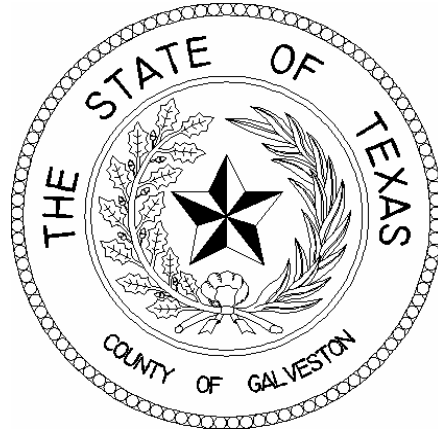


Galveston County



Community Plan 2007-2008

December 2007

Galveston County Community Plan

What Is a Community Plan?

This plan is formally known as the Galveston 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 Galveston County who 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 Community Planning Team focus groups on Pages 4-5 and again on Pages 30-31.

Though revisions to this plan were completed in December 2007, this is a work in progress. The plan is updated at least once annually to reflect new criminal justice goals, changes in planning group membership, changing agency circumstances, and requirements concerning the makeup of the Plan. Unanticipated events, such as the influx of Louisiana residents due to Hurricane Katrina, also affect community planning from year to year as local resources are tasked to respond.

If you are reading this Plan and have not been involved in its development, you are invited to participate. Any questions you may have can be addressed to either Connie Nicholson, Community Plan Coordinator for Galveston County, or to the Criminal Justice Program of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Contact information is provided on Pages 28-29.

The Galveston County Commissioners Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the Galveston County Community Plan. Additionally, the Commissioners Court generally 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:

Bayou Vista	Clear Lake Shores	Dickinson	Friendswood
Galveston	Hitchcock	Jamaica Beach	Kemah
La Marque	League City	Santa Fe	Texas City
Tiki Island			

Unincorporated Communities:

Alta Loma	Arcadia	Algoa	Bacliff
Bayview	Crystal Beach	Gilchrist	High Island
Port Bolivar	San Leon		

School Districts:

Clear Creek ISD	Dickinson ISD	Friendswood ISD
Galveston ISD	High Island ISD	Hitchcock ISD
La Marque ISD	Santa Fe ISD	Texas City ISD

Brief description and history of Galveston County:

Galveston County lies approximately 30 miles south of Houston on the Upper Texas Gulf Coast. Galveston County (named for Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish hero of the American Revolution) had an estimated 2006 population of 283,551 (*U. S. Census Bureau*), making it the state's 13th most populous county. A steady growth rate of about 13.3 % from April 2000 to July 2006, has been fueled by its proximity to Johnson Space Center and the City of Houston as well as strong housing growth and tourism. Principal industries in addition to tourism include petrochemical manufacturing and refining, insurance, government and health care.

The island city of Galveston is home to the sprawling University of Texas Medical Branch east of the historic Strand shopping district, and Texas A&M-Galveston, a marine sciences-oriented university situated on Pelican Island. The Port of Galveston is enjoying a resurgence thanks to the growth of the city's cruise ship business, now ranked in the top five nationally in terms of passengers. In addition to The Historic Strand shopping district, island visitors have a host of destinations to enjoy including the busy beachfront hotels and restaurants, Moody Gardens, the Lone Star Flight Museum and the historic tall ship *Elissa*.

Galveston's economy has benefited in recent years from beachfront business and residential development, the investment of more than \$100 million in a new Galveston County courts-jail complex north of Broadway Avenue, and the conversion of many downtown buildings into loft apartments and tourism-related businesses. In the meantime the Galveston Independent School District is investing millions of dollars in school renovations across the island.

Mainland Galveston County has benefited from the same encouraging development, with new roofs rising in virtually every city. Accompanying this new growth, especially in the League City-Friendswood area, are many new schools and improved roads.

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Galveston County: Connie Nicholson, Grants Coordinator, Office of Finance and Administration (281-534-8442 or 409-770-5355).

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 and may provide assistance to more than one group:

Juvenile Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Faith Garate (chair)	Galveston County Juvenile Justice Dept.
Bill Buffum	Family Service Center
Cindy Schulz	Gulf Coast Big Brothers-Big Sisters
Vickie Anderson	The Children's Center
Jennifer Hart	Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol

Victim Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Denise Bennett (chair)	Advocacy Center
Sonya Johnson	Family Service Center

Terri Ward
Rachel Leal
Angela Bimage
Judith Boyle
Lynn E. Bernhard

Resource and Crisis Center
Criminal District Attorney's Office
Resource and Crisis Center
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
The Children's Center

Law Enforcement:

Name
Carla Costello
Lisa Price
Zonia Smith
Marsha Rappaport
Ray Tuttoilmondo (**chair**)

Agency
Texas City Police Department
Friendswood Police Department
Galveston County Criminal District Attorney's Office
St. Vincent's House
Galveston County Sheriff's Office

Concerned Citizens:

Name
Jim Mahood
Connie Nicholson

Name
HGAC
Galveston County Grants Department

Identification of Community Problems

General Public Safety Needs and Issues

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 Galveston County. Below is a discussion of the problems, the manner in which the problems are being addressed, and how responses to these community problems could be improved.

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

Identified Problem

1. Delinquency

Data Collection

- Number of referrals to the Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department for felony offenses during 2006: 337
- Number of referrals to GCJJD for misdemeanor behavior during 2006:547. Number of referrals for violation of court order and contempt of magistrate order during 2006: 463. Total number of misdemeanor referrals in 2006: 1010.
- During 2006 there were 360 adjudications to probation affecting 276 juveniles in Galveston County.
- Referrals to juvenile probation departments for misdemeanor offenses statewide, 2005 (latest year available): 49,557.
- Number of juveniles arrested statewide, 2005: 141,113 (102,373 referred to juvenile probation departments)
- Number of Galveston County juveniles committed to the Texas Youth Commission, 2006: 48. Texas Youth Commission commitments from Jan. 1, 2007 to October 31, 2007: 23
- Percentage of Galveston County students completing high school in May 2004: 84.6%. Of the remaining 15.4%, 4.2% received their GED. The balance of 11.2% either dropped out or continued on in high school until no longer able to continue.

Discussion

There are several patterns of delinquency, some of them overlapping. Offenders may be violent or non-violent, first-time or habitual. Some tend toward gang behavior while others follow a track leading them to increasingly violent actions such as aggravated assault, rape and murder. The Community Planning Group believes it is important to focus resources toward specific types of delinquency patterns, as well as to the progression and

development of offenses.

A host of agencies and organizations are focusing their efforts on juvenile issues. Key agencies include the Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department, the Galveston County Criminal District Attorney, the Family District Court and three County Courts, Children's Protective Services, Justice of the Peace courts, and the court-appointed Juvenile Referee. Nearly every day of the week the professionals working in these agencies and organizations cross paths as they work on behalf of troubled youths.

Local law enforcement agencies, school-based police departments, truancy programs and attendance offices are instrumental in responding to the demands and needs of youth. The school districts also offer myriad services to address students' health, mental health, education and social needs. Many non-profits, including faith-based organizations, focus their efforts on troubled young people.

Federal funding cuts have caused Galveston County to scale back several programs previously funded by the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant. Previously the grant helped pay for extra attorneys handling juvenile offenders; classroom materials at the Juvenile Justice Center; and a variety of security equipment. Effective Aug. 1, 2005, the only program still funded by the grant provides fast-tracking of cases involving violent juveniles in the District Attorney's Office.

Despite community efforts, hundreds of Galveston County youths each year fail to overcome the challenges presented by their environment. Lack of supervision, family discord, substance abuse and other factors destine them for truancy, delinquency and eventual failure in adult life.

The community could better respond to delinquency problems if resources were available for the following:

- Expand mental health screening, assessment and counseling for youth offenders; acute mental health crisis care; and readily accessible outpatient care
- Expand resources to target specific patterns of delinquent behavior
- Provide re-entry services, including case management, to help youths reintegrate into schools and families
- Develop support groups to help parents promote good citizenship of their children
- Continue emphasis on tougher sanctions and effective reintegration to maintain progress made on violent crime rate among juveniles
- Promote greater participation in parenting programs for young adults with small children
- Restore JABG funding to help expedite juvenile cases through the court system
- Develop programs addressing delinquency prevention
- Develop and coordinate a network of group services available through the court system focused on anger management, anti-bullying, truancy reduction, and family crisis management

Identified Problem

2. Children in need of supervision (“CINS”)

Data Collection

- Number of juveniles referred to GCJJD for CINS behavior in 2006 including truancy, runaways, theft, disorderly conduct and liquor law violations: **171**
- CINS referrals statewide, 2005: 16,870 (Texas Juvenile Probation Commission)

Discussion

The Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department received 993 referrals concerning delinquent or CINS children from January to September 2006.

The lack of adequate and consistent supervision by the family and the community is a major contributing factor to delinquency and anti-social behavior among Galveston County’s youths. Family conflict and discord leads many teens to escape abusive and dangerous situations for the comfort and safety of friends and relatives, where the respite is temporary at best. Many would benefit from the filing of a CINS petition, but others, such as those exhibiting sexual behavior problems, require much closer supervision. Poorly supervised children are exposed to danger and risk, and are more likely to engage in anti-social behavior. This includes truants, dropouts and runaways as well as children who are attending school but lack after-school supervision.

Big Brothers & Big Sisters is the oldest and the largest one-to-one youth mentoring organization in the United States that matches caring adults with children between the ages of six and seventeen who primarily come from low-income, single parent homes and live in an environment surrounded by poverty and crime. Mentoring is a proven way of improving life for at-risk kids. A child who meets with a mentor one hour a week for a year is 46% less likely to start using drugs, 27% less likely to start drinking, 52% less likely to skip a day of school and more likely to earn higher grades, and 33% less likely to hit someone.

In the 33 years Gulf Coast Big Brothers & Big Sisters has been in existence, while in the program there have been no cases of teen pregnancy, two arrest for drugs and alcohol (one for drugs and one for alcohol), no school dropouts, no reported gang related activity, and four youths were handled by the juvenile authorities. Mentoring helps these at-risk kids overcome the negative influences in their life so that they can grow up to be productive, self-sufficient, and successful members of their community.

Response to the problems associated with children in need of supervision could be improved by undertaking the following measures:

- Expand access to residential care, community counseling, day programming, secure care, post-confinement programs, mental health residential treatment and respite care.
- Expand access to after-school programs for “latchkey” children
- Expand shelter, treatment and counseling for homeless and “throwaway” youths
- Expand truancy intervention programs countywide

- Expand opportunities to provide early intervention for first-time offenders
- Expand Saturday workshops for juveniles and parents as a truancy prevention and intervention countywide

Identified Problem

3. Substance abuse by youths and parents

Data Collection

- Number of MIP's (youth 20 and under) citations/arrests in Galveston County in 2005-2007: 248 (Source: Galveston County Law Enforcement)
- Number of alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities (youth and adult) in Galveston County in 2001-2005: 111 (Source: NHTSA – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)
- NHTSA shows 60% of all traffic fatalities are alcohol related in Galveston County. The National Average is 30%. Galveston County is also above the state percentage which is at 46%.
- Senior High Schoolers (ages 14-18) stated their average age of first use of an alcoholic beverage was between the ages of 11-15. (Source: Various Galveston County Independent School District's)
- Drug of choice for youth (grades 6-12) in Galveston County is alcohol. (Source: 02-07 state, regional and school data, TP11, NSDUH)

Discussion

The use of alcohol and other drugs contribute to a significant percentage of delinquent and criminal activity by juveniles. Reports from the Galveston County Sheriff's Office and local police departments show a direct correlation between alcohol/drug abuse and neighborhood crime, including theft, prostitution and assault. Well-publicized burglary, solicitation and drug stings on both the island and the mainland during 2006 provide convincing evidence that drug abuse and crime are not easily separated.

Calendar year 2006 has seen a rise in methamphetamine use nationwide and particularly in Texas, where smoking "ice" is becoming the major route of admission for persons entering treatment programs. While the state is seeing more and more seizures of Mexican-produced methamphetamine ice, particularly in North and East Texas, usage is widespread across the Lone Star State. Local health, education and law enforcement officials, alarmed at the drug's growing popularity in Galveston County, sponsored a conference in Galveston in October 2006 to alert social workers, law enforcement and other disciplines of this dangerous trend.

Ongoing national surveys by SAMHSA repeatedly tie drug and alcohol abuse to six delinquent behaviors. These include engaging in fights at school, group-against-group fights, personal attacks with intent to harm, theft, sale of drugs, and carrying a handgun.

Schoolyard aggression and bullying linked to family drug and alcohol abuse continue to concern parents. Schools, neighborhood organizations and private, non-profit groups are offering more workshops and training to help teachers and parents recognize the problem. Upon investigation, counselors typically find strong links between aggressive behavior and family drug use, drug abuse and violence in the home. The Community Youth Development Needs Survey conducted by Galveston ISD during the 2005-2006 school year ranked substance abuse and violence prevention programs for youth as the second highest priority behind employment assistance.

Alcohol continues to be the drug of choice among Texans of all ages. Of particular concern is the growing incidence of binge drinking, defined as drinking 5 or more drinks at one time. In 2004, 15 percent of all secondary students said that when they drank, they usually drank 5 or more beers at one time, and 13 percent reported binge drinking of liquor (SAMHSA). The 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimated that 47.9 percent of Texans ages 12 and over had consumed alcohol in the past month.

Many organizations are working to address substance abuse issues in the county, including law enforcement, local school districts, school-based clinics and the Galveston County Health District. Several dozen agencies in Galveston County and adjacent counties provide direct services to adolescents and adults with substance abuse problems. But the need continues to exceed the level of services.

Drug abuse prevention and intervention strategies could more effectively help reduce delinquency if the following steps were taken:

- Expand residential and outpatient treatment and counseling for youth and parent substance abusers
- Security funding for community-based drug and alcohol abuse publicity and public education
- Secure funding for training and specialized equipment needed for narcotics-related investigations

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

Identified Problem Data Collection

1. Domestic violence and children

- Number of confirmed victims of abuse and neglect, Children's Protective Services, 2006: **660**
- Number of CPS investigations completed, 2006: **2,257** (up from 2,194 in 2004)
- Number of Galveston County children (CPS, 2006) in substitute care: **435** (down from 509 in 2004)
- Number of Galveston County children (CPS, 2006) in foster care: **257**

Discussion

Domestic violence places children at risk for direct injury and decreased supervision while contributing to the development of physically and sexually aggressive behaviors, substance abuse, and decreased academic performance. Children victimized by domestic violence in turn tend to react in violent ways to their environment. Victims of domestic violence are subject to repeat attacks in part because there are no intervention programs (other than anger management) in Galveston County for batterers. Often Spanish-speaking adults ordered to attend anger management classes find that instruction is available only in English.

In 2004, Galveston County Children's Protective Services reported 680 confirmed victims of abuse and neglect, following 2,194 investigations. Actual numbers of children in state care have increased every year since 2000. Five-hundred nine children were in substitute care during 2004, while 350 were in foster care. Additionally there were three fatalities related to child abuse and/or neglect in 2004.

The Resource and Crisis Center of Galveston County shelters hundreds of women and children (and occasionally, men) throughout the year. These individuals and many others receive a host of non-residential services as well. Shelter and support services also are provided by Beacon Place, which opened in Galveston in 1999 to provide transitional housing and other support services for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Since opening its doors, Beacon Place, operated by Woman, Inc., has provided subsidized housing and services to hundreds of women and children. The facility is generally at full capacity.

In the north county, the Friendswood Police Department's' Crime Victim Assistance Program provides a host of services to victims and their families. Bay Area Turning Point operates a shelter and provides aid to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Lone Star Legal Aid and the District Attorney's Office assist victims as they are able within their respective mandates. Clients are seen in a timely manner and cases are assessed quickly, though the growing number of cases represents a significant challenge for the attorneys and victims' representatives dedicated to this mission. The District

Attorney's Office was awarded a grant from the Governor's Criminal Justice Division to hire a child and elderly abuse prosecutor during FY06, helping to address a portion of this rising caseload.

The Galveston/Brazoria County Respite Program which was operated by The Children's Center, Inc. and provided temporary planned or emergency childcare for eligible families in Galveston and Brazoria counties no longer exists due to Federal funding cuts. This is a continuing need in Galveston and Brazoria counties.

Despite these varied services, the Community Planning Group believes there are insufficient resources to meet, in a timely manner, the needs of all persons who are fleeing situations of domestic violence. Nor is there sufficient legal aid to assist the indigent with the civil and criminal aspects of their crises. In addition, batterers have few treatment options or intervention programs available to help stop the cycle of domestic violence.

Support services and basic needs, including child care and housing, are lacking for many residents experiencing domestic problems. Exacerbating the situation is the lack of coordination in the delivery of services to more effectively assess, serve, refer, and track individuals in need.

Response to issues surrounding domestic violence and children could be improved by focusing on the following strategies:

- Increased violence prevention training for potential victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
- Expand long-term counseling for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault
- Expand legal assistance for survivors of domestic violence
- Provide additional staff in the District Attorney's Office for protective orders and prosecution
- Develop more consistent method of notifying survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault about their offenders or cases
- Expand training and education for all professionals dealing with domestic violence and sexual assault
- Expand funding for dedicated victim liaisons in police departments
- Develop state-approved Batterer's Intervention Program (BIP) for court-ordered treatment of offenders

Identified Problem

2. “Throwaway” and homeless youths

Data Collection

- Number of youths 18-20 served each day by The Children’s Center transitional living program for older homeless youth: **16** (at capacity since opening)
- Number of homeless parents, children, and older homeless youths accessing emergency shelter services at the Galveston Island Family Crisis Center: **37** (full occupancy since opening in 1998)
- Number of children ages 3-17 served daily at the Albertine Yeagar Youth Crisis Center: **18**

Discussion

Many Galveston County children have been abandoned to the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems by parents who are no longer capable of controlling them or interested in providing for them. Factors contributing to the breakdown in family structure include loss of employment and/or loss of housing, substance abuse, and violent behavior.

While many independent-minded youths stay with friends or relatives after their home life is shattered, others have no option but to sleep on the streets or seek extremely limited bed space at shelters. These youths may become easy marks for drug pushers and sexual predators, and the likelihood of them staying in school without a support structure diminishes rapidly.

Several programs have effectively intercepted many of these youths, including the Yeager Youth Crisis Center, Galveston Island Family Shelter, Galveston Project for Education of Homeless Children and The Children’s Center, all located in Galveston. These facilities assist adolescents who have been abandoned by their families, have run away from abusive homes, have reached 18 and are no longer eligible for CPS services, or otherwise have no permanent residence. Program staff work closely with the Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition, state and federal agencies and private donors to secure funding for transitional housing for this population.

For some young offenders, their confinement at the Esmond Juvenile Justice Center operated by Galveston County is exactly the structure they need. Unfortunately these youths soon return to the fractured environment that led to their delinquency in the first place.

Services for “throwaway” and homeless youths could be improved if funding were available for the following efforts:

- Expand opportunities for family counseling in schools, churches and the non-profit community
- Provide education so that youth can read, write and be knowledgeable in living skills and job acquiring skills.
- Expand transitional living opportunities on the island and mainland

Develop coordinated effort to transition young offenders back into their environment

following their release from the juvenile justice system

Identified Problem

3. Child survivors

Data Collection

- Number of Galveston County children (CPS, 2006) in substitute care: **435**
- Number of Galveston County children (CPS, 2006) in foster care: **257**
- Galveston County children available for adoption (CPS, 2004): **52** (up from 45 in 2004)
- Number of children receiving in-home services through CPS, 2004: **1,531** (up from 1,126 in 2004)

Discussion

Galveston County children continue to be at-risk for personal injury. If they are fortunate enough to survive an attack, their prospects for escaping violent situations later in life are bleak.

As reflected under identified problem #1, “Domestic violence and children,” the statistics of child abuse cases investigated by CPS in 2004 and the numbers of confirmed victims reflects the continuing need for services to child survivors of abuse, domestic violence and witnesses to those same acts.

Children who are exposed to and survive child abuse and other acts of violence are 58% more likely to become involved in violent crime as a child than children who are not exposed to violence, national statistics reveal. They also are more likely to be involved in violent crime as an adult.

Because of limited resources, government agencies and non-profits mostly focus on victims’ immediate needs rather than long-term prospects. These immediate needs are well-served through the collaborative efforts of Children’s Protective Services, the Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department, Galveston County Social Services, the Galveston County District Attorney’s Office, child abuse investigators with the Friendswood Police Department and the Sheriff’s Office, the Advocacy Center for Children, the Family Service Center, Innovative Alternatives, the Resource and Crisis Center, Beacon House, and many other agencies. However, more resources are needed by these agencies to ensure survivors of sexual abuse and violent crimes do not revisit violent situations in the future.

Survivors of violent crimes could be better served if more resources were available for the following:

- Expand long-term counseling for survivors of child abuse
- Expand legal assistance for families of survivors of crimes (divorces for moms in sexual assault of a child; child custody for grandparents when parents have abandoned, etc.)

- Provide additional assistant district attorneys to prosecute child victim and domestic violence cases
- Expand resources needed for court preparation, support and liaison services for child victims/witnesses and non-offending family members, through conclusion of their cases
- Establish a local Drug Endangered Children’s (DEC) program for handling children found in dangerous drug environments..
- Renew funding for county’s full-time child abuse investigator
- Provide training for law enforcement on internet victimization

Identified Problem

4. Elder survivors

Data Collection

- Population of elderly (age 65-plus) in Galveston County: **30,817** (2006 Census adjusted)
- Number of Galveston County Adult Protective Services (APS) clients receiving services, 2006: **834** (Department of Family & Protective Services)
- Number of APS investigations completed, 2006: **1,057** (Department of Family & Protective Services)
- Number of APS investigations confirmed, 2006: **731** (Department of Family & Protective Services)

Discussion

Elderly people may be isolated, ill without a capable person to care for them, or without resources to meet basic needs. This makes them an easy target and very susceptible to situations of abuse, exploitation, and neglect. Texas has more than 2.1 million residents age 65 or older, nearly half of them disabled. More than 80% of the allegations of maltreatment that are validated in APS in-home cases include neglect.

Abuse can be physical, mental, or a combination of the two. Neglect may result in starvation, dehydration, over- or under-medication, or unsuitable living conditions. Exploitation of the person’s resources such as identity theft, misuse of financial resources, or internet victimization also is common. Maltreatment of the elderly can be the act of a caretaker, family member, or other individual (known or unknown) to the victim.

To help prevent victimization of the elderly, the Galveston County Parks and Senior Services Division sought and received a grant from the Kempner Fund to provide legal assistance to seniors in the form of seminars held at the county’s senior citizen/community centers. The seminars are led by attorneys with Lone Star Legal Aid. Funds expired during FY05, and additional funds have been sought for FY06.

The Galveston County Sheriff’s Office also assists seniors through staff involvement in several programs beneficial to seniors and their safety.

Issues surrounding maltreatment of the elderly could be improved by focusing on the following strategies:

- Expand legal assistance for elderly survivors
- Increase outreach and education about resources to help potential victims and their families
- Educate adult children on aging

Identified Problem

5. Survivors of sexual assault

Data Collection

- Estimated number of rapes committed in Texas, 2005: **8,505** (DPS) (up from 8,401 in 2004).
- Number of reported rapes per 100,000 population in Texas, 2004: **37.4**, an increase of 3.6% from 2003 (Texas DPS)

Discussion

One in four women and one in 10 men will be sexually assaulted in her or his lifetime. One in three sexual assault victims is under the age of 12, and convicted rape and sexual assault offenders report that two-thirds of their victims were under the age of 18. Among victims age 18-29, two thirds had a prior relationship with the rapist. In Texas, the number of rapes began a slow, steady incline in 2000 following a seven-year decline.

The Victim Assistance Program of the Galveston County Criminal District Attorney’s Office provides information, outreach, assistance with court matters and details about the Crime Victims Compensation Program to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes. Services are provided specifically for rape victims by the Resource and Crisis Center and the University of Texas Medical Branch, but staffing issues and coordination between law enforcement and service providers are sometimes problematic.

Survivors of sexual assault could be better served if funding were available for the following:

- Expand sexual assault response teams in Galveston and surrounding counties
- Expand funding for dedicated victim liaisons in area police departments

Identified Problem

6. Survivors of other violent crimes

Data Collection

- Incidents involving family violence that were reported to Galveston County law enforcement agencies in 2004: **2,642**
- Number of murders in Texas, 2004: **1,359**
- Estimated number of aggravated assaults causing severe injury in Texas, 2004: **75,983** (DPS)

Discussion

Four hundred seventy-four individuals were arrested for violent crimes in Galveston County during 2004, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. Victims of these violent crimes, if they survive, face a difficult road to recovery that is sometimes marred by insensitivity and/or a lack of sufficient services at all levels of the public and private sectors.

Family members face a difficult recovery as well. Death of a loved one by violence is painful, unexpected and often senseless. As in all types of crises, survivors experience their loss in a variety of ways, but violent death always produces deep and bitter grief. Nothing could ever prepare a survivor for the day they find out that their loved one has been murdered. Death of a young person is always a shock because young people are supposed to grow old. The murder of an elderly person is always a shock because older people should die of natural causes, not at the hands of a violent criminal. The cruelty of the act of murder compounds the sense of sorrow and loss for the survivor, and these feelings are exacerbated by the acute feelings of injustice, distrust and helplessness. Sadly Galveston County is not immune to the senseless taking of innocent lives seen across the country.

The Galveston County Sheriff's Office and Commissioners Court adopted the Texas VINE Program (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) in 2004. The state-funded program provides information to victims about their offenders, including release dates, transfers to other facilities, and court dates. It is designed to give comfort and reassurance to victims and to prevent them from being victimized again. Additional publicity is needed, however, to ensure more victims take advantage of the free telephone service.

Services to help the survivors of sudden and violent acts could be improved if resources and funding were accessible for the following efforts:

- Expand bereavement therapy for family members
- Establish a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team in Galveston County
- Expand information and referral to help families cope with events following the sudden, violent death of a loved one
- Expand funding to provide crime victim liaisons in all area police departments

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

Identified Problem

1. Drugs and related criminal activity

Data Collection

- Number of arrests for drug-related offenses in Texas, 2006: **270,3226** (DPS)
- Arrests for the sale or manufacture of drugs in Texas, 2006: **17,194** (DPS)
- Arrests for possession of drugs in Texas, 2006: **126,564** (DPS)
- Percentage of felony cases filed in Galveston County courts that are drug-related: **25** (DPS)
- Arrests in Texas for DUI/DWI, 2006: **94,082** (DPS)

Discussion

Galveston County is a gateway to the Houston metropolitan area for drug trafficking. The county's proximity to Houston ensures that the drug trade and associated crimes will continue to be a major concern and focal point for local law enforcement. This includes the overtaxed court system, where one-fourth of all cases filed are drug-related.

As research continues to show, drug use is not decreasing among the user populations. Cocaine, crack, heroin, marijuana, prescription drugs and so-called designer drugs are readily available in every corner of the county. Large sections of the county remain rural in nature, providing seclusion for the harvesting of marijuana and the production of methamphetamines. School surveys of all youth population groups continue to show ready availability and experimentation with illegal drugs, despite constant anti-drug education by the school systems and collaborating agencies and service organizations.

Despite a loss of state funding for the Narcotics Task Force, the Galveston County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Texas Department of Public Safety and others have continued to cooperate and share equipment and resources. This investment in narcotics interdiction pays dividends in many areas, including reducing violent offenses, thwarting gang activity, breaking auto theft rings, and reducing burglaries.

Meanwhile, alcohol continues to be the most readily available drug and remains a primary factor in vehicle accidents involving injuries in Galveston County. A state grant to help reduce DWI activity ended in 2003.

Law enforcement agencies throughout the county work closely with the Sheriff's Office and state and federal agencies to investigate and prosecute drug offenders. However, more coordination and communication are needed as other necessary programs, such as homeland security, stretch existing resources. A resource gap exists in the availability of training dollars for law enforcement personnel. Shrinking criminal justice budgets also mean fewer officers are available to attend training.

Efforts to combat the illegal drug trade and associated criminal activities in Galveston County could be improved in the following manner:

- Increase training dollars to expand the county’s capacity to investigate and prosecute drug offenders
- Improve coordination between law enforcement agencies, especially in the area of training to maximize available dollars
- Ensure continued federal and state funding of regional anti-drug programs
- Initiate and support programs designed to deal with manufacture, distribution, possession, and use of methamphetamines, including programs that focus on criminal enterprise receiving financial benefit from drug-related offenses

Identified Problem

2. Violent offenders

Data Collection

- Juvenile arrests in Texas for murder, 2006: **35**
- Adult arrests in Texas for murder, 2006: **758**
- Arrests in Texas for rape, 2006: **2,257**
- Arrests for aggravated assaults in Texas, 2006: **24,059**
- Number of juveniles referred to the Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department for felony offenses, Jan.1 – Oct 31, 2005: **212**
- Number of assault cases investigated during 2003-2004 school year by GISD police: **132**

Discussion

Serious violent crimes – including homicide, rape, robbery and assault, as well as the rapidly growing crimes of violence utilizing the Internet – continue to represent blight on our communities as readily evident by daily news headlines.

Experts recently empanelled by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, point to three emerging trends in America: more youths are involved in violent acts; more violence is directed at families and co-workers; and violent acts are becoming more severe (e.g., a pregnant woman is murdered so that her full-term baby can be taken.) Among juveniles, the Bureau of Justice Statistics indicates that aggravated assaults comprise seven of 10 arrests for violent crime. Among adults, more than half of the increase in the prison population since 1995 is due to an increase in the number of prisoners convicted of violent offenses. Compounding the problem is the fact that many felons who were juveniles when convicted are returning to their old neighborhoods to re-establish connections and control.

The Galveston County Sheriff’s Office has led or assisted in the investigation of dozens of violent crimes across the county in recent years. These include the murders of elderly couples in Texas City and Santa Fe; the discovery of murder victims in several remote locations of the county; and well-publicized murders on Galveston Island and the Bolivar Peninsula.

The Interstate 45 corridor between Houston and Galveston has been a frequent hunting ground for predators, which often have dumped their victims in wooded areas not far from the highway. Several suspected kidnap victims have never been found. Homicide cases such as that brought against eccentric millionaire Robert Durst in the shooting and Galveston County Community Plan

dismemberment of his neighbor require enormous taxpayer resources and impose significant demands on every aspect of the criminal justice system.

The Sheriff's Office has an excellent working relationship with law enforcement agencies countywide. This relationship coupled with advances in records-management and data-sharing technology at the county is expected to improve interdepartmental communication significantly. The Sheriff's Office and municipal departments also are working hard to forge new ties with citizens through various police and sheriff academies. These community information-sharing meetings are designed to foster trust and understanding that can translate into long-term public safety benefits.

Studies have shown economic depravity, family violence and substance abuse to be catalysts for violence. Studies also have shown that incarceration rarely eliminates violent behavior.

Efforts to reduce violent crime in Galveston County can be improved if resources become available for the following:

- Initiate and reinforce locally-based programs, including education and direct support to enforcement and investigative efforts, focused toward computer-facilitated crimes of all types (particularly those targeting children and the elderly)
- Initiate and support programs designed to focus on activities that provide financial support to criminal enterprise of all types
- Expand opportunities to bring traditional law enforcement into the schools
- Expand peer and family counseling opportunities for at-risk youths
- Expand post-confinement support services to reduce recidivism and escalation of crimes
- Continue funding to fast-track juveniles through the Criminal District Attorney's Office and other elements of the juvenile and criminal justice systems
- Continue funding for regional task forces aimed at apprehending violent offenders

Identified Problem

3. Communication interoperability (information exchange pathways and methodologies)

Data Collection

- Of the county’s 13 incorporated cities and nine school districts, number of agencies using shared computer data bases: **2**
- Number of law enforcement agencies in the county capable of seamlessly transmitting data and graphic files to the Criminal District Attorney’s Office: **2**
- Number of law enforcement agencies in the county that can electronically receive warrant and arrest data from the Sheriff’s Office while in their patrol vehicles: **2**

Discussion

Interoperable communications, or communication between diverse agencies charged with maintaining public safety and providing emergency services, is a critical focal point of service delivery. Broadly publicized issues brought about as a result of the 9/11 disasters clearly indicate critical and potentially dangerous breakdowns in both communication pathways and methodologies chosen to exchange information.

Beyond the evident potential terrorist targets within Galveston County, there is a distinct need to establish new and reinforce current efforts to develop linked communications systems, enabling ready exchange of information between the dozens of law enforcement and public safety agencies within Galveston County. Such efforts, in addition to a focus toward homeland security, will provide for instantaneous exchange of information involving criminal activities and events that affect the safety and well-being of citizens and visitors. Any efforts in this light will include the “hardware” – devices of all types that support information exchange – and the “software” – concepts, ideas, protocols, and education – that bolster efforts to keep the public safe from threats.

The Law Enforcement Issues group believes the term “interoperable communications” requires a second definition, which highlights a second service gap.

The “languages” spoken by the community and public safety are often so arcane and obscure that neither has a true understanding of the other’s message, much less what the other truly needs. Efforts to bridge this communications gap have yielded individualized successes, but don’t often result in long-term relationships designed to solve long term problems.

Thus, the additional definition of “interoperable communications” includes developing channels, messages, and methods of communicating between law enforcement and the public that provide meaning and utility to both stakeholder groups.

Adapting the “hardware” described previously, this secondary definition encompasses the hardware of devices and systems (of all types) geared to create and enhance both asynchronous and real-time communications between public safety and the community as a whole. The “software” concept, also mentioned earlier, fits this second definition in a more

complex fashion, involving education of both groups in each other's "language" so that the intention and relevance of one's message is completely relayed and fully understood.

Interoperable communications can be achieved if the following gaps are addressed:

- More funds are needed to support existing and create new efforts toward enabling interagency and intra-agency communications. Not only is this geared toward hardware and software, this should also point toward educating public safety and government officials on the critical importance of information-sharing.
- Funding is needed for programs involving law enforcement agencies, groups focused toward handling quality-of-life matters within the community, and the public as a whole. These funds could be used for training law enforcement and key community groups in community-oriented, intelligence-led, and problem-oriented policing methods; supporting law enforcement overtime programs designed to enhance community interaction and support; and furthering development of channels, messages, and methodologies of communications targeting information interchange between all stakeholders.

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

Identified Problem

1. Juvenile Mental Health

Data Collection

- **7.5 million** children are affected by mental, developmental or behavioral disorders (NAMI Texas)
- **345** adolescents ages 10 to 24 died statewide in 2002 as a result of suicide. Of these, **288** were boys, **57** were girls (Centers for Disease Control)
- Of **1,688** Galveston County youths eligible for mental health services in 2003, only **181** served (Texas Mental Health Association)
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth ages 15-24.
- Deaths by suicide nationwide, 2003: **31,655** (National Center for Health Statistics)

Discussion

The reduction in state funds for mental health services has dramatically affected children and adolescents. Many children depend on mental health services to help them function in school, in their family, and among peers in the community. Youth who do not receive essential medication and accompanying cognitive-behavioral therapy frequently find themselves expelled from school, delinquent in the community, or runaways. The suicide rate among children is a major cause of death. In 2001, the Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council estimated that 22.4% of Texas youth under the supervision of a juvenile probation agency had identifiable mental health needs. Approximately half of youth in the juvenile justice system have at least one mental disorder (Juvenile Probation Commission, 2003).

The influx of thousands of citizens from Louisiana as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has placed additional demands on local providers. Many of these displaced youth and families, permanently forced from their homes and lives with almost no warning, arrived in Texas with previous mental health issues and social-services needs. Thousands of Louisiana youths have enrolled in Houston-Galveston area schools, where they must work for a share of the resources and the acceptance of their peers. Television news reports reveal that many of these students remain disconnected and in need of services that already were hard to come by locally.

In the general population of Texas in 2003, the Mental Health Association estimated that there were 151,464 children in the state who had a significant impairment due to mental illness, but only 39,598 (26%) received any services. In Galveston County, the same report found that of 1,688 youth in need, only 181 (11%) received services. While these data do not speak directly to youth in the juvenile justice system, there is reason to suppose that a disproportionate number of youth with mental illness do come in contact with the police and courts. If youth with mental illnesses were identified early and appropriate mental health services provided, some youth would not advance further in the juvenile, and later, adult justice systems.

In summary, there are various mental health resources in the county but they are limited, specialized, and usually not aimed at pre-delinquent children or first-time offenders. Efforts and funding are needed to accomplish the following:

- More collaboration between mental illness service providers
- More individual, group, and family mental health outpatient services for youths
- Substantially more public education about mental illness and its treatment, especially as it relates to youths
- More outpatient treatment options available to the court system for youthful offenders who are exhibiting mental illnesses, can be safely maintained in the community, and who may not benefit from confinement in a detention facility
- Community-based group programs that teach essential behavioral skills
- Innovative interventions, such as building partnerships between police officers and mental health professionals
- Programs to insure that children with mental illness are appropriately diverted to treatment settings and away from an overcrowded detention system
- Outpatient counseling for adjudicated youth charged with sexual crimes, and for children ages 12 and under who have been chronically acting out sexually

Identified Problem

2. Youth in Detention or on Probation

Data Collection

- **488** Youths in Detention from January – October 2006 had some type of Mental Illness
- **123** Galveston County youth referrals for treatment with suicidal ideations
- **97** local youth assessed with extreme anger.
- Of **488** Galveston County youths referred for treatment **67** had serious alcohol/drug abuse issues.
- **75** youths had Psychosomatic complaints and **73** were reported with thought disturbances
- The remaining **53** reportedly had depression/anxiety concerns.

Discussion

There is substantial evidence that a high percentage of youth who are being held in county detention facilities and who are in the county's juvenile probation system have unmet mental health needs. In a 2006 report, the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice reported that 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system suffer from mental disorders, and 20% with disorders so severe that their daily functioning is substantially impaired. In Texas, the Criminal Justice Policy Council estimated that 22.4% of youth who are under supervision of the juvenile courts have identifiable mental health needs (2001).

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health estimates that 1 in 5 youth in the Texas juvenile justice system has serious mental health problems. Most of these youth who are on probation have committed relatively minor crimes, but their mental health problems may still be major. In 2001, the Texas Legislature mandated the use of the MAYSI-2, a mental health screening tool. They have found that about 1/3 of those screened with the MAYSI-2 score high enough to be flagged as a precautionary measure. They also found a positive relationship between the seriousness of the crime and MAYSI-2 score, suggesting that better mental health might correlate with less severe youth crimes. In Galveston County, the use of the MAYSI-2 has produced the following results for the first 10 months of 2006:

For many of these youth, the juvenile justice system represents a last hope for help, as their illnesses include major depression, bipolar disorder, conduct disorder, and other disabling conditions. In Galveston County, the Juvenile Justice Board provides mental health services to youth through a mental health counselor in the Juvenile Detention Center, and through a contract with Family Service Center for serving youth on probation. While this is very helpful, youth should not have to enter the juvenile justice system to receive mental health services; and whenever possible, youth should be diverted to alternative mental health resources. Regardless, whether sentenced to detention or probation, or diverted to community services, contact with the police, courts, and juvenile authorities presents an important opportunity for youth and their families to receive the help that is so needed. To be successful, there must be a close partnership among community agencies, the police, and the courts.

On a national level, one in five children has a diagnosable mental, emotional or behavioral disorder; and up to one in 10 may suffer from a serious emotional disturbance. Seventy percent of children, however, do not receive mental health services (SGRMH, 1999). As many as one in every 33 children and one in eight adolescents may have depression (CMHS, 1998); and once a child experiences an episode of depression, he or she is at risk of having another episode within the next five years (CMHS, 1998). Teenage girls are more likely to develop depression than teenage boys (NIMH, 2000); and both children and teens who have some chronic illness are at increased risk for depression. Today, suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth in the 15 to 24 year old range; and is the 6th leading cause for younger children, ages 5 to 14. These statistics are even more disconcerting when one realizes that there are proven, short-term, effective treatments for most depressions, if treatment is only made available.

Youth with serious mental health problems are often first identified in the juvenile justice and the children's protective services systems. These are key points at which mental health services should be made available. In addition, diagnostic and early intervention services should focus on school systems. In Galveston Independent School District, the University of Texas Department of Psychiatry is initiating a "tele-psychiatry" program that promises to reach youth that would otherwise not be served. They believe that this model may be extended to other ISDs in the future. Such efforts are to be applauded and encouraged. Their ultimate success, however, may depend on the availability of follow-up treatment following diagnostic assessment. Presently the clinical mental health resources in Galveston County for children are very limited with the UTMB's four (4) beds for children, the Gulf Coast Center's Children's Services in League City, Family Service Center of Galveston County with locations on the Island and in Texas City, Devereaux Hospital in League City, and various private practitioners. As previously noted, Galveston County does fund FSCG to locate a mental health clinician in their Juvenile Detention Center, and a ½-time clinician to work with youth on probation on the Island. These resources provide a core of expertise upon which to build.

While Seaborne Challenge Corp is not specifically a mental health program, they accept youth with serious personal, social, and mental health needs. In the context of a residential school program, they provide youth with structure, an environment in which they can thrive, discipline with nurturing, and mental health outpatient services when needed. This collaborative model with Family Service Center is an important resource to Galveston County, and needs support for expansion.

In general, the following efforts should receive support:

- Collaboration – Efforts to improve the collaboration and services integration among public and private providers of mental health services;
- Identification – Efforts for improved and systematic ways to identify youth in need of mental health services, such as the tele-psychiatry initiative at Ball High;
- Diversion – Efforts to divert youth with mental health needs to appropriate treatment services in the community;

- Treatment – Efforts to provide needed mental health services to youth and their families within the juvenile justice system.

Identified Problem

1. Adult Mental Health

Data Collection

- In 2004, **3.1%** of adults aged 18 and over experienced serious psychological distress (Centers for Disease Control)
- Persons aged **45-64 years (3.8%)** were more likely to have experienced serious psychological distress compared with persons aged **18-44 years (2.8%)** and **65 years and over (2.2%)** (Centers for Disease Control)

Discussion

There are two distinct types of mental illnesses. First, is serious to persistent mental illnesses which are caused by psychological, biological, genetic, or environmental conditions, and second, situational mental illnesses due to severe stress which may be only temporary. Serious mental illness consist of Depression, Bipolar disorder, Obsessive Compulsive disorder (OCD), Schizophrenia, Anxiety disorders, eating disorders, personality disorders, ADHD and more.

Mental disorders are common in the United States and internationally. An estimated 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older – about one in four adults suffer from diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. When applied to the 2004 U. S. Census residential population estimate for ages 18 and older, this figure translates to 57.7 million people. Even though mental disorders are widespread in the population, the main burden of illness is concentrated in a much smaller proportion about 6 percent, or 1 in 17 who suffer from a serious mental illness. In addition, mental disorders are the leading cause of disability in the United States and Canada for ages 15-44.

Anyone can have mental illness, regardless of age gender race or socioeconomic level. Mental illness can occur at any age approximately 20-25% of individuals may be affected by mental illness. Many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time. Nearly 45 % of those with any mental disorder meet criteria for two or more disorders, with severity strongly related to co morbidity.

Major depression, the leading cause of disability in the US, affects more than 9 million adults in a given year. Nearly twice as many women (6.7 million) as men (3.2 million) are affected each year. Bipolar disorder causes extreme shifts in mood energy and functioning affects more than 2 million in the US. Most people at one time or another experience obsessive thoughts or compulsive behaviors. 2.2 million people in the US suffer from Schizophrenia.

Mental illness can and should be treated. Nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable mental disorder do not seek treatment. With proper treatment, many people affected with mental illness can return to normal, productive lives.

In summary Mental Illnesses are more common than cancer, diabetes, heart disease or AIDS. Some resources are available in the county, but once again they are limited. Efforts are needed to do the following:

- Need for substantially more public education about mental illnesses, their affects and available treatment.
- Collaboration of Service providers for adults with mental illnesses
- Funding to support services and treatment for adults with mental disorders
- Partnerships between Law enforcement and Medical personnel for behavioral assistance
- Community-based programs to teach disorder management skills
- Enhanced availability of outpatient mental health programs, particularly for the uninsured/underinsured
- Working with inpatient and outpatient mental health services providers – particularly in the balance of region – establish new and strengthen existing programs designed to holster long-term patient care and support for both patients and caregivers.

Resources Available

Included below are resources identified by the Galveston 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>
Children's Protective Services	State government	Investigates child abuse and neglect
Family Service Center	Non-profit	Outpatient treatment of juvenile sex offenders (Oasis) Program
Galveston County Juvenile Justice Department	County government	Treatment, training and rehabilitation for young offenders ages 10-16
Galveston County Criminal District Attorney	County government	Prosecution of violent juvenile offenders
Galveston County Juvenile Referee	County government	Adjudication of troubled youths 10-16
Galveston Independent School District	School district	Operates truancy reduction program
JP, County and District Courts	Local/state government	Disposition of cases regarding juveniles
Texas Youth Commission	State government	Confines juveniles in the state system for committing unlawful acts

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Galveston County Sheriff's Office	County government	Law enforcement for unincorporated county
Municipal police departments	City government	Law enforcement for incorporated cities
School district police departments	School districts	Law enforcement in the public school setting
Texas Department of Public Safety	State government	Traffic safety, drug and other investigations

Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas	Non-profit	AIDS awareness, prevention and treatment
Alcohol-Drug Abuse Women's Center	Non-profit	Residential program for women with substance abuse problems
Alcoholics Anonymous	Non-profit	Regular meetings for participants confronting alcohol problems
Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol	Non-profit	Primary provider of education and services for drug- and alcohol-dependent youth and adults
Bay Area Recovery Center	Non-profit	Treatment facility
Beacon House	Non-profit	Treatment facility
Devereaux Hospital	Non-profit	Treatment facility
DePelchin Children's Center	Non-profit	Treatment facility
Family Service Center	Non-profit	Outpatient treatment facility for youth and families
Galveston County Health District	Special District	Health services for indigent; health and safety for community at large
Gulf Coast Alliance for the Mentally Ill	Non-profit association	Advocates for mentally ill
The Gulf Coast Center	State government	Primary state provider of mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, and prevention
Mainland Medical Center	For-profit corporation	Medical care, wellness activities, partnerships for prenatal care and social services screening
Mothers Against Drunk Driving Gulf Area	Non-profit	Advocate for alcohol-free highways
New Horizons Treatment Center	Non-profit	Treatment facility
Pathway to Recovery	Non-profit	Treatment facility
Phoenix House	Non-profit	Treatment facility
Recovery Campus of Texas	Non-profit	Treatment facility
School-based health clinics (Galveston, Texas City, La Marque)	School district/non-profit partnership	Free and reduced-price primary health care for students and school district employees
TexCare Community-Based Program	Non-profit	Coordination and education regarding children's health insurance coverage through CHIP and Children's Medicaid
University of Texas Medical Branch	State government	Primary, secondary, tertiary care multi-county region

Prevention/Intervention:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Advocacy Center for Children	Non-profit	Multitude of services for victims of child abuse and neglect, and their families
American Red Cross	Non-profit	Emergency assistance to individuals and families
Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families	Non-profit	Services for youths and families
Bay Area Turning Point	Non-profit	Shelter for families in need; community education about crime prevention
Beacon Place	Non-profit	Transitional housing for women/ children victims of domestic violence
Big Brothers-Big Sisters	Non-profit	One- to-one mentoring program that matches caring adults with at-risk children between the ages of 6-17. Program includes community-based and school-based mentoring.
Boys and Girls Club of Galveston County	Non-profit	Education, leadership training and character-building for young people; after-school programs
Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts	Non-profit	Education, leadership training and character-building for young people; after-school programs/day care
Champions of Children	Non-profit	Advocate for government/community/non-profit alliances to better serve children and families
City of Galveston Families, Children and Youth Board	Non-profit association	Collaboration of non-profits and citizens focusing on children, youths and families
Community Resource Coordination Group for Children and Youth	Non-profit/government/ community collaboration	Case review team for children and youth of Galveston County in need of input/ resources from multiple entities
Community Youth Development Program	Community-based organization	Academic support, summer job-shadowing, mentoring, recreation, substance abuse prevention and youth leadership development
Connect Transportation	State government	Variable route transportation provider for mainland Galveston County

The Children’s Center, Inc.	Non-profit	Provider of multiple services for children, youth, families, the homeless
Communities in Schools (Galveston ISD)	Non-profit	Improves student outcomes
Communities in Schools (DISD/CCISD)	Non-profit	Improves student outcomes
Community Assessment Program	Non-profit (Jesse Tree)	Tracks users of social services; connects families to medical home
Early Childhood Coalition of Galveston County	Non-profit association	Advocate for services for young children and provider of community education on children and families
Family Service Center of Galveston County	Non-profit	Counseling, support services for youths, families
Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health	Non-profit association	Mental health counseling and support
Friendswood Police Department Victim Assistance Program	City government	Comprehensive services for crime victims and their families
Galveston Boys Rites of Passage	Non-profit	Education, leadership, training mentoring and character-building for young people
Galveston County Parks and Senior Services	County government	Recreational opportunities for all age groups
Galveston Family Shelter and Transitional Living Center	Non-profit	Emergency shelter/ transitional living for various age groups
Galveston County Social Services	County government	Emergency assistance for needy (rent, utility bills, medical bills)
Galveston County TRIAD	Non-profit association	Advocates for protection of elderly
Galveston Partnership for Better Living	Non-profit	Dedicated to improved outcomes for youth and families; focus on Galveston Island quality of life
Gulf Coast NAMI	Non-profit	Counseling & other services for mentally ill and their families
H.I.S. Ministries	Non-profit	Faith-based emergency assistance provider on mainland
Immunization Coalition	Non-profit association	Working to boost immunization rates countywide
Indigent Health Care Task Force	Non-profit association	Seeking permanent funding solutions for health care for uninsured
Island Transit	City government	Federally funded public transportation for Galveston
Families Consortium	Non-profit association	Advocates for families
Innovative Alternatives	Non-profit	Counseling for youths and families
The Jesse Tree	Non-profit	Multiple emergency assistance, food and medical

Lone Star Legal Aid	Non-profit	programs; faith-based link to network of providers
Mainland Children's Partnership	Non-profit	Legal services for indigent
Meals on Wheels	County government	Intensive case management, counseling and education for families with young children
Metro Counseling Associates	For profit	Hot meals delivered to senior citizens
Nia Cultural Center-Girls Rites of Passage	Non-profit	In home & school counseling
Our Daily Bread	Non-profit	Education, leadership training and character-building for young people
Resource and Crisis Center	Non-profit	Soup kitchen for homeless
Seaborne Challenge Corps	Non-profit	Multiple services for women, men and children related to domestic violence, abuse and neglect
St. Vincent's House	Non-profit	Boot camp-style intervention for troubled teens
Salvation Army	Non-profit	Medical, social and educational services for large north-of-Broadway Ave. (Galveston) neighborhood
Save Our Hood	Non-profit	Emergency assistance, temporary housing, spiritual guidance
Texas Department of Human Services	State government	Neighborhood revitalization
Texas Rehabilitation Commission	State government	First stop in obtaining tax-funded public assistance
The Work Source-Galveston, Texas City	State government	Rehabilitation and vocational assistance for disabled
Yeager Youth Crisis Center	Non-profit	Comprehensive services for unemployed, underemployed and benefit-dependent
United Way-Island, Mainland	Non-profit	Emergency shelter and care for youths
		Primary source of funding for many social services agencies

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Galveston 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 Galveston 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 Galveston County families struggling with problems described in the plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Galveston 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.

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This Plan is available on-line at www.co.galveston.tx.us. Click on Public Information Office on the left side of the page, and then follow the links to “Download the Community Plan.”

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