information. The most effective tool in providing for victims is developing personal relationship with victims, with law enforcement, and with service providers. Relationships are time consuming but the benefit to victims is vast.

The Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Victim Assistance Program has seen an increase in family violence and Identity Theft cases. Many family violence cases still face legal issues in regards to custody and divorce. Due to lack of financial and legal assistance, the majority of these cases fail to proceed and the majority of victims return to their abusive environment. Even though now there is some assistance in filing, the paper work is not friendly when it comes to unknowledgeable victims to apply. They face problems such as no computer access, or just don't understand the documents needed to file for pro-se divorce. (NO legal Aid services for custody and divorce cases for victims of circumstances. Not having enough money for paying attorney's fees and services and financial unstable to afford some custodial legal process of services of attorney and filing fees.)

While identity theft cases are non-violent they are more time consuming to process. Due to the nature of the crime, victims are required to provide affidavits, a copy police report and proof of theft sent to three different credit agencies. Our program assists victims in obtaining the required documentation to mail them for the victims. The elderly are being targeted for these types of crimes as they are most vulnerable to trust that they are being taken care of until they realize it is too late and notice they have no money left from their social securities 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 any or left over prescriptions from their homes to make it safe rather than allowing the drugs from being flushed down any of the people 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. (For the year of 2012 we have assisted 63, year 2013 assisting 83 and for year Jan. – Oct. 2014 assisting 114 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, we had 51 total victims referred by other law enforcement agencies needing assistance through our office and this Jan. – Dec. 2013, a total of 87; In Jan. – Oct. 2014 a total of 78 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 due to the fact that most law enforcement agencies are unable to have a full time victim assistance program to meet their needs. (Other statistics to show assisting other agencies with victims are: In year 2010 we assisted 43 victims, year 2011 we assisted 43 victims, and year 2012 we assisted 51 victims.) In Brazoria County, we have three law enforcement agencies with full time positions of liaisons throughout the county (Alvin Police, Pearland Police and Brazoria County Sheriff's Office.) This year crime victims are needy of more assistance through the judicial systems and even after for healing due to the grief process that they endure because of the crime committed to them and their families. These victims continue to stay active even after the trials are over to assist other victims and helping them through the system which become members of the Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach.

Our program also supports the Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach Support Group. This group supplies emotional support and information to other crime victims. The number of victims attending has steadily increased. On average, fifteen victims attend monthly meetings and an increase in teenagers participating. This year the crime victims in this group has 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 36 crime victim members at other surrounding counties events. The crime victims have considered attending other surrounding counties to bring awareness to other agencies that they are there and exist to help other crime victims not knowing where to turn to even if it means after hours. The Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Victim Assistance Program is also involved with these events and in support the Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach involvement in all activities.

Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Department's Victim Services Program provides judicial support and advocacy services to victims whose offenders have been placed on probation, in addition to educational information of the judicial process. Probation typically ranges from one to ten years, depending on the term of the defendant's court ordered probation. This is the only program in Brazoria County who provides direct services to victims of violent crime whose offenders are on community supervision. This program supports the Victim Services Coordinator to foster a close communication and coordination with the probation department and the Office of the District Attorney to provide judicial notice and court accompaniment services to crime victims. Within recent years, the department has seen an increase in the number of victim contacts over prior years. The Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Department's Victim Services Program also facilitated an increase in restitution disbursed to victims. Restitution paid to victims: \$723,837 paid in FY 2009-2010; \$659,499 paid in FY 2010-2011; and \$754,848 paid in FY 2011-2012; \$554,585 paid in FY 2012-2013 and \$603,423 paid in 2013-2014. The Victim Services Program provided 1,228 different services to victims in FY 2009-2010; 1,357 in FY 2010-2011; 1,425 in FY 2011-2012; 973 in FY 2012-2013 and 1230 in FY 2013-2014. Due to increased awareness through public and private media in Texas, crime victims are becoming more aware of their rights and are beginning to request more services, including victim-offender mediation. Brazoria County Community Supervision & Corrections Department received more than one such request during recent years. Additionally, grant funds support the Victim Services Program, which currently employs a bilingual Crime Victim's Coordinator who is able to provide services to Spanish speaking victims in their native language. The bilingual victim notification packets and judicial notification letters have encouraged the Spanish speaking victims to come forward and play a more active role in inquiring over their offender's community supervision and restitution status. This has also resulted in an increase of different victim services to the Spanish speaking victims.

The City of Pearland is the 3rd largest city in the Greater Houston area. Pearland is also the fastest growing city in Brazoria County, the fastest growing suburb in the Greater Houston area, the 10th fastest growing suburb in Texas and according to Forbes magazine the 34th fastest growing suburb in the nation (July, '07). The Congressional Quarterly publication ranked Pearland 34th in their 2009 "City Crime Ranking" report with a composite crime rate below the national average. Pearland is situated on the south side of Houston, Texas and encompasses territory in Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Harris counties. According to the 2010 Census, Pearland grew by 142% over 10 years to a population of 91,252. The Pearland Police Department was created in 1960 and today the department has 138 sworn police personnel. The men and women serving the community as police officers are supported by dozens of civilian employees including Telecommunication Operators, Jailers, Clerks, Administrative Assistants and Liaisons. The Pearland Police Department Victim Assistance Program currently has two full-time Crime Victim Liaisons to assist crime victims. These positions are maintained by a combination of federal pass-thru, State and City-allocated funds. The Governor's Criminal Justice Division and the Office of the Attorney General provide substantive support for the Pearland Police Department's Victim Assistance Program. The goal of the Victim Assistance Program is to assist victims of crime, protect and advocate the rights of victims, provide necessary information, and prevent further victimization. Crime victims who make a police report are

subsequently contacted by phone, mail or in person. The liaisons inform victims about police procedures, community resources, and available programs that will assist victims during the aftermath of a crime. The liaisons are also on call to respond to after-hour emergencies, and to provide assistance. Oftentimes, crime victims want to know what will happen next, and the liaisons are available to answer those questions. Other services provided include case status, information about the criminal justice system, assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation applications, court and hospital accompaniment, and emergency transportation to women shelters. Depending on the type of crime that has occurred, victims can receive information on shelters, counseling services or referrals to support and social service agencies. The liaisons can also assist with information about parole notification, and assist with a parole protest. The Pearland Police Department continues to meet the challenges faced by its rapid growth and its proximity to the fourth most populous city in the United States. As the city continue to grow so does the crime. The Victim Assistance Program has seen an increase in Family Violence, DWI and Murder cases. As of September 1, 2009, the Victim Assistance Program no longer provided services to victims of property crime due to the shortage of time and manpower. With the increase in case load, the liaisons contact only victims of violent crime. This year, to date, we have provided services to 78 Spanish-only speaking victims. In 2012, we provided services to 63 Spanish-only speaking victims. We believe Spanish speaking victims are becoming more involved with the follow-up on their cases.

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Insufficient free local professional counseling services for victims	Total number of victims served between September 2013 and August 2014 by Youth & Family Counseling Services (YFCS) was 51. This includes 22 cases of child sexual assault; 2 cases of physical child abuse; 14 cases of domestic violence; 2 cases of driving under the influence; 2 cases of adults molested as children; 2 survivors of homicide; 1 adult sexual assault, and 6 assaults. Of the 51 victims 32 were Caucasian, 4 were Black, and 15 were Hispanic. 30 victims were minors and 21 victims were adults. YFCS provided 265 counseling hours.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Youth and Family Counseling Services and Brazoria County Alliance for Children use VOCA funding to provide free professional counseling to victims of crimes in Brazoria County. These non-profit agencies are the only organizations in the county that offer free counseling by licensed professionals. Professional counseling helps victims and their families who have experienced sexual abuse, domestic violence, drunken driving accidents, homicide and burglaries, recover from trauma suffered due to a criminal act. If left untreated victims can become unable to function in their everyday lives. Child victims	

frequently have problem behaviors later in life as a result of their early trauma. Some even become perpetrators. Assistance in recovering from victimization is critical to many individuals and families. The goal is to provide services to aid the victim and their families 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. Without the services that Youth and Family Counseling Services and Brazoria County Alliance for Children provide, the victims of Brazoria County would not have access to free, local professional counseling or program services.

Priority #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 Total number of victims served between September 2013 and August 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of victims served was 51. This includes: • 22 cases of child sexual assault • 02 cases of physical child abuse • 14 cases of domestic violence • 02 cases of driving under the influence • 01 Adult sexual assault • 02 Adults molested as children • 02 Survivors of Homicide • 06 Assaults 48 victims were seen in crisis counseling. Of the 51 victims: • 32 were Caucasian • 04 were Black • 15 were Hispanic • 30 victims were minors and 21 were adults. YFCS provided 265 hours of counseling.413 Counseling Hours
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Youth and Family Counseling Services uses VOCA funding to provide free professional counseling to victims of crimes in Brazoria County. Youth & Family Counseling Services</p>	

and Brazoria County Alliance for Children are the only organizations in the county that offer free counseling by licensed professionals. Professional counseling helps victims and their families who have experienced sexual abuse, domestic violence, drunken driving accidents, homicide and burglaries, recover from trauma suffered due to a criminal act. If left untreated victims can become unable to function in their everyday lives. Child victims frequently have problem behaviors later in life as a result of their early trauma. Some even become perpetrators. Assistance in recovering from victimization is critical to many individuals and families. The goal is to provide services to aid the victim and their families in obtaining homeostasis.

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

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

Priority #6	
Problem Identified	Data
Insufficient low cost legal services for victims of domestic violence and related violent crimes	Currently there is only one agency – Lone Star Legal Aid - that offers no cost or low cost assistance for victims who need help with family law matters. Lone Star Legal Aid services 3 other counties, in addition to Brazoria Co. (population 313,166 – U.S. Census Bureau), with only 2 attorneys. The number of requests for service far exceeds the agency’s ability to provide services for all – or even most – victims.
Potential Response to Problem	
Domestic violence victims and families that have been victimized by violent crime often have no financial resources to hire private attorneys to assist with divorce, child custody and community property issues. Their perpetrator is their breadwinner, the controller of the family’s resources. Victims frequently have bank accounts emptied, utilities disconnected, vehicles repossessed, eviction notices served, and potentially no school supplies or shoes for the kids, all for lack of legal counsel. Catholic Charities sends a representative to the Women’s Center every 2 months to help victims with immigration issues and the Legal Aid office in Houston has recently begun a series of seminars to help people with eviction issues; the D.A.’s office provides the Women’s Center with 2 attorneys to do protective orders. But these services neither address all the areas of law in which help is needed by victims in order to be productive citizens, nor do they, because resources named are so limited, meet the demand.	

Priority #7	
Problem Identified	Data
Insufficient bilingual services for crime victims.	Number of agencies with bilingual crime victim service providers: 4 27.7% of county citizens are Hispanic (an increase of 22% over the last 10 years). The only agencies that offer full time bilingual services to crime victims are Alvin PD Comprehensive Crime Victim Program, Pearland PD Crime Victim Program, The Women’s Center, Community Supervision and Corrections Department and the D.A.’s office.
Potential Response to Problem	
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. Staff from the above mentioned agencies are frequently dispatched all over the county in order to meet the needs of non-English-speaking victims. In the northern part of the county, there are also Asian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Pakistani and Indian communities

Priority #8

Problem Identified	Data
<p>High volume court system There is a continued need for forensic interviewing, family advocacy, medical and mental health services as well as crime vic-tim's assistance services to child abuse victims and their families through a Children's Advocacy Center model. There is also a need for the provision of bilingual services for these clients.</p>	<p>Since the opening of Brazoria County Alliance for Children (BCAC) in March 2004 through December 2012 the organization has served over 4,044 total victims. Services include conducting forensic interviews, providing both medical exams and mental health therapy, family advocacy, crisis intervention, case review team staffing, crime vic-tim'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.</p> <p>Through forensic interviews, children who have experienced abuse and or neglect are able to relay their traumatic experience to a trained forensic interviewer while the information is recorded and is later utilized by Children's Protective Services, the assigned law enforcement agencies and the office of the District Attorney for case determination and completion. The forensic interviewer is also responsible for facilitating the Case Review Team meetings where discussions are held regarding updates and recommendations are made for each of the cases. Crime Victims Assistance services are provided by a designated staff member at BCAC. As a first responder, the Crime Victims Program Assistant greets families and upon finding that a victim has disclosed abuse and or neglect through the forensic interviewing process, assists the families with the process of Crime Victims intake forms and tracks information through the office of the Attorney General. The program assistant provides constant updates to the families and</p>

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

Youth and Family Counseling Services uses VOCA funding to provide free professional counseling to victims of crimes in Brazoria County. Youth & Family Counseling Services and Brazoria County Alliance for Children are the only organizations in the county that offer free counseling by licensed professionals. Professional counseling helps victims and their families who have experienced sexual abuse, domestic violence, drunken driving accidents, homicide and burglaries, recover from trauma suffered due to a criminal act. If left untreated victims can become unable to function in their everyday lives. Child victims frequently have problem behaviors later in life as a result of their early trauma. Some even become perpetrators. Assistance in recovering from victimization is critical to many individuals and families. The goal is to provide services to aid the victim and their families in obtaining homeostasis.

Children within the county who have made a disclosure of abuse to Brazoria County Alliance for Children forensic interviewers are referred to an on-site therapist following the interview to lessen the trauma experienced after the child's outcry. The therapist speaks with the clients in an initial session to assess their needs and schedules follow up appointments as needed. The need for mental health services at no cost is critical since the inability to pay for services often prevents clients from seeking these critical services, which in turn prevents the child from beginning the much needed journey of recovery. The growing demand for these services and only having one full time and one part time staff member who can provide these services requires that we make referrals to outside counseling services. Since no-cost therapy services are only available at one other agency, many families don't pursue seeking counseling services and the children are left to struggle with coping with the residual effects of abuse. For those clients who are referred to alternative services, the on-site therapists place follow up calls to ensure that clients referred for off-site counseling services are receiving treatment. BCAC employs one full time and one part time therapist to see children (at no charge to the family) whose lives are impacted by abuse or neglect. The earlier abused children receive help,

the greater chance they have to heal from their abuse, avoid future re-victimization and break the cycle of abuse. Individuals whose lives have been impacted from child abuse are more likely to develop responses such as chronic depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorders, problems with identity, post-traumatic disorder and other symptoms. Children experience feelings of shame, distrust, a sense of powerlessness and feelings of isolation and alienation. Psychological effects of abuse may appear immediately or may take years to surface. Young people who have survived sexual abuse can just as easily learn more positive behaviors when the community provides them with appropriate interventions and support. Working with children who have been abused requires special skills and expertise, including proven best practices in counseling. The full and part time therapist are both trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, an evidence based therapy tool utilized assist children recover from the trauma of child abuse. BCAC anticipates the need for another full time therapist, as well as contract therapists that can provide services for remote areas of Brazoria County.

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

Priority #9	
Problem Identified	Data
High volume court system	No. of cases added to District Court September 1 to August 31 2011: 3,531 2010: 3,162 2009: 3,177 No. of cases added to County Court at Law September 1 to August 31 2011: 8,179 2010: 7,398 2009: 7,434
Potential Response to Problem Brazoria County has 5 District Court judges presiding over criminal, family and civil cases and 4 County Courts judges responsible for criminal, juvenile, and probate cases. In September of 2013 there were 1,875 active civil cases and as of August 31 st , 2014 there were 228 pending civil cases. In the same time frame the criminal cases numbered 25,119 and 6,482 respectively. In addition to the district attorney there are 19 criminal prosecutors, 1 prosecutor assigned to drug court, 1 prosecutor assigned to DUI cases 1 prosecutor assigned to JP courts, 5 civil prosecutors, 2 CPS prosecutors, and 1 appellate prosecutor. According to the Texas Office of Court administration website from September 2013 to August 2014 a summary of court activity in Brazoria County:	

	Active Pending 09/01/13	Active Pending 08/31/14
Civil Cases	1,875	228
Criminal Cases	26,944	6,482
Total Cases	28,819	6,710

By County Courts cases impacting victims:

Offense	Active Cases	New Cases	Motion to Revoke	Pending Cases
DWI 1 st Offense	772	968	152	735
DWI 2 nd Offense	166	253	60	160
Family Violence	234	493	33	278
Assault	226	226	270	193

	Capital Murder	Murder	Other Homicides	Agg. Assault or Attempted Murder	Sexual Assault of Adult	Indecency With or Sexual Assault of a Child	Family Violence	Agg Robbery or Robbery
Active Cases 09/01/13	4	9	8	186	8	121	90	59
Added Cases	2	8	3	189	7	60	139	55
Pending 08/31/14	4	10	8	187	6	116	96	53

By Felony Case involving victims:

The summary of Juvenile Activity by the court:

Active Pending 09/01/13	Added	Active Pending 08/31/14
169	490	157

Brazoria County's Criminal District Attorney's Office is responsible for prosecuting criminal cases involving adults and juveniles and the crime victim coordinators serve all cases with victims. Other departments within the DA's Office are a civil division which addresses civil issues involving the county, a CPS division which handles cases of abuse and neglect of the county's children and an appellate division which addresses motions for appeals. The ever increasing demands associated with substance abuse far exceed present criminal justice system

capacity. Subsequently, a grant was awarded creating a drug court which assist defendants with substance abuse issues. Mental Health issues are an ever growing concern. Mental Health Deputies are assigned at the jail to identify individuals with mental health needs. Probationers with mental health issues are assigned to a mental health case load through the probation department.

The Brazoria County Drug Court was established in July 2009 and has seen continued growth in services provided for offenders with substance abuse issues within the Brazoria County Court System. The drug Court Program provides a judicially supervised regime of treatment and innovative case management to substance abuse offenders with the goal of returning to sober, law-abiding citizens to the community.

Priority #10															
Problem 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>2009- 2010 Child Deaths</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Age</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Number of Deaths</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">43</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1-4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5-14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">15 - 24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">73</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>39% of child deaths in Brazoria County occurred among infants birth to four years of age.</p> <p>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 border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2009</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2010</td> <td style="text-align: center;">36</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>	1	43	1-4	11	5-14	12	15 - 24	73	2009	30	2010	36
<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>														
1	43														
1-4	11														
5-14	12														
15 - 24	73														
2009	30														
2010	36														
Potential Response to Problem															
<p>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</p>															

child deaths by:

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

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

Priority #11

Insufficient affordable housing for the indigent, including crime victims who are displaced because of their victimization

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.

Potential Response to Problem

County Welfare reports a critical need attributable to different causes. They are seeing more indigent families and individuals. People have lost jobs; families have been foreclosed on, and there are more victims. Domestic violence and sexual assault victims frequently need to move for safety reasons or because they experience loss of support or reduced income when the perpetrator is missing or incarcerated or they lose their job because of time spent away from work necessitated by court hearings, witness interviews, etc. or because of harassment on the job by the perpetrator. While Crime Victim Compensation offers relocation costs for domestic violence victims (and sexual assault

victims, under certain circumstances), it does not provide assistance to stop repossession of cars, foreclosure on homes, or other necessities that contribute to community stability and productivity. There are 3 shelters in the county – 2 for domestic violence victims and 1 for individuals who are homeless. All three are temporary shelters. Finally, while available low-to-moderate income housing has always been scarce, it is now practically non-existent.

Priority #12

Problem Identified

Data

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

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

Potential Response to Problem

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

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

Priority #13

Problem Identified	Data
<p>An insufficient number of crime victim support groups.</p>	<p>Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach – Volunteer Crime Victim Support Group- Offers emotional support and assists victims with understanding the process of the Criminal Justice System. They meet every month on third Tuesday in Angleton, Texas.</p> <p>Crime Victims Adult Support Group – Youth and Family Counseling Services offering a support group for crime victims for coping, community and courage to heal. The group meets on the third Monday of each month in Pearland, Texas.</p>

Potential Response to Problem

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

Brazoria County is geographically large covering 1,488 square miles. This June of 2013, a new support group has immerged in the North end of our county. There is a need for volunteer support groups within the county where victims can meet and share their experiences. Victims face hard times when their cases preceding the district attorney office as it can be extremely stressful and it is helpful for victims to meet and discuss their cases. When meeting seasoned victims who have already been through the system and who can share similar experiences, victims can be directed to the right resources rather than staying confused. For victims to know that they are not alone and that they can find support from others who have experience 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 inforce the victim that they are all in this together and not alone.

The support group has seen an increase in crime victims from month to month seeking assistance and needing compassionate listening ears for their losses in loved ones through the support group. Crimes existing from: sexual assaults of adults and children, homicides, intoxicated manslaughter, and family violence. A substantial amount of teens participate in the support group. The Crime Victims Adult Support Group is beginning a teen group due to that the teen support group member in the support group has graduated and moved on

unable to continue this need for the teens in the group.

The support group members have been actively involved all year long and participate in helping other victims through court proceedings, and through fundraising events for memorial ceremonies. The support group continues to grow and notices that there is a need in assisting victims with parole boards meetings as the criminals are up for parole. The support group volunteer to attend, assist and guide victims in the parole meetings and fighting the process with letters and petitions.

Annually, the event of a thanksgiving dinner hosted and supplied by Brazoria County Crime Victim Outreach members was created to promote a network environment for the community to be invited for awareness, participation and involvement. This event offers additional support during the holiday season.

The group members during National Crime Victims Right Week, take many days off of their personal employments to participate and support all of the crime victims events, private events and service providers programs event such as the Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Victim Assistance Program Annual Luncheon, the Brazoria District Attorney's Office Crime Victims Program Candlelight Vigil, etc. with the events they host by other counties during that week.

Creating a new crime victim support group has been a daunting task. Due to the expansive size of the county it is difficult at times to reach all the victims in the area. Funding is needed to publicize the establishment of the new crime victim support group in the North county area. All victims throughout Brazoria County should be comforted in knowing a support group is available in their community.

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

Priority #1	
Problem Identified	Data
Lack of Interoperable communications within the county.	Brazoria County's population increased over thirty percent in the last decade; and it is now home to over 330,000 people. Within the county there are minimum of 26 law enforcement agencies, over 25 fire departments, at least 12 ambulance services, 4 hospitals, and numerous emergency operation centers. In addition, there are approximately 17 chemical plants, the Port of Freeport, one of the largest LNG plants in the world, and the nation's largest federal oil reserve. Many of those agencies and/or entities utilize communication equipment that is not compatible with neighboring departments, which limits communications throughout the county.

Potential Response to Problem

There is a need for enhanced communications between larger organizations and chemical plants that are served and protected throughout Brazoria County. The existing communications infrastructure must be improved. One of the three towers that are currently being utilized is leased. There is a need for an additional communications tower in the west end of the county and two more in the north end. Technological improvements in communications equipment have evolved, in addition to new Federal mandates; the need to equip all towers with 700 MHz systems has become a major issue. The 800 MHz systems that are now being used will need to be completely replaced by 700 MHz systems by the end of 2016. These forced upgrades will allow different types of agencies to communicate with each other through the use of a single communications system. Communication is paramount while responding safely and properly to any type of major incident, and the responses would be severely limited without adequate infrastructure and equipment.

Priority #2

Problem Identified

Data

Need to upgrade technology, hardware and software due to insufficient database and reporting software.

Much of the computerized equipment used by the 26 law enforcement agencies in Brazoria County is antiquated, or does not have supporting capabilities to drive current software programs. Within the past year, the Brazoria County Sheriff's Department and the four Constable Departments were forced to procure a new Computer-aided Dispatch and Records Management System software program. The software is capable of supporting many other agencies that will benefit by sharing a county-wide database. It is paramount the county's emergency responders have access to current technology and equipment to allow them to respond and perform at optimal safe levels. Not only have the Brazoria County law enforcement agencies had to change software programs, but the County government, as a whole, is also being required to change software programs, as the one it currently utilizes will no longer be supported within the next year. None of the fire reporting agencies share a common records database. Such a common medium would greatly benefit all public safety organizations.

Potential Response to Problem

With the five largest public safety agencies in the county now utilizing the same, sharable CAD, RMS, and communications software program, the ability to gather, collaborate, analyze and share information is creating an overwhelming demand from the smaller, rural agencies to merge with one of those five. This software will not only benefit law enforcement agencies, but fire departments and EMS organizations as well. Information

such as photos, common methods of operation, fingerprint classifications, DNA types, commonly used addresses, vehicle types, and past contacts, will become invaluable investigative tools. The software also allows agencies to dispatch the closest available units by proximity and to visually see a unit's location on a map; thus improving response times and safety, and decreasing the possibilities of risk or loss. Due to budget constraints, smaller rural agencies in the county are essentially prohibited from purchasing the same software for their own entities or departments; however, the need to help them to obtain the same, common equipment and capabilities is great.

Shared data is an invaluable tool, whether conducting a criminal investigation, a fire investigation, or trying to locate the address of someone in need. As criminals are becoming more mobile, the need to access shared data is becoming more crucial. As requests for agency assists are growing, so is the need for those responders to quickly be able to access pertinent information.

Priority #3	
Problem Identified	Data
Need to upgrade training and equipment for emergency responders	Due to state budget cuts, law enforcement agencies across the state have had to either reduce the amount of training or adjust their own budgets to provide necessary and mandated training to their officers. Additionally, as technology has evolved, new types of equipment have become available and new methods of responding to and handling incidents have also been created. The forethought of increasing safety and minimizing liability are two goals that are constantly considered by every department, as policies and procedures have to be revised to coincide with any new advancement.
Potential Response to Problem	
The Brazoria County Sheriff's Office has planned a regional public safety training facility that will aide in making training more accessible and affordable for smaller departments and many surrounding agencies. Training would be offered in the areas of emergency and defensive driving, firearms proficiency, physical tactics, DWI investigation, and other supplemental and mandated topics. The Angleton Police Department is also in the process of constructing a firearms qualification range.	

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of training and treatment options for emergency responders who deal with mental health consumers	The State of Texas provides less funding for mental health services than over ninety percent of all 50 states in the nation. Emergency responders, law enforcement agencies, and service providers have seen an increase in the number of mental health cases they have had to handle. The increase in juvenile consumer cases has also had a major impact as parental consent concerns and a difference in treatment options have to be addressed. Local treatment options have not increased consistently with the increase in mental health calls.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
There is a growing need for more emergency responder training in quickly identifying and properly handling consumers who suffer from mental health illnesses. There is currently a lack of mental health treatment options within Brazoria County; and the county has had to contract with out-of-county facilities for treatment of those who require immediate in-patient attention. The six Sheriff's Office Mental Health Deputies who handle the county's most extreme mental health calls are overworked.	

Priority #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of traffic enforcement units and crash investigation capabilities	The Texas Department of Public Safety provides the majority of traffic law enforcement and traffic crash investigation in the rural parts of Brazoria County. The recent population boom in the north end of the county has created a greater need for traffic enforcement. Most agencies in the county do not currently have the personnel or equipment to effectively accommodate such an increase in traffic violations, Driving While Intoxicated offenses, necessary DOT enforcements, and motor vehicle crash investigations. The Port of Freeport and several other chemical plants are enlarging their facilities, adding to the already heavy amount of commercial vehicle traffic through the county.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
agencies do not have a designated Traffic Division; thus they rely on patrolmen to, between assigned calls and various other duties, patrol the roadways for traffic violations,	

enforce laws of the road, conduct DWI investigations, and investigate crashes that occur within their jurisdictions. The Department of Public Safety provides the majority of traffic law enforcement in the unincorporated areas of the county. Most agencies in the county receive calls daily regarding traffic complaints; and having sufficient personnel throughout the county who concentrate on traffic enforcement would be an asset to insure the safety of all drivers on the roadways. The presence of the additional officers on the roadways not only ensures safer roadways, quicker response times, and more local resources for investigations, but it also deters other type of crime.

Priority #6

Problem Identified

Data

Need to expand and upgrade training and equipment for evidence collection, processing and analysis.

Many of the county’s law enforcement agencies are located in smaller, rural communities, and they do not have access to the resources that are available to the larger agencies for the collection of evidence. Those smaller agencies also have to rely on the Sheriff’s Office for the collection, processing and analysis of evidence. Technological and scientific advancements have brought about stricter standards and expectations of those who handle and process evidence. The Chemists and Analysts at the Sheriff’s Office not only process and analyze evidence for law enforcement agencies throughout the county, but they also process specimens submitted by the Probation Department.

Potential Response to Problem

As a precedent, several years ago DPS and FBI laboratories standardized many evidence collection and submission processes. This, along with changing technological advances, has required the law enforcement community to stay abreast of the most recent methods of collecting, processing, and analyzing physical evidence. The municipal agencies that operate crime laboratories in the county need up-to-date equipment, such as working vent hoods and latent fingerprint processing booths, so the integrity of their processing and analysis procedures is maintained.

The Sheriff’s Office Crime Lab is in dire need of trained personnel and upgraded equipment. The addition of one more Chemist/Toxicologist at the lab would allow more tests to be conducted, thus improving productivity. A Liquid Chromatographer Mass Spectrograph (LCMS) would enable the lab to perform tests that are currently sent out of state for processing. Additionally, the increased demand that is put on lab personnel far outweighs their ability to produce timely results on a consistent basis.

Priority #7

<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
The need for certified SANE nurses, pediatric SANE nurses, and follow-up services.	Brazoria County only has one Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) certified to conduct acute exams for the entire county whose population is over 300,000, she is not attached to any county hospital. Over the last two years, UTMB Galveston has had to examine 26 patients from eight different jurisdictions in Brazoria County. Many others have gone to Memorial Herman, or other centers in Houston. Certification for a SANE nurse costs \$15,000 initially, plus \$3,000 annually to remain certified.

Potential Response to Problem

Currently the SANE nurses of Harris and Galveston counties have to carry an additional burden of conducting most of the SANE investigations that are needed for Brazoria County Sexual Assault investigations. Law enforcement agencies, victims' families, and CPS investigators from Brazoria County have to spend many hours transporting most victims to facilities in an adjacent county and waiting for the medical examination process so that evidence can be retrieved and handled properly. The smaller, rural cities lose their manpower off of the streets for many hours if a victim has to be transported out of the county for an exam.

Brazoria County has been able to contract the services of one SANE nurse at the Children's Assessment Center (CAC); however, there is still a need for more nurses. Additionally, the examination room at the CAC lends itself to distractions for a victim because of the activities of noisy children who are there occupying an adjacent room for assessment purposes. Lastly, if medical care, other than only a SANE exam is necessary, a victim has to be treated at a medical facility.

The county is continually in the process of negotiating contract services for more SANE nurses at local medical facilities. Sexual Assault victims would more comfortable, more cooperative, and less traumatized during a SANE examination and the investigation process, if there were a closer more localized facility that could utilized. Procuring more local services would shorten the investigation process for all involved and benefit the Brazoria County justice system. Continuing this process, our District Attorney's office would be able to get more convictions of rape cases.

Priority #8	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of equipment to upgrade Emergency Operations Centers and Mobile Command Posts.	The Brazoria County Sheriff's Office and police departments from several of the larger cities in the county have Mobile Command Posts that can be utilized during a disaster or major incident; however, there is a need for equipment and improvements in those facilities. There is also a need for updated and improved Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's) in most jurisdictions throughout the county to support Emergency Management Teams.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
The Brazoria County Sheriff's Office maintains one fully operational Mobile Command Post, which is available for major incidents and emergency operations and is loaned out to other agencies when requested. Additionally, various jurisdictions and private entities throughout the county can also use updated or additional equipment so that their Mobile Command Posts and EOC's can function at optimal levels.	

Resources Available

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

Juvenile Justice:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department	Probation Department	Detention Center Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program Residential Program Probation services located in 5 different cities

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Alvin Police Department (281) 388-4370	Law Enforcement	Provides law enforcement, criminal investigation, juvenile crime investigations, crime

<p>Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Crime Victim Assistance Program 281.585-7125 Maribel Cooper mcooper@apd.cityofalvin.com</p>	Law Enforcement	<p>prevention & victim assistance, as well as code enforcement, health inspections, animal control/enforcement and emergency management operations</p> <p>Providing information to victims regarding the investigation of their case and assistance with Crime Victim compensation</p>
<p>Angleton Police Department (979) 849-2383 Chris Dahlstrom cdahlstrom@angletonpd.net David Ashburn dashburn@angletonpd.net</p> <p>Rush Quenton qrush@angletonpd.net</p>	Law Enforcement	<p>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</p>
<p>Brazoria County Crime Stoppers</p>	Law Enforcement / Citizen Program	<p>Provides monetary incentives to witnesses to come forth with information to solve crimes.</p>
<p>Brazoria County District Attorney's Office Crime Victim Assistance Program – 979.864-1245</p> <p>Cody Holder codyh@brazoria-county.com</p>	Prosecution	<p>Provides information, referrals, assistance with Crimes Victim Compensation, court notification, court accompaniment</p>

Victim Services:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
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Brazoria County Crime
Victim Outreach

Volunteer Crime
Victim Support
Group

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

Brazoria County
Community Supervision
Crime Victim Assistance
Program

Adult Supervision

The Brazoria County Community
Supervision and Corrections
Victim Services Program provides
justice support, personal advocacy,
court accompaniment, interagency
referrals, Crime Victim
Compensation assistance,
education, liaison assistance with
payment of court ordered
restitution. Services may be for a
period up to 10 years of probation
to protect, guide and empower
victims of crime. Bilingual staff is
available to assist

(Other Focus Group Area):

Name of Agency

Agency Type

Description

American Red Cross
(979) 849-6439

Mari Berend, Executive Director
mberend@ghac.org

Bay Area Council on Drug &
Alcohol (BACODA)
(979) 215-6990

Non-Profit Agency

Carie Fletcher
Carie.Fletcher@bacoda.com

The Bay Area Council on
Drugs & Alcohol has been
serving the Bay Area since
1974. A group of concerned
citizens met and established
an agency that continues
today to address an issue that
impacts the entire
community. BACODA's
four coalitions work together
to affect change. Each
coalition responds to the
specific issues of their target

area. Their mission is to mobilize community resources in an effort to reduce the harmful impact of underage alcohol use in our communities. BACODA's coalitions include the following:
 Brazoria County Coalition
 Galveston County Coalition
 Matagorda County Coalition
 Southeast Harris County Coalition

Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County
 (979) 373.9668

Clint Ziehl
 Executive Director
cziehl@bgcbc.com

Non-Profit Agency

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

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

Multidisciplinary team approach to child abuse Investigations

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

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agencies. BCAC and its partner agencies work together under an agreed protocol to provide services to child victims and their families to reduce the effects and trauma of childhood sexual and /or physical abuse

(Other Focus Group Area):

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Alvin ISD (281) 245-2006 Nekeshia Giridy, Coordinator of Student Engagement and Completion ngiridy@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.
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	Independent School District	Angleton ISD has a mission—to prepare each student

Bonnie Brothers, Human Resources
bbrothers@angletonisd.net

academically and socially to become a responsible and productive citizen. AISD constantly reviews and updates district and campus goals to make sure they are aligned with that mission. Each year, the district creates an improvement plan that determines priorities for the school year and helps AISD raise the achievement and performance of every student in the district. AISD has implemented a Goal Focus campaign, making sure students, staff and community members are aware of the district's mission, vision, values, goals and strategies.

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

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

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

The Economic Development Alliance For Brazoria County

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

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

Steve Rosa
stevenrosa@brazoriacounty.com

Glenn Lamont

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

glennl@brazoria-county.com		<p>A county judge serves as both presiding officer of the Commissioners' Court with voting rights and as a judge of the county court. They are often thought of as an executive official in county government, offering advice and guidance on county issues when required. A county judge's duties entail a rich mixture of both administrative and judicial duties.</p>
<p>Brazoria County (Judge's Office) (979) 864-1200</p> <p>County Judge L. M. Sebesta Jr. matts@brazoria-county.com</p> <p>Cathy Hughes, Chief Administrator cathyh@brazoria-county.com</p>	<p>Judge's Office</p>	
<p>Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Department (979) 864-1210 X114</p> <p>Margarett Johnson margarettj@brazoria-county.com</p> <p>Janice Freeman, Mental Health Therapist janicef@brazoria-county.com</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Medical / Social Services</p>	<p>Provides sexual assault exams for victims of sexual assault</p>

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Brazoria County Community Planning Team works in conjunction with other planning groups in the county to ensure a regular exchange of ideas. Individuals active in the planning process generally serve on many of these committees and share mutual concerns.

The Brazoria County Community Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the Plan and make necessary additions and deletions. At least one formal meeting of the entire group is held each fall, but agency and community representatives typically submit suggestions and changes via telephone and e-mail throughout the year to the Community Planning Coordinator.

Drafts and annual updates of the Community Plan are circulated by e-mail with requests for comments, changes, etc. Wherever possible e-mail is used to reduce the need for meetings, printing, postage, etc.

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

Contact Information

Brazoria County Community Planning Coordinator

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

Community Planning Liaison from Houston-Galveston Area Council

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

This Plan is available on-line at the following URL address:

<http://www.brazoria-county.com/Public%20Notices/BCCommunityPlan>