

Falls County Community Plan 2026

What Is a Community Plan?

This plan is formally known as the Falls County Criminal Justice Community Plan, the purpose of which is to identify gaps in services regarding criminal justice issues. The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office (CJD) requires that each county in Texas have a Criminal Justice Community Plan.

The document that is represented here reflects the efforts of many in Falls County that are concerned with assuring that any gaps in services that are identified are closed in a way that will both solve the problem and provide as great a benefit to the community as possible. It is with the grateful acknowledgment that the names of those involved in the process of developing this plan are listed on the following pages under "Community Planning Team".

Though the final draft of this plan was completed in March 2026 this is a work in progress. As new criminal justice goals are identified, the constituency of the planning team and priorities in the plan are subject to change. Such updates may be reported to the Falls County Community Planning Coordinator throughout the year, and the plan amended accordingly.

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 may be addressed to the Criminal Justice Program of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. Contact information is provided on page 35 of this document.

The Falls County Commissioner's Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for the development and implementation of the Falls County Community Plan. Additionally, the Commissioner's Court, Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC), and the Heart of Texas Governing Board (Executive Committee) support grant applications from county departments as well as community organizations that address gaps in services identified in the Community Plan.

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

Golinda	Lott	Marlin	Rosebud
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Unincorporated Communities:

Chilton	Westphalia	Reagan
Otto	Perry	Mooreville
Durango	Cedar Springs	

School Districts:

Rosebud-Lott ISD	Westphalia ISD
Chilton ISD	Marlin ISD

Brief Description and History of Falls County:

Falls County, a rectangle of 765 square miles located in Central Texas near Waco and Temple, was established in 1850 and named for the Falls on the Brazos River. The county's approximately 17,500 citizens are chiefly tied to the land with 55% of the total county economy dependent on agriculture. The remaining 45% of the economy is derived primarily from local and county governments, correctional institutions, educational institutions, nursing homes, hospitals, small businesses, and independent manufacturers.

Texas Cooperative Extension in Falls County reaches out to adults and youth, males, and females of all ethnic backgrounds to help individuals and families improve their lives, properties, economic status, and self-sufficiency. By conducting seminars, workshops, demonstrations, and camps, County Extension Agents provide educational tools and information to the diverse peoples of Falls County to better manage their farms, ranches, businesses, health, animals, financial security, and family relationships. Working through and with volunteers, Agents extend their knowledge and expertise into every corner and village in the county.

<http://falls-tx.tamu.edu>

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Falls County: Lana Gudgel, Criminal Justice Planner for the Heart of Texas Council of Governments

In developing this Community Plan, members of the team worked together to provide updates and changes to the previous plan. Many members serve in multiple capacities.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Jay Elliott	Falls County Judge
Jeff Watkins	Emergency Management Coordinator
Samantha Dietzler	Family Abuse Center
Jennifer Lopez	Falls Co Juvenile Probation
Kenny Ray Murray	Rosebud City Manager
Aleigh Ascherl	Advocacy Center
James Hommel	Marlin PD
Keith Whitfield	City of Rosebud
Jessica Ehlers	Falls County Victims Assistance
Eliza Daviss	Marlin City Manager

Identification of Community Problems

General Public Safety Needs and Issues

Crime is a complex and multifaceted problem, and crime control requires the constant and coordinated efforts of a wide range of public and private agencies. County-wide criminal justice planning is an essential precursor to the effective coordination of all varieties of crime amelioration activities in the county. The agencies that compose the Falls County criminal justice system jointly strive to enforce lawful standards of conduct, protect individuals and communities, assist victims, improve institutional capabilities, and engage the community and its citizens in crime prevention while preserving individual civil liberties and protecting basic human rights.

It is necessary to strive toward these goals by helping to facilitate the collaboration of community groups, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, and correctional agencies throughout the County. A broad approach to defining the crime problem and designing methods for its control has been identified as a priority. Issues related to crime have been studied and analyzed on a continuum from the overall social environment to post-crime responses, including community structure and dynamics, crime prevention, early intervention, and various types of criminal and juvenile justice agency responses. Within these parameters, this planning process develops, implements, and refines the community criminal justice plan to help meet the emerging needs of Falls County. The goal of this planning process is to achieve a significant reduction in the frequency and severity of crime to facilitate a sense of pride, health, and safety in all our communities by:

- Promoting the planning and implementation of comprehensive strategies to prevent and control crime in general and violence in particular, throughout the community
- Identifying philosophical principles that will promote the participation of law enforcement, judiciary, prosecution, corrections, victims, treatment providers, educators, media, businesses, and citizens throughout the community in the development of strategies to prevent, reduce and control crime and violence in the community.
- Promoting the fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency of all segments of the criminal and juvenile justice system

PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

The building of assets in youth and the community is an important component of a community plan. Therefore, prevention issues must take precedence over those based on incarceration and deterrence if the long-term impact of crime control spending is to be maximized. Nonetheless, the control of known delinquents who present a clear threat to public safety must also remain an important strategy.

In each of the areas below, problems are identified and data is included that supports both the existence and severity of the problems as they are found in Falls County. Below is a discussion of the problems, how the problems are being addressed, and strategically how responses to these community problems could be improved. In some identified problem areas, there is no current data to support them, due to recent program funding cuts. The data collection will be added to the plan as the problem area statistics become available throughout the year.

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

1. Referrals for Treatment

- a. Limited resources if the juvenile doesn't qualify for mental health services.
- b. Residential for mental health and substance abuse
- c. Long-term
- d. Short-term

Recommendations:

- Support programs that will allow treatment facilities to operate and support beds for in-house treatment. Currently, there are waiting lists.
- Funding of additional staff and mental health resources to be supported as well as resources for those individuals that do not qualify for mental health services. Recent mandated state laws limit person(s) that qualify for services under Behavioral Health Services.
- Need for Medicaid private practitioner.
- Local counselor needed for court-mandated counseling.

Resources:

- Heart of Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction (HOTCADA)

2. Lack of role models/mentors for juveniles as well as lack of motivating factors for youth

Data Collection:

- Role models not engaged in community
 - Limited parental involvement – the majority of single-parent families
 - Generational issues – grandparents raising grandchildren
 - No recreational/athletic facilities
 - Limited after-school programs
 - Limited career/education exploration for the general population – There is a PACES program; however, not all youth are eligible to participate.

Recommendations:

- Continued support for funding agencies offering services
- Violence prevention/parenting classes
 - Start a “survivors” group for children.
 - Fatherhood Initiative – parent support group
- Mentorship programs

Resources:

- MCYC offers programs to children of incarcerated parents
- PACES offers counseling, case management, and mentoring programs to youth.
- Faith, Hope, and Charity.

- Boys & Girls Club of Falls County
- Communities in Schools (CIS)
- After-school programs at Rosebud Lott and Chilton ISDs
- Family Abuse Center

3. **Delinquent behavior put students' education at risk.**

Truancy is rated as a minor juvenile crime and is often the least enforced in most Falls County communities. There is substantial evidence that youth who become truant will eventually drop out of school and put themselves at high risk of becoming disadvantaged unproductive citizens. The linkages of truancy and tobacco, alcohol, and other substance abuse items can lead to other chronic delinquencies, and possibly foster other violent behaviors. Truancy is the first sign of youth in trouble. Coupled with academic failure, these two indicators may be the initial signs that a young person is overwhelmed with life and is entertaining the ghastly decision to drop out of school. For example, data from the Department of Education/National Center for Education Statistics shows over the past decade, the number of high school students choosing to leave school without a diploma was between 347,000 and 544,000. National dropout rates for 16 to 22-year-olds were reported at 11% (The Condition of Education 2022, National Center for Education Statistics.) Marlin ISD enrollment: Pre-K through 5th grade - 588 students; 6th through 8th - 227 students; 9 through 12- 288 students. The student body is just under 1,000.

Problem:

Our students are not internalizing basic concepts of learning between head start, pre-K, and elementary grades. Students who are placed instead of being promoted to the next grade level find themselves faced with even greater challenges. Academic, as well as cognitive weakness at an early age becomes a factor in the high percentage of our high school dropouts and drastically affects how our young people view their future.

- Student needs are not identified promptly.
- Young people's life outcomes are seriously diminished.
- Future economic security of the target area is jeopardized.
- Increased number of individuals with low educational attainment levels.
- Lack of resources for academic, intervention, and prevention services and community support at an early age.

Problem:

Our schools are generally understaffed in student-teacher and student-counselor ratio. Our pre-K and elementary level students are the most affected and are the most critical age for positive socialization instructions. Many of our youth who fall through the cracks have low self-esteem and difficulty with conflict resolution, and their cries for help are not wholly considered. These beginners are stereotyped and labeled as tattlers and troublemakers. They soon become negatively reinforced by being placed on punishment for ultimately not having the ability to socially adjust within the classroom setting. The possibility of our children's needs remaining unidentified increases, and opportunities to provide the needed intervention to help our students have success in life are missed. This renders our educational system impotent to form healthy relationships with students and their parents. Unidentified needs present barriers for our teacher/counselor that fosters a non-caring attitude as well as distrust within the student-teacher-counselor connection.

- Special needs of youth unidentified, in particular, anger and depression issues.
- Social barriers and ineffective intervention/prevention treatment strategies.
- Individual needs are not addressed effectively and in a timely manner.
- Risk factors affecting cognitive abilities in children are not identified promptly
- Limited focus on the importance of education and its life-long impact at the elementary, as well as the middle and junior high-grade levels.
- Lack of resources in the community to provide programs and services to stimulate students' potential for success in life.

Problem:

Our high school building presents safety issues for staff as well as students.

- High school structure needs an upgrade to enhance student and staff safety.
- Security system is inadequate
- Staff has no intercommunication devices

As of November 2016, the camera system is being updated. All classrooms have phones. Drills are conducted regularly.

Problem:

Parents of younger children do not have the parenting skills and are challenged in providing academic support for their school-age children. Many parents are under-educated and work multiple jobs to support their families. Mental health issues are not properly identified and addressed. Many families are single-parent households who have financial struggles and are most times unable to give parental presence showing support for school functions and become stressed when they are called away from their employment to address behavior issues at school. Available options of programs and services for esteem building and youth empowerment are limited and poorly advertised. Available services provided by outside sources are scheduled on limited days with hours of operation.

- Parents lack parenting skills and are limited in providing academic support.
- A Limited number of parents engaged in the support of academics, school functions, and ultimately student potential.
- Students lack a sense of value and responsibility of a high school education and a sense of community to become productive citizens.
- Lack of communication and collaboration between community service providers and referrals
- Restricted access to services and programs resulting from the lack of communication.
- Technology divides due to a lack of understanding and familiarity with computers and other forms of technology tools.
- Community has limited youth and young adult development programs engaged to support school-aged students.
- Lack of resources available to support community initiatives for mentorships and youth and young adult development and apprenticeship programs.

Problem:

Youth/teens/young adults are at risk for a community that is not fully engaged in physical and social development and support. Our society presents an ethnic and racial disparity that fosters a detachment of our youth from their heritage.

- Community void of crime amelioration activities.
- Community void of citizens having a sense of neighborhood unity and belongingness.
- Community void of relevant programs designed specifically for ethnic and cultural awareness.
- Community void of a sense of ownership for the success and maintenance of the relevant programs.
- Population of people who do not have ways and means to advance their quality of life opening up vulnerable pathways that can lead youth to trouble.

Problem:

Youth/teens/young adults (15 – 21 years) in our community are handicapped with a criminal record from occurrences that could be supervised in the community without jeopardizing public safety. Keeping lower-risk offenses out of the system can benefit our community and greatly improve life outcomes and reduce the chance of them coming in contact with the system. Our court systems need viable options for dealing with low-risk repeat offenders. Students are trapped by criminal records at an early age making themselves ineligible for employment and financial aid. Unemployable teens

place a burden on the parents as well as the community to support this soon-to-be adult citizen. This places continual strain on our already weakened economy

- Unsupervised youth at risk
- Teens and young adults hanging out on Main Street... no place to go. No or limited community activities outside of the school setting to channel youth energy.
- No or limited structured environments specifically designed for youth/teens/young adult activities.
- Substance usage, abuse, and sells.
- Vandalism; Little or no self-respect or respect for authority
- Promiscuous sexual activity and sexually transmitted diseases
- Teenage pregnancy, single parents' households
- Low self-confidence and esteem
- Fighting and bullying
- Curfew violations, truancy, dropouts
- Limited awareness and access to programs and services for youth and teen needs
- Stereotyping of troubled youth and teens
- No easily accessible and coordinated programs for families.
- Services are often provided in a piecemeal fashion or they address only a fragment of the problem.
- Instances of delinquency, violence, and persistent misbehaviors in children, youth, and teens continue to increase.

Need:

- To build and maintain a collaboration of community stakeholders to do strategic planning that resonates with the core issues and significantly address our problems for change.
- Platforms for effective communication between school, family, and the community at large to discuss issues of school attendance, community stimulus, and academic success.
- Initiatives that invest in our youth and young adult leadership development.
- Teacher–counselor and school staff to have a higher level of sensitivity for early evaluations in all domains (psychological, academic, physical, family, social, economic, mental health/substance abuse) of pre-K, elementary, youth, and teens at-risk.
- Full range of services and programs to support parents with preschool and school-age children.
- Intervention and parenting classes for parents to identify and obtain skills to address esteem and delinquency issues.
- Awareness of available programs and services specifically for individual and family access to local counseling services to assess and assist with delinquency issues.
- Developed and implemented diversion programs and aftercare treatment services. In particular, programs that allow time for one-on-one attention and instructions for those students with learning and behavior issues.
- Strategies that include intensive service plan coordination as well as a “wrap around” approach that targets all domains of:
 - Youth involved in the juvenile justice system.
 - Youth are involved in substance abuse, particularly tobacco and alcohol.
 - Youth experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.
 - Youth experiencing fear, anger, mental health abuse, and disorders.
 - Youth attending alternative learning environments
 - Community base alternatives for repeat offenders.

- Early intervention and prevention programs to build relationships with law enforcement in the community targeting youth at all levels.
- Programs and activities for youth and teens not involved in the juvenile justice system.
- A community teen center in the community located in a safe area for teens to take ownership and hang out during non-school hours. Centers with evening hours.
- Facilities in the community that allow for physical stimulation such as swimming, skating, and bowling. Supervised, constructive recreation in the community for youth-teens involvement.
- Specifically tailored activities that allow for intellectual stimulation and creative thinking such as Arts and crafts.
- The school, family, and community at large work together to tighten communication regarding the importance of school attendance, community stimulus, academic success, and graduation.

Recommendations:

- Community stakeholders collaborate and intentionally engage by giving support for funding sources to allow for intervention, prevention, treatment, and follow-up care for juveniles at risk for mental health, drug use, and all abuse issues.
- Support community recreation facilities that can enhance youth/ teen/ young adults' leadership development.
- Explore the feasibility of Resource officers and campus police collaborating with Truant officers in the school district.
- Provide funded education and training via funded programs for youth/teens to deter delinquent behavior such as Drop Out Prevention programs, First Time Offender programs, Teen Court, Drug Court, DARE programs, G.R.E.A.T. programs, and other types of programs.
- Support projects designed for offenders of non-violence issues and traffic violations
- Misdemeanor drug cases and fighting with domestic violence charges refer to 1st Offender and Pre-trial Diversion programs.
- Educate parents via court-ordered and non-court-ordered parenting classes.
- Expand stay-in-school, after-school, and school appreciation activities.
- Provide funded prevention programs addressing coping skills, social competency skills, and enhancement of personal esteem, sex education and abstinent programs, responsibility, and respect for self and others.
- Initiate, support, and continue programs that reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and strengthen protective factors that prevent such behavior.
- Enhance the availability of services, both inpatient and outpatient for children and adolescents who have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder.
- Develop mechanisms for improving communication and collaboration among providers who serve juvenile offenders.
- Develop a tracking system to follow a child through juvenile justice, mental health, and /or substance abuse treatment programs.
- Raise awareness among policymakers of funding needs to develop new services or enhance existing services.
- Educate the general public about the behavioral health needs of children and adolescents.
- Programs addressing Anger Management for children and adolescents.
- Funded programs addressing esteem building, goal setting, and career pursuits for children and adolescents.
- Funded programs providing intellectual stimulation of the Arts and cultural awareness.
- Support initiatives that provide exposure trips for life experiences.

- Expose youth to the value of pursuing higher education and career opportunities via college tours and exposure trips for student inspiration and motivation.
- Provide incentive programs for academics such as dual credit college courses.
- Provide information to youth and parents regarding financial assistance for pursuing advanced training or apprenticeship opportunities or education.

Resources:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- First Christians Community Learning Center
- CIS (Community In Schools)
- ACE (Afterschool Program)
- MYAA: Marlin Youth Athletic Association
- Boys and Girls Club
- Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Teen Safe Program
- VOICE, Inc.
- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau Family Counseling Services
- MADD (Alcohol and drug prevention and education programs)
- Faith Hope and Charity (Afterschool program)
- PHHPH (People Helping Hurting People Heal: Cognitive Skill and esteem builder program)
- STAR Program (Twin City Mission 1st Offender Program)
- Ministry of Truth (LCDC -Drug Awareness Classes)
- Elite Sports LLC (Youth Athletics Group)
- Young DIVA (Mental Health Support for sexually abused girls)
- Girls Scouts of America
- Local churches
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR

4. First Offenders Program

This program is a delinquency prevention program that both parents and children are involved in. The program works to inform parents and children how crime can build from minor offenses to major offenses if nothing is done in the beginning stages of criminal activity. This program is currently running but is limited in scope – the parent and child attend court for delinquency behavior prevention.

Recommendations:

- Support funding for programs that provide education and skills to first-time offenders to prevent entering further into the criminal justice system.
- Drug Court
- Teen Court
- Leadership Marlin – youth leadership group
- Need to expand court focus to address drug issues and other specific delinquency issues

Resources:

- STAR Program/Twin City Mission
- Word of Truth Drug Education

5. Transportation

- Transport of adolescents for counseling/juvenile sentencing and local general access for juveniles.

- Need transportation from Lott for juveniles to access counseling

Recommendations:

- Need for more public transit
- Need for more personnel and vehicles
- Coordination among services
- Need for city transportation

Resources:

- LeFluer Transportation: rural transit system
- HOTCOG Rural Transit Blue Bus

6. Aftercare/Follow-up Programs

- Limited counseling services; out-of-area travel is required to receive counseling
- Limited aftercare services for victims and/or family members of domestic violence, suicide, homicide, sexual assault, child abuse, etc.

Recommendations:

- Support programs that will allow for aftercare services that provide extended support, treatment, and prevention.
- Counseling services are limited due to juvenile and/or family members having to travel out of the area to receive counseling. Support for a local resource is available more than just on-call basis.

Resources:

- PHHPH Program
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Center, formerly HOTRMHMR
- Family Abuse Center
- Library
- Falls County Victim Advocates

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

1. Limited Support Services

Child Abuse

- Limited foster and adoptive parents
- Shortage of mental health services reasonably accessed/sliding scale
- Limited number of police, social workers, etc. with second language capabilities for intervention
- Resources and access to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Affordable childcare
- Comprehensive mental health case management services for child victims
- Programs for children who witness violence
- Training for child abuse awareness

Domestic Violence

- Stable victim resource revenues to enable organizations to maintain core services
- Resources and access to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Support groups for male victims
- Standardized requirements and easier facilitation for obtaining a protective order
- Training for judges granting protective orders
- Specialized services and awareness for elderly victims of domestic violence
- Non-English speaking resources for victims of domestic violence
- Outreach and awareness of various cultures represented in the community.
- Awareness of available resources in the community
- Transportation
- Services specific to the lesbian/gay population in the community and schools
- Comprehensive case management, transportation, and job search services
- Need for a collaborative community response group in the county for domestic violence.
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement, and other local agencies

Sexual Assault

- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program needed

Secondary Victims

Services for secondary victims affected by all crime. Secondary victims of crime often go unnoticed. However, they may experience severe trauma as a result of the crimes. Identified needs include the following:

- Services specific to dealing with traumatic grief
- Education and intervention services concerning traumatic grief
- Resources for adults dealing with issues of grief, etc.
- Services for mental health issues
- Organized, identified emergency response team
- Specific training for service providers in trauma issues
- Services to non-English speaking populations
- Awareness of services to address victim rights
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement, and other local agencies

Recommendations:

- Continue to support programs that address support services for victims of violence and crime
- Continue collaboration of agencies in services provided. Agencies are encouraged to network and bridge the gaps that exist between the agencies that provide services for victim support, prevention, and treatment.
- Develop means of transportation for services
- Begin PFLAG program

- Local counselor needed for court-mandated counseling
- Assign an assistant district attorney to handle misdemeanors.
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)³
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)
- Develop a domestic violence task force
- Explore the development of CAC and development of SANE programs.
- Offender TX provider – BIPP sex offender
- Required attendance of Multi-Disciplinary Team by law enforcement agencies and team members

Resources:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Family Abuse Center
 - Bi-lingual services available
- Educational victim services programs available to schools
- Heart of Texas Sexual Assault Response Team
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR/ Hope Shelter
- Child Sex Trafficking Emergency Shelter

Statistical Information:

- The Advocacy Center conducted 642 forensic interviews during the fiscal year 2023 with children alleging sexual or physical abuse, 13 of whom were Falls County residents. These children are eligible to receive medical exams and case management through the agency, as well.
- Family Abuse Center
 - On average, shelter clients stay 22 days at the Family Abuse Center
 - In 2019, FAC received 31 hotline calls from Falls County and worked with 10 clients from Falls County.
- Crime statistics Texas Crime <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/crime-records/crime-texas>
 - Total population of Falls County 15,719
 - Total number of rapes = 3
 - Total number of assaults = 14

2. On-Scene Victims Services

- Limited law enforcement and public awareness of services offered by agencies
- Limited bi-lingual services

Recommendations:

- Increase law enforcement awareness of services and persons willing to respond to on-scene incidents
- Agencies that provide these services are encouraged to bridge the gaps between their services and law enforcement, to ensure law enforcement and schools are well aware of the agencies' services to assist law enforcement and schools, as well as the victims.
- Transportation
- Coordination among services
- Safe houses
- Develop a team of trained on-scene volunteers
- Include Family Violence training for on-scene volunteers

Resources:

- Falls County Victim Assistance Coordinator
- Department of Public Safety
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children

- Collaborates with Falls County LE agencies, CPS, Falls County DA, and County Judge in the investigation of all crimes suffered by county residents
- Each client case that is prosecuted has case management contact or accompaniment to court
- All clients are offered to counsel for primary victims and to family members who may be secondary victims. Counseling is available virtually.
- Falls County District Attorney's Office
- Family Abuse Center

Statistical Information:

- Falls County had a 94% increase in family violence calls to law enforcement from 2011 to 2012
- 43 incidents of family violence were reported to law enforcement in Falls County in 2015

3. Primary Prevention for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Data Collection:

- Current domestic violence and sexual assault resources are overloaded. The solution is either to increase funding for these resources or prevent such violence from occurring in the first place.
- Children who grow up in homes with domestic violence are more likely to become abusers or victims of domestic violence themselves when they grow up.
- According to the 2022 Crime in Texas Report, the total number of Texas family violence incidents in 2022 was 2,282.78. This represented a 7.54% increase when compared to 2020. These incidents involved 231,029 victims (an increase of 9.2% from 2019) and 224,792 offenders (an increase of 9.0% from 2019).
- On average, shelter clients stay 22 days at the Family Abuse Center
- In 2022, FAC received 13 hotline calls from Falls County and worked with 2 clients from Falls County.
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Recommendations:

- Develop task forces to address domestic violence and sexual assault
- Coordinate with local media to raise awareness and promote cultural change
- Education/support groups for victims of domestic violence and violent crimes
- Partner with schools to provide early education on healthy relationships and crime/violence prevention
- Change the community perception of domestic violence and sexual assault through a community-wide domestic violence prevention campaign. Have a special emphasis on non-criminal justice sectors (such as businesses, churches, libraries, youth sports, etc.)

Resources:

Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children

- Conducts parenting class groups for families referred by CPS or APS as a part of their ongoing investigation into the care and control of children. Special classes are offered to parents of children who offend siblings.
- Prevention education programming is available to school districts, civic organizations, churches, and other groups interested in addressing Falls County community concerns regarding child abuse and teen issues.

4. Aftercare/Follow-up Care for Victims

- Long-term
- Short-term
- Transportation from surrounding areas to available services
- Delays in crime victims getting approved for CVC benefits

Recommendations:

- Support services that will allow for funding to continue services to victims that require a longer recovery time
- Develop system and procedures for coordinating CVC presumptive eligibility efforts between law enforcement and advocacy agencies

Resources:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Family Abuse Center

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

1. Substance Abuse

In recent years the overall crime rate has decreased; however, studies show that a record number of crimes being committed today are driven by drugs and/or alcohol. Drug-driven crimes can be defined as an offense committed for the sole purpose of obtaining monies for the purchase of illegal substances or the sale of such substances.

In a study conducted by the Department of Justice – Bureau of Statistics, 61,000 convicted prisoners reported that their offenses were committed to obtain money for drugs. The study also revealed that of 12,658 homicides committed, 4.5% of the homicides were related to narcotics. Since the mid-1980s, almost every state and federal court system has experienced an overload of drug offenses on its dockets.

The high recidivism rates associated with drug-related offenses have proven that prosecution and incarceration alone will not break the cycle of recurrence of drug-related offenses. Based on the belief that drug abuse treatment is demonstrably more effective in reducing both drug addiction and drug-related crime, jurisdictions developed an alternative approach to the traditional adjudication process.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and TXDOT, there was one alcohol-related fatality in Falls County in 2021. In the state of Texas in 2021, there were 737 total alcohol-related fatalities.

Recommendations:

- Pursue funding streams and resources that offer local support groups, prevention, and treatment. Support Drug/Alcohol court Programs with mandatory participation.
- Medically supervised alcohol detoxification services for offenders suffering from acute alcohol abuse
- Affordable residential and supportive outpatient services for offenders needing longer-term care.
- Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) that provide affordable and appropriate treatment services for employees with alcohol problems
- Supervision of all DWI offenders who are required by law to have an ignition interlock
- Assign assistant district attorney to alleviate caseload.
- Case management services for ex-offenders

Resources:

- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe Coordinator
- VOICE, Inc.
- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- Bibleway Community Development Academy offers awareness, prevention, and support groups.
- Pearfrong Christian Center
- Cenikor

2. Insufficient Funding for Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, and Court Personnel

Significant pressures are being placed on the Justice Information Systems, resulting from the post-September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Information-sharing and new technologies are emphasized at all levels of federal, state, and local government. Compounding the problem, these pressures are being placed on systems that are old, have limited functionality, and lack the flexibility to address new functional or technical requirements.

Texas counties are striving to improve their Justice Information Systems (JIS) and adopt a new generation of systems referred to as Integrated Justice Systems (IJS). This integration occurs at two levels:

1. A comprehensive system architecture that serves the needs of all justice-related and law enforcement agencies within a county government.
2. The ability to integrate a county's justice information with other governments, including other local, state, and federal agencies within that county. A single data entry into a county's IJS system will enable the information to be made available to all agencies within the county boundaries, as well as state and federal government justice agencies.

For example, a police officer making a traffic stop could have immediate access to the vehicle registration data, and determine if the driver has outstanding warrants within the county, in another city, or by state and federal agencies.

Information systems operated by Texas justice agencies have been proprietary and incapable of linking and exchanging information; consequently, the justice community must address new strategies to deliver effective and efficient information-related services throughout the State of Texas. During the past year, federal and state agencies, urban counties, rural counties, and municipalities from across Texas have been discussing the need to collaborate on the development of an integrated justice information system. Although justice agencies require the same information, they have historically focused on capturing only that information necessary for their own processes and legacy systems.

Although Falls County government and the majority of its communities have justice information management systems, Falls County is one of 254 Texas counties that have inadequate resources to develop an integrated justice information system that can effectively share information with federal, state, county, and local governments.

Funding Issues

- Not enough funded positions to meet the optimal needs of the community
- Not able to pay competitive wages for more qualified personnel
- No funds to create and operate specialized programs
 - Drug task forces
 - Investigation follow-up
 - No specialized unit to respond to the manufacturing of illegal drugs

Training for Law Enforcement

- Training opportunities are hindered due to not having backfill, or funds to travel for training.
- Mandates for training coming from the state. Funding is needed to bring training in locally and to accommodate shift personnel.
 - Crisis management
 - Mental health issues
 - Victims assistance
 - HOTRAC offers courses in CISM

Specialized Equipment

- Radio communication interoperability
- Insufficient funds to purchase basic law enforcement equipment for smaller jurisdictions (i.e. vests, weapons, vehicles, etc.)
- Thermal imaging equipment
- Need for PPE and training in use.
- Body-worn cameras

Recommendations:

- Search for additional funding in the next grant period to allow for sufficient staff training.
- Ideally, it would be beneficial to have trainers within the departments. The need is to provide reimbursement to jurisdictions to send officer(s) to Train-The-Trainer courses.
- In some smaller areas, the need is great to update existing equipment and replace broken/outdated equipment
- Support and search for funding that will allow jurisdictions to purchase/replace basic equipment.
- Thermal Imaging- A non-invasive way of finding or locating missing persons or fugitives.
- Funding for qualified personnel, as well as competitive pay for existing employees to reduce turnover rate inside departments/agencies.
- Recommended that the county hire person(s) for community grant
- Writing to obtain grant funds. As well as exploring the possibilities of internship grant

Resources:

- HOTCOG Law Enforcement Training Program
- Numerous radios have been distributed through the HOTCOG Homeland Security Department, as well as, tower placements and upgrades
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children: Court Accompaniment and Law Enforcement Training
- Family Abuse Center
- Heart of Texas Regional SART

3. Increase in Domestic Violence Calls

Domestic violence is the number one cause of injury to women in the U.S. – more than mugging, rapes, and auto accidents combined, according to the Surgeon General’s Workshop on Violence and Public Health. The escalation of violence in families has become a justice, public health, and economic problem for the families themselves as well as society as a whole. Domestic violence and violence between intimate partners is a problem for Falls County because the county lacks a cohesive plan for reducing the number of incidents and the resources to mediate the damage done to the victim's families. Domestic violence crosses all racial, economic, social, and religious barriers. Violence between intimate partners continues to be a perpetual cycle leading victims to feelings of hopelessness and despair. When comparing the crime statistics from 2011 to 2012, Falls County saw a 94% increase in the number of family violence calls to law enforcement.

Gaps in the Community

The following issues require a concerted effort by all entities involved in the victim and criminal justice arena.

- Programs needed for outreach, local resources not easily accessible
- Lack of stable victim resource revenues threatens the ability of organizations to maintain core services
- Lack of resources and accessibility to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Lack of support groups for male victims.
- Lack of standardized requirements for obtaining a protective order.
- Lack of training for judges granting protective orders.
- Lack of specialized services and awareness for elderly victims of domestic violence.
- Lack of non-English speaking resources for victims of domestic violence.
- Lack of awareness among minority groups, cultural groups, and immigrants.
- Lack of awareness of available resources in the community.
- Lack of transportation.
- Lack of affordable and accessible childcare.
- Lack of awareness of cultural differences and needs.
- Lack of comprehensive case management, job training, transportation, and job search services.

- Lack of seamless continuum of care.
- Need for improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement, and other local agencies

Recommendations:

- Establish safety zones in the county (for instance in the hospital) where victims can stay until victims services can come to transport them to shelter
- Need for CASA program
- Need for a BIPP program
- Local counselor needed for court-mandated counseling

Resources:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Family Abuse Center

Statistical Information:

- Family Abuse Center
 - On average, shelter clients stay 22 days at the Family Abuse Center
 - In 2018, FAC received 32 hotline calls from Falls County and worked with 18 clients from Falls County.

4. Training and Awareness for County Residents Needed

Educate citizens to aid understaffed law enforcement

Recommendations:

- Promote and support local community volunteer programs such as:
 - Neighborhood Watch (NW)
 - Citizens on Patrol (COP)
 - Fire Corps
 - Police Reserves
- Continue to provide training to volunteers to keep them active in the community. Combine all volunteer agencies and offer cross-training to those who are interested.
- Monthly parent education classes

Resources:

- Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Kid Safe Program
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)
- Family Abuse Center

5. Transportation

Transport of mental health individuals takes law enforcement out-of-pocket for hours. There is a current financial burden due to law enforcement continuing to experience long processing times for individuals that are considered mental health patients. The processing and travel time take some jurisdictions out of service for several hours.

Recommendations:

- Need for more personnel and vehicles
- Coordination among services
- Need for city transportation

Resources:

- Central Texas Senior Ministries

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

1. Mental Health Issues

Data Collection:

- Limited beds for short/long term in-house services – people are returning to society without full services
- Persons on Medicare have a harder time receiving care
- MHMR has clientele-restricted services
- Need for indigent services or funding to assist with those counselors offering services on a sliding scale based on income

Recommendations:

- More local inpatient beds or local beds in adjacent counties
- More civil beds in State hospitals
- Transportation for mental health clients
- Develop a resource list that includes solutions from outside the county

Resources/Successes:

- Hickory Trail Hospital, DeSoto
- Falls Community Hospital and Clinic
- Waco Center for Youth
- Methodist Home
- Providence –DePaul
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR

2. Sexually Active Minors

Data Collection:

- High teen pregnancy rate
- Increase in juveniles with sexually transmitted disease

Recommendations:

- Education and awareness with parents
- Outreach in schools
- Prevention efforts
- Collaboration among agencies

Resources/Successes:

- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau STAR program
- Planned Parenthood – Nobody's Fool program
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Family Abuse Center

3. Difficulty for persons in rural areas to access transportation to services offered in the City of Waco

Data Collection:

- Transportation remains to be a problematic area.
- Support grants and funding streams that offer these services, as well as, for those nontraditional hours

Recommendations:

- Public awareness of existing programs
- Marketing existing services
- Raise awareness about agencies with outreach/non-residential services in Falls County

Resources/Successes:

- Waco Transit via 6 to Success
- Rural Transit District Contractors

4. Lack of Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Data Collection:

- Lack of access to employment
- Lack of awareness of employment opportunities

Recommendations:

- Education and awareness of the disabled population
- Increase services to assist with employment – develop a competitive employment program

Resources/Successes:

- HOCTILC
- HOTRMHMR
- DARS
- DADS
- Mayor’s Committee
- Mental Health –NAMI
- Heart of Texas Goodwill

5. Lack of Adequate Bi-Lingual Services

Data Collection:

- Lack of translators
- Cultural barriers
- Fear of using services
- Confusion when seeking and receiving services

Recommendations:

- Funding of translators
- More bi-lingual literature
- More culturally sensitive literature

Resources:

- Department of State Health Services
- ESL classes at First Presbyterian Church

6. Lack of Communication of Available Programs/Services to the Public and Providers

Data Collection:

- Lack of “one-stop shop” to find services
- Lack of seamless referral system or network

Recommendations:

- Manual for health & social services
- Forum for regular communication networking
- General quality health education
- Compile a list of agencies/resources with bilingual capabilities

Resources:

- 2-1-1
- Falls County Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)
- Falls Community Hospital & Clinics

7. Homelessness

Data Collection:

- Lack of adequate health and mental health services
- National stats suggest that domestic violence is the 3rd leading cause of homelessness among families
- Family Abuse Center frequently receives hotline calls from individuals seeking shelter or needing homeless services because other homeless services and shelters are full.

Recommendations:

- Develop permanent housing for individuals
- Get homeless individuals into ongoing services
- Develop a street outreach program to address the homelessness issues of street youth by building trusting relationships with them, encouraging them to leave the streets, and providing assistance for them to move and adjust to safe and appropriate living arrangements.
- Provide a network of services to runaway and homeless youth that include outreach education, intervention and prevention services, counseling, shelter, and related services.

Resources/Successes:

- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau – Safe Place/Street Outreach Program
- VA Homeless Program
- Family Abuse Center.
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR/Runaway Homeless Youth Program and other Youth Homelessness programs/Also, many adult programs.

8. Need to address chronic diseases in the community

Data Collection:

- Limited resources to provide education
- Lack of awareness
- Need more prevention education
- High rates of chronic diseases in our community (HIV, STD, Diabetes, Stroke)
- Chronic disease surveillance registry

Recommendations:

- More disease education and prevention
- Promote more intervention services and programs

Resources:

- Falls Community Hospital & Clinics
- Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center
- Providence Health Center
- Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council

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

1. Homeland Security Strategic Plan includes private citizens' involvement in emergency response and assisting in public needs

Including, but not limited to:

- Neighborhood Watch
- Protect Texas

Recommendations:

The HOTCOG will work with jurisdictions and the County Emergency Management Coordinator to develop and/or build upon programs in all areas of the region.

Resources:

- Heart of Texas Council of Governments
- Department of State Health Services

2. Mandates to school districts concerning emergency management and response.

Needs:

- NIMS-compliant emergency management plans
- Various agency involvement in drills and actual events

Recommendations:

- The school districts and Education Service Center Region 12 will continue to work with the County Emergency Management Coordinator as well as law enforcement and other first responders to prepare the school and school-aged children for potential catastrophic events.
- CERT in schools
- Work with school districts that do not have NIMS-compliant plans
- Coordinate multi-agency involvement in drills and incidents

Resources:

- Falls County Office of Emergency Management
- Education Service Center Region 12
- Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council (HOTRAC)

Resources Available

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

Juvenile Justice:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
ESC Region 12	Education	College preparedness for students, student leadership forum
VOICE, Inc.		Substance abuse prevention services and curriculum for K-12; alcohol, tobacco, drugs. Spring break, after-school, and summer programs. La Voz Para La Familia program is a parenting curriculum delivered to Hispanic families. John Goodnight, Program Director 903.872.0180 jgoodnight@voiceinc.org www.voiceinc.org
Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYS)-OPTION HOUSE		Provides housing for runaways. Services Bell, Coryell, Lampasas, Falls, McLennan, Milam, Limestone, and Freestone counties. Provides independent living and shelter for youth that are homeless. Director: Cristy Tinkang 254.634.2085
Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	Provide a full array of mental health services to children involved in the criminal justice system. Provide truancy court support, provide assessment and treatment services to children in detention facilities, provide cross-referencing of all children booked into detention with the State data system, and provide specialized intensive casework services to children on Probation in McLennan County.
Family Abuse Center	Non-Profit Domestic Violence Shelter & Resource Center	Hotline 800.283.8401 Office 254.772.8999 www.familyabusecenter.org
Baylor S&W Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe 254.202.6533 866.332.0005 FB: TeenSafe Waco	Hospital	The Teen Safe Youth Traffic Safety Educational program focuses on teen traffic safety, driving responsibility, underage drinking, substance abuse, and driving under the influence. The program also educates parents on the laws relating to teen traffic safety. This prevention program is a combination of videos, simulations, and written materials along with computer-based simulations. This program is FREE.
Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children	501C3 Non-Profit	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides 24/7 crisis hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, counseling and case management, court accompaniment, and assistance in filing Crime Victim's Compensation and VINE

		registration through its Victim's Center program. Services may be provided via Telehealth. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, APS, or law enforcement. Educational presentations on victims' issues and prevention are available. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) are available. Office: 254.752.9330 Hotline: 254.752.7233 or 888.867.7233 www.advocacycntr.org
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Law Enforcement:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
The Heart of Texas Regional Sexual Assault Team	Victim Services	Establishes best practice recommendations for the investigation, and prosecution of adult sexual assault cases. Perform quarterly reviews of an adult sexual assault case, and complete reports to Commissioners Courts regarding sexual assault cases in Falls County, Limestone County, Freestone County, Hill County, and Bosque County. Conduct training for law enforcement, prosecution, judges, and victims' advocates.
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	Substance Abuse Treatment	Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) provides alcohol and drug screenings, as well as assessments, referrals, crisis intervention, education, support, and case management. All services are free. Jamie Schmitt 254.297.7771 or 800-841-1255 jamie.schmitt@bbtrails.org
Behavioral Health Network	Mental Health	Provide training and consultation services for law enforcement through workshops, jail personnel training, academy training, and through ongoing discussions with line staff. Provide emergency services which include 24-hour crisis support, inpatient services, evaluation unit placements, and information and referral. Work with jail staff in all six counties providing services to inmates while incarcerated who have mental health issues. Provide specialized intensive casework services in Hill and McLennan Counties pairing mental health staff with probation and parole officers. Provide regional screening and continuity of care services for all inmates in TDC in the Central Texas area.
Family Abuse Center	Domestic Violence Shelter & Resource Center	24-hour Hotline 800.283.8401 Office 254.772.8999 www.familyabusecenter.org
Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children		Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides 24/7 crisis hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, counseling and case management, court accompaniment, and assistance in

		filing Crime Victim's Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim's Center program. Services may be provided via Telehealth. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, APS, or law enforcement. Educational presentations on victims' issues and prevention are available. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) are available. Office: 254.752.9330 Hotline: 254.752.7233 or 888.867.7233 www.advocacycntr.org
HOTCOG Law Enforcement Training Program		Provides 30 + LE training classes each year. Input on TCOLE classes offered comes from regional law enforcement agencies and the Law Enforcement Training Advisory Committee (LETAC).
Counseling Network	Counseling and Training	Offering counseling services for first responders (PTSD, marriage and family, individual and group sessions). Training and consultation for law enforcement agencies. 214-724-0702 or karin@cnimetro.com

Victim Services:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children	501c3 non-profit organization	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides 24/7 crisis hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, counseling and case management, court accompaniment, and assistance in filing Crime Victim's Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim's Center program. Services may be provided via Telehealth. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, APS, or law enforcement. Educational presentations on victims' issues and prevention are available. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) are available. Office: 254.752.9330 Hotline: 254.752.7233 or 888.867.7233 www.advocacycntr.org
Area Agency on Aging HOT Benefits Counseling/Legal Awareness	HHSC	Educational events regarding prevention. Education regarding Texas Law and Elder Law Assistance with filing complaints and making reports of abuse. Links to Texas Legal Services Center and victims compensation.
Behavioral Health Network	Mental Health	A full array of mental health services to people who have been victimized fall into our targeted population identified by State Health Services which includes individuals with a diagnosis of Bipolar

		Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, or Major Depression.
Family Abuse Center	Non-Profit Domestic Violence Shelter & Resource Center	24-hour Hotline 800.283.8401 Office 254.772.8999 www.familyabusecenter.org
Counseling Network, Inc.	Counseling Services	Bi-lingual counselors are available for individual counseling with survivors of domestic abuse. Supervised Visitation for CPS-related cases. Play therapy, EMDR, and a variety of evidence-based modalities to address PTSD and anxiety-related matters. 214-724-0702 or www.cnimetro.com

Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
Area Agency on Aging HOT Benefits Counseling/Legal Awareness	Health and Human Services	Educational events regarding health and wellness, public benefits, health insurance, prevention, and resources in the HOT region. Legal documents to protect rights of health care choices
VOICE, Inc.		Substance abuse prevention services and curriculum for K-12; alcohol, tobacco, drugs. Spring break, after-school, and summer programs. La Voz Para La Familia program is a parenting curriculum delivered to Hispanic families. John Goodnight, Program Director 903.872.0180 jgoodnight@voiceinc.org www.voiceinc.org
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	Substance Abuse Treatment	Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) provides alcohol and drug screenings, as well as assessments, referrals, crisis intervention, education, support, and case management. All services are free. Jamie Schmitt 254.297.7771 or 800-841-1255 jamie.schmitt@bbtrails.org
Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network	Mental Health	Provide specialized substance abuse services to people who also have a co-occurring psychiatric disorder. Services for both youth and adults.
Waco-McLennan County Public Health District	Public Health	HIV/AIDS STD Clinic
Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council	Non-profit, 501 (C) (3) State and Federal grant funded	Prevention and education for cardiac, stroke, and trauma.
Cenikor Foundation 254.224.8881 Waco	501(c)(3)	Addiction treatment, detoxification, short-term only.

888.cenikor		
HOT Recovers! 254.297.7771 hotrecovers@gmail.com		Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Focus on education, employment, housing, peer support, transitional support, transportation, and veterans. Recovery-oriented care is what mental health and substance use treatment and rehabilitation practitioners offer in support of the person's long-term recovery efforts.
211		Help finding information and referrals to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) community organizations, and volunteer opportunities. www.211texas.org/211 or 2-1-1 option 1 or 1-877-541-7905
Texas STAR and STAR+PLUS Programs		Help with finding Medicaid medical and dental providers, education on benefits, and enrolling with a Medicaid-managed care plan. Call 1.800.964.2777.
Texas Health Steps		Education on Medicaid medical, dental, vision, mental health, and case management benefits for children birth-age 20 yrs old on Medicaid. Call 1.877.847.8377.
Counseling Network, Inc.	Outpatient counseling	Substance abuse evaluations (bio-psycho-social evaluation) with a hair follicle and UA testing are available. Group counseling for drug/alcohol treatment is available. Medicaid accepted. 214-724-0702 or www.cnimetro.com

Prevention / Intervention:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
Heart of Texas Sexual Assault Response Team	Multi-Discipline	Provides best practices guidelines for response to sexual assaults involving adult victims. Conducts cross-training for Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Mental Health, Victim Services, and Judges.
Area Agency on Aging HOT Benefits Counseling/Legal Awareness	HHSC	Educational events regarding, Prevention of ID Theft, Scams, and Financial Abuse. Education regarding Texas Law and Elder Law Assistance with filing consumer complaints and making reports of abuse.
Klaras Children's Center ECI	Early Childhood Intervention	Early intervention services to children ages birth to 3yrs who have developmental delays. Services are community-based and family-focused.
Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network	Mental Health	Mental Retardation Services (254-757-3933) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (254-752-3451) Eligibility:

		Adults (18+) Serving persons w/ severe and persistent mental illnesses: • Schizophrenia • Schizoaffective • Bipolar and • Severe Major Depression Fee: Based on monthly maximum fee schedule; accepting insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare Services: • Information/referral • Screening/assessment • Crisis services (day/night) • Crisis respite • Psychiatric/pharmacological • Jail-based assessment/ diversion services • Probation/Parole assessment and treatment • Case Management • Service Coordination • Supported Employment Also, Homelessness services for youth and adults. Hope Shelter Emergency shelter for child victims of sex trafficking.
VOICE, Inc.		Substance abuse prevention services and curriculum for K-12; alcohol, tobacco, drugs. Spring break, after-school, and summer programs. La Voz Para La Familia program is a parenting curriculum delivered to Hispanic families. John Goodnight, Program Director 903.872.0180 jgoodnight@voiceinc.org www.voiceinc.org
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services	Substance Abuse Treatment	Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) provides alcohol and drug screenings, as well as assessments, referrals, crisis intervention, education, support, and case management. All services are free. Jamie Schmitt 254.297.7771 or 800-841-1255 jamie.schmitt@bbtrails.org
Family Abuse Center	Non-Profit Domestic Violence Shelter	Hotline 800.283.8401 Office 254.772.8999
Baylor S&W Medical Center Mature Driver Program 254.202.6539 866.332.0005	Hospital, Non-profit 501c3, grant-funded	The Mature Driver Program is a traffic safety injury prevention program for drivers ages 55 and up. The program offers educational opportunities for families, caregivers, and healthcare providers. Educational opportunities cover a variety of topics; how the aging process affects driving skills, the effects of medication

		on driving, and vehicle features that can positively affect driving abilities. Presentations for caregivers on unsafe driving and how to “talk” are available.
Baylor S&W Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe 254.202.6533 866.332.0005 FB: TeenSafe Waco	Hospital	The Teen Safe Youth Traffic Safety Educational program focuses on teen traffic safety, driving responsibility, underage drinking, substance abuse, and driving under the influence. The program also educates parents on the laws relating to teen traffic safety. This prevention program is a combination of videos, simulations, and written materials along with computer-based simulations. This program is FREE.
Baylor S&W Medical Center Trauma Services Kid Safe 254.202.6538 888.675.0260	Hospital	The Kid Safe program is an injury prevention program sponsored by the Trauma Center at Hillcrest Hospital, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation. Kid Safe offers free educational classes and presentations to parents, caregivers, children, teenagers, and the community in general. Kid Safe also provides a child safety seat and booster seat distribution program. Currently, Kid Safe provides services to McLennan, Bosque, Hill, Falls, Limestone, Coryell, and Bell counties.
Department of State Health Services	Public Health	Health Service Region 7 is one of eleven health service regions of the Department of State Health Services, the state governmental agency responsible for bringing comprehensible public health services to the citizens of Texas. Health Service Region 7 serves a 30-county area in Central Texas. Health Service Region 7 Mission Statement It is our mission that we commit, through personal and organizational excellence, to be an agent of change dedicated to achieving a healthier Texas. Programs and Services <i>(please click on any of the links below to view information about those programs)</i> 1. <u>Birth Defects Monitoring Division</u> 2. <u>Children With Special Health Care Needs</u> 3. <u>Consumer Health Protection</u> 4. <u>Epidemiology</u> 5. <u>Field Office Locations</u> 6. <u>Immunization Program</u> 7. <u>Public Health Improvement</u> 8. <u>Public Health Nursing</u> 9. <u>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</u> 10. <u>Tobacco Prevention and Control</u> 11. <u>Tuberculosis Elimination Division</u> 12. <u>Vision and Hearing Services</u>

		13. <u>Zoonosis Control Program</u> Public Health Improvement Program: The mission of the DSHS Division for Regional and Local Health Services is to serve the needs of Local Public Health Agencies, DSHS Health Service Regions, and local communities in building and maintaining the capacity to provide essential public health services responsive to local needs. Falls County Hospital and Clinics 254.803.3561 DSHS Shelby.hyde@dshs.state.tx.us 217 Williams St. Marlin 76661 254.883.9203
Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children	501c3 non-profit organization	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides 24/7 crisis hotline services, sexual assault nurse examination, counseling and case management, court accompaniment, and assistance in filing Crime Victim's Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim's Center program. Services may be provided via Telehealth. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, APS, or law enforcement. Educational presentations on victims' issues and prevention are available. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) are available. Office: 254.752.9330 Hotline: 254.752.7233 or 888.867.7233 www.advocacycntr.org
ESC Region 12, Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council, Waco PD Hostage Negotiators, DSHS Region 7		Each of the listed agencies will provide crisis intervention training for first responders.
Center for Learning and Development	Non-profit Educational Support	Conducts research-based projects and provides workshops, seminars, learning tools, and group processes aimed at preventing and/or intervening with behavioral and educational difficulties.

Emergency Management

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
Falls County Emergency Management Office: EMC is Jeff Watkins	Emergency Management	The Falls County Emergency Management Office plans for disasters that may occur in the area and coordinates with other emergency management offices regionally to ensure the safety of the county.

Transportation:

HOTCOG Rural Transit District	Rural Transit	Schedule trips at a minimal cost, 254.292.1873 Schedule 48 hours in advance.
Waco Transit	Marlin Link	Schedule 4 round-trips daily 254.750.1900

Interagency Cooperation

The Falls County Community Planning Team was very involved in the planning process. All agencies were proactive in their approach to identifying the needs of the communities and by putting their special interests aside they succeeded in developing a plan to aid in prioritizing and closing the identified gaps in the community.

The Planning Team shared the different services they offer, as well as, services offered by agencies and individuals that were unable to attend the planning meeting. The team met to make updates and corrections to the previous year's plan, and the working relationship was cooperative and productive.

Law enforcement, juvenile justice, victims services, emergency management, and social services groups agreed to continue to work together to reach the overall objectives of making the Falls County communities a safer environment, as well as, increasing awareness through intervention and prevention and education.

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring, and Evaluation

The Falls 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 Falls County Community Planning Team meets each biennium to review the plan and make necessary additions and deletions. Agency and community representatives may submit suggestions and changes via telephone and e-mail throughout the year to the Community Planning Coordinator. Annual updates of the Community Plan are circulated via e-mail with requests for comments, updates, and changes. Wherever possible, e-mail is used to reduce the need for meetings, printing, postage, etc. The most current plan is posted on the www.hotcog.org website.

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

Contact Information

Falls County Community Planning Coordinator

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www.hotcog.org