

Brazoria County Community Plan

2005-2006

December, 2005
Updated May, 2006

Brazoria County Community Plan

What Is a Community Plan?

This plan is formally known as the Brazoria County Criminal Justice Community Plan, the purpose of which is to identify gaps in services regarding criminal justice issues. The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office (CJD) requires that each county in Texas have a Criminal Justice Community Plan.

The document that is represented here reflects the efforts of many in Brazoria County that are concerned with assuring that any gaps in services that are identified are closed in a way that will both solve the problem and provide as great a benefit to the community as possible. It is with grateful acknowledgement that the names of those involved in the process of developing this plan are listed in the following page(s) under Part II (Community Planning Group).

Though the final draft of this plan was completed in December of 2005, 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 such 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 the Community Plan Coordinator for Brazoria County, or to the Criminal Justice Program of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Contact information is provided within this document.

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

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

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

Unincorporated Communities:

Amsterdam	Damon	East Columbia	Old Ocean
Anchor	Danciger	McBeth	Rosharon
Wild Peach	Churchill	Demi-John Island	

School Districts:

Angleton ISD	Brazosport ISD
Columbia – Brazoria ISD	Alvin ISD
Sweeny ISD	Damon ISD
Pearland ISD	Danbury ISD

Brief description and history of Brazoria County:

<p>HISTORY</p> <p>Heralded in history books as “The Cradle of Texas”, Brazoria County began when eighty-nine of Stephen F. Austin’s original Old Three Hundred obtained land grants and settled at the mouth of the Brazos River in 1824. The county was one of the first counties established after Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Brazoria County is situated on the lower Texas Gulf Coast. It consists of 1,488 square miles and the 2004 population estimate is 271,130. The county is a mixture of both rural and urban communities. The major industries are petrochemical, manufacturing, trade, services, construction, farming and commercial fishing. The county is home to Port Freeport, the second largest container port on the Gulf Coast, and offers water sports recreation, hunting and fishing. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has designated Brazoria County for two wildlife habitats, the San Bernard</p>

National Wildlife Refuge and Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory is based in the county for the purpose of study and conservation of birds and their habitat. The northern part of the county, which includes the larger cities of Pearland, Alvin and Manvel, is experiencing substantial growth with new residential communities, shopping centers and business. The county is proud that it can offer residents a choice of two community colleges. Alvin Community College is located in the northern part of the county and Brazosport Community College is in the Lake Jackson/Clute/Richwood area. In the southern half of the county the cities of Lake Jackson, Freeport and Clute are home to Dow Chemical Company, US Contractors Ltd., BASF Corp. and ConocoPhillips. The city of Angleton is centrally located and is the county seat. In the resort communities of Surfside and San Luis Pass, new housing is being developed for both vacation homes and permanent residents. Brazoria County promotes family values and hosts many festivals that are family oriented. The San Jacinto Festival, Spring Fling, Mexican Fiesta, Youth Rodeo, Frontier Days, Fishing Fiesta, The Great Texas Mosquito Festival, Founders Day Celebration, Festival of Lights, Heart of Angleton Festival, Brazoria No Name Festival and the County Fair and Rodeo are just a few of the many activities families can enjoy.

Brazoria County's population increased 12.1% between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2004.

Ethnic make-up;

Caucasian 77.1%

Hispanic/Latino 22.8%

African American 8.5%

Asian 2.0%

The average age is 34 years with males making up 51.6% and females 48.3%. There are 18,954 households of which 40.80% have children under the age of 18. Married couples make-up 62.20%, women 10.40%, persons 65 years or older living alone make-up 6.40%. The total population under the age of 18 is 28.60%, between the ages of 18 to 24 is 8.60%, between the ages of 25 to 44 is 32.40%, between the ages of 45 to 64 is 21.50% and 65 years or older is 8.80%.

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Brazoria County: Sherilyn Plentl, Assistant to Brazoria County Judge John Willy

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

Juvenile Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Fay Beard	Boys and Girls Club of Brazoria County
Diana Fleming Mario Guel Charles Thomas Noemi Villagran	Youth & Family Counseling Services
Lesa Trombley	Brazoria County DA's Office
Carie Fletcher	Bay Area Council on Drugs & Alcohol (BACODA)
Gayla Baker	Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department
Cynthia Patton	Pearland ISD
Vickie Anderson	Brazoria County Youth Homes
Matthew Abraham	Brazos Place Substance Abuse Center

Victim Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Sharon Couch	Brazoria County DA's Office Crime Victim Assistance Program
Gary Barker	Brazoria County CSCD Victim Services Program
Diana Fleming Glenda Van Buren Noemi Villagran	Youth & Family Counseling Services
Pennie Stanley	Children's Advocacy Center
Vicki Ennis	Women's Center of Brazoria County
Gina Mendez	Pearland Police Department Victim Services

Maribel Cooper Jennifer Chadis	Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Crime Victim Assistance Program
Carie Fletcher	Brazoria County Bay Area Council on Drug Abuse

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Captain Randy Rhyne	Brazoria County Sheriff's Department

Identification of Community Problems

General Public Safety Needs and Issues

Brazoria County is a community that is experiencing rapid growth. Within the last three years the general population has grown from 241,767 in 2000 to 271,130 by 2004. Two major hurricanes struck the Gulf Coast Region in 2005. Local resources were utilized to assist approximately 2,000 evacuees. Agencies that were already strained are now struggling to keep up with the increased demand for services. Currently over eight percent of the population is unemployed with ten percent living below the poverty level. When families are in crisis violent crime increases, such as assaults, child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assaults. The demand for low-cost legal aid increases. Long waiting periods for services are not uncommon. Over twenty-two percent of the county's population is Hispanic/Latino yet there are insufficient bilingual services available. Programs for sexual assault victims that offer follow-up counseling with medical services are lacking in the community. Reduced funding for mental health services has contributed to an increase in the number of persons who are processed by the criminal justice system. In 2005, Youth and Family Counseling Services has seen an increase in clients seeking services for family conflict issues, truancy and school related issues. The Women's Center of Brazoria County responded to an increase in domestic violence and sexual assault victims; 2004 saw an 11% increase in reported domestic violence incidence and a 13% increase in reported rapes. In 2005, the Boys & Girls Club saw a demand for services increase by forty-six percent. Low cost housing, assistance for the elderly, crisis intervention, delinquency, substance abuse, transportation, education, the homeless, an over-burdened court system, expansion of services for victims and additional training for service providers and law enforcement are all issues the county is facing.

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

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

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>Substance Abuse by juveniles (alcohol & drugs)</p>	<p><u>20,508</u> children in need of supervision in Texas (includes inhalant abuse, public intoxication, truancy, running away from home, expulsion from school) according to Texas Juvenile Probation Commission</p> <p><u>216</u> substance abuse referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department 10/01/2004-09/30/2005</p> <p>32% of Brazoria County sixth graders and 66% of ninth graders; 78% of twelfth graders have used a drug in 2004-2005</p> <p><u>757</u> children participated in Boys & Girls Club SMART moves program (to help educate young people to resist the pressure to engage in sexual promiscuity and indulge in alcohol, tobacco, drugs and truancy) <u>34</u> were court ordered attendance in 2005</p> <p>75 referrals to Boys & Girls Club Teen Court for alcohol/drug offenses</p>
<p>Law enforcement, school, juvenile probation all identify substance abuse in juveniles is a significant problem in Brazoria County. There is a lack of provider services other than agencies that provide life skills for children such as Youth and Family Services, Boys & Girls Club, and the Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department. Many of the juveniles referred are involved, either directly or indirectly through family members, with alcohol or 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.</p>	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>Lack of mental health care for juveniles</p>	<p>48,692 Total Brazoria County child population</p> <p>Brazoria County registers 42 mental health professionals per 100,000 compared to national statistics averaging 150 or more per 100,000</p> <p>In January 2001, the Texas Department of Health declared Brazoria County a “mental health shortage area” indicating the severe shortage of mental health professionals to provide mental health services to residents.</p> <p>1 out of 10 children and adolescents in the U.S. suffer from mental illness severe enough to cause some level of impairment</p> <p>1 out of 5 youth in the juvenile justice system has serious mental health problems.</p> <p>1,788 non-duplicated children were referred to the Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department. 358 of these youth have serious mental health problems.</p> <p>Waiting period for evaluation – there is a three month minimum waiting time for an appointment with the local center.</p> <p>The delay in services often results in the escalation of the behavior problem or the child committing a re-offense.</p>
<p>Mental health services can both prevent children from committing delinquent offenses and from re-offending.</p> <p>Children whose offenses are minor or non-violent should, whenever possible, be diverted away from incarceration and towards treatment, services and supervision in their local community.</p> <p>Because it is impossible to divert all children with emotional disorders, the juvenile justice system and the mental health system should work together to develop programs and services within juvenile systems for these children.</p>	

The local mental health center is seriously under-funded resulting in only a fraction of those in need of metal health services being serviced.

There is a 3 month minimum waiting time for an appointment with the local center. The delay of services often results in the escalation of the behavior problem or the juvenile committing a re-offense.

Reduced funding for mental health services have placed a burden on other agencies in the community. More juveniles with mental and emotional health issues are making their way into the criminal justice system, which has increased the burden on community service agencies.

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>Lack of services for At Risk Children including after school programs, tutoring resources & unstructured free time</p>	<p>Total school enrollment <u>48,692</u> Economically disadvantaged students <u>18,320</u> Limited English proficiency <u>3,327</u>; bilingual enrollment <u>3,023</u> <u>2,831</u> referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Probation <u>1,244</u> referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Probation for children in need of supervision <u>3,656</u> youth served by Boys & Girls Club – an 18% increase from 2004 485 children were served by Boys & Girls Club Power Hour (tutoring program) 424 families served with counseling and case management by Youth & Family Counseling Services (YFCS) in 2005. This represents a 15% increase in clients seeking services. 158 parents received education services representing 415 children by YFCS. 42 teen parents were mentored and received guidance and in-home support through YFCS.</p>
<p>Juveniles are unable to participate in services such as community counseling, secure care, residential care, day programming, after school programs, tutoring, prevention programs due to barriers including proximity to services (transportation needs), lack of adequate service providers/programs and costs. Children are most vulnerable on weekdays between 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. more than at any other time. Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County, Youth & Family Counseling Services, Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Center and the Brazoria County Youth Homes offer programs for at risk youth and their parents/guardians. Decreases and reduction in funding available through federal, state and local budgets for social services has hampered and restricted the growth and progress in these areas.</p>	

Youth & Family Counseling Services offers no cost programs for at risk children and their family. These services are available to the family during and after normal business hours. With six locations throughout the county, Alvin, Angleton, Freeport, Pearland, Sweeny and West Columbia, access to services is made easier for those with limited transportation. YFCS offers 24 hour, 7 days a week crisis intervention and crisis assessment, temporary shelter services, assessment, individual and family counseling, case management, and community outreach. Continuation of these counseling and case management services and growth of the program are essential to the residents of Brazoria County. Without these services, counseling and case management, the judicial and law enforcement advocates would not be able to refer individuals and families to free, local professional counseling program services.

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>Juvenile Delinquency – gangs</p>	<p><u>2,955</u> referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department (10/01/2004 – 09/30/2005) 377 were at the felony level <u>20,508</u> children in need of supervision in Texas according to Texas Juvenile Probation Commission <u>1,244</u> referrals for children in need of supervision in Brazoria County <u>186</u> juvenile violent crimes in 2005 (homicide, sexual assault, aggravated assault, robbery and weapons violations and assaults) <u>510</u> juveniles referred to Teen Court in 2005 – Class C misdemeanors <u>80 percent</u> completion rate for Project Fail Safe truancy prevention collaborative <u>424</u> families received counseling and case management by Youth and Family Services</p>
<p>The lack of adequate supervision by the family and community is a major contributing factor to delinquency and anti-social behavior. These numbers continue to increase due to the population growth in Brazoria County. There are several patterns of delinquency ranging from non-violent, violent, first offenders and habitual offenders. Some delinquent behaviors include gang behavior while others involve a pattern of increasing violence such as aggravated assaults, robbery and arson.</p> <p>There is need for more law enforcement and community agencies involvement in anti-gang instruction, more programs to deter at risk children from becoming truant, joining gangs, abusing substance and engaging in violent behaviors, more long term placement for non-conservator ship children, more outreach programs for adolescent substance abusers and their families and expanded efforts to reiterate adolescents</p>	

following adjudication.

Additional training is needed for law enforcement officers and service providers to address issues relating to juvenile gangs.

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>Juvenile Delinquency – Felonies and Class A & B misdemeanors</p>	<p><u>1,587</u> referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department (11/01/2004 – 10/31/2005) <u>377</u> were at the felony level <u>20,508</u> children in need of supervision in Texas according to Texas Juvenile Probation Commission <u>1,244</u> referrals for children in need of supervision in Brazoria County <u>1,210</u> Class A & B Misdemeanors <u>186</u> juvenile violent crimes in 2005 (homicide, sexual assault, aggravated assault, robbery and weapons violations and assaults) <u>510</u> juveniles referred to Teen Court in 2005 – Class C misdemeanors <u>80 percent</u> completion rate for Project Fail Safe truancy prevention collaborative <u>424</u> families received counseling and case management by Youth and Family Services</p>

The lack of adequate supervision by the family and community is a major contributing factor to delinquency and anti-social behavior. These numbers continue to increase due to the population growth in Brazoria County. There are several patterns of delinquency ranging from non-violent, violent, first offenders and habitual offenders. Some delinquent behaviors include gang behavior while others involve a pattern of increasing violence such as aggravated assaults, robbery and sexual assaults. Referrals are from schools, law enforcement and private citizens. Children range in ages from 10 – 17 years. Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County’s Teen Court diverts youth from the juvenile justice system and targets extremely high minority youth. In 2005 **510** juveniles were referred to Teen Court Expand opportunities to provide early intervention for first time offenders and to reduce recidivism. Children who return to an unsupervised home are more likely to experiment with drugs, alcohol or tobacco. In 2005 **757** children participated in SMART Moves to help educate young people to resist the pressure to engage in sexual promiscuity and indulge in alcohol, tobacco, drugs and truancy. In 2005 **80 percent** of children who participated successfully completed Project Fail Safe to keep “at risk juveniles” out of juvenile court and in school.

Additional community based services are needed for juvenile offenders, including additional outpatient professional services. There is also a need for more law enforcement and community agencies, involvement in anti-gang instruction, more programs to deter at risk children from becoming truant, joining gangs, abusing substance and engaging in violent behaviors, more long term placement for non-conservator ship children, more outreach programs for adolescent substance abusers and their families and expanded efforts to reiterate adolescents following adjudication. Additional training is needed for law enforcement officers and service providers to address these juvenile issues.

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of services for At Risk Children: Status offense – runaway & truancy	Total school enrollment <u>48,692</u> Economically disadvantaged students <u>18,820</u> Limited English Proficiency <u>3,327</u> ; bilingual enrollment <u>3,023</u> ; <u>1,244</u> youth referred for status offenses (all)
<p>Juveniles are unable to participate in services such as community counseling, secure care, residential care, day programming, after school programs, tutoring, prevention programs due to barriers, including proximity to services (transportation needs), lack of adequate service providers / programs and costs. Children are most vulnerable on weekends and weekdays between 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. more than any other time. Boys and Girls Club of Brazoria County, Youth & Family Counseling Services, Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Center and the Brazoria County Youth Home offer programs for at risk youth and their parents / guardians. Decreases and reduction in funding available through federal, state and local budgets for social services has hampered and restricted the growth and progress in these areas.</p>	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of services for juveniles at risk of teen pregnancy	Total school enrollment <u>48,692</u> Economically disadvantaged students <u>18,320</u> Limited English proficiency 3,327; bilingual enrollment <u>3,023</u> <u>510</u> births to teens <u>158</u> parents received education services representing <u>415</u> children by Y&FS in 2005 <u>42</u> teen parents mentoring and guidance in-home support through Y&FS in 2005 <u>38</u> girls completed SMART Girls in 2005
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. Decreases and reduction in funding available through federal, state and local budgets for social services has hampered and restricted the growth and progress in these areas.

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of services for family conflict & strengthening families	Total school enrollment <u>48,692</u> Economically disadvantaged students <u>18,320</u> Limited English proficiency 3,327; bilingual enrollment <u>3,023</u> <u>1,244</u> referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Probation for children in need of supervision <u>424</u> families served with counseling and case management by Youth and Family Services (Y&FS) <u>158</u> parents received education services representing <u>415</u> children by Y&FS.
<p>Juveniles are unable to participate in services due to a lack of adequate service providers / programs and costs. Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County, Youth & Family Counseling Services, Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Center and the Brazoria County Youth Home offer programs for at risk youth and their parents/guardians. Decreases and reduction in funding available through federal, state and local budgets for social services has hampered and restricted the growth and progress in these areas.</p>	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Insufficient bilingual programs for at risk children	Total school enrollment <u>48,692</u> <u>40</u> Languages spoken in Brazoria County schools Economically disadvantaged students <u>18,320</u> Limited English proficiency <u>3,327</u> ; bilingual enrollment <u>3,023</u> <u>1,244</u> referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Probation for children in need of supervision <u>3,656</u> youth served by Boys & Girls Club in 2004
<p>Despite the efforts of many of the agencies in Brazoria County there is still a shortage of bilingual service providers. Brazoria County covers 1,488 square miles. Some agencies have Spanish speaking staff, but usually they are more centrally</p>	

located in the county leaving a large part of the population without service. In the northern part of the county there are also Asian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Pakistani and Indian communities.

Juveniles are unable to participate in services such as community counseling, secure care, day programming, after school programs, tutoring, and prevention programs due to language barriers, lack of adequate service providers/programs and costs. Boys and Girls Club of Brazoria County, Youth & Family Services, Communities in Schools, Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Center and the Brazoria County Youth Home offer programs for at risk youth and their parents/guardians. Decreases and reduction in funding available through federal, state and local budgets for social services has hampered and restricted the growth and progress in these areas.

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of transportation services for at risk juveniles	Total school enrollment <u>48,692</u> Economically disadvantaged students <u>18,320</u> Limited English proficiency <u>3,327</u> ; bilingual enrollment <u>3,023</u> <u>1,244</u> referrals to Brazoria County Juvenile Probation for children in need of supervision <u>424</u> Families served with counseling and case management by Youth and Family Services (Y&FS) <u>3,656</u> youth served by Boys & Girls Club in 2004
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. Children are most vulnerable on weekdays between 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. than at any other time. Boys and Girls Club of Brazoria County, Youth & Family Services, Communities in Schools, Brazoria County Juvenile Justice Center and the Brazoria County Youth Home offer programs for at risk youth and their parents/guardians. Decreases and reduction in funding available through federal, state and local budgets for social services has hampered and restricted the growth and progress in these areas.	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of services for at risk children with obesity issues	Total school enrollment <u>48,692</u> Economically disadvantaged students <u>18,320</u> <u>40 percent</u> of children ages 6 – 8 in Texas are at risk of being overweight (>85 th percentile); <u>20 percent</u> are overweight (>95 th percentile); Obesity contributes to many serious healthy conditions and emotional problems. Limited English proficiency <u>3,327</u> ; bilingual enrollment <u>3,023</u> <u>3,656</u> youth served by Boys & Girls Club in 2004
Lack of available and accessible resources offering instructions on proper nutrition and physical fitness for children and youths with obesity issues. Juveniles are unable to participate in services such as community counseling, after school programs due to barriers including proximity to services (transportation needs), lack of adequate service providers/programs and costs. Decreases and reduction in funding available through federal, state and local budgets for social services has hampered and restricted the growth and progress in these areas.	

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

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Increased need for assistances to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault	Need increases as the county’s unemployment rate continues to outpace that of the state, and hurricane evacuees share in the area’s already limited resources. Total number of victims served = <u>1,124</u>
<p>The Women’s Center operates two shelters. The shelters serve victims of domestic violence only. One shelter has been in existence since 1982; the second, since September 2003. It was opened in the north end of the county because of exponential growth in the Pearland area and to enable north-end victims to stay within their home county, where they qualify because of residency for various types of aid when fleeing a violent home. Operation of the second shelter has resulted in many success stories, but has put a real financial strain on agency resources.</p> <p>The agency also operates 5 offices for benefit of both domestic violence and sexual assault victims and 3 transitional living houses. Services offered these victims include counseling, help obtaining employment, permanent housing, and other resources, transportation, classes for batterers (both male and female), a Supervised Visitation Program, and 24 hour toll-free telephone access. (Two of the services – housing and transportation – are listed as critical on the county’s Needs Assessment survey.</p>	

Additionally, the agency has a special working relationship with the District Attorney's office to expedite protective orders; and the agency facilitates the county SART (Sexual Assault Response Team), a function of our SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) program, established roughly 2 years ago.

The Women's Center underwent reorganization in late 2003 in response to decreased funding. Fewer staff with greater responsibility stepped up to the plate to serve an increased number of victims with a variety of needs. Protective order applications increased 100%. There was a 13% increase in reported rapes (the Sheriff's Office worked 40 sexual assault cases in one month alone) and an 11% increase in reported domestic violence incidents. Given that experts agree sexual assault and domestic violence are the nation's two most under-reported crimes, these numbers indicate a real need for the services of the Women's Center.

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>Insufficient services for crime victims which causes available resources to be overburdened; long waiting period for services</p>	<p>The number of reported sexual assault / abuse of children in 2003: <u>1,067</u> Number of total victims provided service by the DA's Office Victim Program in 2004: <u>4,083</u> Number of DA's victims who received service from 7/01 to 10/31/03 of 2005: <u>1,733</u> Number of victims served by Brazoria County Community Supervision in 2002: <u>372</u>; 2003 <u>539</u>; 2004: <u>666</u>; 2005: <u>674</u> Number of victims who received service from Pearland Police Department Crime Victim Program from August – December 2002: <u>633</u> and from January – December, 2003: <u>1,333</u></p>
<p>The District Attorney's Office Crime Victim Program has two full-time liaisons to assist victims with criminal justice issues. Within a four month period in 2005, service was provided to <u>1,733</u> victims. For the same time period in 2004, <u>1,638</u> victims received service. The DA's program provides victims with information, referrals, court accompaniment and emotional support. Brazoria County's Community Supervision Department provides service to victims for one to ten years, depending on the term of the defendant's court ordered probation. Within the past year the department has seen an increase in the number of victim contacts over prior years. Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Victim Services facilitated an increase in restitution paid to victims during a twelve month period reflecting \$511,702 paid in FY 2003-04 and \$515,204 paid in FY 2004-05. Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections' Victim Services Program provided <u>1,411</u> different services to victims in FY 2004-05 compared to <u>1,124</u> in FY 2003-04; <u>737</u> in FY 2002-03 and <u>618</u> in FY 2001-02</p>	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of full-time victim programs at many of the law enforcement agencies	Number of law enforcement agencies that have full-time victim programs: <u>2</u> Total number of law enforcement agencies: <u>23</u>
<p>There are over twenty law enforcement agencies in the county. The Alvin Police Department and the Pearland Police Department are the only agencies that have full-time positions dedicated to crime victims. The Sheriff's Department liaison's time is equally divided between their victim program and the Crime Stopper Program. From April 2000 the county's population increased <u>12.1 %</u>. The city of Pearland saw the largest increase at <u>100%</u>, which can be attributed to the community's close proximity to Houston.</p>	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Insufficient free local professional counseling services for victims	Total number of victims served in 2005 by Youth & Family Services was <u>335</u> . This included <u>188</u> victims of child sexual abuse; <u>15</u> victims of physical child abuse; <u>72</u> victims of domestic abuse; <u>47</u> adults molested as children; <u>8</u> adults sexually molested; <u>4</u> survivors of homicide and <u>1</u> DUI/DWI crashes and 0 victims of other violence such as robbery and assault. <u>281</u> victims were seen in crisis counseling. Of these victims, <u>227</u> were Caucasian, <u>80</u> were Hispanic, <u>17</u> were black and <u>11</u> were Asian
<p>Youth and Family Counseling Services use VOCA funding to provide free professional counseling to victims of crimes in Brazoria County. This non-profit agency is the only one in the area that offers free counseling. Access to services is made easier with six locations in Alvin, Angleton, Freeport, Pearland, Sweeny and West Columbia. The agency provides services in English and Spanish to clients in need. Professional counseling helps victims and their families who have experienced sexual abuse, domestic violence, drunk driving accidents, homicide and burglaries, recover from the trauma suffered because of a criminal event. If left untreated, victims can become unable to function in their everyday life. 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 so that they can resume their normal life. A Case Management component of this program provides information and referral to victims, support during prosecution of the crime, assistance with Crime Victims Compensation paperwork and victim's rights information, if needed, and assistance with location of help and services for any other needs of the victims and family members. Continuation of these counseling and case management services and</p>	

growth of the program are essential to Brazoria County victims. Without these case management and counseling services, the judicial and law enforcement advocates would not be able to refer victims to free, local professional counseling program services.

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>Lack of medical services and follow-up services for child victims of abuse and neglect, specifically sexual assault child victims.</p>	<p>Children within the county that have made a disclosure to the Children’s Advocacy Center forensic interviewer are now referred to the Children’s Advocacy Center on-site medical component for a sexual assault exam. Before the August, 2005 opening of the Brazoria County CAD medical component, children in need of medical services such as a sexual assault exam and follow up care were referred to either Harris or Galveston County due to lack of such medical services within the county. This created a problem for victims and their families in that often children did not receive the necessary services due to lack of transportation and distance. In addition, children that are transported out of county to receive such medical services are affected by additional unnecessary trauma of an anticipated sexual assault exam.</p>

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>Lack of case management services for child victims and their families</p>	<p>In the first 18 months of operation (March 29, 2004 – September 30, 2005), the Children’s Advocacy Center has served <u>528</u> primary victims and <u>358</u> secondary victims. This includes <u>528</u> forensic interviews, <u>79</u> medical referrals and <u>211</u> mental health referrals.</p> <p>The Children’s Advocacy Center of Brazoria County services victims of abuse and neglect through case completion. Currently the CAC finds that it is essential for follow up services f victims to recruit a Child and Family Specialist in order to provide case management and stay abreast of the needs of children and families that have been seen through the CAC. The goal through case management is to provide a more efficient case tracking system ensuring that clients’ needs are not being overlooked s they track through a complex system in child abuse cases from the investigating component, to forensic interviewing, to medical and therapeutic services and finally through prosecution.</p> <p>Currently, the Children’s Advocacy Center has one Forensic Interviewer to complete all interviews and follow up with victims and their families. The CAC finds it essential to follow up with the families to ensure the victims are receiving adequate care. With only one staff member available for follow up, only the extreme cases are being followed while others are left in a system that can be confusing. This may cause the victim’s family members to not get the help that may be needed for the child victim and leave that child vulnerable to more abuse and neglect.</p>

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of follow-up services for both male and female sexual assault victims	Currently in the county there is no program in place that provides counseling to victims of sexual assault who tested positive for HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis C. Galveston and Houston are the closest communities that offer counseling and medical treatment that is tailored to assist victims with the most up-to-date information and treatment regarding lifestyle changes and what to expect on the progression of these diseases.

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Insufficient bilingual services for crime victims	Number of bilingual crime victim service providers: <u>5</u> <u>22.8%</u> of county citizens are Latinos. The only agency that offers full time bilingual services to crime victims are Alvin PD Comprehensive Crime Victim Program, Pearland PD Crime Victim Program and The Women's Center. Youth & Family Counseling Services offers bilingual counseling s well as case management services.
Despite the effort of many of the agencies in Brazoria County, there is still a shortage of bilingual service providers. Brazoria County covers 1,488 square miles. Some agencies have Spanish speaking staff, but usually they are more centrally located in the county, leaving a large part of the population without service. In the northern part of the county, there are also Asian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Pakistani and Indian communities.	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of available resources for individuals in crisis	Based on the number of inquiries from various agencies in the community there is a need for services to address individuals in crisis.
Currently there are no county-wide procedures or protocol in place for individuals who are self-destructive or suicidal other than a hospital or residential placement facility either in Galveston or Harris County.	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Insufficient mental health services	Mental Health Professional Shortage: <u>42 per 100,000</u> population vs. the state average of <u>150 per 100,000</u> population
Reduced funding for mental health services has placed a burden on other agencies in the community. More individuals with mental health issues are making their way into the criminal justice system which increases the burden on law enforcement and victim services.	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Insufficient affordable housing	Section 8 currently provides service to <u>3,000</u> residents. An <u>additional 3,000</u> would qualify if vouchers were available. FEMA funds of \$60,000 assisted <u>500</u> families with utility bills in just the northern part of the county.
Affordable housing in moderate income neighborhoods is desperately needed. Heads-of-household that qualify under Section 8 usually earn minimum wage until bad weather shuts down production. With no income coming into the home, children are left to suffer in squalid living conditions. Residents are living in apartment complexes and homes that should be condemned and they are unable to move because there is no place else for them to go.	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of programs for the elderly	Lack of affordable housing, assistance with medical help, prescriptions and transportation are all issues facing the county's elderly
Many low-income seniors are forced to live in apartment complexes that are infested with drugs and gangs. Often they are forced to choose between paying rent, utilities, buying medication or going to the doctor.	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of specialized training for law enforcement and service providers	Law enforcement agencies and service providers have seen an increase in the number of cases they handle where mental health issues are a factor.
Because it is a new program, wide spread training for law enforcement has not been	

implemented as yet, although SANE procedures cards for law enforcement officers have been printed by the Women’s Center, and a Deputy are poised to begin department-by department training. Additional training for domestic violence and sexual assault are also needed. .

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of transportation	Total # of denials by Connect Transit 2001: 939 , 2002: 851 , 2003: 914
<p>County residents who do not own reliable transportation have had their access to service providers, social services, medical care, courts, the workplace, daycare and schools restricted due to lack of public transportation. Victims of domestic violence are often forced to leave their homes and possessions behind when they leave abusive relationships. Without public transportation, victims have difficulty finding transportation to appear for court proceedings or take care of everyday needs. These shortages result in staff from agencies like the Women’s Center, police departments or the DA’s Crime victim Department providing transportation to victims. Not only does this result in a much higher cost for transportation services but regular duties are postponed while these staff members are providing transportation.</p>	

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

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Insufficient interoperability of countywide communications	The cities of Pearland, Alvin and Angleton, Manvel, Surfside, Danbury, Holiday Lakes, Jones Creek and Sweeny communicate by the “800” system. The cities located in the southern sector, Lake Jackson, Clute, Freeport, West Columbia, Brazoria, Oyster Creek, Quintana, Wild Peach and Old Ocean communicate either by radio or Nextel Communication. VHF is not compatible with the 800 trunking system.
<p>Currently the cities located in the southern sector are unable to utilize the “800” communication system due to lack of equipment and funds. In the event of a natural disaster, chemical explosion or terrorist attack the only means of communication available to those cities is to go through the dispatcher at the Sheriff’s Office. This would be inadequate and inefficient for the law enforcement agencies to attempt to communicate in this manner. Agencies located in the southern sector have, on occasion, lost communication with their dispatcher when chasing a fleeing suspect out of their radio range.</p>	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of an integrated countywide warrant system	Due to lack of funds and equipment the county has been unable to establish a countywide integrated warrant system.
<p>At the present time law enforcement agencies in the county do not have equipment or funds available to implement a countywide warrant program. In order to check warrants it is necessary to contact not only the Sheriff's Office, but each of the 23 law enforcement agencies as well. This is both time consuming and inefficient.</p>	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
Lack of specialized training for law enforcement and service providers	Law enforcement agencies and service providers have seen an increase in the number of cases they handle where mental health issues are a factor. Additional training for domestic violence and sexual assault are also needed.
<p>Additional training is needed for law enforcement officers and service providers to address issues relating to victims of violent crime, domestic violence, sexual assault and citizens with mental health issues. In 2005 local nurses began their Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner training to become certified by the Attorney General's Office SANE Program. Because it is a new program, widespread training for law enforcement has not been implemented as yet.</p>	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>	
Insufficient intervention, prevention and awareness programs for the large number of area youths.	Total child population	75,925
	Total school enrollment	48,692
	# of schools serviced in county	8
	# of DARE students	596
	# of GREAT students	80
	# of CHICKEN students	156
	# of Special Projects students	2,002
<p>The Brazoria County Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing the majority of intervention, prevention and awareness programs for the county's youths. Currently there are only two staff members assigned to coordinate the various programs. The current population of children in the county is 75,925, of those 48,692 are enrolled in school. The total number of children that participated in the various programs for 2004 was 4,401. In 2004 the Sheriff's Office assembled 2,500 Child Identification Kits and distributed 500, obtained 300 Care Bears from the Assistance League of Brazos to distribute to children who have been traumatized by crime. In 2005 they</p>		

participated in the National Firearm Safety Project by distributing 1,885 gun locks to parents, presented Motivational Drug Awareness Programs and presented the Stranger Danger Program to 1700 students. The Sheriff's Office operates a total of 65 Crime Prevention Programs and 18 Special Projects. These important programs benefited just a small fraction of the county's children. The Sheriff's Office also coordinates and works with schools and other agencies in the community for Gang Awareness and Prevention, DWI/DUI Awareness, Terrorism, and the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Course which was presented to a total of 1,600 students.

Resources Available

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

Juvenile Justice:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Brazoria County DA's Office	Prosecution	Prosecutes Juvenile Cases
Juvenile Probation Department Juvenile Boot Camp		Supervises the probation of juvenile offenders
Children's Protective Services	Investigation	Investigates reports of abuse and neglect of children, provides services to help youth in foster care, places children in foster care / adoptive homes, and contracts with other agencies to provide clients with specialized services.
Brazoria County Sheriff's Department	Law enforcement	Investigation
Youth & Family Counseling Service	Non-Profit	Provides counseling services for children and their families
Alvin Police Department	Law enforcement	Investigation
Pearland Police Department	Law enforcement	Investigation
United Way of Brazoria	Non-Profit	Provides community resources

County		and referrals to other agencies that assist citizens in need.
Boys and Girls Club of Brazoria County	Non-Profit	Provides Teen Court to assess and redirect juvenile offenders of Class C Misdemeanor offenses Provides after school programs including tutoring and drug, alcohol and pregnancy prevention programs (SMART Moves); gang prevention programs. Provides licensed after-school care for youth
CASA	Non-Profit	Provides Court Appointed Special Advocates for children in foster care.
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Non-Profit	
GREAT Program		
DARE Program		
The Gulf Coast Center – Connect Transit Program	MHMR Authority for Brazoria and Galveston Counties	Public transportation services in Brazoria and Galveston Counties

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Alvin Police Department	Law enforcement /criminal investigation	
Pearland Police Department	Law enforcement / criminal investigation	
Brazoria County Sheriff's Office	Law Enforcement / criminal investigation	Responsible for criminal investigation and enforcement of laws. Also provides crime prevention and awareness programs to the County's youth
Brazoria County DA's Office	Prosecution	
Brazoria County CSCD	Community Supervision	Responsible for the supervision, education and correction of

		adult probationers while in the community.
West Columbia Police Department	Law enforcement/criminal investigation	

Victim Services:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Brazoria County DA's Office Crime Victim Assistance Program	Prosecution	Provides information, referrals, assistance with Crime Victim Compensation, court notification, court accompaniment
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, counseling and 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.
Brazoria County Sheriff's Office Crime Victim Program	Law Enforcement	Provides information to victims regarding the investigation of their case and assistance with Crime Victim Compensation
Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Crime Victim Assistance Program	Law Enforcement	Provides information to victims regarding the investigation of their case and assistance with Crime Victim Compensation
Pearland Police Department Crime Victim Assistance Program	Law Enforcement	Provides information to victims regarding the investigation of their case and assistance with Crime Victim Compensation
Women's Center of	Non-Profit agency for	Provides assistance to victims

Brazoria County	domestic violence and sexual assault victims	of domestic violence, including shelter, advocacy, transitional living housing, protective orders, provides accompaniment to hospitals and court. Operates rape crisis center. Coordinates the local SANE and SART programs
Youth and Family Counseling Services	Non-Profit agency servicing children and families	Offers no cost programs for at risk children and their families. These services are available to the family during and after normal business hours. YFCS has 6 offices through out the county to assist those with limited transportation. YFCS offers 24 hour, 7 days a week crisis intervention and crisis assessment, temporary shelter services, assessment, individual and family counseling, case management, and community outreach.
Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department Crime Victim Program	Juvenile Supervision	Provides information and assistance to victims of juvenile offenders
Brazoria County Crime Stoppers	Law Enforcement/ Citizen Program	Provides monetary incentives to witnesses to come forth with information to solve crimes
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)	Non-Profit agency for victims of intoxicated assault/manslaughter	Provides information and support to individuals who are victims of drunk/drugged drivers
Brazoria County Crime Victim Support Group	Crime Victim Group	Support group for crime victims to share thoughts and feelings on individual experiences and ideas for the purpose of assisting other victims
Children's Advocacy Center of Brazoria County	Multidisciplinary team approach to child abuse investigations	The Children's Advocacy Center of Brazoria County in partnership with the District Attorney's Office, Child Protective Services and 23 Law Enforcement Agencies provides

		<p>victim services to child abuse victims that are referred to the CAC. Referrals to the CAD are made from the above partner agencies. The type of services that the CAD provides are forensic interviews of child victims, therapeutic referrals for primary and secondary victims a well as to pursue services and prosecution when necessary and crime victims' assistance. The CAC currently has one bilingual individual that is able to assist in all aspects of service provided.</p>
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Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Gulf Coast MHMR Service Center	MHMR Authority for Brazoria and Galveston Counties	Public transportation
Brazoria County SANE Program	Medical	Provides sexual assault exams for victims of sexual assault

Prevention / Intervention:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
MICA(Multi-County Interagency Coalition Against Sexual Assault	Coalition of Service Providers	Works to eliminate sexual assault and reduce its effects on the community
Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County	Non-Profit Agency	Provides after school programs including tutoring and drug, alcohol and pregnancy prevention programs (SMART Moves); gang prevention programs; Consequences Program
The Women's Center of Brazoria County	Non-Profit Agency	Batterers' Classes for both males and females are designed to interrupt the cycle of violence. Counseling at all 5 offices for sexual assault and domestic

		violence victims provides prevention, as well as intervention, strategies.
Youth and Family Counseling	Non-Profit agency	Provides child abuse prevention services in the eight are ISD's

Interagency Cooperation

In the space below write a description of how the various resources listed in the previous pages could cooperatively work together to accomplish the goal of closing identified gaps in services:

- The Women’s Center provides comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault at 2 shelters, 5 offices, and through its 24 hour toll-free HOTLINE. To do so, the Women’s Center staff (both paid and volunteer) rely on special working relationships with the D.A.’s office, Brazosport Memorial Hospital, area police departments and the Sheriff’s office, CPS, certain Brazoria County courts, Communities in Schools, Adult Probation, Brazos Place local apartment complexes and the FEMA board.
- Cooperative Working Agreements between the agencies insure that victims will receive adequate assistance by reducing duplication of services. By networking, sharing information and coordinating with other agencies and businesses in the community.
- The Brazoria County District Attorney’s Office Crime Victims Assistance Program, Alvin Police Department Comprehensive Victim Assistance Program, Pearland Police Department Crime Victim Assistance Program, Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Department Victim Services Program, Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department, Brazoria County Sheriff’s Office Victim Program, Youth & Family Counseling Service and The Women’s Center of Brazoria County work together in an effort to reduce duplication of services.
- The Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department works with all County ISDs to provide the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program. (Boot Camp)
- Brazoria County Crime Stoppers, Inc., is a citizen-based program that works in conjunction with law enforcement and the media to raise awareness of crimes and provide monetary incentives to witnesses to come forth with the information to solve crimes. Brazoria County Crime Stoppers, Inc, acts as a parent organization and supports, administratively and financially, programs in area schools. Campus crime stoppers program work with school districts preventing and solving crimes and school policy issues on campus. Crime Stoppers works closely with Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Department to solicit information about people who are not fulfilling their probation obligations to the county.
- MICSA is working toward eliminating sexual assault and reducing its effects on our community through crisis intervention, services, education and community involvement. MICSA services several counties including Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris Counties. MICSA is prepared to work with all other agencies in Brazoria County who work with sexual assault victims.
- Youth and Family Counseling Services provide out-patient counseling and case management services to victim of crime.

- Youth and Family Counseling Services provides child abuse prevention services in the eight area ISD's.
- Youth and Family Counseling Service provide Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for children in foster care.
- Youth and Family works with schools, probation departments and other community resources to provide intervention services on gangs and juvenile delinquency
- Youth and Family works with the Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department to provide services to runaway and homeless youth.
- Youth and Family works with Gulf Coast MHMR and Juvenile Probation to provide programming for juvenile first offenders.
- Youth and Family works with Justices of the Peace and local school districts to decrease truancy and high school drop out rates.
- Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County works with judges across the county to relieved the overloaded juvenile justice system.
- Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County works with local judges, community service agencies, parents and volunteers to provide teen court to juveniles offenders in Brazoria County.
- Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County works with local schools to provide a positive and safe place for juveniles and to provide after school youth programs for education enhancement and career development, character and leadership, recreational programs, the arts, health and life skill development.
- Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County works with agencies including Youth & Family Counseling, United Way of Brazoria County, Independent School Districts in Brazoria County, Texas Parks & Wildlife, JC Penney's, Dow, Coastal Conservation, Junior Achievement, Lions, Rotary and many more community members to provide youth education and life skill programs.
- Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County provides all day summer camp for youth.
- United Way Helpline works with community resources and services to refer consumers to locate appropriate resources.
- Communities in Schools is designed as a case management approach to helping students stay in school, successfully learn and prepare for life.
- Communities in Schools works with various ISD's to provide students with educational enhancements, enrichment, parent/family involvement, health and human service linkages, pre-employment skills for students and their parents and supportive guidance.

- Communities in Schools works with agencies including but not limited to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Youth and Family Counseling and The Women’s Center to provide students with valuable skills and education.
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving fills the gap in the community providing victims services that are specifically designed to address the needs of the victims during the grief and criminal justice/judicial process. The crime of drunk/drugged driving is underserved within the community. MADD works with the Brazoria County DA’s Office Crime Victim Program and also with Brazoria County CSCD Victim Services Program to staff and implement Victim Impact Panels which highlight the effect of drunk driving on victims and their loved ones.

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 urge agencies to provide programming that addresses the outlined focus areas.

Contact Information

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This Plan is available on-line at www.brazoria-county.com.