

Walker County Criminal Justice Community Plan 2014-2015



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

"Many hands make for a lighter load."

A. L. "Butch" Davis, Jr.
Walker County EMC

Fall, 2014

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 2014, 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 either David M. Anderson, Sr., 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
Eagle Charter School
Vista Academy and Premier High School
Week Day Ministries for Children
Tomorrows Promise
Faith Lutheran School
Sam Houston State University

Brief description and history of Walker County:

The Ceniz (Assinay and Hasinai Tribes) Indians were among the earliest known residents of the area that is now Walker County. This tribe, part of the Caddo Confederacy, was first mentioned in 1687 by Henri Joutel, who served under the French explorer Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle. The Ceniz Indians lived between the Trinity and the San Jacinto rivers, where they raised corn crops which they traded with western Indians for horses, hides, and Spanish goods. The Ceniz were wiped out in 1780 by invading tribes that had been driven from their own ancestral homes along the Mississippi River by American expansion. Another band of Indians, the Bidais, inhabited the northern area of present Walker County and eked out a marginal existence as hunter-gatherers. Although spelled differently, their name is perpetuated in the name of a small creek, Bedias, flowing into the Trinity River from the west and in a town, known as Bedias, located in Grimes County just west of the current Walker County line.

The Walker County area, situated at the edge of the southern forest, became an important site for intertribal trade. Here the Alabama-Coushatta, the Neches, and the Nacogdoches tribes from the forests to the east arrived to swap goods with the Comanche, Lipans, and Tonkawas of the plains.

The first Europeans to explore the area may have been Spaniards under the leadership of Luis de Moscoso Alvarado, who arrived in the region in

1542. Then in 1687, La Salle crossed the area that is now Walker County. To counter the French threat presented by the La Salle expedition, a military company captained by Alonso De Leon was dispatched to East Texas in 1689 by the Viceroy of New Spain. De León's men cleared a lane that became La Bahia Road. A portion of this thoroughfare passed over the area of present-day Walker County.

In the early 1830s, colonists from the United States arrived in the area. Pleasant Gray and his brother Ephraim established a trading post on the site that eventually became Huntsville, named after Huntsville, Alabama, Pleasant Gray's former home. In the mid-1830s the brothers conducted a lucrative trade with the neighboring Indians.

In the years prior to Texas independence, the area was governed by the municipality of Washington, which became Washington County during the Texas Revolution. In 1837 the First Congress of the Republic of Texas included the area of present Walker County in Montgomery County when that county was carved from Washington County.

Steamboat navigation of the Trinity River spurred the earliest burst of commerce in the county and in 1838 James DeWitt established the port town of Cincinnati, which soon became the leading regional commercial center, partly because it was on the stage road connecting the towns of Washington-on-the-Brazos and Nacogdoches. Cotton and other agricultural products were taken down this highway to Cincinnati, and then transported down the Trinity River to the Port of Galveston.

In April 1846 the First Legislature of the new State of Texas established Walker County and designated the city of Huntsville the county seat of government.

James Mitchell (1795–1870) came to the future Walker County under a Mexican land grant in 1833, and helped to found Walker County. Mitchell, who became one of the first county commissioners, established the Mitchell House and Inn on the Old San Antonio Road, also known as El Camino Real de los Tejas, which started in Natchitoches, Louisiana and ran through the Piney Woods of East Texas going to San Antonio and eventually ending in Old Mexico. During the 1840s, the Mitchell house was a stop for weary stagecoach travelers.

By 1847 there were 2,695 people living in the area. In 1848 the county became the designated site for what became the Texas State Penitentiary at Huntsville, which began operating in 1849. By 1850 the population of Walker County had increased to 3,964.

Walker County was the home of Samuel Houston (born March 2, 1793 – died July 26, 1863), known as The Raven (his Cherokee Indian name), and

as General Sam Houston. Sam Houston, governor of two states, president of the Republic of Texas, U.S. senator, and military hero, was one of the most colorful figures of 19th-century America. Born near Lexington, Virginia, he was reared in Tennessee by his widowed mother. As a youth he spent much time with the Cherokee Indians and developed close ties with them. Joining the United States Army, he served under Andrew Jackson in the Creek wars (1813-14). In 1818, Houston resigned his commission and, after studying law for a few months, was elected attorney general for Nashville and appointed adjutant general of Tennessee. He served two terms in Congress (1823-27) and in 1827 was elected governor of Tennessee.

But for a few twists of fate, Sam Houston's face might adorn Mount Rushmore. Houston's impact on the course of our nation's history places him in the upper echelon of influential Americans. Subtract Houston from the equation, and Texas might have remained a Mexican state. Alternatively, the new republic might have risked its independence in a second major war with its southern neighbor. A more belligerent governor than Sam Houston might have accepted Abraham Lincoln's offer of federal troops in 1861 and changed the course of the Civil War. In short, the impact of Sam Houston's legacy spreads far beyond the boundaries of modern Texas.

As a young man, Sam Houston suffered a seemingly mortal wound in a heroic, yet ill-advised charge during the War of 1812's Battle of Horseshoe Bend. He surprised physicians not only by surviving, but thriving. After the war, his impressed commander, none other than the great Andrew Jackson, favored the young man with an endorsement for a leadership position in the state militia. Further support from Jackson paved the way to a congressional seat. A few years later, Jackson lent his substantial political clout to the rising star's successful gubernatorial run. As Andrew Jackson assumed the presidency in 1828, many political observers predicted that Sam Houston would follow the great man into the White House.

Had Sam Houston's first marriage been a happy one he might indeed have succeeded Andrew Jackson as president, but try to imagine the modern United States without Houston's impact on Texas history. If Eliza Allen hadn't rejected Sam Houston shortly after her marriage to him in 1829, Houston would have had no reason to abruptly quit the Tennessee governor's mansion and flee to Indian Territory. It thus seems unlikely that he would have made the trip to Texas three years later. Texans rebelling against Mexican rule would therefore have been without the services of the general who led the army away from Santa Anna's wrath after the fall of the Alamo. Many angry Texans charged Houston with cowardice at the time, but the eastward retreat now known as the Runaway Scrape provided time for supplementing and training the inferior force under his command. This

vengeful army inflicted a crushing defeat on the Mexicans at the subsequent Battle of San Jacinto that gained Texas its independence.

A happily married Sam Houston would have stayed in Tennessee and not participated in the tumultuous politics of the Republic of Texas. Nicknamed the Hero of San Jacinto by some, Houston cruised to the Texas presidency in the new republic's first national election in 1836. His conservative approach to westward expansion and his restraint toward Mexico and the Indian nations of Texas brought the enmity of his vice president, Mirabeau Lamar. The rivalry between these two men led their contemporaries to refer to each man's supporters as the Houston party and the anti-Houston party.

Houston and Lamar hated each other. Lamar thought Houston a drunken coward while Houston saw his rival as an incompetent bumbler. One issue in particular, where to place the Texas seat of government, sparked the first major political battle in the republic's history. The fight spanned Houston's two-year term of office that began in 1836, Lamar's subsequent three-year presidency, and the three-year Houston presidency that followed. Lamar and his supporters ultimately triumphed. Had Houston had his way, Texas government would likely rule the state from a site on the Brazos River rather than the more western Colorado River city of Austin.

While governor of Tennessee, Houston married Eliza Allen on January 1, 1829. For unexplained reasons, however, the marriage was dissolved almost immediately. Houston, under pressure from the influential Allen family, resigned his office. For the next six (6) years he lived with the Cherokee Indians in the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), taking a Cherokee wife, Tiana Rogers and adopting Cherokee citizenship. He was a trader, advisor, and special envoy for the tribe on several occasions. It was in this last capacity that, in 1832, he first went to Texas, then under Mexican rule, in a futile attempt to secure a land grant for the tribe. By 1835, Houston had moved to Texas. With the outbreak of the Texas Revolution, which started in that year, he was named commanding general of the Revolutionary Army of Texas. In March 1836, Houston was a delegate to the convention that declared Texas an independent republic. His command was reconfirmed, and on April 21, 1836 he led the Texas army to a brilliant victory over Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto.

Houston served as the first president of the new republic from 1836 to 1838 and was later elected to a second term (1841-44). Despite forsaking his excellent chances of attaining the presidency as a Tennessean, Sam Houston still came close to reaching the White House. After Texas was admitted to the Union in 1845, Houston served two terms as a United States Senator. As a vocal pro-Unionist, he earned the respect of other Unionists throughout the country but the enmity of many Texans. After

losing his Senate seat in 1859, he nevertheless won election to the governor's chair. Houston's national prominence and strong pro-Union stance put him in strong contention for a presidential nomination in 1860. He hurt his chances by announcing his opposition to the convention system of nominating presidential candidates, but still won nearly enough support to be nominated by the Constitutional Union Party. When Tennessean John Bell gained the party's nomination instead, many thought the weaker candidate had won. According to Houston biographer James Haley, no less shrewd a politician than future president Andrew Johnson believed that Sam Houston would have emerged victorious in the three-way 1860 presidential race.

Texas secession in 1861 killed Sam Houston's political career. With secession a reality, the Texas legislature demanded that public office holders swear an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy. Houston refused. The legislature immediately removed him from office.

In 1840, Sam Houston married Miss Margaret Lea Houston who was a well-educated, attractive southern belle who became the third wife of Houston. Houston was many years her senior, but that did not slow their whirlwind courtship; she agreed to be his wife over the objections of her mother, only one week after they met. They were married about a year later on May 9, 1840 in Alabama.

Margaret persuaded Sam to stop drinking, for which he had a sizeable reputation, and to join the Baptist church. They had eight children. General Sam Houston died at his home in Huntsville, Walker County, Texas on July 26, 1863. He was seventy years old at the time of his death. His grave site is in the Oakwood Cemetery, in Huntsville, which can be reached by traveling two blocks north on Spur 94, the shortest highway in Texas, which intersects Texas 190 (11th Street). Houston personally chose this location for his gravesite because it was across the street from where his beloved Steamboat House once stood. However, Margaret is buried in Independence, Texas next to the tomb of her Mother, Nancy. On December 3, 1867 Margaret Houston died of yellow fever in her home in Independence, Texas, yet she died happy. Over the years of their marriage with the foundation that was laid during their courtship and first years together their goals and emotions toward each other became synonyms. Margaret had been at most, if not the most, influential woman in Sam Houston's life. Due to the fear of contagions Margaret had to be buried in Independence and not next to her husband in Huntsville as she had wished. Today a pink granite marker stands at the graves of Margaret Lea Houston and Nancy Lea, which states, "Women of character, culture and staunch devotion to their families and church, each in her own way greatly influenced the career of Sam Houston and the course of Texas history."

Walker County was initially named for Robert J. Walker, a legislator from

Mississippi who introduced into the United States Congress the resolution to annex Texas. However, Walker later supported the Union during the Civil War, thus in order to keep the county's name from being changed, it was renamed for Samuel H. Walker, a Texas Ranger and soldier in the American Army.

Walker County continued to grow and develop during the 1850s and by 1860, it had attracted several churches, two small colleges (Austin College and Andrew Female College), numerous businesses, and a newspaper, the Huntsville Item. The Huntsville Item was founded in 1850 and is noted as the second oldest continuous running newspaper in Texas.

During these years, the state penitentiary had expanded and become a significant producer of cotton goods. In 1859 the institution was capable of producing 12,000 yards of cotton goods each day. By 1860 county residents also supported ten public schools attended by more than 400 students.

In 1867, the county once again saw yellow fever raise its ugly head. This epidemic far overshadowed the first yellow fever plague that hit the county in 1853. Walker County was so ravaged by this fever that it touched virtually every family. In visiting the old Oakwood cemetery, many tombstones carry the death dates of 1853 or 1867.

Railroads tied Walker County to national markets and helped to encourage immigration into the county. But during this expansion of the railroads in the late nineteenth century, being bypassed by a railroad meant almost certain death to a community. Huntsville was threatened with extinction in the early 1870s after the city failed to pay the railroad a requested bonus. In 1872, after the tracks had bypassed their town, Huntsville residents raised \$ 90,000 to build a spur line from their town to the railroad that had passed them by. Walker County contributed an additional \$ 35,000. The spur, known as the Huntsville Tap, reached the main line near the new town of Phelps. The river port towns died as the railroads replaced steamboats for hauling freight. When the railroad community of Riverside was established, it became the new center for both rail and water freight, and this new center of commerce eventually killed off its upstream competitors. Meanwhile, new communities like New Waverly, Elmira, Phelps, and Dodge sprang up adjacent to the tracks. The arrival of the railroad also helped to stimulate the area's agricultural economy, which began to revive during the 1870s.

Logging and cotton farming continued to be the mainstays of Walker County between 1900 and 1930, but partly because of the boll weevil, cotton farming in the area became less productive after 1900. The character of the local economy was fundamentally altered during the Great Depression, as cotton farming collapsed. As tens of thousands of acres

were taken out of crop production during the depression, the number of cattle doubled. These trends continued into the 1940s, so that by 1950, only 7,000 acres were planted in cotton.

After the Great Depression, the timber industry flourished. Although hardwood continues to be harvested, the main crop has been the southern yellow pine. The Sam Houston National Forest, which includes a large area of the southern half of the county, sustains much of this large lumber industry. The population of Walker County increased during this period, rising to 19,868 by 1940 and to 20,163 by 1950.

The economy of Walker County benefits from the presence of Sam Houston State University, which was founded in 1879 and is the third oldest public institution of higher learning in the State of Texas. The main campus is located in downtown Huntsville and is one of the oldest purpose-built institutions for the instruction of teachers west of the Mississippi River. The university was the first such institution of its type in the State of Texas. Needless to say, the university is named for one of our own great founding fathers, General Sam Houston. SHSU is part of the Texas State University System and has, as of the fall semester of 2014, a record enrollment of 19,604 students according to the Huntsville Item.

SHSU was the first institution classified as a Doctoral Research University by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education within the Texas State University System. SHSU's Carnegie classification places it in the top 7% of U.S. higher education institutions.

SHSU is home to one of the largest and most prestigious criminal justice programs in the country offering bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees. The College of Criminal Justice at SHSU is a top criminal justice college and continues to set the national standard for the study of criminal justice in higher education. Since 1963, the college has been at the forefront of both criminal justice research and criminal justice sciences.

The Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT) calls the SHSU College of Criminal Justice home. CMIT was created in 1994 with a goal of enhancing corrections management in the adult and juvenile community and in institutional correction agencies located throughout the United States. Some, and certainly not all, of the programs presented each year by the CMIT include: three (3) National Jail Programs, two (2) Jail Administration Programs, every two (2) years a new Sheriff and Chief Deputy Program, five (5) Mid Management Programs, two (2) Senior Level Leadership Programs, and two (2) Warden's Peer and Interaction Programs. There are continuing programs presented at the college and throughout the county by the CMIT dealing with gangs, drugs, battered women's support, and many other criminal justice issues.

The University is also the home of Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science and is one of only six "willed body" facilities in the United States for the study of forensic anthropology and other forensic sciences. The first human decomposition facility, known as the "Body Farm," was created in 1980 by Dr. William Bass at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and received its first donated body in 1981. Other facilities are located in western Carolina, east Tennessee, the Blackland Prairie of Texas, Southern Illinois, and Grand Junction, Colorado.

Because the United States has different climatic environmental regions, each facility can provide valuable information about the process of human decomposition, such as environmental changes, animal scavenging and insect species, in their area. Each facility contributes to the study of the processes of burial, decay, and preservation, which helps to determine time of death and other conditions impacting victims. The research that comes from the STAFS facility can be used both nationally and internationally in places that share similar environmental factors.

The Outdoor Research Facility is located within the Center for Biological Studies at Sam Houston State University, a 247 acre parcel of land adjacent to the Sam Houston State Forest. Maximum security fencing surrounds the outdoor research facility with additional minimum security surrounding acreage reserved for other types of forensic training such as search and recovery maneuvers. Contained within the outdoor facility are a variety of various environmental conditions, including a fluvial environment. High definition cameras are located within the outdoor facility to monitor timing of various post-mortem activities from on and off-campus computers.

The university has more than 102,000 living, addressable alumni and an active Alumni Association. On October 10, 1889, the first class of 110 students and four faculty members commenced instruction on the site of what had once been the campus of Austin College. The original building, Austin Hall, was constructed in 1851 and is the oldest university building west of the Mississippi still in operation. Peabody Memorial Library was the first free-standing library and was constructed in 1901 with funds provided by the George Peabody Foundation, and it is still in use as a venue for special university events.

When the university first opened, students received a certification to teach in the State's elementary and secondary schools, but after 1919, the university began to award bachelor's degrees and in 1936, the school awarded its first post-baccalaureate degree. In 1923, Sam Houston Normal Institute changed its name to Sam Houston State Teachers College. Then in 1965, it became Sam Houston State College until in 1969 it became what is now known as Sam Houston State University. The university celebrated its 130th year of operation in 2009. In 2012 construction was completed in

North Harris County for a satellite campus now known as the Northwest Houston Campus. Sam Houston State University now offers upper level (junior and senior) undergraduate courses and graduate programs at the new Woodlands Center Campus at The Woodlands, Texas

Another increasingly important factor in the growth of Walker County is the tremendous expansion of Houston. As Houston continues to sprawl northward, more Walker County residents benefit from employment opportunities available in its metropolitan areas. County residents often work in Houston offices, commuting from their Walker County homes.

Walker County, covering 801 square miles, is located near Lake Livingston and Lake Conroe and is surrounded by the Sam Houston National Forest. According to the 2010 census, Walker County has a population of 67,861. The County is home to Sam Houston State University, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (the only State agency with headquarters outside of Austin), and the Huntsville State Park. Residents of Walker County enjoy mild winters where temperatures seldom fall below freezing. Cloudiness and fog are more prevalent in winter than in other seasons, yet the county continues to receive about 50% of the total sunshine possible. Summers are hot and humid with little variation in day-to-day conditions except for occasional thunderstorms that help to dissipate the afternoon heat. Spring and fall weather is delightful with moderate days and cool nights.

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Walker County: David M. Anderson, Sr., 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:

Name:

Agency:

Jill Saumell

Walker County Juvenile Probation

Tina Cummings

Gulf Coast Trades Center

Melissa Zemencsik

Tri County Services

Lucy Arnold

Family Faith Church

Tish Humphrey

Huntsville City Council

Kelly Gray

Student - HISD

Pam Patterson

Texas Department of State Health Services

Jackson Godby

Student - HISD

Grayson Wood

Student - HISD

Victim Services:

Name:

Agency:

Jolene Miller

SAAFE House

Janie Farris

Walker County Justice of the Peace – Pct. 1

Lisa DuPaul

Huntsville Police Department

Sonia Lopez

Lone Star Legal

Wayne Keen

Citizen

Charles Tubbs

Citizen

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Agency:</i>
John Davila	Walker County Sheriff's Office
Curt Landrum	Huntsville Police Department
Deborah Gilbert	Walker County Public Safety Communications Center
Tim Whitecotton	Walker County Sheriff's Office
Jim Barnes	Huntsville Police Department
Joseph Bongiovi	Citizens on Patrol – Walker County Sheriff's Office
Stephen Cole	Walker County Sheriff's Office
D. V. "Red" McKaskle	Citizen
Richard Watkins	Watkins Consulting
Walter Boyd	Citizen
Bria Kimble	Student – HISD
Bailey Lolley	Student – HISD
Sidney Davison	Student - HISD
Jasmine Delfin	Student – HISD
Joseph Connell	CERT

Medical:

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Agency:</i>
Pam Patterson	Texas Department of State Health Services
Amy Scott	Physicians ER
Kevin Bates	Walker County/Huntsville EMS
Charles Tubbs	Citizen
Kelly Gray	Student - HISD
April House	Student - NWISD
Allison Hauptstueck	Tri County Services
Melissa Zemencsik	Tri County Services

Educational:***Name:***

Mark Shiflet
Darol Hail
John Waldo
Kris Drane
Ed Davis
Quentin Fairchild
Ty Chumley
Tom Martin
Valencia Browning-Keen
Joseph Connell

Agency:

Sam Houston State University
New Waverly Independent School District
City of Huntsville Emergency Management
New Waverly Independent School District
Episcopal Diocese of Texas – Restorative Justice
CERT
Student - NWISD
CERT
Sam Houston State University
CERT

Faith Based:***Name:***

Ed Davis
Pam Patterson
Charlene Crocker
Paula White
Priscila Puente
Valeria Salazar
Ashley Lankford
Walter Boyd
Charles Tubbs
Jeff Hackleman
Eileen Hackleman
Dave Smith
Mark Pickett

Agency:

Episcopal Diocese of Texas – Restorative Justice
Texas Department of State Health Services
Citizen
Walker County VOAD
Student - HISD
Student - HISD
Citizen
Citizen
Citizen
Minister – Family Faith Church
Minister – Family Faith Church
Minister – Good Shepherd Mission
Minister – First United Methodist Church

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 that **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 in the coming weeks and months 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	<p>Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Services Shelia Hugo, Walker County Adult Probation Jolene Miller, SAAFE House Texas Association Against Sexual Assault</p>
<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 the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault 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	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Assault/Family and Dating Violence	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Services Huntsville Municipal Court Jolene Miller, SAAFE House
<p>Studies show that child abuse occurs in thirty (30) 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.</p> <p>According to The Huntsville Item, roughly one in six Huntsville ISD students were disciplined in the last two years.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Anti-Bullying program, SAAFE House, diversionary class-probation, Winner's Circle, and Tri County MH-MR. 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.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>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 Justice of the Peace 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.</p>	

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Mental Health	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation Jolene Miller, SAAFE House Pam Patterson, RN, Texas Department of State Health Services
<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	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Distracted Drivers	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation National Highway Safety Administration Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission
<p>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. 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.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>We need funds to purchase curriculum and hire persons to be able to teach that curriculum</p>	

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 Huntsville Municipal Court Janie Farris, Justice of the Peace, Pct 1 Huntsville Independent School District
According to Huntsville Municipal Court, in 2013, twenty-five (25) Parents received citations for Contributing to nonattendance and there were forty-five (45) cases filed for Failure to Attend. According to the Justice of the Peace 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.	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
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.	

Priority #6	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Gangs	<p>Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation Huntsville Police Department Walker County Sheriff's Office The Houston Chronicle Janie H. Farris, Justice of the Peace – Pct 1</p>
<p>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 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 Huntsville 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 o social media might not be used in a court setting, it can give the community some insight into gang, and individual, activity at ta 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.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>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 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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

Priority #7	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Runaways	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation Janie Farris, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Huntsville Police Department
<p>In 2013, there were one hundred twenty-seven (127) runaway calls reported between the Huntsville Police Department and the Walker County Sheriff's Office. The runaways are not receiving the help that they need. Training in parenting skills, professional counseling to teach effective communication techniques, education programs on the dangers of 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 runaway. With funding, this counseling would be free, or at least low cost, to the family in order to ensure attendance by all family members. We need to provide in-home counseling to insure that all problems in the family can be addressed in the home. As a crisis agency, we need to provide longer term services to help meet the needs of these individuals.</p>	

Priority #8	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
After School Programs	Sandra Clifton, Huntsville YMCA Michelle Spencer, Boys & Girls Club of Walker County
<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 Boys & Girls Club of Walker County (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,</p>	

character / life skills, health / physical education, and the arts.

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.

Potential Response to Problem

To maximize the number of children that can be served by the Boys & Girls Club of Walker County, 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.

Priority #9	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Supervision	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation Sonny Cruse, Deputy Superintendent, Huntsville ISD Gail Wright, PATH Program, SHSU
<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 (ARD) 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>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<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>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<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>
Prevention Programs for Older Students	Jill Saumell, Walker County Juvenile Probation Shelia Hugo, Walker County Adult Probation Children's Defense Fund 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 Children's Defense Fund (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	Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) Huntsville Police Department Walker County Sheriff's Office Jolene Miller, SAAFE House Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) Janie H. Farris, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1
<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 there were five hundred ninety-one (591) incidents reported to law enforcement in 2013, In the first eight (8) months of 2014, we had three hundred ninety-nine (399) reported to the Huntsville Police Department. SAAFE House provided services to one thousand one hundred and eighty-seven (1,187) individuals requesting services because of abuse. We know from statewide statistics for Texas Council on Family Violence and Texas Association Against Sexual Assault 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 Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN).</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	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Prevention/Education Involving Violent Behavior to Our Youth	Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) Jolene Miller, SAAFE House Janie H. Farris, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1
<p>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. According to the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV), in Texas sixty (60) percent of females surveyed have had</p>	

experience with dating violence which consists of peer pressure, verbal abuse, physical violence, and sexual violence. Seventy-five (75) per cent 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) per cent 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 adequate services for sexual assault victims to receive medical care from a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner	Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) Huntsville Police Department Texas Association Against Sexual Assault Janie H. Farris, justice of the Peace, Pct. 1
According to the UCR, there were sixty-four (64) incidents of sexual assaults reported in our community in the year 2012. In 2013 according to the Huntsville Police Department we have had thirty-four (34) in the first nine (9) months. According to the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, only one (1) in ten (10) victims of sexual assault will report the crime to anyone, much less authorities. This reluctance to report is due to humiliation, feeling personally responsible, not understanding that it is a crime, and failing to realize it was a	

sexual assault upon the survivor. Another huge barrier is not having services available in our community. The need for SANEs (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) is still a major concern within Walker County. At the current time the community does not have certified SANE at Huntsville Memorial Hospital or Physician's ER (Urgent Care Center), requiring all of our survivors to travel outside our county to The Woodlands in Montgomery County, in order to have an exam completed by a SANE. Too often, Survivors must wait hours before being seen, all the while sitting in a waiting room full of other people with an advocate. Survivors appreciate SANEs. The SANE knows how to address survivor's medical concerns and explain how the process will work. SANEs are important to the justice system for survivors. They are trained specifically to testify with concerns to the exam, hopefully securing a conviction and bringing some sense justice to the survivor. Also, there is a need for specialize equipment so that everything is done to enhance prosecution. This is a problem in Walker county that we want to eliminate. We want to be of better service to the survivors in our community by providing the services they require.

Potential Response to Problem

We need funding available to train SANEs in order to enhance the immediacy of service which also allows us to have the optimum time to collect evidence as soon as possible that has not been diluted by someone drinking or using the bathroom or smoking. As of the fall of 2014, we are still taking survivors out of town for exams which continues to put undue and unnecessary pressure on the survivor, the victim center (SAAFE House), law enforcement, and the justice system.

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of support services for victims of varying crimes including Human Trafficking	Huntsville Police Department Jolene Miller, SAAFE House Janie H. Farris, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1
<p>According to Huntsville Police Department two thousand three hundred and seventy-eight (2378) other incidents of crime were reported other than Family Violence 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</p>	

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.

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.

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

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Insufficient Staff in the Walker County Public Safety Communications Center	Les Metzler, Director, WCPSCC Deborah Gilbert, Assistant Director, WCPSCC John Davila, Sergeant Detective, WCSO
<p>Currently the Walker County Public Safety Communications Center (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 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 911 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. This points to the severe need to have adequate staffing of the WCPSCC. As the agencies the WCPSCC services 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 #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Vehicles Utilized by the WCSO volunteer group - Citizens On Patrol (COP) - need to be replaced.	Joseph Bongiovi, Citizens On Patrol
<p>The COP Program is a part of the Uniform Services Division of the Walker County Sheriff's Office and under the Office of the Sheriff, Clint McRae. In essence, the program is designed to be an extra set of eyes and ears for the individual units within the Walker County Sheriff's Office. They are trained to assist the Walker County Sheriff's Office with day-to-day operations as requested and needed. They are also available for Search and Rescue operations and to assist other county law enforcement agencies. The COP is a not-for-profit organization and uses no county or state funds. Their operating budget is funded entirely by fund raising, donations from the citizens and businesses of Walker County, and grants. At the present time, they operate two marked patrol units that are radio equipped with warning bar lights that can be activated while directing traffic or assisting deputies. The two patrol units they have available are 1999 high mileage models that now require constant upkeep just to keep them running. With the constant cost of repairs, it is possible that this very important asset of the county will have to cease some, or all, of their current patrol duties.</p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>Funds need to be immediately available to replace these patrol units with either new or pre-owned vehicles.</p>	

Priority #3	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
There is a need for a Multi-Agency Narcotics Unit within Walker County	John Davila, Sergeant Detective, WCSO
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Funds need to be available for Walker County to make a Multi-Agency Narcotics Unit become a reality. Over the years we have seen drugs morph from recreational to hard line and this is no doubt a problem that will not go away on its own. One line of combating this problem is to have more manpower available to fight this crime – which could be accomplished with a Multi-Agency Narcotics Unit.</p>	

Priority #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of Continuous Training for Law Enforcement Personnel and Needs for Active Shooter Training Equipment	Brad Fullwood, Lieutenant, WCSO Jim Barnes, Lieutenant, HPD Curt Landrum, Lieutenant, HPD
<p>Firearms' training with qualified instructors is always a necessity. However, going to the shooting range only improves your proficiency at hitting a stationary target. There is a great need for the use of non-lethal ammunition and firearms in order to train in a real-time, live scenario. This type of active shooter training makes the trainee more aware of the instant decisions and actions required to bring you and your team to a safe conclusion.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Walker County has a continuous need for training in many areas such as Use of Force, Child/Adult Abuse, Arrest/Search/Seizure, Violence, Juvenile Sexual Assault, Adult Sexual Assault, Cultural Diversity, Gang Recognition, Stress Management, Special Weapons and Tactics, and Verbal Communications (gang talk, street language, Spanish).</p> <p>This specialized training makes the expense overly costly for most agencies to purchase. In addition to the above, training simulators are needed to enhance the judgment and decision making that occurs in high risk activities.</p> <p>There is a very high need for "Simunition" products for the on-going active shooter training required of our officers. Non-lethal "Simunition" products such as automatic handguns, AR type rifles, shotguns, ammunition for these, safety helmets, eyewear, protective shields, clothing, etc. is highly needed. With this equipment, officers will be able to train in real time, real life, scenarios using non-lethal weapons for such training as house-to-house clearing, hostage taking, terrorist neutralizing, large scale armed robberies, etc. This training allows for the proper evaluation by command staff which could ultimately lead to not only saving lives in law enforcement, but also bystanders.</p>	

Priority #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Recruitment of Minorities for Law Enforcement and Volunteer Organizations	John Davila, Sergeant Detective, WCSO Joseph Connell, Director, WC CERT Joe Bongiovi, WC COP
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Community leaders within Walker County need to let all citizens know there are several avenues of involvement for community service. Applications for these groups (CERT and COP) are found on the Walker County web site, or they can be obtained at the Walker County Sheriff's Office. Applications for law enforcement positions can be obtained at the various agencies in the county.</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	Department of State Health Services Preparedness Program Pam Patterson, RN, Texas Department of State Health Services
<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	Jill Saumell, RN, Texas Department of State Health Services
<p>Walker County has seen increasing numbers of teen pregnancies. There were sixty-four (64) pregnancies in 2011 and sixty-six (66) in 2012 according to the Bureau of Vital Statistics. In addition, the teen abortion rate more than doubled between 2011 and 2012 from six (6) in 2011 to fifteen (15) in 2012. Walker County has the highest high school dropout rate of 8.5 % in all of the thirteen (13) H-GAC counties. We need to develop a coalition to work towards reducing these numbers through science based education and youth friendly clinical services.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Funding to develop an adolescent sexual health education community class using a science based sex education curriculum. The class would provide adolescents with age-appropriate, medically accurate comprehensive sexuality education from a non-judgmental perspective. Science based programs have been proven effective at providing youth with the skills they need to reduce sexually risky behaviors, reasons to postpone sex, and</p>	

critical thinking skills to respond to messages about sex in the media. 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

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	Huntsville Independent School District United States Census Bureau Walker County Juvenile Probation SEARCH Institute\ Ministerial Alliance Interagency Council Ed Davis, Episcopal Diocese of Texas – Restorative Justice
<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 needs a much greater pool of volunteers from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Retirees with knowledge and who care for our citizens Citizens motivated to strengthen all citizens of Walker County All County High School students to be challenged to act as "Big Brothers & Sisters" Students from Sam Houston State University who are interested in broadening their educational experience by serving as mentors or interns Service clubs and civic groups <p>3. 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." -- From Search Institute; Developmental Relationships</i></p> <p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Community Partnership/Coalition/Council of faith based and service group representatives and state, county and municipal government representatives which would: <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 Create a staff person to: <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
3. Provide community events, activities and service projects that build relation-ships between children and youth and concerned citizens. Examples:
- Adopt a School
 - Adopt a Student
 - Community Wide Service Days
4. Develop, train and implement in the public schools a "Restorative Discipline/ Restorative Practices Program" as a new way to deal with conduct violations

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of Awareness of the Increasing Problem of Human Trafficking	<p>Huntsville Victims' Advocate Huntsville Police Department Walker County Sheriff's Office Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition Free Our City Redeemed Ministries Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute at SHSU – LEMIT Walker County Criminal District Attorney's Office</p>
<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	Pam Paterson, RN, Texas Department of State Health Services
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>The need to develop an interfaith 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 \$ 38,024 which is the lowest in the thirteen (13) H-GAC area in 2012. Our unemployment rate for 2013 was 6.5 % which is higher than the state rate. Uninsured youth under the age of nineteen (19) was 17.5 % for our county - the second highest rate in H-GAC. High School Drop Out rate is 8.5 % which is the highest in the H-GAC thirteen (13) county area.</p>	

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

Priority #1	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Bullying	Darol Hail, Superintendent, New Waverly ISD Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released its study of the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (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. The final YRBSS for 2013 has not been published as of the writing of this document.</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 Boys and Girls Club of Walker County.</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><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>A constant need within our community is extensive prevention outreach services going into the schools and helping children understand the effect of violence. 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.</p>	

Priority #2	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Sexual Harassment by Texting, E-Mail, Facebook, or Other Electronic Means	American Association of University Women
<p>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, <i>Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School</i> 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. Nearly half (48 percent) of the students surveyed experienced some form of sexual harassment in the 2010-11 school year, and the majority of those students (87 percent) said it had a negative effect on them. Sexual harassment by text, e-mail, Facebook,</p>	

or other electronic means affected nearly one-third (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 (56 percent versus 40 percent). Girls were more likely than boys to be sexually harassed both in person (52 percent versus 35 percent) and via text, e-mail, Facebook, or other electronic means (36 percent versus 24 percent). 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 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 #4	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Alcohol and Drug Use (Including Nicotine and Prescription Drugs) Continue to Plague Our Younger Generation	Darol Hail, Superintendent, New Waverly ISD Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) The National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD)
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 involves 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,</p>	

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 percent (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 #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
School Safety Concerns	Darol Hail, Superintendent, New Waverly ISD National School Safety Center (NSSC)
<p>There is a rising concern for the safety of our children while they are attending school – either public or private. The National School Safety Center (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.</p>	
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p> <p>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.</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 gaps:

Juvenile Justice:

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

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Walker County Sheriff's Office	County Office	Law Enforcement
Huntsville Police Department	City Department	Law Enforcement
Sam Houston State University Police Department	State University	Law Enforcement
Huntsville Fire Department	City Department	Code Enforcement
Walker County Criminal District Attorney's Office	County Office	Prosecution
Walker County Public Safety Communications Center	County Office	Communications

Huntsville Municipal Court

City Department

Civil Justice Court

Victim Services:

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

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 Services	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	Non Profit	Christian Ministry
Human Trafficking Core Group		

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

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

David M. Anderson, Sr., Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
717 FM 2821, Suite 500, Huntsville, Texas 77320
(936) 435-2400 danderson@co.walker.tx.us

Community Planning Liaison from Houston-Galveston Area Council

Jim Mahood, Senior Criminal Justice Planner
P. O. Box 22777, Houston, Texas 77227
(832) 681-2511 james.mahood@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.