

Walker County Criminal Justice Community Plan 2016-2017



*Walker County Citizens
Working Together For A
Better, Safer Community*

"Many hands make for a lighter load"

Butch Davis, EMC
Walker County

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Fall, 2016

Walker County Criminal Justice Community Plan

What Is a Community Plan?

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

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

Though the final draft of this Plan was completed in December of 2016, this is a work in progress. As new criminal justice goals are identified, the Planning Group changes. This change is necessary as a result of individual and agency circumstances and requirements altering within our county. This in turn may cause the makeup of the Plan to be subject to a certain degree of transformation from year to year. Thus, Walker County is interested in keeping up with these changes, and including them in updates that will be posted from time to time.

If you are reading this Plan and have not been involved in its development, you are invited to join in this ongoing effort. Any questions you may have can be addressed to the Community Plan Coordinator for Walker County, or to a Criminal Justice Program staff member with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

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

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

City of Huntsville

City of Riverside

City of New Waverly

Unincorporated Communities:

Kitrell

Dodge

Phelps

Crabbs Prairie

Pine Prairie

Wildwood Shores

Horseshoe Lake

Deep River Plantation

Riverside Harbor

Lakeland

Hawthorne

Old Waverly

Whispering Pines

Arizona

Thomas Lake

Harmon Creek

Gospel Hill

Four Notch Lookout

Bethy Creek

Galilee

School Districts / Schools / Colleges:

Huntsville Independent School District

New Waverly independent School District

Alpha Omega Academy

Huntsville Classical Academy

Huntsville Premier School

Summit Christian Academy

Faith Lutheran School

Tomorrow's Promise

Huntsville Head Start Child Development Center

Sam Houston State University

Gulf Coast Trades Center

Historic Walker County

Walker County is one of the most historic counties in Texas. Best known as the home of General Sam Houston, hero of the Texas Revolution and the leading political figure in early Texas, Walker County is brimming with history aside from General Houston.

The "Mount Vernon" of Texas

Walker County's principal city Huntsville was the leading cultural center of Texas prior to the Civil War. Leaders in law, education and business flocked to Huntsville and seeded other parts of Texas as it developed in the 19th and 20th Centuries. Because of its cultural influence and status as home of Texas' greatest hero and first President, the area came to be known as the "Mount Vernon of Texas."

Education

Walker County and Huntsville were a cradle of learning and education in early Texas. The first history of Texas, *History of Texas from Its First Settlement in 1685 to Its Annexation to the United States in 1846*, was written by Walker County pioneer Henderson Yoakum.

The earliest school in Huntsville was the Huntsville Academy, probably also known as the "Brick Academy," was founded in 1845. Austin College, which is now located in Sherman, Texas, was founded in Huntsville in 1849 by Presbyterian minister, Daniel Baker, and Sam Houston was one of the first trustees. Andrew Female College, a pioneering institution for educating women, was founded in 1852 by the Methodist Church.

Sam Houston Normal Institute, now known as Sam Houston State University, was founded in 1879 on the site of the former Austin College.

Huntsville can be also considered the birthplace of the University of Texas. In 1859 Dr. Pleasant Williams Kittrell of Walker County introduced a bill in the State Legislature to create a state university. It passed, but the disruptions of the Civil War and its aftermath prevented it from being implemented. In 1879 Gov. Oran Roberts visited Huntsville for the dedication of Sam Houston Normal Institute. While Gov. Roberts dined with a group of civic leaders at the Steamboat House, then owned by prison superintendent, T. J. Goree, the conversation turned to the need for a state university. Gov. Roberts was convinced and returned to Austin where he began to advocate creation of the University of Texas, which finally occurred in 1883.

George Washington Baines, Jr., great-grandfather of President Lyndon Johnson, was a Baptist minister in Huntsville and later President of Baylor University.

Law

Walker County was also an early leader in law. Sam Houston was Huntsville's most famous lawyer. Three of the four largest law firms in Houston were co-founded by natives of Huntsville. James A. Baker helped form Baker and Botts, and Judge James A. Elkins was a founding member of the Vinson Elkins firm. Tom Ball was one of the founding partners of the Andrews Kurth firm.

Publishing

The *Huntsville Item* is the second oldest newspaper in Texas. Marcellus E. Foster, the Huntsville native who founded the Houston Chronicle, started his career at the *Item*.

Business

Walker County and Huntsville also produced successful business people. The Gibbs brothers, Thomas and Sanford, founded Gibbs Brothers & Co., the oldest business in Texas still operating under the same ownership in the same location. Several people who made their fortunes in the Texas oil business. These include James Smither Abercrombie and descendants of the Evander Theophilus Josey family.

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Walker County: Sherri Pegoda, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, Walker County, Texas.

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:

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Lori Gilley
John Glesmann
Taken Belnowski
Ananias Reese
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Agency:

Walker County Juvenile Probation
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HISD

New Waverly Independent School District (NWISD)

Sam Houston State University

Good Shepherd Mission

NWISD

Veteran's Affairs Issues:

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Richard Robins

Agency:

Sunshine Network

Faith Based:

Name:

Agency:

Identification of Community Problems

General Public Safety Needs and Issues

Walker County, like many counties in the great State of Texas, has some general public safety needs and issues. Many of these are addressed as problems along with appropriate responses. The issues addressed within this document are addressed by priority in each group with the highest rate of priority being listed first. However, we want to state very clearly **all needs and issues are very important to the citizens of Walker County.** As stated previously, this document is certainly a "work in progress" and therefore will be visited many times with appropriate changes and/or additions being made as are deemed necessary.

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

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

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Sexual Assault	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Services Shelia Hugo, Walker County Adult Probation Jolene Miller, SAAFE House Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA)
<p>According to Walker County Juvenile Services, ten (10%) percent juvenile arrests in 2013 were sex related offenses. There is a continued need to serve children who are dealing with sexual assault victimizations.</p> <p>This issue is far more prevalent in today's society as only one assault in ten is reported to appropriate authorities according to TAASA statistics. We need to provide early education regarding appropriate verses inappropriate contact, counseling for offenders and victims, training for teachers and community leaders to recognize signs of abuse, and sex education programs. Failure to report abuse is a significant problem.</p> <p>Educational programs on how to report sexual assault/harassment and the process of investigation are needed in order to reduce the misunderstanding of the criminal justice system and to increase the number of reports. Resources currently available include the SAAFE House, private counselors, probation supervision, and Education Service Center Region VI. Needs are education programs for parents and youth on the dangers of the internet, supervision of children, parenting skills training, certified counselors for sex offenders, and community education programs on how, and where, to report incidents of sexual assault.</p> <p>Providing safe haven, and support services, to survivors of sexual assault is essential to help stop the cycle of violence and to provide a chance for a healthy recovery from the trauma suffered. Thirty-one (31%) percent of all Texans report that they have been severely abused (physically or sexually) during their lifetime – most while juveniles. Most educators feel that the percent that have been sexually abused is much higher because juveniles are hesitant to acknowledge abuse due to shame, perceived peer pressure, fear, and even guilt.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>We need to provide educational programs that inform the public about the dangers of child predators on the Internet, social media, and in the community. Parents, and educators, should be educated regarding the signs of sexual abuse and how to report this abuse. Professional counseling should be made available free of charge, or discounted, in order to insure that all families, and the victims, obtain the counseling they will need. Teens, and college aged students, should be provided a curriculum regarding dating violence. Services such as crisis intervention, counseling, legal services, medical services, peer support groups, and other supportive services are very important to clients trying to heal and have healthy, successful lives. The demand for services far outweighs available resources. We need to provide in-home counseling so problems within the family unit can be addressed in the home.</p>	

Priority #2*Problem Identified**Data***Assault/Family and Dating
Violence****Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Services
COH Huntsville Municipal Court
Jolene Miller, SAAFE House**

Studies show that child abuse occurs in thirty (30%) percent to sixty (60%) percent of family violence cases. In 2013, thirty-three (33%) percent juvenile arrests were for assaults – making them the highest number of referrals to Walker County Juvenile Services.

SAAFE House was able to provide housing for one hundred forty-four (144) children who had either personally been victims of abuse, or who had witnessed abuse in their households causing their mothers to seek shelter. We are also dealing with more college students who are victims of domestic violence through dating violence.

Some youth do not know how to communicate, nor express their anger appropriately. These juveniles often receive citations at school for disruption of class, fights, and arrested for assaults against peers and/or family members. Parenting skills training, family counseling, and anger management programs are needed. Current resources available include the School Resource Officer (SRO), Anti-Bullying program, SAAFE House, diversionary class-probation, Winner's Circle, and TCBHC. In this past year SAAFE House has not only seen more children affected by family violence from their parents, but also an increase in dating violence. Our youth have often not received the services they need which would enable them to deal with their own victimization, or the abuse(s) they have witnessed. This may be due to two factors; the lack of transportation available to them and little, or no, follow through by their caregivers or the fear of their caregivers to assist them in receiving services because they are still in the abusive situation. The cost to the community, and the consequences of family violence regarding our youth, are very significant. We have a constant need in our community to provide extensive prevention outreach services by going into the schools to help children understand the effect of violence. Without counseling, groups, and/or a medium, that are able to provide age appropriate services, we will certainly see this cycle of violence perpetuated into the next generation. The demand for services at this time far outweighs our available resources.

Potential Response to Problem

There is a huge need for Immediate access to services and the ability to provide education while in the shelter related to the dynamics of abuse, safety assessments and safety planning. Also information to youth to help them with alternative ways of dealing with the emotions inside of them will help them change patterns and not repeat generational violence. Training in "parenting skills" should be made available to parents/guardians whose children have received citations through Municipal Court, or JP Courts, and to those children who are currently on probation. Free family counseling, or counseling at a reduced cost, would help families in learning better communications and in resolving family issues. We should provide not only an anger management program that incorporates animals to help children understand their emotions, and empathy, to another living thing, but also classes on communication and peaceful conflict resolution. We should provide community education and support groups. If individualized services are needed, a meeting with a counselor/advocate at their office would be arranged.

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Mental Health	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation Jolene Miller, SAAFE House Pam Patterson, RN, DSHS
<p>We have children who have mental health needs that are not being addressed due to lack of funding, the difficult process of getting counseling services, lack of transportation (going out of county for Child Psychologist) , and long term services. Currently we are able to utilize our local university for counseling services; however these are only for short periods of time and the counselors change often. Parents need to be educated about the importance of getting mental health services and maintaining those services for their children. Some families find it difficult to be able to afford medications.</p> <p>Children living in a home with violence are also at risk due to the lack of mental health options available for them. And in a violent home environment, parents may not be attending to this need. This creates more aggressive behavior in our shelters and the youth struggle to maintain any consistency in their schooling either because of attendance or the lack of ability to focus.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>Funding needs to be available to provide children with a more stable counseling center and assist in transportation. Counseling should include a parental component. In-home services would be ideal for the families in Walker County. Clinical Treatment Teams are needed for youth identified with mental health issues Only through long term intervention services will we begin to see a change in the patterns of their life and life style.</p>	

Priority #4*Problem Identified**Data***Distracted Drivers**

Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)

The popularity of mobile devices has had some unintended and even dangerous consequences. We now know that mobile communications is linked to a significant increase in distracted driving, resulting in injury and loss of life. Texting has become such a huge distraction that some states have made texting while driving a traffic offense. There are three main types of distraction: visual (taking your eyes off the road), manual (taking your hands off the wheel), and cognitive (taking your mind off of your driving). Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger the driver, passenger, and bystander safety. Motor vehicle crashes, many involving alcohol and other drugs, are the leading cause of death for fifteen (15) to twenty (20) year olds. The age group with the greatest proportion of distracted drivers is the under twenty (20) age group – sixteen per cent (16%) of all drivers younger than twenty (20) involved in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving. In the United States, the crash rate per mile driven for sixteen (16) to nineteen (19) year-olds is four (4) times the risk for older drivers. Each year our municipal and county courts see a rise in traffic citations for juveniles. The youth in our community should be made aware of the responsibilities and dangers of teen driving. The resources we have available are: the Shattered Dreams program and insurance agencies that offer discounts for Steer Clear programs. We need assistance in the purchasing, and distributing, of curriculum for schools and parents.

Potential Response to Problem

We need funds to purchase curriculum and hire persons to be able to teach that curriculum for the schools, parents, organizations, or insurance companies. We should provide an incentive through insurance companies, or the schools, for children who successfully complete a course or program. The Walker County Extension Office may be able to provide safety education including a drunken driving simulator, rollover convincer, and bike safety. As TABC no longer offers mini-grants to help pay for some of the costs involved in the "Shattered Dreams" educational experience, funds are needed by Walker County schools to present this to the students.

Priority #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Truancy	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation COH Huntsville Municipal Court Janie Farris, JP, Pct. 1 HISD
<p>According to COH Municipal Court, in 2014, twenty-nine (29) parents received citations for Contributing to Nonattendance and there were forty-five (45) cases filed for Failure to Attend. According to the JP for Precinct 1, there were fifty (50) Failure to Attend-Parents. There is a correlation between truancy rates and prison populations. Stay-in-school programs and vocational and job skills training are needed.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>We need to implement stay-in-school programs and vocational and job skills training which should be provided by the local High Schools. We should explore the need for an incentive program in the way of scholarships, merchandise, or monetary gifts for students who are successful in school and maintain an excellent attendance record.</p>	

Priority #6*Problem Identified**Data***Gangs**

Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation
HPD
WCSO
The Houston Chronicle
Janie H. Farris, JP – Pct. 1

According to The Houston Chronicle, there are over 20,000 gang members now in our region which is an increase of twenty-nine (29) percent since 2010, and these have continued in growth through 2014. Local gang members are becoming younger and more violent, especially toward law enforcement. Gang awareness education programs and anti-gang programs are needed. Our community has seen an increase in occurrences of tagging/graffiti and criminal behavior. According to section 71.01 (d) of the Texas Penal Code, a criminal street gang is defined as three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol and identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities. According to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) statistics in 2013 some 33,000 violent street gangs, motorcycle gangs, and prison gangs with about 1.4 million members are criminally active in the United States today. Currently in Walker County we have many different hybrid gangs that have strong ties with other larger more serious and stronger organized gangs from surrounding cities. Some gangs that have been identified in Walker County, just to name a few, are the Bloods, Crips, MS13, Old House Locos (OHL), Money Making Team (MMT), F Troop, Top Notch Klick (TNK), Money Over bitches (MOB), Mexicans Taking Kontrol (MTK), Smacking On Bitches (SOB), and the West Crips. Most of these gangs have originated in the Walker County area, but they all have some sort of connection to a much larger gang which makes them a threat to the community. Gang members have resorted to social media in recruiting and promoting their gangs; therefore, tagging a location is not really a necessity. Through social media one can learn who all is involved in the same gang, what colors represent them, where they are located, what their gang hand signs are, if any, what they call themselves, and what their involvement in different activities. Through social media we can gain knowledge on a specific individual, or gang member, from safe location. This resource needs to be utilized. Although the information that is posted on social media might not be used in a court setting, it can give the community some insight into gang, and individual, activity at a safe distance. We do not have a program to address this problem. It is certainly very difficult and costly for businesses to clean up the tagging/graffiti.

Potential Response to Problem

Our best response to the gang issue in Walker County would be to organize our own mentoring program for our youth. We could benefit from a mentoring program which has reformed former gang members. You can become a mentor, join a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), volunteer at your local school, start an after school program, or volunteer with a youth service organization. You can also simply spend quality time with your own children.

Several solutions are: Tougher sentences for gang members and tougher restrictions at the schools to eliminate and/or decrease the amount of gang activity. Funding needs to be available to secure more resource officers in our schools, a gang task force that can provide information to local law enforcement agencies and probation regarding gang activity, and a gang division in local law enforcement to concentrate on the gang problem.

Priority #7	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Runaways	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation Janie Farris, JP, Pct. 1 Texas Association of Counties (TAC) HPD
<p>In 2013, there were one hundred twenty-seven (127) runaway call reported between the HPD and the WCSO. The runaways are not receiving the help they need. Training in parenting skills, professional counseling to teach effective communication techniques, educational programs on the dangers incurred by running away, problem solving skills, and conflict resolution are needed. Runaways are also occurring because of violence in their homes and toward themselves.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>We need to provide the youth with school counselors in the schools who can address issues that may cause a juvenile to run away. With funding, this counseling service would be free, or at least low cost, to the family in order to ensure attendance by all family members. This is needed as Walker County has the lowest income of the thirteen (13) counties in H-GAC as of 2013 and a poverty rate of twenty-five and one half (25.5%) percent. We also need to provide in-home counseling to insure all problems within the family can be addressed in a home setting. As a crisis agency, we need to provide longer term services to help meet the needs of those individuals.</p>	

Priority #8	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
After School Programs	Sandra Clifton, Huntsville Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Michelle Spencer, BGCWC
<p>In 2013, the YMCA had approximately two hundred thirty-one (231) youths in their afterschool programs (pre-k through 6th grade), of those one hundred thirty-eight (138) youths, fifty-one (51) were receiving financial assistance. The YMCA Teen Center averages sixty (60) youths per day. We have a few programs that address after school needs; however, they are not able to handle the high volume of needs that are in our area. The YMCA in our area can service children between the ages of two (2) to sixteen (16). We lack the funding to provide more programs and to accommodate the space that would be needed to service the higher volume of kids.</p> <p>We have a Boys & Girls Club that can assist children between the ages of six (6) to thirteen (13) due to <u>limited space</u>. In 2013, the BGCWC served four hundred two (402) youth in two locations. Eighty-eight (88) percent of the four hundred two (402) youth receive free or reduced lunches from HISD. BGCWC annual membership dues is \$20.00 per member and \$15.00 a month activity fee. Fees are kept low to accommodate the large free/reduced population. On a shoestring budget, BGCWC provides a before and after school program, 6:30am-7:30am and 3:30pm-5:30pm at Scott Johnson Elementary and all other schools are served at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center from 3:30pm-7:00pm. Programs include, but are not limited to, homework assistance, mentoring, character / life skills, health / physical education, and the arts.</p> <p>Transportation is also an issue for after school programs. Many families do not have the means to provide their child with transportation to after school programs.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>To maximize the number of children that can be served by the BGCWC, funding is needed for a new building located in the NE part of Huntsville would allow this organization to provide services to children between the ages of four (4) to eighteen (18) that might be missed due to transportation, location and/or excessive cost.</p>	

Priority #9	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Supervision	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation
<p>A lack of appropriate adult supervision is identified as a factor that contributes to the delinquency of youth in our community. Lack of supervision also contributes to family violence as youth do not have the skill set/development to handle their anger in other ways than by using violence. Parenting classes and family counseling are needed as well as suitable after school and weekend programs which would engage our youth in productive programs.</p> <p>There is a need for a program that mentors/educates parents. In addition, parents of children with functional needs may need assistance during the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>Our community needs to have avenues of distribution available in order to distribute parenting skills information, either through classes provided free to parents, or through literature. We can contact parents through the local hospital, clinics, doctor's offices, schools, adult and juvenile probation, churches, and local organizations. We need to provide parenting classes to discuss appropriate discipline and supervision. We also need to provide in-home counseling so problems within the family unit can be addressed in the home.</p>	

Priority #10	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Mentors/Early Intervention	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation
<p>There are youth in our community that would benefit from a mentoring or early intervention program. If there were programs that could deter children from delinquency it would greatly impact our community. We should provide programs such as character building, good role models/mentors in order to encourage achievement and positive behaviors.</p>	
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>We need to provide programs which will aid in developing a child's character in a positive manner. This needs to be addressed at a younger age before a child reaches the Intermediate or Junior High level at school. Mentoring programs would be a great way for children to have a positive role model in their life. Character building curriculum would be beneficial in the school setting. A grant which would provide the resource to obtain someone to teach this in the schools, during after school programs, or probation would be invaluable. Introducing anti-bullying curriculum in the schools that could be provided by the Walker County Extension Office could help. Other programs that could be beneficial in the schools are character counts, self-esteem programs, and a new Preparation for Adult Living Services (P.A.L.S.) program with older kids mentoring younger students.</p>	

Priority #11	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Accountability	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation Ed Davis, Episcopal Diocese of Texas – Restorative Justice
<p>We have an on-going problem with juveniles and parents not taking responsibility for their actions. They lack compassion for victims. We often see multiple referrals for the same children. Current available resources include probation, Municipal Court, the Alternative School Program, and detention. Detention, if used, must include educational programs that focus on character traits and social skills. Restorative Practices need to be instituted by Juvenile Probation to serve the victims of wrong-doing and as a means to hold juveniles accountable for their behavior and help them comprehend the consequences of their actions which affect others.</p>	
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>Juveniles should be provided with a mandatory victim empathy program/class through probation and municipal courts. We also need to create a victim/offender mediation program. Family counseling would be beneficial.</p>	

Priority #12	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Transportation	Jill Saumell, WC Juvenile Probation
<p>Currently Walker County does not have a transportation service available to serve citizens in getting to facilities within the county for those programs and medical services that are available to them. With our high unemployment rate, there are many families without transportation to get to the different facilities within the county. There is also no transportation service (see Priority #3) for those individuals who have to go out of county for Child Phycologist services.</p>	
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>Walker County needs to have a transportation service available to transport citizens to facilities within Walker County and to surrounding counties if service is not available in this county.</p>	

Priority #13	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Prevention Programs for Older Students	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Ed Davis, Episcopal Diocese of Texas – Restorative Justice
<p>We currently have programs available to children who are in the Criminal Justice System. Our community needs preventative programs that will keep children from entering the Criminal Justice System in the first place. According to the CDF, children in <u>adult</u> jails commit suicide eight times as often as their counterparts in <u>juvenile</u> facilities. In addition, children in adult facilities are five times more likely to be sexually assaulted, and twice as likely to be beaten by jail staff. Most of the programs we have in our community focus on young children or children who have already committed a crime. There is nothing for those children who are at-risk and older.</p> <p>Restorative Practices should be instituted to create a mechanism for students/young people to peaceably resolve conflicts before anti-social behavior erupts.</p>	
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>Funding to provide resources, staff, and a building site to implement programs in the school or outside the school setting is a strong need for Walker County. We should never forget that the youth of today are our future for tomorrow.</p>	

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

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) HPD WCSO Jolene Miller, SAAFE House Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) Janie H. Farris, JP, Pct. 1 Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)
<p>In Walker County, family violence and sexual assault to adults, youth and children continues to be an increasing crime. We need, as a community, to have immediate and adequate response to individuals affected by this crime. According to the UCR, in 2013 Walker County had forty-eight (48) violent crimes, three (3) murder/non-negligent manslaughters, fifteen (15) rapes, five (5) robberies, and twenty-five (25) aggravated assaults. In the first eight (8) months of 2014, we had three hundred ninety-nine (399) reported to the HPD. According to the 2014 UCR, Walker County had 322 reported cases of domestic violence and 47 reported cases of sexual assault. In the past fiscal year, SAAFE House provided services to 379 victims of domestic violence, and 113 victims of sexual assault. So far in this fiscal year, SAAFE House has served 81 domestic violence victims, and 22 sexual assault victims. We know from statewide statistics for TCFV and TAASA that crime of family violence and sexual assault tend to be much underreported. Family violence affects all age groups, ethnicities and economic levels and often times encompasses marital rape, intimate partner violence, incest, elder abuse, adults molested as children, as well as child abuse. A growing group experiencing family violence and sexual assault is our youth population. Forty-four (44) percent of victims of sexual assault are under the age of eighteen (18) according to the RAINN. According to Walker County Sheriff's Office, Walker County saw 106 domestic violence cases and 34 sexual assault cases. HPD reported 341 domestic violence cases and 48 sexual assault cases from 2015 through October, 2016.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Victims of Family Violence and Sexual Assault need to have an immediate response to their outcry to provide crisis intervention, safety and support services. Victims also need to have advocacy and support services to connect them with law enforcement, information and referral resources to help them deal with the trauma they have experienced. All victims need advocacy to assist them in following through the criminal justice process to hold abusers accountable. Currently SAAFE House is the only twenty-four (24) hour immediate response to victims that can serve people through our shelter to provide safety or through outreach services if there is not a need for shelter. We need to have available advocates to address individuals who experience crime and do not speak English as their first language. There is also a dire need for increased education about family violence and sexual assault to help the community know the services which are available in Walker County.</p>	

Priority #2*Problem Identified**Data*

**Prevention/Education
Involving Violent Behavior
to Our Youth**

**Texas Advocacy Project
TCFV
Jolene Miller, SAAFE House
Janie H. Farris, JP, Pct. 1**

Youth are being bombarded everyday through social media that encourages sexting, which is a form of teen dating violence. Harassment and peer pressure creates norms for these violent behaviors. Technology has opened doors that eliminate privacy and many youth do not understand the ramifications of how they use social media and how it many times relates to violent behavior or bullying and humiliation.

The Texas Advocacy Project currently said that in Texas, one-third (1/3) of all teens report abuse in their romantic relationships, twelve (12%) percent experience actual physical violence in dating relationships, forty (40%) percent of teen girls between the ages of fourteen (14) to seventeen (17) know someone their age who has been hit , or beaten, by a boyfriend. Fifty-eight (58%) of rape victims were between the ages of twelve (12) to twenty-four (24). Ninety (90%) percent of rapes involve an offender and victim who are both under the age of eighteen (18). An average of twenty-eight (28%) percent of high school and college students area assaulted by someone they are. Or were, dating. Over On3-third (1/3) of women who were victims of domestic violence report their children are also abused.

According to the TCFV sixty (60%) percent of females surveyed in Texas have had experience with dating violence which consists of peer pressure, verbal abuse, physical violence, and sexual violence. Seventy-five (75%) percent of teens throughout Texas report having personally experienced dating violence, or knowing someone who had. With the ever growing popularity of social media sites, it has become much easier for these behaviors to manifest within our youth society. Cell phone usage is making it easier to access these sites wherever they are, allowing these violent behaviors to occur anywhere and at any time. Approximately forty-three (43%) percent of teen violence victims reported the dating abuse they experienced had occurred in a school building or on school grounds. Teen dating violence affects the physical and emotional well-being during, and long after the occurrence. Girls with a history of physical and sexual violence are significantly more likely to engage in substance abuse, risky sexual behavior, becoming pregnant, and having episodes of attempted suicide (eight (8) to nine (9) times more likely than non-abused peers). Reaching our young population might decrease the casual, promiscuous sex (hooking up) which we see occurring on our college campuses and also result in a lower occurrence of date rape.

Potential Response to Problem

We need enhanced education in order to reach many segments of our community - teachers, parents, and youth. The youth need access to services that will help them feel supported and able to take action against the violent behaviors they have experienced. Services that would remove the stigma and isolation and help the young person realize this is not the way to be treated. Services would include peer support groups, legal advocacy, intervention, and counseling. We need education of this problem to start at an early age and continue until graduation. School personnel are not always able to provide this because of other responsibilities. The youth are our future leadership in this country and we need to provide them with resources to live healthy and successful lives. The need and demand in this community outweighs the resources currently available.

SAAFE House provides to the youth in our schools by making available education to include not only awareness but also prevention to help stop these violent behaviors. We are able to help some but do not have the dedicated resources to even make a dent in the needs in our community. Our main priority is to educate our youth that sexting is a form of abuse. Our youth need to realize that if they cry out for help, they will be heard. As their risk is very high, we need to come up with a doable plan that will answer their needs.

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of support services for victims of varying crimes including Human Trafficking	HPD Jolene Miller, SAAFE House Janie H. Farris, JP, Pct. 1
<p>According to HPD, there were two thousand five hundred and twenty-five (2,525) incidents of crime reported in 2014 other than Assault and Sexual Assault. There is a need for the development of support groups to assist other victims of crime in the community. The SAAFE House is able to provide individual and group support to victims of family violence and sexual assault. However, there are not agencies properly suited to provide similar support services to families of murder victims, victims coping with mental health issues, and a variety of other victimization categories. In addition, having support services for non-English speaking victims is needed, both in group support and a one-on-one setting. There is currently no agency set up to provide appropriate response to victims of human trafficking. We have seen the problem increase from Harris County and travel up through the IH-45 corridor to Conroe. Currently Conroe is experiencing an increase in Human Trafficking and we have seen some small increases already in Walker County. There is a need for a consistent approach for this victim to receive services and support to help them be removed from the possible dangers involved with human trafficking and the violence attached to it.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Victims of other crimes need to have outlets to express their emotions and assist them in healing from the trauma they have experienced. Victims of Human Trafficking are not always able to pay for this service. While there are some organizations to help in isolated cases, there is not a consistent organization that can meet the needs of this population. Having resources for this group will enhance their ability to understand what these victims are going through and have a place to receive information and support to get past their trauma.</p> <p>The SAAFE House is able to provide sexual assault support services to victims of sex trafficking, but services are not structured in a way to meet the needs of human trafficking victims that are unique from victims of family violence and sexual assault, although we do serve any victim that comes to us to the best of our ability.</p>	

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of Adequate Services for Sexual Assault Victims	UCR HPD Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) Janie Farris, JP, Pct. 1 HMH
<p>In 2014, HPD reported there were forty (4) sexual assaults handled by the department. According to the TAASA, eighteen (18%) percent of victims of sexual assault will not report the crime to anyone, much less authorities. This reluctance to report the crime is due to humiliation, feeling personally responsible, not understanding it is a crime, and failing to realize it was a sexual assault.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Although HMH now has four (4) SANEs on twenty-four (24) hour call, there is still a great need for more qualified SANEs. Funds need to be immediately available to obtain the needed extra staffing at HMH.</p>	

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

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Insufficient Forensic testing facilities.	Tim Whitecotten, Operations Bureau Captain, WCSO James Barnes, Patrol Lieutenant, HPD Mike Legerski, Patrol/SRO Sergeant, HPD Michaila Duncan, HPD Evidence/Crime Scene Tech Donna Thorn , Admin Assistant Austin Crime Lab
<p>Currently there are two labs, DPS Houston and Austin that all local agencies send items to for testing. Both labs contract out work to NMS or AGIES labs due to work load or the inability to perform a particular testing procedure due to lack of equipment or expertise. Average turnaround on BAC is 3 mos.</p> <p>Sam Houston Regional Crime Lab was open only for a short time frame. It had a three year grant the first year of which was hiring personnel, purchasing and calibrating equipment. It only ran for about a 1.5 years before it became unable to operate on its own and Houston PD absorbed it. It is currently in operation under their control and does not accept outside submissions.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p>	
Funding is needed to either employ more staff at the existing labs and purchase testing equipment, or open a new lab to reduce the return time on submissions so cases can be prosecuted or dealt with more expeditiously.	

Priority #2*Problem Identified**Data*

Walker County Needs to have a Mental Health Unit to Answer Mental Health

**James Barnes, Lt., HPD
Anthony Tryon, Assistant Director, WCPSCC
Mike Legerski, Sgt., HPD**

Officers receiving calls for services involving persons in crisis or otherwise in need of mental health service are effectively out of service for the remainder of the call, which can last for hours. This affects the minimum staffing and overall safety of the rest of the shift. With today's societal problems and the infusion in Walker County of returning veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSS) and other mental problems, the population of those suffering from mental problems will likely continue to grow in number possibly leading to a need for specialized response from law enforcement.

EMH Warrants by JP

	JP#1	JP#2	JP#3	JP#4	
2012	4	44	6	18	72
2013	32	33	7	11	83
2014	20	33	11	20	84
2015	27	57	8	19	91
2016	25	33	11	16	85
Total	108	200	43	84	435/415

****2016 to date 10/31/16**

Potential Response to Problem

Funds need to be immediately available for the formation of two (4) to six (6) officers acting as a Mental Health Unit. These officers would be specially trained to deal with mental health problems and would not be a part of any minimal staffing for any department, or office, thereby being able to dedicate the time and effort to handle these calls with the care our citizens deserve.

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Insufficient Staff in the Walker County Public Safety Communications Center	Deborah Gilbert, Director, WCPSCC Anthony Tryon, Assistant Director, WCPSCC
<p>Currently the WCPSCC furnishes two-way radio service to all law enforcement and fire agencies in Walker county with the exception of the Sam Houston State University Police Department. During a normal twenty-four (24) hour period (excluding disasters and other extended events) the WCPSCC will handle approximately four hundred and fifty (450) phone calls per day while dispatching approximately three hundred (300) of these calls. The operators taking these calls have to be experts in multi-tasking as they can be answering a trauma 9-1-1 call while directing a high speed police pursuit as well as inserting information into the computer and focusing on the constantly changing computer screens. There are two consoles that are in constant operation to handle these calls. However, there are a total of four (4) consoles available for use. These, in turn, point to the severe need to have adequate staffing of the WCPSCC. The WCPSCC currently services agencies which have grown in size (some more than doubling). There has been no growth in this department due to available budget.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>The WCPSCC needs to add at least four (4) qualified, and eventually fully trained, operators to man the current system. Grant funding is definitely a high priority need for this office.</p>	

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Communications System funding	Deborah Gilbert, Director, WCPSCC Anthony Tryon, Assistant Director, WCPSCC
<p>Problem Identified: Walker County currently uses the Harris County Regional Radio system to communicate with local and regional agencies. At this time Harris County is financially responsible for the tower leases, maintenance, and software agreements that are necessary to keep the Walker County portion of this system functioning. Harris County is asking Walker County to take over much of the financial responsibility for this radio system in the upcoming years. This will be a significant amount of money that Walker County has not spent in the past and will require a funding source.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>All agencies in Walker County use the Harris County Radio system, and in order to continue using the system will have to take over financial responsibility for the system. This can be done either by becoming a system owner through Harris County, or joining another existing owner on the Harris County System, such as Montgomery County or the Brazos Valley Council of Governments. Walker County will need significant funds for this project, and seeking grant funds for this would greatly reduce the burden on Walker County and its citizens.</p>	

Priority #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Firearms Training Facility is inadequate for current demands	James Barnes, Lt., HPD Curt Landrum, Lt., HPD Mike Legerski, Sgt., HPD Tim Whitecotten, Operations Bureau Captain, WCSO
<p>Having well trained officers proficient in firearms skills is critical to law enforcement in several areas including officer survival and department liability. Having a facility to conduct firearms training in a safe, efficient and comfortable manner is crucial to achieving this task. Currently there is only one free-to-law-enforcement shooting range in Walker County. This range is owned by the City of Huntsville and is managed by the Huntsville Police Department. All the surrounding agencies utilized this range for training and annual qualifications, including the Huntsville Police Department, Walker County Sheriff's Office, Sam Houston State University PD, TABC, OIG, DPS including regional SWAT, Adult Probation, Retired Officers from all the departments as well as a few Federal Officers who have retired in the area and maintain their credentials to carry.</p> <p>The current facilities are inadequate to handle the amount of usage being asked of them. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to schedule training due to conflicts from different agencies or individuals already having the range reserved. The range line only has 10 stations and class sizes are frequently larger than that requiring two rotations of shooters which is inefficient. The buildings are in need of repair or remodel, however remodeling may be as costly as building a total new facility.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>The current range has property space available for the construction of a new, larger facility which could accommodate larger classes. Modernization would increase training opportunities including room for indoor simulator training. There is also space for a "Hot House" which would accommodate live fire training. The current berm could be expanded to handle additional shooting stations. Additional berms could be constructed to create a second firing line so that two different agencies could use the facility safely at the same date and time.</p> <p>Proper firearms training ultimately can lead to saving the lives of law enforcement officers and bystanders and reducing civil liability for the individual officers and agency. A new, larger, more modern facility and the expansion of the firing line would assist all the local agencies that use the range in producing well trained officers.</p>	

Priority #6	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Increased incidents involving language barrier.	Samuel Ochoa, Criminal Justice Student, HHS Mike Legerski, Sgt., HPD
<p>With the continual increase in the Hispanic immigrant population, both legal and illegal, there is a corresponding increase in the law enforcement encounters where a language barrier exists. These barriers often require a second officer who speaks Spanish to be called to the scene to assist in the investigation. It also is an officer safety issue in that suspects can plot and coordinate an attack against an officer right in front of him/her without the officer being aware of their intentions.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>A need exists for Survival Spanish and other Spanish for LE classes. These classes could be incorporated into the Basic Academy. Funds would be needed for overtime, travel and training, and the instructor pay.</p>	

Priority #7	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Walker County Sheriff's Office is in need of a Substation	Eddy Lawson, Sgt., WCSO Reed Prehoda, Constable, Pct. #2 Mike Legerski, Sgt., HPD
<p>The increased population in the county, particularly the southern portion, is increasing the need for a substation for officers to work out of. Officers need a safe place to be able to complete reports and take the occasional break. The area needs to be equipped with minimal clerical devices such as computer and printer, and restroom facilities.</p>	
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p>	
<p>Deputies could be provided access to the current JP offices or a portion of the offices. Funds will be needed to retrofit these offices for law enforcement use.</p>	

Priority #8	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Police Community Relations is strained and could use strengthening	Samuel Ochoa, Criminal Justice Student, HHS Mike Legerski, Sgt., HPD
<p><i>Several events across the nation have led to a strain in the Police Community relationship. It is apparent that for many citizens, there is a loss of respect and general mistrust towards law enforcement across the nation. It is important that law enforcement maintain a good relationship with as many community members as possible. This relationship affects not only the individual encounters officers have but also the amount of funding and support the department receives by City Council when it comes to budgetary requests.</i></p>	
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p>	
<p>Funds are needed to employ officers in specific positions tasked with enhancing Police Community Relations.</p>	

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

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Medically Underserved and Shortage of Medical Personnel in a Disaster	DSHS Preparedness Program Pam Patterson, RN, Texas DSHS
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i> <p>The need to identify a building to serve as the location of a Federal Medical Station (FMS) which is a scalable, deployable, all-hazards medical asset designed to support and integrate inside of regional, state, tribal, and <u>local</u> healthcare agencies responding to catastrophic events. Roles for the FMS may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass ambulatory vaccination services • Ambulatory prophylactic medication administration • Pre-hospital triage and initial stabilization for up to 250 mass casualty patients. • Medical special needs sheltering of persons with chronic diseases, limited mobility or behavioral health • Inpatient non-acute treatment for patients when hospital bed capacity has been exceeded • Support of quarantine stations <p>Training and additional support to develop this program could be obtained by contacting the DSHS Preparedness Program in the Region 6/5 South Office.</p>	

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Increasing Number of Teen Pregnancies, Abortion, and High School Dropouts	Pam Patterson, RN, Texas DSHS Kids Count Data Center County Health Rankings and Roadmaps
<p>Walker County has seen increasing numbers of teen pregnancies. There were sixty-four (64) pregnancies in 2011, sixty-six (66) in 2012 and 27 in 2014 according to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps. In addition, the teen abortion rate more than doubled between 2011 and 2012 from six (6) in 2011 to fifteen (15) in 2012. In 2014, Walker County has the highest high school dropout rate of 9.95 % in all of the thirteen (13) H-GAC. The poverty rate for WC children was 29% in 2014 and WC ranked 144th out of 237 counties in Health Outcome statistics.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>Evidence based curriculum has been purchased and classes will be taught at Walker County Juvenile Probation for at Risk Youth. HISD School Health Advisory Committee has been presented with data on teen pregnancy and evidence based curriculum but has not adopted any type of sexual health education to be provided to students. Funding to develop evidence based community teen sexual health clinic. Sexually active teens need confidential sexual health and contraceptive services that are youth-friendly. Services should be provided by staff trained in adolescent health, and clinics should be conveniently located, with office hours that work for teens. In addition the clinic would incorporate the Some Day Starts now program to ensure the adolescents receive preconception health education and life planning tools to prepare them to have a healthy infant according to their life planning tool.</p>	

Priority #3*Problem Identified**Data*

**Chronic Disease
Management Intervention
for Behavioral Health
Concerns**

**Dr. Valencia Browning-Keen, PhD, RD, LD Associate
Professor of Nutrition and Food Sciences, SHSU**
-CDC; AOA-Administration on Aging;
-USDA Food Consumption Studies
-World Health Organization Facts on Aging
-International Nutrition Day Data
-Community Dwelling Older Person Studies, Clinical
Nutrition 2016.

Walker County has seen increasing numbers of teen pregnancies. There were sixty-four (64) pregnancies in 2011, sixty-six (66) in 2012 and 27 in 2014 according to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps. In addition, the teen abortion rate more than doubled between 2011 and 2012 from six (6) in 2011 to fifteen (15) in 2012. In 2014, Walker County has the highest high school dropout rate of 9.95 % in all of the thirteen (13) H-GAC. The poverty rate for WC children was 29% in 2014 and WC ranked 144th out of 237 counties in Health Outcome statistics.

Potential Response to Problem

Almost 1 out of every 2 adults in the U.S. has at least one chronic disease. More than 1 in 4 adults have two or more chronic diseases. Persons 65 or older numbering 46.2 million in 2014 represent 14.5% of the U.S. population. By 2060, there will be about 98 million older persons, more than twice the number in 2014. Often times, the symptoms of behavioral health concerns manifest itself similar to nutrient deficiencies. When poor diet, coupled with the effects of multiple medications and living in isolation, the exact remedy is unknown without further investigating the living conditions, support group and resources of an individual managing multiple chronic diseases and the behavior often mimics behavioral concerns. With the limited resources available in Walker County and the nation for that matter with supportive insurance coverage for behavioral health intervention, the need to begin training any interested medical or allied health personnel who want to teach and train the trainer using the Stanford Chronic Disease Management Program is a way to begin a dialogue with transients, isolated community dwellers, etc. who manifest behavioral health concerns to adequately develop a strategy of intervention whether short or long term. Chronic Disease Self-Management Programs include topics on: Techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fatigue, pain, isolation; appropriate strength, flexibility and endurance programs; managing the effects of medications; proper nutrition intervention; communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals; decision making and how to evaluate the need for treatments; and relaxation for mind and body. In 2010, the Recovery Act Chronic Disease Self-Management Program expanded state-led partnerships involving the aging and public health networks to implement evidence-based prevention programs at the community level that assist adults better manage chronic disease management diseases. Chronic Disease self-management education and physical activity interventions are considered credible, low-cost and convenient.

Dr. Valencia B. Keen, PhD, RD, LD a trained Stanford trainer of the Chronic Disease Management program is willing to assist Walker County in the following ways:

:
-Students in dietetics and other medical fields will compile data using a 24 hour recall or 3 day food record to identify potential nutritional deficiencies which may lead to progressive behavioral health concerns and show a lack of ability to manage various chronic diseases which often require proper meals planned using medical nutritional therapy. The students will then coordinate with the emergency relief food pantry and Good Shepherd missions to

identify ways to provide proper meals along with additional programs in Walker County.

-The SHSU dietetic students will then be trained by Dr. Valencia Browning-Keen and additional trained professors to provide students in all allied and medical fields and any interested medical personnel to learn the Stanford Chronic Disease Management Program to provide to elders not managing their chronic diseases as identified by a referral system in our community.

-This program will not replace any on-going support groups. Trainings for representatives of health care organizations are 4 ½ days. The program is based on the research of the School of Medicine at Stanford University, the federal Agency for Health Care Research and Policy and the State of California Tobacco-Related Diseases;

-The workshop or program on Chronic Disease Management meets once a week for 6 weeks in a community setting such as senior centers, churches, libraries, and hospitals or schools. Since many behavioral related problems are as a result of uncontrolled chronic disease management, identifying where an elder community dweller may be failing in managing their diseases, often improves with the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program.

-As a result of the training, multiple groups can begin accepting individuals with chronic diseases to assist them in managing their behavioral health which is uncontrolled as a result of unidentified needs.

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

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Walker County Lacks a Community Structure that Works to Build Relationships to Improve the Quality of Life for All Its People, Especially At-Risk Children and Youth	United States Census Bureau (USCB) Walker County Juvenile Probation Ed Davis, Episcopal Diocese of Texas – Restorative Justice GSM Search Institute
<p>1. Walker County organizations have a tendency to work isolated from each other which points to the need for volunteers and mentors from various groups to work together.</p> <p>2. Walker County is experiencing a great need for funding to support qualified and experienced staff persons, recruiters, and trainers to further our goal of improving the quality of life for all our citizens</p> <p><i>"The number and intensity of high quality relationships in young people's lives is linked to a broad range of positive outcomes, including increased student engagement, improved academic motivation, better grades, higher aspirations for the future, civic engagement, more frequent participation in college-preparatory classes and activities, and a variety of other individual outcomes. We also know that high-quality relationships are characterized as caring, supportive, meaningful, reciprocal, and resulting in young people's sense of agency, belonging and competence."</i> -- From Search Institute; Developmental Relationships</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Funding is needed to Implement the following which serve to build relationships that would increase the quality of life through service to all, and by all, residents of Walker County.</p> <p>1. Create a Community Partnership/Coalition/Council of faith based and service group representatives (i.e. Jr. Service League, Piney Woods United Way) and state, county and municipal government representatives which would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discern needs • Disseminate information • Eliminate informational/service silos in the community thereby reducing duplication of effort and freeing faith based and civic organizations to undertake new and innovative projects • Oversee coordination of recruitment, training and deployment of volunteers • Collect data and measure outcomes <p>2. Create a staff person to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain a service directory of 501c3 and public organizations with brief descriptions of services provided and make available on-line • Act as secretariat to Partnership/Coalition/Council participants • Direct persons to appropriate organizations, available volunteers and other resources 	

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of Awareness of the Increasing Problem of Human Trafficking	GSM SAAFE House Huntsville Victims' Advocate HPD WCSO LEMIT WCCDA's Office
<p>Human trafficking is the largest criminal enterprise in the world, with drug trafficking being the second largest. The two frequently co-exist. Approximately one-third of all persons in this enterprise pass through Houston, TX -- often passing through Walker County on IH-45 as they travel north. There have been documented cases of Human Trafficking in Huntsville and surrounding cities.</p> <p>Sex traffickers control their victims with physical and psychological force, fraud and coercion, and often lure their victims into the trap through on-line social media. <u>The average age of victims bought and sold for sex is twelve (12) years old.</u></p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>This is not a case of "if" or "when" this criminal activity of Human Trafficking will enter our County -- it is <u>here now</u>. Funds are needed in order to provide information and create awareness of human trafficking to Walker County residents -- parents, grandparents, youth, faith based organizations, school staff and administrators through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring relationships • Teaching Stranger/Danger Programs • Teaching Social Media Dangers -- for parents and youth • Providing affordable after school programs • Promoting participation in Parent Teacher Organizations • Expand and continue the Chamber of Commerce "Choices" Program in public schools 	

Priority # 3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Increasing Number of Jobless, Homeless, and Low Income Individuals and Families	GSM SAAFE House TAC
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
The need to develop an ecumenical organization united with others in the community to serve the basic needs of those in financial crisis and provide assistance towards self-sufficiency. This organization would centralize efforts and avoid duplication. While we	

Priority # 3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Increasing Number of Jobless, Homeless, and Low Income Individuals and Families	GSM SAAFE House TAC
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>The need to develop an ecumenical organization united with others in the community to serve the basic needs of those in financial crisis and provide assistance towards self-sufficiency. This organization would centralize efforts and avoid duplication. While we have a few resources within our county, they are wide spread and often duplicated by the provider or by the individual seeking assistance. Examples of services which could be centralized include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Pantry • Homeless Assistance • Emergency assistance with utilities and rent • Skills classes and mentoring • Case Management <p>The median Household Income for Walker County residents is \$ 40,092 which is the lowest in the thirteen (13) H-GAC area in 2013. Our unemployment rate for 2014 was 5.4 % which is higher than the state rate. In 2014 Walker County's poverty rate stood at 25.5%.</p>	

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

Priority #1	
Problem Identified	Data
Bullying	Tim Hooks, Director of Transportation, HISD Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) BGCWC
<p>Bullying is defined as the use of superior strength, power, or influence to intimidate someone, typically to force him or her to do what one wants. This is unwanted aggressive behavior and is found among school aged children that often involves a real or perceived power imbalance. This behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied, and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems. The CDC released its study of the 2014 YRBSS. In reading this study, it was found that twenty (20%) percent of students (one in five) in grades nine through twelve (9-12) have experienced bullying.</p> <p>Cyber bullying has become a huge issue in today's society – it has led to murder and suicide among our youth – yet it does not get the attention it deserves. At present, the only public prevention program in the county is in place at the BGCWC.</p> <p>Without counseling, groups, and a medium that is able to provide age appropriate services, we will surely see the cycle of violence perpetuated into the next generation. The demand for services far outweighs available resources. Parents should be advised to report the cyber bullying to not only the principal's office at their child's school, but also the network where the abuse is happening. School counselors should be schooled in the need to intervene regarding cyber bullying. While it may take a high tech approach, cyber bullying is still abuse – and still a crime.</p> <p>For more than a decade, researchers have been exploring the prevalence and impact of various forms of peer victimization online or in the "cyber" world. Adolescents' use of new technologies such as the Internet, cell phones, and text messaging has expanded dramatically. As of 2012, ninety-five (95%) percent of teens (ages 12–17 years) were using the Internet, eighty-one (81%) percent were using some kind of social media, seventy-eight (78%) percent owned a cell phone, and seventy-five (75%) percent of teens were texting. Given that youth online communication has increased, it is not surprising that negative and harassing behaviors online, including cyberbullying, have increased as well. However, the amount of public and academic attention to cyberbullying sometimes overshadows the consistent finding that in-person peer victimization and bullying happens to youth at substantially higher rates than online victimization experiences. Furthermore, it is not clear that research has demonstrated that cyberbullying is different enough in victim experience and in impact to be considered a separate type of bullying. With too singular a focus of study on cyberbullying, researchers may be setting up a distinction that does not exist as clearly for youth themselves.</p> <p>In the May 2015 issue of the <i>Journal of Adolescent Health</i>, it was reported that twenty-three (23%) percent of youth reported being victims of any form of bullying within the last month, with twenty-five point six (25.6%) percent of those victims reporting being cyberbullied. Perhaps one of the most interesting findings is that only four point six (4.6%) percent of cyberbullying victims reported being only cyberbullied. This means that when technology is involved in bullying, it almost always occurs within the context of traditional forms of bullying. This is an important finding because, so far, much of the research on the negative impact associated with cyberbullying has studied it in isolation.</p> <p>There is recent research to suggest that harassment and bullying that happens solely online is in fact less distressing to youth than traditional harassment and bullying incidents, and that incidents that involve both in-person and online elements are most distressing.</p>	

Potential Response to Problem

Funding is needed for continued research which incorporates technology as one possible component among many that might affect how peer harassment negatively impacts youth. By approaching the study of peer victimization with a broader view, we will provide parents, teachers, and other youth-serving professionals with more information on the incident and child-level factors that indicate the greatest risk of harm.

A constant need within Walker County is extensive prevention outreach services going into the schools and helping children understand the effect of violence. An acute awareness of what bullying is and the long-lasting effects it can have on students is needed. School counselors should be schooled in the need to intervene regarding cyber bullying and a website, or other safe means, needs to be developed that would enable the reporting of bullying without putting the accuser in danger of retaliation.

Priority #2

Problem Identified

Data

**Sexual Harassment by
Texting, E-Mail, Facebook,
or Other Electronic Means**

**American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Tim Hooks, Director of Transportation, HISD**

Sexual harassment has long been an unfortunate part of the climate in middle and high schools in the United States. Often considered a kind of bullying, sexual harassment by definition involves sex and gender and therefore warrants separate attention. The legal definition of sexual harassment also differentiates it from bullying. Based on a nationally representative survey of students in grades seven through twelve (7–12) conducted in May and June, 2011, *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School* provides fresh evidence about students' experiences with sexual harassment, including being harassed, harassing someone else, or witnessing harassment. Sexual harassment is part of everyday life in middle and high schools. Forty-eight (48%) percent of the students surveyed experienced some form of sexual harassment in the 2010–11 school year, and the eighty-seven (87%) percent said it had a negative effect on them. Sexual harassment by text, e-mail, Facebook, or other electronic means affected thirty (30%) percent of students. Interestingly, many of the students who were sexually harassed through cyberspace were also sexually harassed in person. Girls were more likely than boys to be sexually harassed, by a significant margin of fifty-six (56%) percent versus forty (40%) percent. Girls were more likely than boys to be sexually harassed both in person and via text, e-mail, Facebook, or other electronic means. This finding confirms previous research showing that girls are sexually harassed more frequently than boys and that girls' experiences tend to be more physical and intrusive than boys' experiences. Studies have shown that thirty (30%) percent of the students have been sexually harassed through electronic means - one-third of girls and one-quarter of boys. Twenty (20%) percent of students received a text message, e-mail, or post with unwelcome sexual comments, jokes, or pictures during the 2010-2011 school years. Twelve (12%) percent of students were called gay, or lesbian, in a negative way through e-mail, texting, Facebook, or other electronic means. Thirteen (13%) percent of students had sexual rumors spread about them through electronic means.

Potential Response to Problem

Funds are needed to create staff positions in all public funded schools that can recognize and respond to sexual harassment, to know how to help students who come to them, and to know their obligations if they witness sexual harassment. This staff should also be responsible for holding faculty meetings on topics such as what Title IX is and what the obligations and liability facing a school would be, hold workshops and assemblies, and create after-school programs addressing sexual harassment and related issues. Funds are also needed to create sexual harassment printed materials for distribution in schools and to parents and/or guardians. There is also a need for video recording and editing equipment so students could make their own public service announcements, or documentaries, about sexual harassment at their school.

Priority #3

Problem Identified

Data

**Alcohol and Drug Use
(Including Nicotine and
Prescription Drugs)
Continue to Plague Our
Younger Generation**

**Tim Hooks, Director of Transportation, HISD
Chris Drane, High School Principal, NWISD
Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)
The National Council on Alcohol and Drug
Dependence, Inc. (NCADD)**

There is no single age group of people more affected by alcohol and drugs than young people. In some ways it feels like it is an issue everywhere: for you, your family, and your friends. Plain and simple, try as you might, you cannot escape the issues of alcohol and drugs. Nationwide, alcohol and drugs affect each and every one of us, directly or indirectly: in our homes, in our families, in our school, in our dorm, in our community, town or city.

More than twenty-three (23) million people over the age of twelve (12) are addicted to alcohol and other drugs affecting millions more people.....parents, family members, friends and neighbors. Forty (40) percent of eighteen (18) to twenty-five (25) year olds take part in binge drinking – which means consuming more than four drinks in less than a two hour period. Each year hundreds die from acute alcohol poisoning brought on by binge drinking.

Each year, more than six hundred thousand (600,000) students between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty-four (24) are assaulted by another student who has been drinking. And ninety-five (95%) percent of all violent crimes on high school and college campuses involve the use of alcohol by the assailant, victim or both, while ninety (90%) percent of acquaintance rape and sexual assault on college campuses involves the use of alcohol by the assailant, victim, or both. Every day, thirty-six (36) people die, and approximately seven hundred (700) are injured, in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. Drinking and drugged driving is the number one cause of death, injury and disability of young people under the age of twenty-one (21).

FACT: The connection between alcohol, drugs and crime is clear. And, so is the connection between alcohol and drug *addiction* and crime. We need to break the chain that links drug addiction and crime.

However, and not surprisingly, jail alone has had little effect on reduction of drug addiction or in promoting recovery. Holding someone in jail, without access to alcohol and drug addiction treatment, with no specific plans for treatment and recovery support upon release, is not only expensive, it's ineffective.

For many in the criminal justice system, preventing future crime and re-arrest after release is impossible without treatment for and recovery from addiction to alcohol and drugs.

“Nine years before I was elected to Congress for the first of nine terms, I woke up from my last alcoholic blackout in a jail cell, under arrest for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. I am alive and sober today--almost 30 years later--only because I had access to treatment for my alcoholism.”

- Former U.S. Congressman Jim Ramstad (R-MN)

Potential Response to Problem

Funds are needed for the following:

A designated Public Safety Officer is needed who will plan annual events and programs including using an “Impaired Driving Simulator.” Printed program material will be needed for attendees as well as being available as handouts during public venues such as town fairs, rodeos, trade shows, National Night Out, etc. Funds are needed to present the “Shattered Dreams” program to all junior high and high schools within the county. The driving simulator can also allow a student to drive in a simulated drunk, or drug induced, mode. These simulators are needed to facilitate our ongoing need to reach our young people – the future

of our county.

In response to the facts stated above, a Drug Court program needs to be developed and implemented for Walker County. This Drug Court would be judicially-supervised in order to strike the proper balance between the need to protect community safety and the need to improve public health and well-being; between the need for treatment and the need to hold people accountable for their actions; between hope and redemption on the one hand and good citizenship on the other.

Imprisonment has little effect on alcohol and drug abuse. Approximately ninety-five (95%) percent of inmates return to alcohol and drug use after release from prison. Providing treatment without holding offenders accountable for their performance in treatment is expensive and ineffective. Unless they are regularly supervised by a judge, sixty to eighty (60% – 80%) percent drop out of treatment prematurely and few successfully graduate.

Walker County recognizes the serious impact of alcohol and drug use on crime across our county. To combat this impact, we need to have in place long term recovery. But, we also know, from decades of experience, thousands of people who have been in the criminal justice system have broken the chain through long-term recovery from alcohol and drug addiction.

Priority #4

Problem Identified

Data

School Safety Concerns

**Tim Hooks, Director of Transportation, HISD
National School Safety Center (NSSC)**

There is a rising concern for the safety of our children while they are attending school – either public or private. The NSSC, in its publication, "School Crisis Prevention and Response," recommends that school districts pursue an array of crime and violence prevention strategies, including incentives or encouragements for students to report suspicious and criminal activity. The NSSC states that such programs are an important part of a comprehensive school-based violence prevention strategy. Anonymous hotlines or similar services allow students to report incidents of crime, weapons, or drug violations in schools, thus reducing fear of retribution and preventing additional incidents. Callers anonymously report the presence of weapons or drugs, crimes they have witnessed, or pending fights among students. Donations and some school funds are used to support rewards for reports. Rewards typically are between \$25.00 and \$100.00, depending on the resources available to the program and the information given in the report. This hotline could be patterned after the Walker County Crime Stopper program.

Potential Response to Problem

The expense of establishing the reporting system can present a challenge for our school systems. Reporting systems need at least one dedicated phone line, or more, if the school is large or the system is heavily used. There has to be training for school and/or law enforcement personnel who staff the system and referred calls about serious incidents to the police could become an additional required expense.

Priority #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Discipline Policies in Public School Districts	Ed Davis, Episcopal Diocese of Texas- Restorative Justice International Institute of Restorative Justice Travis Smiley Report Wallace Jefferson, Chief Justice, Texas Supreme Court
<p>Severe discipline policies and practices in our schools can: turn children against authority figures and the legal system, lead to a greater number of drop-outs, cause a loss of revenue to the school districts, and lead to youth being a part of the criminal justice system. It has been found that the drop-out rate can be directly tied to expulsion, In School Suspension (ISS), and referral to the criminal justice system. Punishment is not the same as accountability, nor does it necessarily educate an offending student as to the harm their conduct has caused. Restorative practices are designed to heal relationships. As school revenue is directly tied to attendance, it is understood that suspension and/or expulsion will adversely affect school revenue.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>Funding is needed to create and implement a Restorative Practice Group that will, among other things, train SROs, principals, teachers, and students in the informal and formal Restorative Practices.</p>	

Priority #6	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of engagement between the school and the community	Huntsville ISD Strategic Design Plan City of Carrollton Block Party Guide City of Edmonton Block Party Kit
<p>Community outreach efforts are a way to put a positive face on the school district and help district and community work together as partners.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>One outreach effort is to host block parties in various parts of the school district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Green Hornet Bus will be the source of food and refreshments • The location of the block parties will align with the stops (6) for the Summer Nutrition Program. • Dates for gatherings will be during April and May for (6) evenings. • Social Services will be advertised and applications available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Free and Reduced Lunch sign up ○ Medicaid services information ○ Boys and Girls club information ○ Free books for summer reading • Music and Games will be provided. 	

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

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Need for Adapted Physical Activity for Veterans and Citizens in Walker County	Ashley Taylor, TCBHC – Veterans Affairs Rebecca Bowden, LEMIT / FUMC / SHSU Sandra Clifton, YMCA David Yebra, SHSU, Military Science
<p>There are too many veterans returning home with physical disabilities and are not getting the continued help they need. They also need available physical activity that is adapted to sports (such as wheel chair basketball and volley ball).</p> <p>The local YMCA started an Adaptive Physical Activity project in the spring of 2015 that centered on baseball for citizens and veterans with physical disabilities. At this time the YMCA is planning for future activities, however, they are in dire need of specialized equipment, storage for the equipment, and funds to develop a field they have acquired to accommodate baseball, soccer, and other field sports.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>The Huntsville YMCA, which offers programs to all of Walker County, needs funds to expand their Adaptive Physical Activity program. In the near future, they will need specialized wheel chairs, limb support equipment, and athletic equipment. At this time, they have a large lot available for use, but funds are needed to transition this from an empty field into a productive area where baseball and soccer games could be held.</p>	

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of Support for Veterans' Spouses and Children in Walker County	Rebecca Bowden, LEMIT / FUMC / SHSU David Yebra, SHSU, Military Science Mark Robinson Ashley Taylor, TCBHC – Veterans Affairs Elisa Borah, Research Associate, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, University of Texas at Austin (UTA)**
<p>Because Texas has the second largest population of veterans, and will have the largest number of veterans by 2019, Walker County should set the standard for how we treat our veterans' families. We need to address their families' employment, education, and mental health care needs. We must ensure strong community-based programs that are not only affordable, but also accessible.</p> <p>Spouses and children of veterans do not receive special consideration for employment and educational opportunities, yet they deserve them as much as the veterans. Many have delayed higher education or employment, or they have been underemployed throughout their loved ones service because of frequent moves and absences due to training and deployment. Then when the veteran returns home disabled the job of care-giver often falls upon the family.</p> <p>** Used by permission</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>The Texas Hazelwood Act provides qualified veterans with up to one hundred fifty (150) hours of tuition exemption at higher education institutions in Texas, but nothing for spouses and children who only receive these benefits if the veteran died in the line of duty (there are several other qualifiers). Under the Veterans Choice Act, Texas now offers in-state tuition and fees to qualifying veterans. The immediate families of these veterans should also be extended the opportunity to resume their education.</p> <p>Funds are needed to fill in the "gaps" that legislation has failed to address. Congress has acknowledged the need for services for veterans' families but little action has been taken. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs discussed changing the model in a 2008 congressional hearing where they were told that care should focus on the whole family, not just the veteran. But more than seven (7) years later, not much has changed.</p> <p>Funds for qualifying veterans could be handled by the local Veterans Affairs Advisory Board, Walker County Veteran's Affairs Office, or the local DSHS office.</p> <p>**Used by permission</p>	

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
There is a Need of Prosthetic Support for Walker County Disabled Citizens and Veterans	Rebecca Bowden, LEMIT / FUMC / SHSU David Yebra, SHSU, Military Science Mark Robinson, HEARTS, COP Ashley Taylor, TCBHC – Veterans Affairs Project Intrepid / Center for the Intrepid
<p>The Students from the Elliot T. Bower's Honors College are leading the effort designed to maximize the resources available at SHSU to assist our Veterans in achieving the independence they seek. Project Intrepid, as the initiative is called, works to provide 3D manufactured devices needed to achieve physical independence. Project Intrepid, as the initiative is called, works to provide 3D manufactured devices needed to achieve physical independence. The prosthetics that our Veterans receive enable our Wounded Warriors to accomplish most of their day to day tasks. There is still a need for devices to augment the prosthetics they receive to further enhance their independence. Working with the SHSU Center for Innovation and Technology, and local leaders, Project Intrepid looks to fill a need to develop specialized devices to augment the capability of current prosthetics. The project includes periodic team meetings, communication with the Center for the Intrepid, San Antonio, Texas, Veterans, and the marketing for future projects. The opportunity to work with the family members of our Wounded Warriors offers a unique experience by involving them in the process, meet some of their respective needs, and enable them to benefit therapeutically from the journey. Project Intrepid is also working to develop 3D manufactured devices to help our students here at SHSU. The devices are designed to help our students with some of their day to day needs such as support for an umbrella or to hold a cell phone.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>There needs to be assistance in getting more prosthetic devices to our veterans who have lost partial, or whole, limbs while serving our country and to those citizens who are not veterans. This could be done with funds going through the Elliot T. Bowers Honors College at SHSU.</p>	

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Mental Health Services for Veterans is Needed in Walker County	Rebecca Bowden, LEMIT / FUMC / SHSU David Yebra, SHSU, Military Science Mark Robinson Pam Patterson, DSHS Ashley Taylor, TCBHC – Veterans Affairs
<p>By 2019, Texas will have the largest population of veterans in the United States. This could translate into the fact we may end up having the largest population of veterans that require mental health services We must ensure strong community-based programs that are not only affordable, but also accessible.</p> <p>The Texas DSHS has begun to enhance veteran mental health programs throughout Texas by the creation of chapters known as the Military Veteran Peer Network (mvpn.org). This is a good first step and Walker County should organize around developing appropriate resources to address the mental health needs of our veterans and their families.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>Funds need to be made available through a grant that would establish a mental health program to assist disabled veterans who have Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and/or Traumatic Brain Injury receive the treatment they need.</p>	

Resources Available

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

Veteran Affairs:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Walker County Veteran Service Officer	Local Government	Veteran Affairs
Walker County Veteran's Affairs Advisory Board	Non Profit	Veteran Affairs
Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare	State	Veteran Services

Juvenile Justice:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Walker County Juvenile Services	Local Government	Juvenile Probation
Municipal Court, City of Huntsville	Municipality	Municipal Court
Walker County Criminal District Attorney's Office	Local Government	Prosecution and Victim Services
Justices of the Peace, Pcts. 1,2,3, & 4	Local Government	Precinct Courts

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Walker County Sheriff's Office	Local Government	Law Enforcement
Huntsville Police Department	Municipality	Law Enforcement
Sam Houston State University Police Department	State University	Law Enforcement

Huntsville Fire Department	Municipality	Code Enforcement
Walker County Criminal District Attorney's Office	Local Government	Prosecution
Walker County Public Safety Communications Center	Local Government	Communications
Huntsville Municipal Court	Municipality	Civil Justice Court
Walker County Constables	Local Government	Law Enforcement

Victim Services:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
SAAFE House	Non Profit	Community Resource
Walker County Juvenile Services	Local Government	Juvenile Probation
Boys and Girls Club of Walker County	Non Profit	Community Resource
Gulf Coast Trades Center	Non Profit	Juvenile Services

Educational Services:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Huntsville I.S.D	State	School System
New Waverly I.S.D.	State	School System
Education Service Center Region VI	State	Education Support
Sam Houston State University	State	University

Medical / Health Services / Substance Abuse:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Texas Dept. of State Health Services	State Agency	Health Services
SAAFE House	Non Profit	Community Resource
Physician's ER	Private Sector	Medical Care Services
Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare	Non Profit	Mental Health Services
Huntsville Memorial Hospital	Private Sector	Medical Care Services

Faith Based / Intervention / Prevention:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
SAAFE House	Non Profit	Community Resource
Justices of the Peace, Pcts. 1,2,3 & 4	County Office	J.P. Courts
Boys and Girls Club of Walker County	Non Profit	Community Resource
Y.M.C.A.	Non Profit	Community Resource
Gulf Coast Trade Center	Non Profit	Community Resource
First United Methodist Church Human Trafficking Core Group	Non Profit	Christian Ministry

Interagency Cooperation

The following is 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:

As can be seen in the previous pages, our resources and services literally stretch from county line to county line and from city to city. Therefore, communications between each of these resources and services is of utmost importance – not just to the Walker County Community Planning Team, but also to the citizens of our county. Agencies within Walker County seek to provide those services which meet the needs of individuals, and families, who are in crisis due to gaps in criminal justice issues. As these gaps in services are recognized, they will be conveyed to every member of the Planning Group so referrals can be expedited to the available agencies for immediate and appropriate action. These gaps are then presented to the Walker County Community Planning Team for inclusion in the new Plan. Every effort is used to insure a continuous flow of ideas to the Focal Groups and the Community Planning Coordinator. We also highly encourage participation from all citizens within Walker County.

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

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

Contact Information

Walker County Community Planning Coordinator

Sherri Pegoda, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
344 SH 75 N, Building 200, Huntsville, Texas 77320
(936) 435-8740 walkercountyoem@co.walker.tx.us

Community Planning Liaison from Houston-Galveston Area Council

Larry Smith, Senior Public Safety Planner
P. O. Box 22777, Houston, Texas 77227
(713) 993-2455 larry.smith@h-gac.com

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

www.co.walker.tx.us

Once on the Walker County Web Page, insert "Community Plan" in the search engine box and this will take you to the current Plan.

Acronyms:

AAUW	American Association of University Women
BGCWC	Boys and Girls Club of Walker County
CDC	Center for Disease Control
CDF	Children's Defense Fund
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CMIT	Correctional Management Institute of Texas
COH	City of Huntsville
COP	Citizens on Patrol (SO)
DSHS	Department of State Health Services
EMC	Emergency Management Coordinator
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FMS	Federal Medical Station
FUMC	First United Methodist Church
GCTC	Gulf Coast Trade Center
GSM	Good Shepherd Mission
HEARTS	Helping Every American Remember Through Service
HFD	Huntsville Fire Department
HISD	Huntsville Independent School District
HMH	Huntsville Memorial Hospital
HPD	Huntsville Police Department
IIHS	Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
ISS	In School Suspension
JP	Justice of the Peace
LEMIT	Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas
NCADD	National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, Inc.
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
NSSC	National School Safety Center
NWISD	New Waverly Independent School District
OEM	Office of Emergency Management
PALS	Preparing for Adult Living Services
PSO	Public Safety Officer
PTO	Parent Teacher Organization
PTSS	Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome
PWUW	Piney Woods United Way
RAINN	Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network
SAAFE	Sexual Assault and Abuse Free Environment
SADD	Students Against Destructive Decisions
SAR	Search and Rescue
SHSU	Sam Houston State University

SRO	School Resource Officer
STAFS	Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science
TAASA	Texas Association Against Sexual Assault
TABC	Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission
TAC	Texas Association of Counties
TCBHC	Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare
TCFV	Texas Council on Family Violence
TDCJ	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
UCR	Unified Crime Reporting
USCB	United States Census Bureau
UTA	University of Texas at Austin
WCCDA	Walker County Criminal District Attorney
WCPSCC	Walker County Public Safety Communications Center
WCSO	Walker County Sheriff's Office
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YRBSS	Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

RESOLUTION 2017-09

WHEREAS, The Walker County Public Safety Community Plan Committee met October 21, 2016 to review the Walker County Public Safety Community Plan 2016/2017; and

WHEREAS, The committee was comprised of members from the following categories: Juvenile Service, Victim Services, Law Enforcement, Medical, Education, Veteran, and Faith Based; and

WHEREAS, The plan has been submitted to Houston-Galveston Area Council which in turn will be submitted to region to be compiled for the Regional Community Plan which will be submitted to the Governor's Office; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Walker County Commissioner's Court accepts and approves the Walker County Public Safety Community Plan 2016/2017.

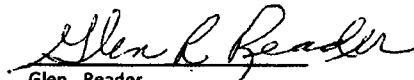
Approved this 24th day of October 2016.



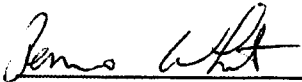
Danny Pierce, Walker County Judge



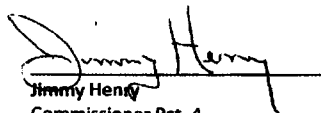
Danny Kuykendall
Commissioner Pct. 1



Glen Reader
Commissioner Pct. 3



Ronnie White
Commissioner Pct. 2



Jimmy Henry
Commissioner Pct. 4