



Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday
August 25, 2022
10:00 AM**

*at the
Waco Hilton Hotel
113 South University Parks Drive
Waco, Texas*



Councilmember Jim Holmes
President

Judge Jay Elliott
Vice-President

Mayor Geary Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Heart of Texas **Council of Governments**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MCLENNAN**

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments will meet on Thursday, the 25th Day of August, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Waco Hilton Hotel, Grande Executive Boardroom, 113 South University Parks Drive, Waco, Texas, at which time the following subjects will be considered.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum
- II. Proof of Posting of notice in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act.
- III. Introduction of Guests
- IV. Consideration of and/or action on the following:

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- A. 1. Approval of the May 26, 2022 meeting minutes

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- B. New Business

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- 1. Presentation on HUD Section 3 and Fair Housing goals of the CDBG Program

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- 2. Purchase of seven (7) new buses – Heart of Texas Rural Transit District

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- 3. FY23 Subrecipient's Funding - Nutrition Services Contract

- 4. HOTCOG FY2022-2023 Budget Approval

- C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

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- 1. Department of Administration
 - a. Financial, Personnel and Investment Reports

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- 2. Health & Human Services
 - a. Department Activities Report

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- 3. Regional Services
 - a. Department Activities Report


4. Executive Director's Report

- V. Other Reports
a. Law Enforcement Training Attendance Report

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjournment

Signed this the 16th Day of August 2022.



Russell Devorsky
Executive Director



Councilmember Jim Holmes
President

Mayor Geary Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

Judge Jay Elliott
Vice-President

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Heart of Texas
Council of Governments

**MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee, in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, met in regular session, on Thursday, the 26th Day of May, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Heart of Texas Council of Governments, 1514 South New Road, Waco, Texas at which time the following subjects will be considered.

Members Present

Councilmember Jim Holmes, *President*
Judge Jay Elliott, *Vice-President*
Mayor Geary Smith, *Secretary-Treas.*
Judge Justin Lewis
Judge Scott Felton
Co. Treasurer Jeannie Keeney
Mayor Andy Smith
Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
Commissioner Jim Smith
Commissioner Nita Wuebker
Mr. Calvin Rueter

City of Waco
Falls County
City of Mexia
Hill County
McLennan County
Freestone County
City of Hillsboro
City of Robinson
McLennan County
Falls County
Special Districts

Members Absent

Judge Linda Grant
Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Judge Richard Duncan
Mayor Dillon Meek
Councilmember Andrea Barefield
Mayor Josh Thayer

Freestone County
Bosque County
Limestone County
City of Waco
City of Waco
City of Valley Mills

Staff Present

Russell Devorsky
John C. Minnix
Gary Luft
Mary McDow
Dorothy Jackson
Falen Bohannon
Rep Pledger
Tim Jeske

Executive Director
DE Director of Administration
DE Director of Health/Human Services
Personnel Manager
Regional/Economic Dev Manager
Environmental/Economic Dev Coord.
Transportation Manager
Homeland Security Manager

Visitor's Present:
Megan Henderson
Russell Chapman

Manager, City of Hillsoboro
Lakeside Water Supply District

AGENDA

I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum

Proof of posting of the May 26, 2022 Executive Committee meeting was provided by Mary McDow.

II. Introduction of Guests – Guests and staff were introduced.

III. Consideration of and/or action on the following:

A. 1. Approval of the April 28, 2022 meeting minutes

The April 28, 2022 minutes were presented for approval. A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Mayor Geary Smith that the April 28, 2022 meeting minutes be approved as presented. Motion passed.

B. New Business

Under New Business, Item Number 3 and 4 on the Agenda were moved up to Number 1 and 2.

1. Public Hearing – 2023-2024 Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Regional Project Priorities

President Jim Holmes opened the Public Hearing at the Heart of Texas Council of Governments at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2022. Mr. Russell Devorsky thanked everyone for being in attendance and noted that during the public hearing, the Executive Board will review/discuss and establish Project Priority scoring for various project types for the upcoming Texas Community Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) 2023-2024 Community Development fund application cycle. There will also be an opportunity to provide public comment.

Mr. Devorsky noted that a survey was sent out to non-entitlement communities and water districts/suppliers for feedback on what they would like to see the priorities be. A handout was provided to show the survey results of the Communities, a listing of the Communities who received the last CD grant awards and adopted 2023-2024 Community Development Unified Scoring Criteria. Mr. Devorsky noted that of the returned surveys, a majority wanted 50 points to go to Water/Sewer projects. Then other projects were

listed for lesser points after.

Public comment was invited. After public comments were made, the action item was presented.

2. Consideration of and Action on setting the 2023-2024 Regional Priority Scoring for Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) eligible projects

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Judge Justin Lewis to set the First priority at 50 points for activity: Code 03J-Water/Sewer, Second priority at 40 points for seven activities: Code 01-Acquisition of Real Property; 03I-Flood Drainage Improvements; 03K-Street Improvements; 03M-Child Care Centers; 03O-Fire Stations/Equipment; 03P-Health Facilities; and 05L-Child Care Services in the Texas Community Development Block Grant 2023-2024 Community Development Fund application cycle. Motion passed with no opposition. The Public Hearing was closed at 10:28 a.m., May 26, 2022.

3. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between HOTCOG and Bosque County – VHF Radios Grant

Mr. Tim Jeske noted that HOTCOG had applied for a \$100,000 grant under the Homeland Security grant program in 2020 for VHF radios for the region. HOTCOG successfully executed the grant and distributed new Kenwood P25 VHF radios to Bosque County. As part of the terms and conditions, the Office of the Governor requires a Memorandum of Understanding between HOTCOG and the receiving agency to transfer the equipment.

A motion was made by Judge Justin Lewis and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve the Memorandum of Understanding presented between HOTCOG and Bosque County. Motion passed.

4. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between HOTCOG and Hill County – VHF Radios Grant

Mr. Tim Jeske noted that in 2020, HOTCOG applied for a \$100,000 grant under the Homeland Security grant program for VHF radios for the region. HOTCOG successfully executed the grant and distributed new Kenwood P25 VHF radios to Hill County. As part of the terms and conditions, the Office of the Governor requires a Memorandum of Understanding between HOTCOG and the receiving agency to transfer the equipment.

A motion was made by Judge Justin Lewis and seconded by Judge Scott Felton to approve the Memorandum of Understanding presented between HOTCOG

and Hill County. Motion passed.

C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

1. Department of Administration

a. Financial and Personnel Report

Mr. John Minnix presented the financial and personnel reports to the committee.

2. Health & Human Services

a. Department Activities Report

Mr. Gary Luft presented the activity report for the Health and Human Services programs -Area Agency on Aging, HOT Aging and Disability Resource Center, HOT 2-1-1 Call Center and the Rural Transit District. Mr. Luft noted that one of the Health and Human Services Division initiatives is to get more information out into the rural counties. Staff made a presentation recently at the Fairfield Senior Center on the Health and Human Services programs and plans are to continue making presentations in the rural communities in our six county area. In addition, and in partnership with the McLennan County Health District, plans are to conduct a community resource meeting in each of the counties and have different service providers present to share information regarding how to access services.

3. Regional Services

a. Department Activities Report

Mrs. Jackson gave the Economic and Community Development activities report to the committee. Mrs. Jackson noted that staff attended the Southwest Region Economic Development Association (SWREDA) Conference in April.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Devorsky noted the staff continue to attend Chamber of Commerce meetings in the region and provide outreach services.

V. Other Reports – Law Enforcement Training Attendance FY22

VI. Public Comment - None

VII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned 10:57 a.m.

Jim Holmes, President
Councilmember, City of Waco

Geary Smith, Secretary-Treasurer
Mayor, City of Mexia

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

**HEART OF TEXAS EXECUTIVE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

August 25, 2022

SUBJECT:

Presentation on HUD Section 3 and Fair Housing goals of the CDBG Program

INFORMATION:

Texas Department of Agriculture, in response to HUD's requirement of facilitating general employment opportunity information for Section 3 Workers, is requiring that all grant recipients that receive TxCDBG funding to provide information about the program in an open meeting of the organization. HOTCOG receives grant funding from the TxCDBG program as technical assistance to the Region. Dorthy Jackson will be conducting a power point presentation to the Executive Committee with this information.

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 25, 2022

SUBJECT: Purchase of seven (7) new buses
Heart of Texas Rural Transit District

INFORMATION:

On March 11, 2022, RTD staff was notified by TXDOT that HOTCOGRTD was awarded **\$929,424 in 5339 discretionary funds** to purchase up to seven **Type 3 cutaway buses** to replace seven (7) buses that have met "end of life" currently in our existing fleet of twenty-two (22) transit buses. The replacement buses will give us fourteen (14) buses in the one to two-year old range and leave us with eight (8) buses in the five to six-year-old range. The seven new buses will be the same as the four (4) type 3 cutaway buses purchased earlier this year.

The new buses will come with the updated **blue paint scheme** and **security camera system**.

ACTION:

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments RTD staff is requesting the approval of the HOTCOG Executive Board to proceed with the purchase of up to seven (7) buses from Creative Bus Sales through the Oklahoma State contract as soon as the project grant agreement is executed. The number of buses purchased will be determined based on the price of the bus.

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 25, 2022

SUBJECT: FY23 Subrecipient's Funding – Nutrition Contracts

INFORMATION:

HOTCOG receives funding from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission for the Area Agency on Aging to provide Nutrition Services for Congregate and Home Delivered Meals with funding provided under Title III of the Older Americans Act and the Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP).

HOTCOG's Area Agency on Aging issued Best Value Bids through a Legal Notice in the Waco-Tribune Herald on July 3 and July 10, 2022 to provide nutrition services during FY23 (October 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2023) with an initial three-year contract, including five (5) one-year contract extension options for Congregate Meals (IIC/NSIP) and Home Delivered Meals (IIC/NSIP) serving the following counties - Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan.

All responses were reviewed, and each met contract requirements identified in the Best Value Bid documents.

Subrecipient	Service Area	Rate for Title III Congregate Meal	Rate for Title III Home Delivered Meal	C1/C2 Funds budgeted per yr. based on funding formula
Bosque County Senior Services	Bosque	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$77,400.64
Freestone County Senior Services	Freestone	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$73,709.99
Limestone County Senior Services Project	Limestone	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$73,733.62
Central Texas Senior Ministry	Falls, Hill, & McLennan	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$612,970.73
Total funds budgeted*				\$835,224.98

*** Funding will be adjusted each fiscal year based on the amount of nutrition funding the AAA is allocated by HHSC.**

ACTION:

Area Agency on Aging staff recommend approval by the Executive Committee of contract awards as listed above.

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 25, 2022

SUBJECT: HOTCOG FY2022-2023 Budget

INFORMATION:

The FY2022-2023 Budget for HOTCOG is presented to the Executive Committee for review. This budget is based on the latest figures available in each grant program. (*Under separate cover*)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee approve the FY2022-2023 HOTCOG Budget and recommend that the budget be approved and adopted at the Semi-Annual Business Meeting August 25, 2022.

Administrative Services Department

Financial / Personnel Reports

Executive Committee Meeting

August 25, 2022

Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Balance Sheet
July 31, 2022

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 122,291
Investments	561,520
Due (to)/from Grantor Agencies	835,483
Membership Dues Receivables	5,691
Aging Match Receivables	3,121
Other Receivables	-
Pre-Paid Items	19,227
	<u>1,547,333</u>

Fixed Assets

Building	2,810,000
Land	690,000
Furniture & Equipment	2,504,018
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(3,331,114)</u>
	2,672,904

Total Assets \$ 4,220,237

Liabilities

Current

Accounts Payable	62,066
Due to HOTEDD	496,287
Accrued Vacation	149,585
Deferred Revenue	227,232
	<u>935,170</u>

Long-term Liabilities

Notes Payable	513,226
	<u>513,226</u>

Total Liabilities \$ 1,448,396

Fund Equity

Investments in Fixed Assets, net of related debt	2,159,678
Nonspendable-prepaid items	19,227
Restricted for Building Maintenance	(5,792)
Restricted for Emergency Notification System	618
Restricted for Federal & State programs	83,055
Unassigned	<u>515,055</u>

Total Fund Equity \$ 2,771,841

Total Liabilities & Fund Equity \$ 4,220,237

Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
& Changes in Fund Balance
For Ten Months Ended July 31, 2022

Revenues	Year To Date	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Variance	12 Month Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Grants administered from State/Federal	\$ 5,194,054	\$ 9,143,210	\$ (3,949,156)	\$ 10,971,852	\$ 5,777,798
Rent-WF Bldg	325,000	325,000	-	390,000	65,000
Local Funds/Mgt. Fees	64,152	44,209	19,943	53,051	(11,101)
Membership Dues	57,911	47,500	10,411	57,000	(911)
Inkind Match/Program Income	47,163	685,303	(638,140)	822,364	775,201
Interest Income	1,988	417	1,571	500	(1,488)
Miscellaneous Income	8,466	2,500	5,966	3,000	(5,466)
Total Revenues	\$ 5,698,734	\$10,248,139	\$ (4,549,405)	\$ 12,297,767	\$ 6,599,033
Expenditures					
Salaries	825,756	876,495	50,739	1,051,794	226,038
Fringe Benefits	406,363	455,108	48,745	546,129	139,766
Travel	28,962	32,063	3,101	38,476	9,514
Equipment	340,255	1,654,742	1,314,487	1,985,690	1,645,435
Supplies	32,014	19,875	(12,139)	23,850	(8,164)
Other Expenses	256,701	310,403	53,702	372,483	115,782
Delegate Agency/Contractual Costs	2,810,066	5,244,665	2,434,599	6,293,598	3,483,532
Indirect Costs	686,398	723,543	37,145	868,251	181,853
Insurance/Maintenance-WF Bldg	52,789	41,667	(11,122)	50,000	(2,789)
Debt Service-WF Bldg	295,563	224,424	(71,139)	269,309	(26,254)
Inkind Match/Program Income	-	615,303	615,303	738,364	738,364
Total Expenditures	\$ 5,734,867	\$10,198,287	\$ 4,463,420	\$ 12,237,944	\$ 6,503,077
Changes in Fund Balance					
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(36,133)			59,823	
Transfers-Due (to)/from HOTEDD	56,783			(30,573)	
Net Change in Fund Balances	20,650			29,250	
Fund Balances as of October 1, 2021	591,513				
Fund Balances as of July 31, 2022	\$ 612,163				

Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Monthly Report of Cash Transactions and Condition
As of July 31, 2022

	Operating Account	Short Term Investments	Total Cash
Beginning Balance 7/1/22	\$ 99,737	\$ 644,574	\$ 744,311
Transactions			
Cash In	586,190	779	586,969
Cash (Out)	<u>(647,469)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(647,469)</u>
Net Income (Outlay)	(61,279)	779	(60,500)
Net Transfers In (Out)	<u>83,833</u>	<u>(83,833)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Total Transactions	<u>22,554</u>	<u>(83,054)</u>	<u>(60,500)</u>
Ending Balance 7/31/22	<u><u>\$ 122,291</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 561,520</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 683,811</u></u>

**HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PERSONNEL STATUS SUMMARY
AS OF August 25, 2022**

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AUTHORIZED BY GRANT/FUND BUDGETS 29

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED 29

As of August 25, 2022, HOTCOG had no vacancies as referenced by the number of positions authorized and filled. The following is a departmental breakout of the above figures:

PEOPLE EMPLOYED

<u>Department</u>	<u>Positions Authorized</u>	<u>Regular Fulltime</u>	<u>Temporary Fulltime</u>	<u>Regular & Temporary Part-Time</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
Executive/ Admin. Services	6	6	0	0	0
Regional Services	7	6	0	1	0
Health and Human Services	16	16	0	0	0
<u>Totals</u>	29	28	0	1	0

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Investment Report

For the Quarter Ending June 30, 2022

As per HOTCOG's Investment Policy, funds that are not immediately required to pay obligations are invested in TexPool. HOTCOG does not have any other investments as of the ending date of this report.

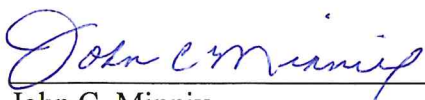
Summary of General and Special Revenue Funds

Beginning Market/Book Value @ 04/01/2022	\$ 605,683
Net Transfers In (Out)	37,868
Interest Earned	1,023
Ending Market/Book Value @ 06/30/2022	\$ 644,574

Notes:

1. The money market account does not have a maturity date.
2. Following are the annualized average rates of return:
 - April 2022 .3042%
 - May 2022 .6228%
 - June 2022 1.0013%
3. Market value of pledged securities as of 06/30/2022: \$ 1,213,202

As HOTCOG's designated Investment Officer, I, John C. Minnix, certify as to the best of my knowledge that the investment portfolio is in compliance with the investment strategy as expressed in HOTCOG's Investment Policy and that this Investment Report was prepared by said Investment Officer.


John C. Minnix
Deputy Executive Director

8/8/22
Date

Health and Human Services Division - HOTCOG

Quarterly Report for May-June-July 2022

The following is a summary of the activities for the three-month period of May, June, and July 2022 of the programs in the Health and Human Services Division of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments.

General Description of Services Provided by Health and Human Services Division

Gary W. Luft – Director

The Health and Human Services Division (HHS) is one of two operational divisions of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. The HHS division is made up of four different and distinct program areas that primarily serve and work with individuals and family members who need assistance through either information or services.

Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

- Provides access to needed social services, effective screening and assessment of individual needs, and advocacy for the older persons (age 60 and older), their family members or other caregivers.
- Directly administers services including benefits counseling, care coordination, caregiver support coordination, and long term care ombudsman services.
- Contracts with service providers throughout the region to provide nutrition (congregate and home delivered meals), homemaker care, respite care, personal assistance, minor home repairs, health education classes and caregiver counseling to caregivers and their loved ones.
- Serves six counties including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and McLennan.
- 1 of 28 Area Agency on Aging contractors designated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

Heart of Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

- Provides information and assistance to individuals (including those with multiple, complex needs) about local programs and resources as they relate to aging or living with a disability, to older individuals, individuals of any age with disabilities, family caregivers, veterans, and families with children with special needs, all without regard to income levels.
- Primary purpose is to provide information to help individuals live within their community if possible.
- Operating broad-based coalition consisting of Area Agency on Aging, local Health and Human Services, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services, Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Heart of Texas 2-1-1, and Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center.
- HOTCOG serves as the Lead Agency/Fiscal Agent and has responsibility as contract administrator.
- Serves six counties including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and McLennan.
- 1 of 28 designated ADRCs by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

Heart of Texas 2-1-1 Call Center (2-1-1)

- Provides referral information about health and human services to all callers regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, disability, or any other criteria.
- “Free” social service help line answered by trained specialists who can assess caller’s social service needs and connect them to the people and services that can best assist them.
- Answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by Information-Referral Specialists.
- Part of a national initiative to make information about health and human services readily available to all callers regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, disability, or any other criteria.
- Calls relate to requests for assistance for food, clothing, shelter, utility bill payment assistance, medical assistance, affordable childcare, eldercare, disaster relief, etc.
- Serves six counties including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and McLennan.
- 1 of 25 Area Information Centers designated by the Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN).

Heart of Texas Rural Transit District (RTD)

- Provides demand response transportation to the public including transportation for seniors age 60 and older and to the disabled of any age utilizing a contracted services business model.
- Shared ride service is considered “curb to curb” meaning the vehicle comes to the passenger instead of the passenger going to the vehicle and multiple riders may be on the vehicle.
- Services are provided Monday through Friday in the rural counties of Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, and Limestone.
- Transportation into or out of McLennan County can be provided if the trip originates from or terminates into one of our five rural counties.
- Service is primarily provided using a fleet of 27 HOTCOG owned vans and small buses operated by two different sub-contractors.
- 1 of 36 Rural Transit Districts designated by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Specific Activities for May – June – July 2022

Health & Human Services

Gary W. Luft – Deputy Executive Director

Highlights for the quarter included:

- We continued to provide our core services in all programs as required by contract.
- We remained on track to meet all contract requirements and deliverables.
- We were fully staffed, and all programs are operated in accordance with policies, procedures, and protocol prior to COVID.
- We were back to normal operations except for one employee working remote in HT 211.

Area Agency on Aging - (AAAHOT)

Donnis Cowan – Manager of Aging Programs

All programs and core services are being provided in compliance with the HHSC contract.

Aging Program Development – (AAAHOT)

Jan Enders – Manager

Aging Program Development focuses on the identification and development of new programs/services and the establishment of partnering relationships in the community that allows the AAA to be more successful in meeting the needs of our seniors and clients. The scope of the initiative strategically strengthens our efforts, programs, and services across the entire AAA with no restrictions to specific program areas.

Legal Awareness: (Outreach into six-county area) -- includes monthly, multiple Zoom contacts, Team Meetings, in-person outreach, publications promoting services, organizations utilizing AAA materials, and direct seminars, Resource Guides, etc.).

- ADRC – 106 meetings live and via zoom
- Benefits Counseling outreach included 39 meetings and/or events:
 - Monthly Medicare 101
 - Alzheimer's Association Partnership
 - RSVP Volunteer Recognition Day
 - Outreach into Fairfield, Hillsboro, Clifton, McGregor

Total numbers of contacts for three-month period:

- Resource Guides - 3726
- PSA's - 1,220,000
- Total Meetings (individual and group) AAA & ADRC - 145

- Contacts - 2765
- Total Contacts -1,226,491

Senior Medicare Patrol – Fraud Detection, Prevention and Reporting continues as part of the Benefits Counseling function. The outreach and educational services previously performed by the Senior Medicare Patrol have been merged into other services of the HHS Division.

New to Medicare – In-office public meetings on Medicare –

Public Medicare meetings are offered once a month in HOTCOG's training room and will continue throughout the year.

Collaboration with Benefits Counseling – Jan Enders continues to assist the Benefits Counseling Program as it strives to serve all the clients. With increased advertising and promotions, more people are contacting AAA for services. Future programs are planned in rural areas as the objective remains for us to contact Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers in these regions on a more frequent basis.

Open Enrollment guidance continues for individuals who are new to Medicare. We always continue to guide beneficiaries who are approaching age 65 – either 3 months before their 65th birthday, month of, or 3 months after their 65th birthday. It is confusing and we help take the mystery out of Medicare.

Continued outreach remains viable to educate the public about Medicare. As a result of the additional outreach, more calls came into the ADRC for assistance. Future events include
Public Health Expo throughout six counties; RSVP Health Fair, continued public speaking,
Medical Mission of Mercy, sponsored by Ascension/Providence Hospital.

Benefits Counseling – (AAAHOT)

Donnis Cowan – Manager

Jan Enders – Manager of Special Programs, Benefits Counselor II

Rose Contreras – Sr. Benefits Counselor

The Benefits Counseling program primarily provides financial related assistance and Medicare/Medicaid related services to clients through Legal Assistance (one-on-one) and Legal Awareness (groups) events. We continue to see a growing need for Benefits Counseling for the senior population and added emphasis has been placed on expanding the services of this program.

The following services were provided:

- Legal Assistance services provided counseling to individuals assisting them with Medicare Part D, Medicare benefits, Medicare Advantage Appeals, Social Security questions, and other benefit-related questions.
 - Legal Assistance serving age 60 and older
 - 58 people were provided
 - 370.75 hours were provided

- Legal Awareness service provided CMS Mailings which includes Medicare information such as Medicare Part D, Medicare A&B explanation, Medicare Preventative Services, Social Security updates, and other Medicare benefit-related information.
3089 people were provided Legal Awareness serving age 65 and older
1089 people were provided the Community Resource Guides

Care Coordination & Caregiver Support Programs – (AAAHOT)

Donnis Cowan – Manager
Destiny Zavalla – Sr. Care Coordinator
Tiffany Soto – Program Coordinator

The Care Coordination and Caregiver Support programs empower senior citizens age 60 and older and their family caregivers to maintain their independence, freedom, and dignity by identifying needs and arranging social services required for living independently. These programs are broad based and includes a variety of related service opportunities. Staff continues to be extremely active, efficient, and productive in providing an assortment of care related services to clients.

- Care Coordination serving age 60 and older a case manager assesses the needs with the client and plans, arranges, coordinates, and follows-up on needed services. Services that can be provided are personal assistance, homemaker services, home repairs/modifications, and health maintenance services.
65 clients were assisted with Care Coordination
358.44 units or hours of service were provided
- Caregiver Support Coordination serving caregivers who care for someone age 60 and older or someone with Alzheimer's disease of any age the case manager provides support services to reduce the stress and burdens of caregiving through respite, education, and support groups.
52 caregivers were assisted with Caregiver Support Coordination
260.22 units or hours of service were provided
- Information, Referral and Assistance – Caller's age 60 and older and their caregivers call inquiring about Area Agency on Aging and/or community resources.
520 callers were assisted with IR&A Services
- Health Maintenance services – Provides durable medical equipment that will enable clients to be more independent and assist them with their daily activities.
6 clients were assisted with Health Maintenance
10 units of service were provided
- Homemaker – Provides in-home care which may include light house cleaning, meal preparation and shopping.
6 clients were assisted with Homemaker Services
59.25 units of service were provided
- Personal Assistance – Provides in-home care which may include bathing, dressing, toileting, light house cleaning, meal preparation

18 clients were assisted with Personal Assistance Services
224 units or hours of service were provided

- Respite – Provides in-home care that relieves the caregiver of their caregiver duties which may include bathing, dressing, toileting, light house cleaning, meal preparation, and shopping.

12 clients were assisted with Personal Assistance Services
232.50 units or hours of service were provided

- Home Repair/Modification services - Primary focus is on repairs/modifications that improve accessibility, structure, safety, and weatherization of the home for low-income homeowners age 60 and older that are living in unsafe and/or unhealthy environments.

15 homes were repaired or modified.

Nutrition Program – (AAAHOT)

Donnis Cowan – Manager

The nutrition program is our single largest program and impacts the greatest number of individuals in the greatest geographical coverage in our service area. We have four nutrition contractors that serve the nutrition needs of the elderly in the six-county service area.

- Bosque County Senior Services – serves Bosque County
- Central Texas Senior Ministry – serves Falls, Hill, and McLennan Counties
- Freestone County Senior Services – serves Freestone County
- Limestone County Senior Services – serves Limestone County

Nutrition Program - Meals Served by County			
Provider	Congregate Meals Served	Home Delivered Meals Served	Total Meals Served
Central Texas Senior Ministries - serves three counties			
Falls County			
HHS funding	78	3,972	4,050
Other funding	15	389	404
Total	93	4,361	4,454
Hill County			
HHS funding	446	6,880	7,326
Other funding	162	902	1,064
Total	608	7,782	8,390
McLennan County			
HHS funding	2,926	17,367	20,293

Other funding	299	4,550	4,849
Total	3,225	21,917	25,142
Subtotal for Central Texas Senior Ministries - three counties			
HHS funding	3,450	28,219	31,669
Other funding	475	5,841	6,316
Total	3,926	34,060	37,986
Bosque County Senior Services			
HHS funding	381	3,532	3,913
Other funding	88	136	224
Total	469	3,668	4,137
Freestone County Senior Services			
HHS funding	2,020	3,810	5,830
Other funding	702	63	765
Total	2,722	3,873	6,595
Limestone County Senior Services			
HHS funding	826	3,673	4,499
Other funding	538	90	628
Total	1,364	3,763	5,127
Grand Totals for Nutrition Program - includes all contractors			
HHS funding	6,677	39,234	45,911
Other funding	1,803	6,130	7,933
Grand Total	8,481	45,364	53,845

Miscellaneous Contract Services – (AAAHOT)

Donnis Cowan – Manager

Tiffany Soto – Program Coordinator

Evidence-Based Programs – Evidence-based programs are based on research. They offer proven ways to promote health and prevent disease among older adults. These programs are tested models or interventions into practical, effective community programs that can provide proven health benefits to participants.

The AAA contracts with several facilitators to conduct programs such as: A Matter of Balance, Caregiver Stress Busting and Chronic Disease Self-Management and Diabetes Self-Management Programs to age 60 and older and their caregivers if the caregivers meet the eligibility criteria.

48 clients were assisted with Evidence-Based classes.

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program – (AAAHOT)

Susan McCombs – Manager

Lynda Mitchell – P. T. Staff Ombudsman

Through direct advocacy the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program utilizes 5 volunteers, and 2 staff to achieve the best possible quality of life for approximately 4,500 residents in 35 nursing homes and 22 assisted living facilities in our service area.

Beginning in October, the first of the new fiscal year, visitations by both Staff and Certified Volunteers began again. Caution was the upmost prevalent action taken with all the visits. The first quarter more facilities getting cases of COVID. Some facilities were trying to go back to the “lockdown” phase from 2020. As the 2nd quarter has shown, facilities are still having cases of COVID but on a lesser basis. As usual, some facilities are still holding onto “old” rules while others are now trying to return to “life” for the residents with precautions.

Another issue created by the Federal Government’s Vaccination Mandate for Healthcare Workers was a critical staffing shortage for all facilities. Many of the complaints we are receiving boils down to staffing issues.

During the months of May, June, and July, Staff and Volunteer Ombudsmen:

- Completed 105 visits to Long Term Care facilities, including both nursing homes and Assisted Living Facilities.
- Shared information on 9 state surveys and investigations.
- Provided information and consultations to 31 individuals and 16 facility staff on specific issues or subjects.

Complaints:

- The 2 staff Ombudsmen and 5 CVOs handled 66 complaints and concerns May, June, and July and resolved or partially resolved 91.68% of the issues. The complaints related to such issues as discharge, autonomy, failure to respond to requests for assistance, activities, food, environment, Medicaid or financial issues and family conflicts. Some of the phone calls and concerns expressed by the callers were regarding COVID-19, new visitations rules, HHSC, CMS, and the CDC and staffing issues

Activities:

- The MLO and the SO continue to listen to the monthly HHS webinars that keep us informed with new rules and any updates.
- The State Office has monthly CEU training offered to all Ombudsman.
- In June, the MLO and SO attended HHS Joint Training in Waco on Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation on June 23-24.
- In July, the MLO and SO attended virtually the State Office of the Ombudsman training on July 13-14.

Heart of Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Donnis Cowan – Manager of Aging and ADRC Programs

Eric Hobbs – Housing Accessibility Navigator

Debbie Jones – Resource Navigator

The ADRC model is a “way of doing business” that is intended to respond more effectively and efficiently to the needs of individuals looking for long term services and supports. ADRC’s provide older individuals, individuals of any age with disabilities, family caregivers, veterans, and families with children with special needs, all without regard to income levels, *information and assistance* about local programs and resources as they relate to aging or living with a disability. ADRC’s help those in need navigate through a complicated and complex network of available support services with the primary purpose of helping individuals live within their community as long as possible.

ADRCs provide visible, trusted, comprehensive and streamlined access to long-term services and supports by establishing a “virtual no wrong door” model of information exchange, person and family-centered planning, and service provision.

The Heart of Texas ADRC is made up of a broad-based operating partner’s coalition consisting of six (6) operating partners:

- Area Agency on Aging (AAAHOT)
- Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center (HOTRMHMR)
- Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center (HOCTIL)
- Health and Human Services (HHS) – Local Long-Term Services and Supports
- Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation (formerly known as DARS)
- Heart of Texas 2-1-1 (HOT 2-1-1)

Referrals are made to appropriate agencies or service providers based on the needs of the caller. Multiple and complex cases may involve several service providers rather than just one. When more than one provider is involved the Resource, Navigator assists with coordination of services provided between the agencies.

The ADRC staff is responsible for handling the “walk-ins” at the front lobby who come in with no appointment. An ADRC staff member will meet with the individual, obtain pertinent information, and connect them to the appropriate state agency and/or community resources.

All calls to the Heart of Texas ADRC terminate into 254-292-1855. This includes local calls as well as any calls originating in our six-county service area placed to the statewide toll-free line for ADRC’s.

955 callers and walk-ins were assisted with Information, Referral and Assistance

ADRC Calls, Walk-ins, Emails, Fax			
Current Month Calls/Walk-ins	Previous Year Comparison	Increase or (Decrease)	% Increase or (Decrease)
955	852	103	12.09%

ADRC staff were involved, prepared, or participated in the following activities:

- Submitted FY22 Quarterly Performance Reports
- Submitted FY22 Covid-19 NWD & MFP Quarterly Report
- Submitted FY22 Revised Budgets
- Participated in FY22 ADRC "State Office" Calls/Webinars

Heart of Texas Area Information Center (AIC) – (HOT 2-1-1)

Karen Pettit – Manager
 Belinda Arocha – Information & Referral Specialist
 Joanna Whitehouse – Information & Referral Specialist
 Marcy Whiddon – Information & Referral/Community Database Specialist

The 2-1-1 program is a "free" social service help line answered by trained specialists who assess caller's social service needs and connect them to the people and services that can best assist them. 2-1-1 provides referral information about health and human services to all callers regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, disability, or any other criteria.

HOT 2-1-1 (HT) continues to take traditional calls for local social service needs including food pantries, utility bills, rent, childcare, and medication assistance, etc. for the six-county service area. In addition, we take disaster related calls when such an event occurs.

- For the months of May, June, and July 14,165 calls were taken by HOT 2-1-1 staff compared to 10,308 in the same months for the previous year.
- The increase of 3,857 calls represents a 37.4% increase.

Houston-Galveston 2-1-1 and routed afterhours AICs answered and provided information to HOT "after hour and weekend callers":

- For the months of May, June, and July 751 calls were taken by Houston-Galveston staff compared to 641 in the same month for the previous year.
- The increase of 110 calls was a 17.2% increase.

Projection of annual calls:

We can predict the total fiscal year call volume based on using %'s for the previous three (3) years and activity through the most recent month. Using the model predicts the total

fiscal year call volume (includes HOT and Houston-Galveston and other after-hours routed calls) to be 48,086 calls compared to the previous fiscal year total of 51,273 calls. The decrease of 3,187 total calls represents a projected decrease of 6.2% for the year. We will continue to watch the trend on a month-to-month basis and adjust as needed.

Although we are currently projecting a 6.2% decrease for the year, we have had an increase in calls over the period of May – July. This increase appears to be connected to an increase in electricity costs due to the extreme summer weather and an increase in home rental costs. In addition, option 2, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (Your Texas Benefits) has a reported backlog of applications for SNAP and Medicaid and other state benefit programs. Callers checking on the status of their case often choose option 1 (Information & Referral) to speak to a person more quickly. We make many transfers to option 2 each day which increases our call numbers.

PROJECTION of CALLS	
51,273	Actual FY21 Total
48,086	Projection FY22
-3,187	Decrease Projected
-6.22%	Decrease Projected

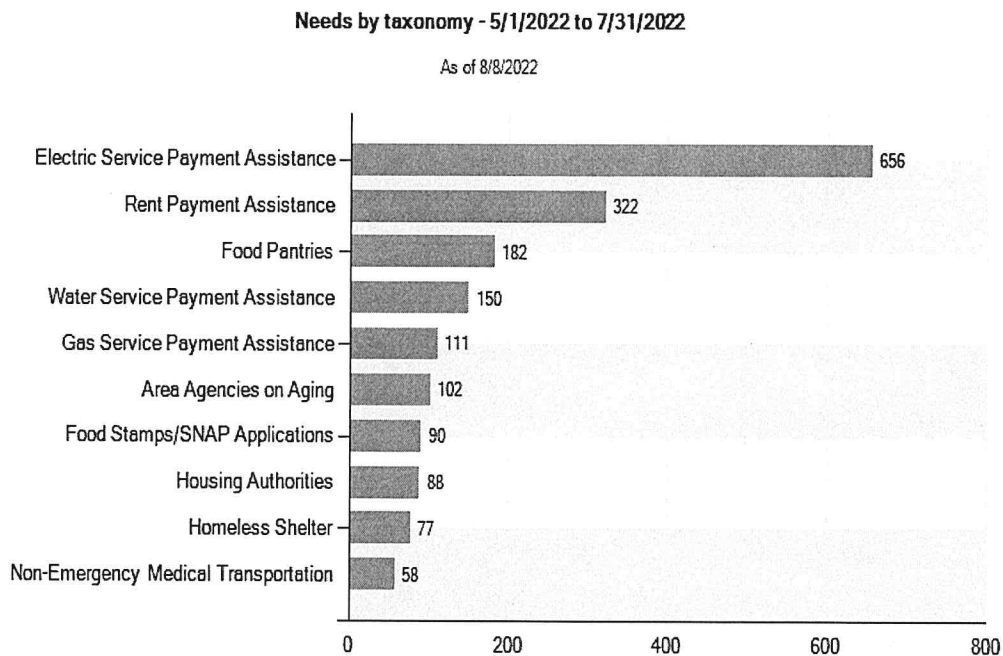
HOT 2-1-1 Number of Calls and Yearly Projection									
Heart of Texas 2-1-1 staff only					GC + Routed afterhours 2-1-1				
	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22		FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	
October	3,013	2,917	4,549	3,386		188	260	165	
November	2,354	2,988	2,949	3,130		149	270	161	
December	2,183	2,264	4,373	3,032		161	225	120	
January	2,461	3,713	4,784	3,908		161	284	203	
February	2,074	2,648	4,400	3,384		153	382	177	
March	2,246	4,384	5,021	3,719		137	275	208	
April	2,394	5,835	3,336	3,468		104	207	215	
May	2,377	3,828	2,977	3,857		97	226	239	
June	2,639	4,573	3,779	5,191		86	217	243	
July	3,175	4,673	3,552	5,117		60	198	269	
August	3,059	4,904	4,444			83	265		
September	3,180	3,606	4,079			77	221		
Total	31,155	46,333	48,243	38,192		1,456	3,030	2,000	
		15,178	1,910	(10,051)	FY 22 Yearly Projection		1,574	(1,030)	FY 22 Yearly Projection
% Increase		48.7%	4.1%	-20.8%	46,969		108.1%	-34.0%	1,117

Roll-over of calls:

Due to the volume of calls and staffing schedules during work hours, all calls cannot be answered in a timely manner in any one specific 2-1-1 operation. To reduce long waits there is a roll-over after two (2) minutes of unanswered calls to available I & R staff in 2-1-1s across the state. Heart of Texas calls that cannot be answered in the allotted time of two minutes are also routed to other call centers just as HOT receives unanswered calls rolled to us from other call centers based on the same two-minute wait time. Because of the "roll overs" between 2-1-1s, familiarity with the state-wide data base of taxonomy and how to search service providers is critical. All 2-1-1 staff must be able to make referrals using the data base for any location in Texas.

Tracking of calls since early 2020 has revealed changes in the allocation of the origination of calls. During the past three months approximately 66% of the calls received by HOT 211 came from outside our service area with 34% of the calls coming from within our service area. During the height of COVID-19 calls received from out of our area were as high as 75%. The trend is downward and now is coming closer to the historical pattern of approximately 50% from inside and 50% from outside the six counties in our service area. With the impact of COVID-19 the percentage had dramatically shifted to a heavier percentage coming from outside our service area which we hypothesized were due to the increase in calls being received from coastal areas which were affected by multiple hurricanes as well as by calls coming in from large metropolitan areas such as Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio where the effects of COVID-19 impacted larger populations. As we enter the peak of hurricane season, we anticipate some increase in both total volume as well as in the percentage of calls emanating from outside of the Heart of Texas region.

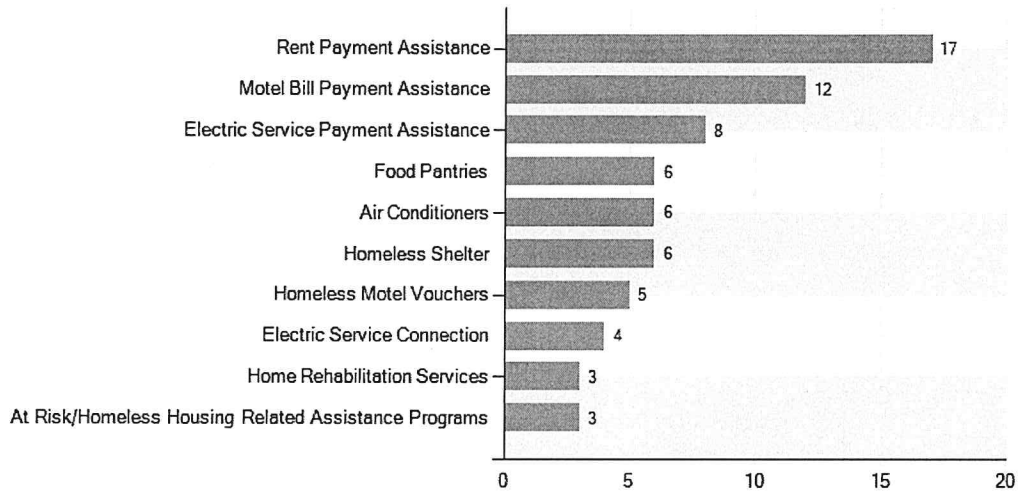
Most requested services for HOT Counties (taken statewide):



Unmet Needs for HOT Counties (No Service exists near caller):

Unmet needs by taxonomy with reasons - 5/1/2022 to 7/31/2022

As of 8/8/2022

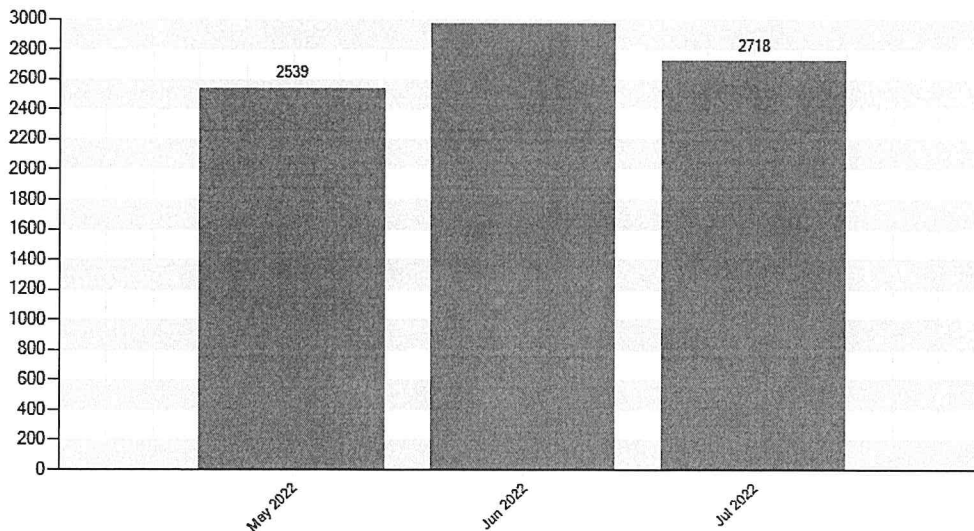


Number of Calls Received from Heart of Texas (Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan) Across the State regardless of the 2-1-1 taking the call:

May 2022	2539
Jun 2022	2966
Jul 2022	2718

Count of contacts - 5/1/2022 to 7/31/2022

As of 8/8/2022



Heart of Texas Rural Transit District

Ronald E. "Rep" Pledger - Manager
Frances Ramirez – Transportation Specialist
Misty Hendon – Transportation Admin

General Information:

Transportation continues to work diligently during this time of uncertainty and continue to follow local and state guidelines regarding Covid-19. We are doing everything necessary to ensure our clients are safe and feel secure in the services we provide. Our drivers are continuing their disinfecting efforts and cleaning their buses after each trip as well as providing logs for those cleanings. We've made sure each bus is equipped with disinfecting solutions, sprays, and wipes. Our drivers have also been provided with masks to further our safety efforts in keeping them, as well as our clients, safe.

On July 29th Creative Bus Sales delivered four new rebranded buses with the new BLUE paint scheme. Along with the new BLUE buses a new website will be up and running for our clients, prospective advertisers, and the public to use by September 15th. The new micro-transit service will be up and running in Marlin by October 1st on a limited basis.

FY 2023 Funding

State 5311 - \$423,381
Federal 5311 - \$654,906
5339 Discretionary Bus and Bus Facility - \$929,422
Regional Transportation Coordination Plan funds - \$52,500

Trainings/Meetings**ZOOM**

- Business Writing
- Crisis Communication for Transit Managers
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
- Enhancing Your Transit Asset Management Program with Lifecycle Management
- Intro to Paratransit Management and Operations
- Intro to Transit Service Planning
- National Transit Database
- Project Management for Transit Professionals
- Title VI and Public Transit
- Transitioning from Frontline Employee to Frontline Supervisor
- Transportation Planning Process
- Understanding ADA

In Person

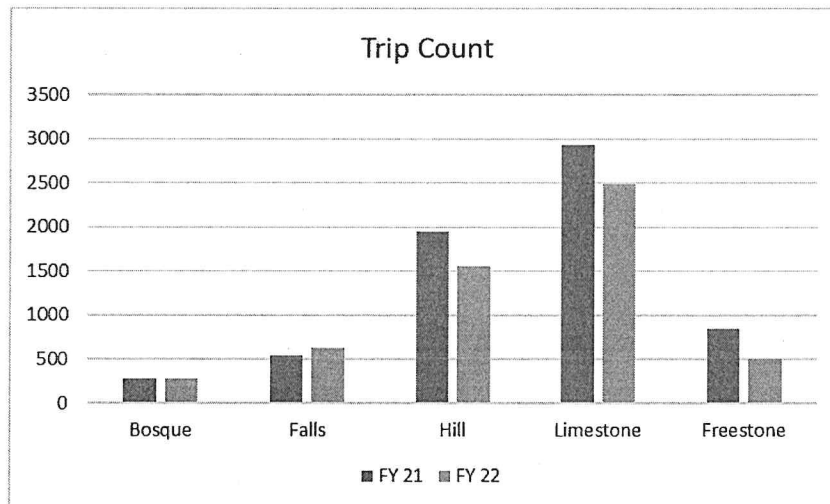
- September 14 – Semi-annual operators meeting
- September 15 – RTCC

Rural Transit District – (Operations)

Staff is constantly calling clients that have previously cancelled and is assuring them that we are taking every precaution for their safety.

Trip activities for May, June, and July are as follows:

Transportation Services – One Way Trips		
Transportation Provider	FY 2021	FY 2022
Bosque County	280	276
Falls County	547	638
Hill County	1953	1550
Limestone County	2939	2488
Freestone County	845	500
Total - All 5 Counties	6564	5452



Trip Type by County 2022						
Trip Type	Limestone	Hill	Falls	Freestone	Bosque	Grand Total
Dialysis	635	812	143	219	103	1912
Medical	496	283	124	89	85	1077
Work	667	175	138	35		1015
Shopping	262	88	24	71	12	457
Personal	225	56	7	30	20	338
MH-MR	56	128	100	4	49	337
Recreation	54			52		106
Education		6	69		2	77
Veteran	45	1	2		2	50
Parole	10	2	31		2	45
Foster	38					38

Grandparents						
Grand Total	2488	1551	638	500	275	5452

Trip Type by County 2021						
Trip Type	Limestone	Hill	Falls	Freestone	Bosque	Grand Total
Dialysis	970	932	131	293	154	2480
Work	851	264	67	171		1353
Medical	527	259	172	118	31	1107
Personal	261	130	17	67	43	518
Shopping	234	81	51	113	9	488
Education	14	114	20		34	182
MH-MR	7	119		23	2	151
Veteran		45	91		7	143
Recreation	55	2		78		135
Parole	2	5				7
Grand Total	2921	1951	549	863	280	6564

Report submitted: August 9, 2022



Gary W. Luft – Deputy Executive Director for Health and Human Services

REGIONAL SERVICES REPORT

June – August 2022

9-1-1

HOTCOG 9-1-1 IP Network (Next-Generation 9-1-1)

Members of the TriCOG 9-1-1 Alliance (BVCOG, CTCOG and HOTCOG) continue to collaborate with network consultants and equipment vendors to maintain a robust network. The TriCOG Alliance renewed its partnership with Mission Critical Partners (MCP) for NextGen Core Services (NGCS) Consulting and Cybersecurity Support. MCP follows a scope of work that was provided to the TriCOG identifying 5 tasks to assist the TriCOG in technical issues to include Project/Task Management, Geospatial Call Routing, Text Over ESInet and Cybersecurity Support. Members of the TriCOG participate in regularly scheduled conference calls to discuss NGCS projects and planning for the future of the regional networks.

The last phase of planning for the implementation of NGCS in the HOTCOG Region came to fruition on September 22, 2021, with the migration of all PSAPs to VESTA Router for NextGen911 routing. This migration is 4 years in the making with the original Request for Proposal being written in 2017. After countless conference calls, face-to-face and virtual meetings we've gotten steps closer to a system that does not rely on the legacy 9-1-1 system that is slowly being decommissioned. Project planning calls will continue with Vesta Solutions, Inc. as we migrate all the telephone carriers to the VESTA router so we can decommission the legacy network. Calls continue to be held weekly, and discussions include ongoing project deliverables and discussions for upcoming activities.

Enterprise Geospatial Database Management System (EGDMS)

In NG9-1-1 systems, an EGDMS (GIS map data) replaces the traditional Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) for location-based 9-1-1 call routing and location validation. An EGDMS is crucial for the transition to NG9-1-1 because it provides a means to create and maintain data critical to NG9-1-1 success. Staff participated in the Customer Focus Group (CFG) for this project. The CFG was responsible for assisting with development of the Quality Assurance/Quality Control plan, participating in GIS Data Management collaboration meetings, and assisting in GIS data management workflow development. 9-1-1 staff exceeded the 99% data match rate as recommended by the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) with a match rate of 99.99% with no critical errors remaining. HOTCOG has completed the transition to an EGDMS, and staff is a participant in a focus group for continued implementation across the state.

Text-to-9-1-1

Text-to-9-1-1 is available in the HOTCOG Region as an alternate means of communicating with 9-1-1 for people with a hearing and/or speech disability, or when speaking out loud would put the individual in danger. Text-to-9-1-1 also provides a silent alternative in cases such as child abduction, active shooter, or domestic abuse.

LTE Backup (IP network wireless backup)

The wireless backup for the Region's 9-1-1 internet protocol (IP) network continues to operate as an alternate path to routing 9-1-1 calls during an outage.

Public Education

There were 3,985 public education items distributed to the Region for public education events.

Meetings/Training/Conference Calls and Site Visits

- CSEC Touchpoint conference call, HOTCOG – June 7th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – June 21st
- TARC 9-1-1 Coordinators conference call, HOTCOG – June 22nd
- MVP project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – June 23rd
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – June 27th
- MVP NGCS project discussion meeting, BVCOG – June 28th
- CSEC Touchpoint conference call, HOTCOG – July 5th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – July 11th
- 9-1-1 Commission meeting and workshop, Austin – July 13th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – July 18th
- MVP NGCS Federal Grant discussion conference call, HOTCOG – July 19th
- MVP NGCS Federal Grant discussion conference call, HOTCOG – July 22nd
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – July 25th
- MVP NGCS Federal Grant discussion conference call, HOTCOG – July 26th
- CSEC Federal Grant discussion webinar, HOTCOG – July 27th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – August 1st
- CSEC Touchpoint conference call, HOTCOG – August 2nd
- NGCS project discussion with McLennan County 9-1-1 District, HOTCOG – August 2nd
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – August 8th
- PSAP Monitoring, Region – August 9-10th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – August 15th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – August 22nd
- MVP project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – August 23rd
- CSEC NGCS project update, HOTCOG – August 23rd
- HOTCOG semi-annual business meeting – August 25th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – August 29th

Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness

Grant/COG Projects

- Our region has been tentatively approved for \$416,127 in Homeland Security grant funding, which is \$60,000 more than expected. The Office of the Governor funded all projects previously approved by the Executive Committee at their total request amount.
- Staff attended the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), State Preparedness Report (SPR), and Implementation Plan (IP) workshop at DPS Headquarters in Austin.
- Staff continues to work on the \$1.6M Radio Infrastructure grant:
 - Marlin Tower – Construction is ongoing, with final punch list items completed. This location will go live on or before August 31st.
 - Woodway Tower – Construction is ongoing, with final punch list items completed. This location is ready for equipment pending coordination with the Heart of Texas Radio System. We are waiting for the coaxial cable to be delivered; it is currently on backorder.
 - VHF System upgrades in Bosque, Hill, Limestone, Freestone and Falls County have been installed and are now in service.

- Hill County Dispatch Console – Installed and Inservice
- McLennan Community College (MCC) Console – Installed and Inservice
- Staff hosted Matthew Van Cleave with Mansfield ISD in partnership with ESC Region 12 as he presented on School Reunification. This presentation was well attended by the members of our Education Subcommittee and other districts from across the region.
- Staff continues to work with jurisdictions to create a Cybersecurity Committee this summer to help advise EPAC and support the region on cybersecurity threats.
- Staff attended the monthly Homeland Security conference calls with the Office of the Governor (OOG).
- Staff attended a meeting with Brazos Valley COG, Central Texas COG, and Capital Area COG to discuss program issues and projects across our regions and share information.
- The National Special Events Data Call is underway; Staff is working with the regional emergency managers to ensure all area events are submitted into the database.

Technical Assistance

- Staff continues to support jurisdictions on their Homeland Security grant projects.
- Staff worked with Waco/McLennan County OEM to reactivate their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, supporting and assisting in delivering the CERT Basic (G-315) course.
- Staff hosted the CERT Train the Trainer course (L-418) for the first time since 2017 in Waco.
- Staff hosted the Intermediate Incident Command (G-300) and Advanced Incident Command (G-400) courses at HOTCOG.

Criminal Justice

Planning Grant

CJ Planner, Lana Gudgel, continues to work with the new Heart of Texas Regional SART and is still working on the mandated protocols and bylaws for the team. CJ Planner was asked to assist the McLennan County SART with the development of their protocols as well. CJ Planner has met with the McLennan SART team twice and has begun the process of developing the protocols for this team.

CJ Planner has continued to work on updating the Heart of Texas Regional Strategic plans and has met with three of the six county community planners regarding the updates.

Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy Grant

Criminal Justice Planner, Lana Gudgel scheduled Intermediate Crime Scene, CIT 1850 and Active Shooter for Telecommunicators in August. The new registration training software for

the Law Enforcement training program has registered 303 officers since October 2021. The training program has collected \$3944.00 in out of region fees.

CJ Planner has contracted with Garcia Coaching, Consulting and Speaking to bring specialized training to Waco on September 12, 2022. This training has been opened to all Emergency Responders and Civilian staff and will include:

Everyone Communicates, Few Connect:

In Everyone Communicates, Few Connect, Maxwell shares the Five Principles and Five Practices to develop the crucial skill of connecting, including:

- Finding Common Ground
- Keeping Your Communication Simple
- Capturing People's Interest
- Inspiring People
- Staying Authentic in all Your Relationships
- Understanding implicit bias and how they may be keeping us from connecting with people.

The ability to connect with others is a major determining factor in reaching your full potential. It's no secret! Connecting is a skill you can learn and apply in your personal, professional, and family relationships.

CJ Planner has been invited to be a guest speaker at the TCOLE Conference in October and will be doing three, one (1) hour Train the Trainer presentations for the conference.

Because the Planer will be a guest speaker at the conference TCOLE has waved the Conference fees for her attendance at the conference.

CJ Planner has also been asked to assist TCOLE with the writing of new curriculum for the Basic Instructor and Advanced Instructor course.

312 students attended HOTCOG training with a total of 6100 contact training hours since October 2021.

Economic & Community Development Department Staff Report

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

HOTEDD currently administers two revolving loan funds: One through USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) and one through TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture).

The USDA fund is to support our local businesses so that they can grow, create jobs, and diversify our regional economy. Specifically, the HOTEDD RBEG RLF Program seeks to assist qualified small and emerging businesses in the rural Heart of Texas including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and rural McLennan Counties. Any private business that will employ 50 or fewer new employees and has less than \$1 million in projected gross revenues located in the rural (as defined by USDA) Heart of Texas region including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and rural McLennan Counties (McLennan County communities that are not contiguous to the City of Waco). On a

case by case basis, the Loan Committee may waive this requirement and provide loan funds to a business located outside the region if the committee determines doing so will have a positive economic impact on the community to be assisted with RLF funds. The project will create or retain one full-time job per each \$10,000.00 in loan funding. At least 51 percent of the interest in the business (applicant) must be owned by those who are either citizens of the United States or reside in the United States after being legally admitted for permanent residence certifiable by HOTEDD and USDA. HOTEDD RLF's financial assistance is necessary to the viability of the project: There must be evidence presented by the applicant that demonstrates that the projects financial requirements cannot be met from owner resources or a commercial financial institution.

Texas CDBG funds provided under the TCF SMRF program are required to comply with the national objective of principally benefiting persons of low and moderate income. The objective of the program is to expand economic opportunities that create or retain jobs, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The SMRF program provides resources for an eligible applicant to support qualified small and microenterprise business(es) (a for-profit entity) to create or retain jobs for Texans. The CDBG regulations provide the following definitions: **Microenterprise Definition**, A "microenterprise" is a commercial enterprise that has five or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise. "Persons developing microenterprises" means persons who have expressed interests in and who are, or after an initial screening process are expected to be, actively working toward developing businesses, each of which is expected to be a microenterprise at the time it is formed. 24 CFR §570.201(o)(3): **Small Enterprise Definition** is an enterprise" or "small business" is a commercial enterprise that has 25 or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise. Falls County is the only county under the SMRF fund. The funding period through TDA and regulations is over but once TDA closes out the contract with Falls County then HOTEDD can lend the revolving funds back into Falls County without the stricter requirements of TDA. At this time Falls County has not received closeout information.

HOTEDD is currently seeking applicants for approximately \$245,240 in USDA revolved funds.

SMRF has \$41,465

Currently loans are out to:

Net1 is behind in payments. Russell Devorsky has spoken with Net 1 owner directly and he verbally said he was sending in payment. At time of this report, we have not received it yet.

KNV Investments is current.

There has been communication with different possible applicants about the USDA loan but the problem still goes back to the \$10,000 for every employee requirement. A letter was sent to USDA to ask for them to wave that requirement or change the amount to at least \$34,000 per employee hired. Letter was sent July 14 and we are waiting to hear back from USDA.

U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION GRANTS

EDA prefers to use HOTCOG as the grant administrator of all projects within the HOTCOG region. EDA helps fund the Economic planning division of HOTCOG. All EDA funding projects must support the HOTCOG regions CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies). Dorothy Jackson

administers all of the grants at this time. This includes help with applications and once grant has been award then all financial reports and special conditions are fielded through Dorthy Jackson and then submitted to EDA.

EDA is seeking new public works grants. Please contact Dorthy Jackson if you have a need that we can fit into the national objective of the EDA.

EDA is working on a rolling bases for the funds they receive. Even if funds are not available now they say to still submit applications and they will award eligible projects when they receive more funds. Make sure to contact me prior to sending in application!

Current EDA funding opportunities:

FISCAL YEAR 2020 PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has published the FY 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs Notice of Funding Opportunity (PWEAA NOFO). EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) programs provide economically distressed communities and regions with comprehensive and flexible resources to address a wide variety of economic needs. Projects funded by these programs will support work in Opportunity Zones and will support the mission of the Department by, among other things, leading to the creation and retention of jobs and increased private investment, advancing innovation, enhancing the manufacturing capacities of regions, providing workforce development opportunities, and growing ecosystems that attract foreign direct investment.

Through the PWEAA NOFO, EDA solicits applications from applicants in order to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, planning, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works program and EAA programs (which includes Assistance to Coal Communities). Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities, including those negatively impacted by changes to the coal economy.

Deadlines: There are no submission deadlines under this opportunity. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until a new PWEAA NOFO is published, this PWEAA NOFO is cancelled, or all funds have been expended.

Note that this PWEAA NOFO supersedes the previously published Economic Development Assistance Program or "EDAP-2018" funding opportunity.

EDA Disaster funds awarded to HOTCOG in response to COVID-19

HOTEDD received grant of \$400,000.00 for two year period. This grant is now completed. Accomplishments was:

- Hiring Retired Homeland Security Manager, Harold Ferguson, to work with Dorthy Jackson in assistance to completing projects paid for by grant and to provide technical support to community members.

- Created new HOTCOG/HOTEDD website for all divisions.
- Provided training classes on Covid-19 response to community members
- Provided training for staff in managing the new norm of Covid-19.
- Installed new air filtering system on the main air conditioners plus stand-alone air filters throughout the building.
- Installed camera system
- Provided new telephone system equipment
- Provided new cubicle offices for Regional Services Division to provide better isolation protection for in office work during Covid-19 and other infectious disease outbreaks in the future.

This grant ended for HOTCOG on July 2022.

Training

Staff, Dorthy Jackson and Falen Bohannon attended SWREDA conference April 27th – April 29th, 2022 in Houston.

Dorthy Jackson attended training on May 6, 2022 for TxCDBG administration in Corpus Christi.

Dorthy Jackson attended Resiliency Recovery Workshop on May 10th, 2022 in Tyler.

Dorthy Jackson attended virtual CDFA Intro Rural Development Finance Course on July 3-4.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Staff is forwarding information to the community that comes down from Federal partners on upcoming grants.

Texas State offices are still working remotely.

Staff held virtual event on August 9th and August 10th to promote Fair housing and Section 3 workers in accordance with obligation to TxCDBG grant from TDA.

Dorthy Jackson is helping some communities with questions on the ARPA funding that they received.

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)

Announced a second Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) of \$3 million in Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV) funds for cities, counties, local and regional nonprofits, and regional organizations to provide mortgage assistance through the Texas Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (TEMAP) to areas not currently covered under the initial TEMAP NOFA earlier this year.

The TEMAP program provides mortgage assistance to homeowners at or below 80% of the Area Medium Income who have been economically impacted by COVID-19 to help provide housing stability during the pandemic. The program can pay up to six consecutive months of an eligible household's mortgage payments, including mortgage arrears, with at least one of those months covering a month of future mortgage. The maximum assistance to homeowners must be at or below 150% of the Small Area Fair Market Rent or 150% of the Fair Market Rent – whichever is applicable. For areas where no Small Area Fair Market rent is available, Fair Market Rent must be used.

Through the initial TEMAP NOFA mortgage assistance is available to Texas homeowners in 223 Texas counties. This Round 2 TEMAP NOFA targets the remaining 31 Texas counties (see Table below) to ensure geographic distribution is achieved throughout the state and make assistance available to all COVID-19 impacted Texas homeowners struggling with their mortgage due to loss of job, reduced income, or increased living expenses. Eligible applicants are cities and counties in areas not having TEMAP coverage from the initial NOFA awards or local and regional nonprofits, including community action agencies and regional organizations such as councils of governments, willing to serve areas not covered.

Target County Areas

Bosque	Brazos	Brewster	Burleson	Culberson
El Paso	Falls	Fannin	Fayette	Freestone
Grayson	Grimes	Hamilton	Hill	Hudspeth
Jeff Davis	Limestone	Llano	Lee	Leon
Lubbock	Madison	Mason	McLennan	Milam
Mills	Presidio	Robertson	San Saba	Travis
Washington				

HOTCOG applied for all 6 Counties to make sure that there was coverage for everyone in the Region. The EOAC applied also to cover McLennan County and Lazarus House Initiative applied for Limestone County. Following chart is the allocations that is recommended by TDHCA.

Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation	McLennan County	67	\$ 300,000.00
Heart of Texas Council of Governments	Counties of Hill, Bosque, Falls, and Limestone	63	\$ 200,000.00
Alliance of Border Collaboratives	City of El Paso and west El Paso County including all the cities of Anthony, TX, Vinton, TX and Canutillo, TX.	61	\$ 500,000.00
Travis County	Travis County (Excluding the City of Austin)	60	\$ 415,000.00
Lazarus House Initiative	Freestone County	60	\$ 85,000.00
Hudson County Latino Foundation	Counties of Brazos, Falls, Limestone, and McLennan	56	\$ -

Staff is taking applications for the TEMAP program. Currently we have approved 7 applications and are working on 1 more. We need more applications to come through. **We have approximately \$50,000 left to spend. Our contract has been extended to August. We will not accept any applications after August 31, 2022**

TDHCA amended contract to allow for services to be provided to McLennan County because EOAC had expended all their funds and there is still need within McLennan County. Staff is working with EOAC and Habitat for Humanity on getting help to people in need within McLennan County.

TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture)

Dorthy Jackson hosted virtual event for TxCDBG requirements on August 9th and 10th.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Community and economic development technical assistance was provided to:

- City of Whitney
- Fairfield EDC
- TSTC
- City of Meridian
- City of Mexia
- Freestone County
- Hill County
- City of Hillsboro
- NORTEX Planning Commission
- City of Beverly Hills

Falen Bohannon, at the request of NORTEX planning commission Executive Director, is helping them with their solid waste program due to the fact they lost their planner.

Solid Waste

The SWAC meet in on July 22, 2021 and determined that the next Biennium will be split with COG managed projects in FY 22 and Implementation projects starting in FY 23. The 2022/2023 biennium will begin October 1st with new funding opportunities for all 6 counties in the HOTCOG region. The City of Gholson was able to conduct a very successful community collection event that involved both roll-off dumpsters and tire trailers. The City of Mart was also able to complete a community collection event. They were able to fill up several dumpsters and a tire trailer. Freestone County utilized 2 tire trailer for their event that started on March 11th. Falls County was reimbursed for their community collection clean ups for the FY and Meridian in Bosque County will be conducting their project in September. Limestone and Hill still have projects that need to be completed. Hill County is next, with an event starting at the end of March or early April.

Air Quality

Ramboll completed the final report to the end the FY 20/21 biennium. They have created a Scope of Work to be turned into TCEQ for the new biennium. After TCEQ reviews and accepts the SOW, Ramboll will continue working with HOTCOG to conduct further studies to keep our region in compliance with the ozone standards.

Course	Date	Agency	Attendees	Total
Interacting with Driver's Deaf/Hard Hearing	10/28/21			
		Mexia PD	2	
		McLennan County Sheriff's Office	2	
		Robinson PD	1	
		McGregor PD	1	
		Private	2	8
CIT 1850	11/1-5.21			
		Caldwell County SO	2	
		Surfside Beach Police	1	
		Bell County Pct 3	1	
		Baylor PD	1	
		Private	2	
				7
TCIC/NCIC	11/9-11/21	VA Police	2	
		Mexia PD	2	
		Corsicana PD	1	
		Bosque County Sheriff's Office	2	
		Blinn College PD	1	
		Double Oak PD	1	
		Falls County SO	1	
		DPS	1	
				11
De Escalation Techniques	11/9/21	Waco PD	1	
		Waco ISD	1	
		Office of Attorney General	1	
		Hill Co Sheriff's Office	1	
		Private	1	
				5
Intermediate Crime Scene	03/22-26/2021	Hill Co Sheriff's Office	1	
		DPS	1	
		Beverly Hills PD	1	
		Baylor PD	2	
		McLennan County Const Pct 2	1	
		Hubbard PD	1	

			Freestone Co SO	1	
			Private	4'	
Juvenile Law and Procedures	96	11/11/21			12
			Cottonwood Shores PD	1	
			TABC	1	
			DPS	1	
			Private	4	
	28				7
TCIC/NCIC		11/15-17/21	Franklin PD	2	
			Erath CO	1	
			Coolidge PD	1	
			Mexia PD	2	
			Socorro PD	1	
			Private	3	
			Hill Co SO	1	
			MCC PD	1	
			Baylor PD	2	
			Limestone CO SO	2	
			Bellmead PD	1	
			Falls County DA	1	
			McGregor PD	1	
			Freestone CO	1	
			Hill CO Const. Pct 2	1	
	456				19
Special Investigative Topics		11/29-12/1/21	Hill Co SO	1	
			Waco PD	3	
			McLennan County Const. Pct 2	1	
	144		DPS	1	6
Cultural Diversity		11/15/21	McLennan County Const. Pct 2	1	
			DPS	1	
	8				2

CIT 1850			11/29-12/3/21		Hickory Creek PD	2			
					China Springs ISD	1			
					Hillsboro PD	1			
					McLennan County SO	1			
					DPS	1			
					Baylor PD	1			
					Robinson PD	1			
					Private	3			
	400								10
Intermediate Crime Scene			12/6-10/21						
					Hillsboro PD	2			
					Nolanville PD	1			
					Groesbeck PD	1			
					McLennan County SO	1			
					Hill Co SO	1			
					Waco Fire Dept	1			
					McGregor PD	1			
					Univ of Texas System PD	1			
					Waco PD	3			
					Whitney PD	1			
	520								13
Special Investigative Topics			12/13-15/21		McLennan CO Const Pct 2	1			
					Waco PD	1			
	48								2
Interacting with Drivers Deaf/Hard Hearing			12/16/21		Lorena PD	1			
					Private	2			
	12								3
Cultrual Diversity			1/10/22		McLennan Co Const. Pct 2	1			
					DPS	1			
	12				Bosque CO SO	1			3

Crime Scene Investigation	03/14-18-22	Waco PD	4	
		Crawford PD	1	
		Bosque CO SO	3	
		China Springs ISD	1	
		Falls CO SO	1	
		Office of Insp General TX JJD	1	
		Teague PD	1	
		Killeen PD	1	
		Woodway DPS	3	
		Fairfield PD	1	
		Hill Co SO	1	
720			18	
Juvenile Law and Procedures	3/23/22			
		McGregor PD	4	
8			4	
Intermediate Crime Scene	05/9-11/22			
		Glenn Heights PD	1	
16		Granite Shoals PD	1	
		Freestone CO SO	1	
		Groesbeck PD	1	
		Harker Hieghts PD	1	
		Hillsboro PD	2	
		Waco PD	1	
		Hill Co SO	1	
		Teague PD	1	
		Leon Co SO	1	
440			11	
CPR transportation		Rual Transit	15	
60				

TCIC/NCIC	05/25-27/22				
			Crawford PD	1	
			Lacylakeview PD	6	
			Woodway Public Safety	1	
192					8
Courtroom Security	6/7/22				
			TPWD	1	
			Lacy Lakeview PD	2	
			Falls County SO	1	
32					4
De Escalation	6/9/22		Cameron PD	1	
			Brazos Co Const Pct. 2	4	
			McLennan Co SO	2	
			Hillsboro PD	1	
			Falls Co SO	1	
			McLennan CO Const. Pct 2	1	
96			Private	2	12
Active Shooter for School Based LE	6/16/22				
			Corsicana PD	1	
			Killeen ISD PD	6	
			Waco ISD	1	
			La Vega ISD PD	1	
			Falls County DA	1	
			Private	2	
			Whitney PD	1	
			Connally ISD PD	1	14
112	07/11-15/22				
Basic Instructor					
			Waco ISD	3	
			McLennan County SO	2	
			Hill County SO	1	
			Gatesville PD	1	

				Baylor PD	1	
				Teague PD	1	
				Robinson PD	1	
	400					10
Basic Instructor		07/18-22-22				
				Bosque County SO	1	
				Lacylakeview PD	2	
				McLennan County SO	2	
				Waco PD	1	
				Bellmead PD	1	
				Woodway PD	1	
	320					8
Active Shooter Response for School Base LE		7/18/22		Falls County Pct 3	1	
				Rogers PD	1	
				Liano ISD PD	1	
	24					3
Active Shoot for Telecommunicators		8/1/22				
				Lacylakeview PD	1	
				Woodway PD	2	
				Beverly Hills PD	1	
				Bosque County SO	2	
				Waco ISD	1	
	80			Hewitt PD	2	10
Identity Theft		8/8/22		Austin PD	1	
				McGregor PD	3	
				McLennan County Pct. 2	1	
				Falls County SO	1	
				Bellmead PD	1	
	28					7

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