



COMMUNITY PLAN

For

2011-2012

DECEMBER 2011

Austin County Community Plan

What Is a Community Plan?

This plan is known as the Austin 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 Austin 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).

This document will continue to be 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, Austin County is interested in keeping up with these changes, and including such in updates that will be posted from time to time.

You are invited to join in this ongoing effort if you have not been involved in its development. Any questions you may have can be addressed to either Melissa Weiss, Community Plan Coordinator for Austin County, or to the Criminal Justice Program of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Contact information is provided within this document.

The Austin County Commissioners Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the Austin 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:

Bellville	Sealy	Wallis	Industry
San Felipe	Brazos Country		

Unincorporated Communities:

Cat Spring	New Ulm	Kenney	Bleiblerville
Nelsonville	Frydek	Burleigh	Raccoon Bend
Shelby	Cochran	Millheim	Buckhorn
Peters	New Wehdem	Welcome	Oak Hill

School Districts:

Bellville ISD	Sealy ISD
Brazos ISD	

Brief description and history of Austin County:

Austin County is located in East Central Texas. The County's estimated population is 28,417. Bellville is the county seat and other municipalities included are Sealy, Wallis, Brazos Country, Industry, and San Felipe. Total area in square miles is 663. Austin County is rural in nature but is networked by two main thoroughfares, those being Interstate 10 and State Highway 36.

The manufacturing, trade, service, and local government sectors fuel the county's employment. Primary employers located in Austin County are Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Wal-Mart Super Center, BAE Systems plc, Acme Brick Co., Western International Gas, Weyerhaeuser Co., Bellville Tube Corp., Tesco Industries Inc., Systems Painters Inc., the school districts of Bellville, Sealy and Brazos, US Steel, Blencor, and local governments.

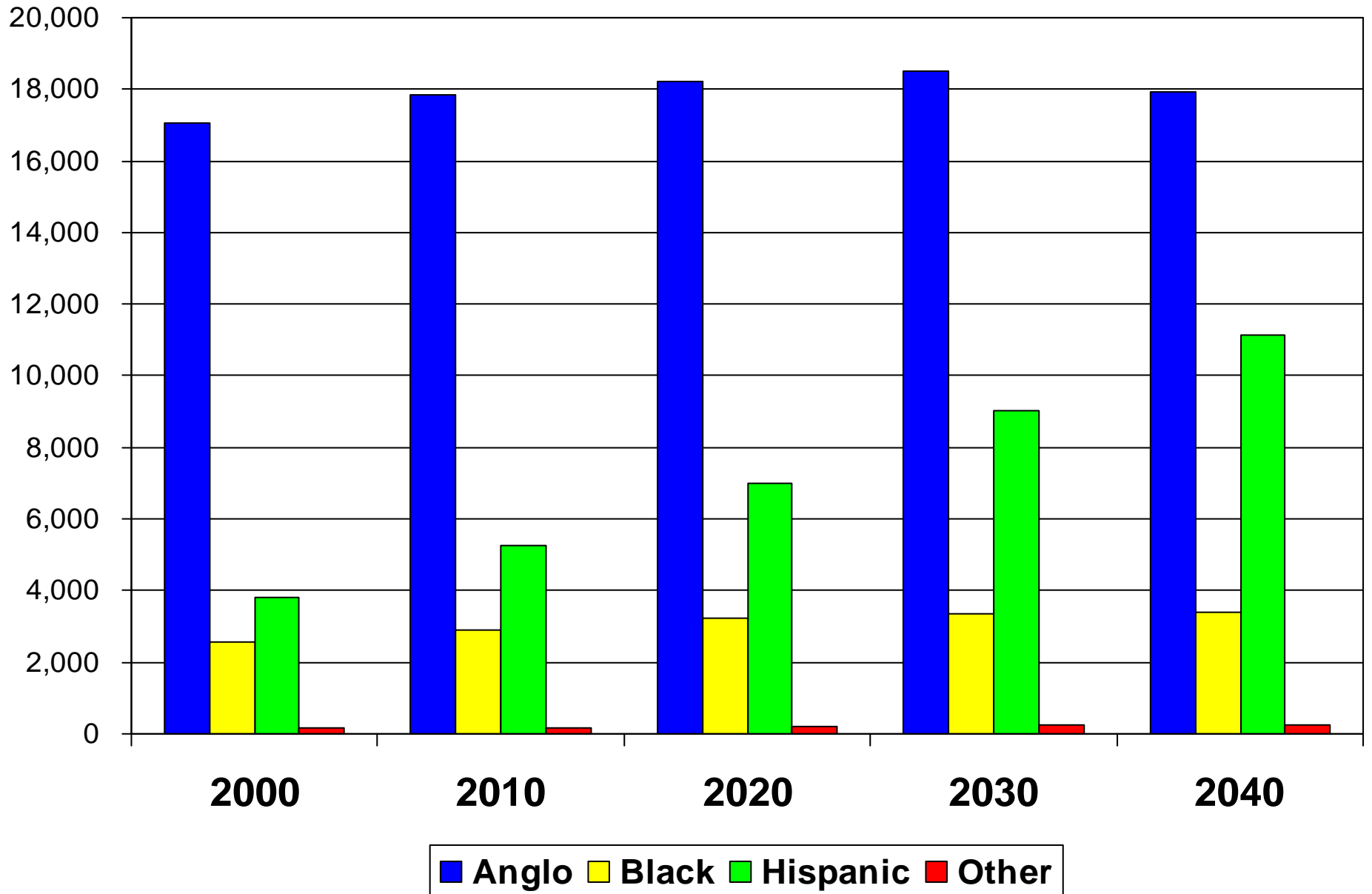
Countywide, the population continues to increase proportionately. The race/ethnicity of Austin County's population is changing with a significant increase in the Hispanic population (see attached).

Austin County is the home of Stephen F. Austin State Park and is named for Stephen Fuller Austin, also known as the “Father of Texas”. Austin County was selected by Stephen F. Austin in 1823 as the central site for his colony, the first Anglo-American settlement in Texas and is one of the oldest counties in Texas, organized in 1837 during the Republic of Texas. San Felipe was the County Seat of Austin County until 1848 when it was moved to Bellville. The first Capital of Texas was located in Austin County in the town of San Felipe and was the site for the first postal system. The first organized police force, which became the Texas Rangers, had its beginnings in San Felipe’s committees of public safety for protection against Indians.

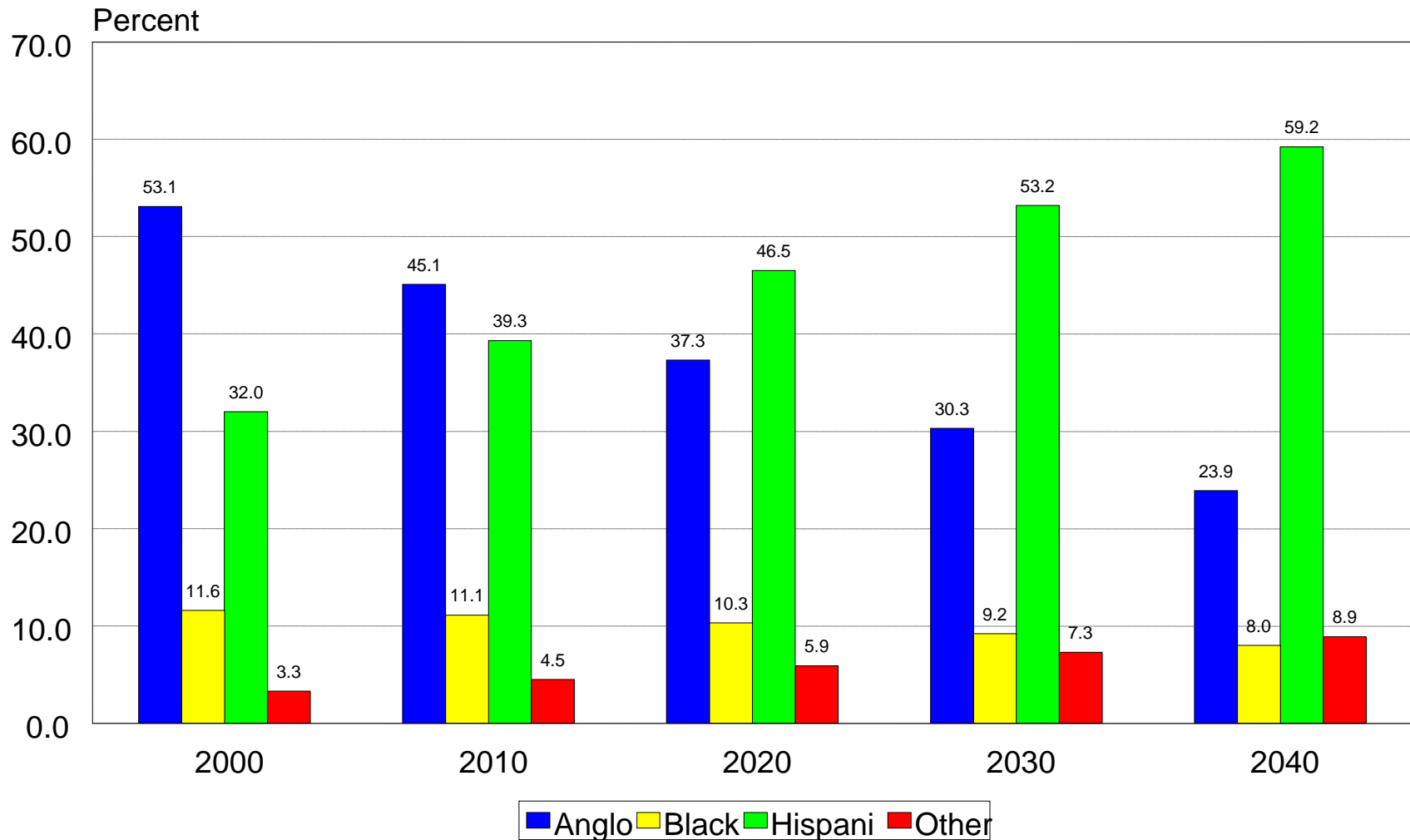
The Texas Legislature designated San Felipe, Austin County as the Colonial Capitol of Texas in the 2005 legislative session. There is continued research and effort to revitalize the Texas historical roots of San Felipe, Austin County, Texas.

HB12, Texas Government Code, Chapter 442, allows for expansion of state historical sites and Friends of the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site continues actively working to engage local effort.

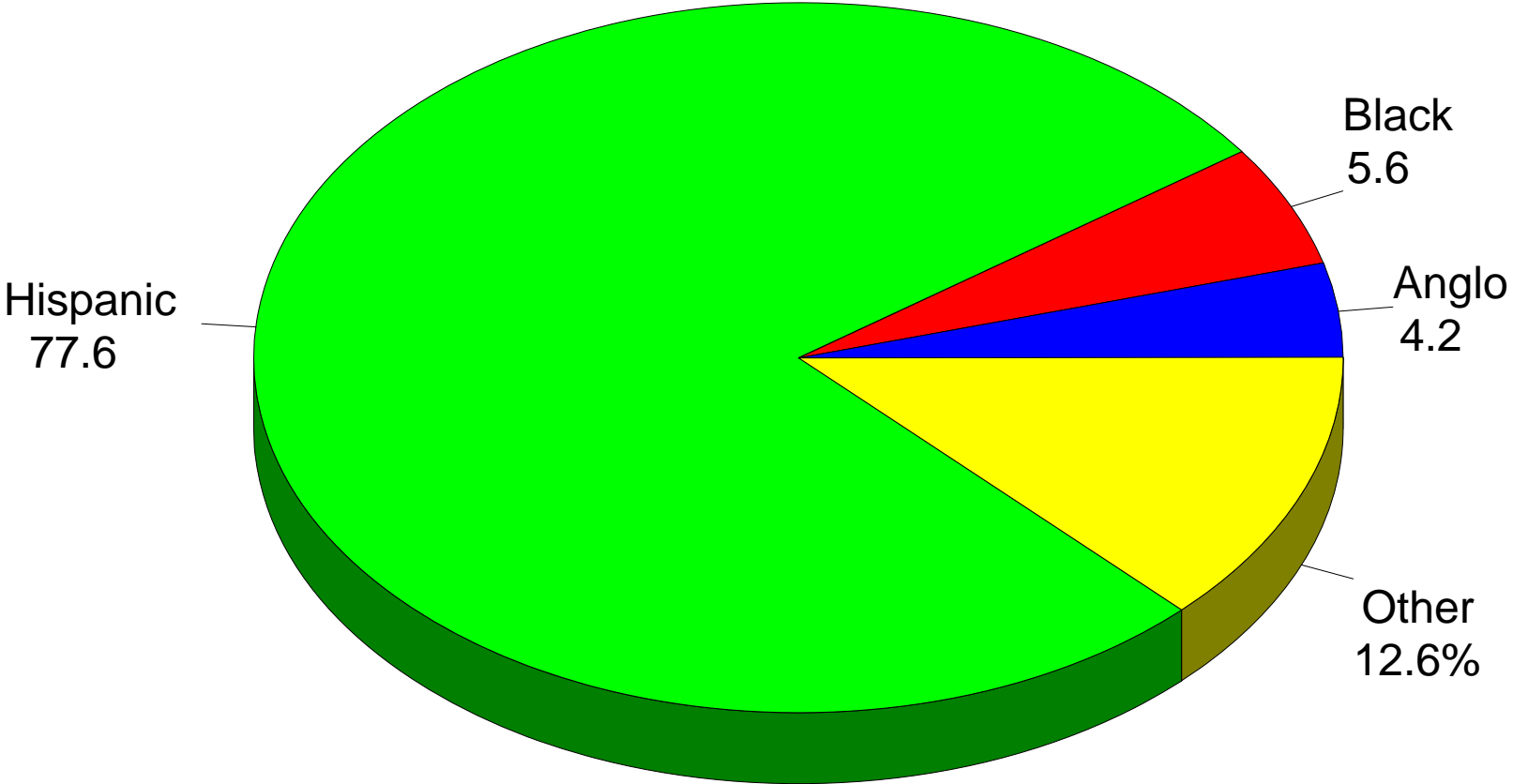
Population Change Austin County 2000-2040



Texas Projected Population Race/Ethnicity 2000-2040



Projected Change in Ethnicity 2000-2040



Community Planning Group

Community Plan Coordinator for Austin County: **Melissa Weiss / Chief / Austin County Juvenile Probation.**

COMPOSITION - Attendees as follows for the 2011-2012 Planning meeting:

Criminal Justice:

Melissa Weiss	Austin County Juvenile Probation
Brian Reichardt	Austin County Community Supervision & Corrections Department

Non-Profit Organizations:

Daniel Peevy	Youth & Family Services
Kim Mathis	Focusing Families
Nicole Browning	Goodwill Houston
Lauren Hall	Goodwill Houston
Vastene Olier	Colorado Valley Transit District

Law Enforcement:

Chief Deputy Richard Holloman	Austin County Sheriff's Department
Captain Jerry Green	Austin County Sheriff's Department
Lieutenant George Burnett	Austin County Sheriff's Department
Chief John Tollett	Sealy Police Department
Captain Jay Reeves	Sealy Police Department
Chief Raul Martinez	Sealy ISD Police Department
Chief Larry Matthews	Bellville Police Department
Lieutenant Jason Smalley	Bellville Police Department

Education:

No Attendees

State Agencies:

Don McCarn

Department of Family and Protective Services

Rachel Bentke

Texana Center

Rachel Kubala

DSHS Bellville

Courts:

Judge Dennis R. King

Austin County J.P. #4

County Government:

Carolyn Bilski

County Judge

HGAC:

Jim Mahood

Planner, Criminal Justice

Identification of Community Problems

General Public Safety Needs and Issues

Significant problems identified continue to be experienced by youth, adults and families alike in the areas of substance abuse, domestic violence and mental illness. Child abuse and neglect figures continue in increasing numbers and the problem is compounded by the decrease in number of foster care homes. There is a continued need for local victim assistance programs as well as mentoring, after-school, summer programs and activities for youth. Transportation continues to be an issue faced by all agencies involved. The lack of transportation impedes those in need of services. Colorado Valley Transit is in operation providing public transportation but is experiencing a need for expanded hours of operation. There is a significant increase in traffic in Austin County which compounds the need for increased manpower, equipment and services. Overall, agencies are experiencing the need for increase in services while enduring a decrease in funding. Limited resources and lack of funds experienced at the local level demonstrate the need to increase funding and for the continued emphasis in providing solutions for all of the problems identified for effective changes to occur. Addressing public safety needs and issues are foremost.

In each of the areas below, problems are identified that support the existence and severity of the problems as they are found in Austin County. Many needs have been given consideration with solutions presented. Below is a discussion of the problems and the needs to be addressed.

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

Identified Problem

Need for Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Intervention and Counseling Services
Need for expanded and more intensive services for alcohol and drug abuse
Need for community service programs for juvenile offenders; mentor programs
Need for adequate counseling facilities for youth/families ; family support classes
Need for Emergency Shelters/Foster Care Homes
Need for aftercare services when released from residential placement
Need for alternatives to residential placement i.e. short-term transitional living
Need for expanded after-school, evening, and summer programs for at-risk youth
Need for anti-bullying programs
Need for teenage pregnancy prevention programs

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

Identified Problem

Need for basic adult education classes/G.E.D. Programs
Need for day-time transportation for MH clients, court order requirements, jobs, etc.
Need for alcohol/drug treatment programs for adolescents/adults
Need for alcohol/substance abuse awareness, education and counseling programs
Need for substance abuse Counselor along with counseling centers
Need for expanded organized after school, evening, and summer programs for youth
Need for emergency shelters and access
Need for expanded operation hours for early a.m./late p.m. and weekend transportation
Need for ESL Classes (English as a Second Language) for adults
Need for juvenile/adult crime prevention education programs
Need for D.W.I. Classes
Need for bilingual services
Need for cultural diversity education
Need for financial management education programs

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

Identified Problem

Need for Legal Advocacy for Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault victims; Victim Assistance programs for victims of crime
Need for Emergency Protective Orders; Emergency/crisis intervention/counseling services for Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
Need for collaboration among victims of crime, advocates, and law enforcement
Need for emergency shelter/basic shelter services for victims of family violence

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

Identified Problem

Need for additional I.S.D./School Resource Officers
Need for Mentors and services for At-Risk students; truancy and drop-out prevention
Need for all school districts to provide opportunities for classes on computers to receive diploma; scholarship programs
Need for programs for Alternative Education Program (AEP) students and parents
Need to establish a county-wide JJAEP (Juvenile Justice Alternative Ed Program)
Need for school-to-work programs; skills-based training; vocational
Need for Teen Court programs

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

Identified Problem

Screening of mental health clients within reasonable amount of time to minimize time in law enforcement custody; PREFERABLY evaluation prior to incarceration
Need for a mental health officer, transport, and training; AND additional transportation of mental health clients, juvenile detainees, and adult prisoners to appropriate facilities
Need for law enforcement officers located in ALL schools
Need for law enforcement assistance in investigations of victims
Need for law enforcement equipment; vehicles, narcotic equipment, case investigation
Need for affordable Regional Law Enforcement Training
Need for Regional Criminal Justice coordination, communication and collaboration

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

Identified Problem

Need for long-term care for mentally ill and mentally challenged with disabilities
Need for augmented mental health services for youth in school environment

Statistical Data for Austin County Issues, Services and Programs –

Juvenile Issues – 2010

- 1. Delinquency – Austin County Juvenile Probation:**
 - # of juveniles (total) referred: **198**
 - # of juveniles referred for Misdemeanor Offenses: **58**
 - # of juveniles referred for Felony Offenses: **8**
 - # of juveniles adjudicated to Probation: **7**
 - # of juveniles placed on Deferred Prosecution: **25**
- 2. Children in Need of Supervision – Austin County Juvenile Probation:**
 - # of juveniles referred for CINS behavior: **67**
- 3. Services – Austin County Juvenile Probation:**
 - # of juveniles needing substance abuse services: **19**
 - # of juveniles needing mental health services: **11**
 - # of juveniles performing community service: **45** for **1,113 hours**

Community Issues – 2010

- 1. Substance abuse – Youth and Family Service:**
 - # of adolescents referred: **4**
 - # of adults referred to: **60**
- 2. Star services – Youth and Family Service:**
 - # of adolescents served: **82**
 - # of families served: **69**
 - # of crisis intervention calls: **3**
 - # of referral calls: **26**
- 3. Family issues – Focusing Families:**
 - # of families referred: **41**
 - # of adolescents referred: **16**
 - # of adults referred: **25**
- 4. Youth programs – Boys and Girls Club, Austin County:**
 - # of youth participated: **505**
- 5. Transportation services – Colorado Valley Transit District:**
 - # of one-way trips: **16,322**

Victim Issues – 2010

- 1. Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault – Focusing Families:**
 - # of domestic violence/sexual assault victims referred: **41**
 - # of legal advocacy services for victims of domestic violence/sexual assault: **22**
 - # of emergency shelter for victims of family violence: **3**

School Issues – 2010

- 1. School Resource/I.S.D. Officers – Sealy I.S.D.:**
 - # of student infractions requiring officer involvement.: **445**
 - # of contacts made to parents and students regarding Truancy Tickets and Court action citations: **305**
- 2. Truancy – Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1:**
 - # of Truancy cases filed: **10**
 - # of parents contributing to Truancy: **6**

Law Enforcement Issues – 2010

- 1. Mental Health issues:**
 - # of adolescents referred to Texana in Austin County: **7**
 - # of adults referred to Texana in Austin County: **18**
- 2. Victim issues:**
 - # of victims assisted by Austin County Sheriff's Office Victim's Liaison: **81**

Mental Health Issues – 2010

- 1. Non-Law Enforcement – Texana Center:**
 - # of adolescents referred: **85**
 - # of adults referred: **205**
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Resources Available

Included below are resources identified by the Austin County Community Planning Group that are available to provide services as it relates to the issues noted.

Criminal Justice:

Austin County Juvenile Probation

Austin County Community Supervision and Corrections Department

Austin County Criminal District Attorney

Austin County Justice of the Peace Courts

Juvenile Courts

County and District Courts

Municipal Courts

Law Enforcement:

Austin County Sheriff's Department

Bellville Police Department

Sealy Police Department

Wallis Police Department

San Felipe Police Department

Sealy I.S.D. Police Department

Social / Mental / Health State Agencies:

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (CPS)

Texas Health and Human Services (DHS)

Texas Department of State Health services (DSHS)

Texana Center

Prevention / Intervention/Assistance:

- Youth and Family Services
- Boys and Girls Club, Austin County
- RAP (Raising Academic Performance)
- Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)
- United Way
- Family Ties
- Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)
- Austin County Outreach
- Combined Community Assistance
- YMCA (Sealy)
- Goodwill Houston
- The Work Source
- Faith Mission, Brenham
- Meals on Wheels
- Protective Day Care Centers
- Texas Agricultural Extension Agency
- Family Service Center
- Focusing Families
- Salvation Army
- Youth Advisory Commission (YAC)

Local Agencies/Entities:

- Bellville I.S.D.
- Sealy I.S.D.
- Brazos I.S.D.
- Ministerial Alliance
- Bellville General Hospital
- County Government
- Municipal Governments
- Churches
- Businesses/Industry
- The East Side Foundation

Others:

- Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC)

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Austin County Community Planning Group 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 Austin County Community Planning Group 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, and etc.

It is the intent of the Community Planning Group to improve outcomes for Austin County families struggling with problems described in the plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Austin 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 Group will continue to urge agencies to provide programming that addresses the outlined focus areas.

Contact Information

Austin County Community Planning Coordinator

Melissa Weiss, One East Main, Bellville, 979-865-5911, weiss@austincounty.com

Austin County Community Planning Liaison from Houston-Galveston Area Council

Jim Mahood, 3555 Timmons, Houston, 832-681-2511, james.mahood@h-gac.com

This Plan is available on-line at www.austincounty.com