

Hill County Community Plan 2026

What Is a Community Plan?

The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office (CJD) requires that each county in Texas has a Criminal Justice Community Plan to identify gaps in services regarding criminal justice issues.

This document reflects the efforts of Hill County community agencies concerned with assuring that any gaps in services are addressed, and needs are documented to the benefit of the county. The names of those involved in the process of developing this plan are listed in the following pages, under "Community Planning Team."

Though the final draft of this plan was completed in December 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 Hill 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 can be addressed to the Criminal Justice Planner of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. Contact information is provided on page 39 of this document.

The Hill County Commissioner's Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for the development and implementation of the Hill County Community Plan. Additionally, the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) and the Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Governing Board (Executive Committee) invite grant applications from county departments and community organizations to assist with filling the gaps in services identified in the Community Plan.

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

Abbott	Aquilla	Blum	Bynum
Carl's Corner	Covington	Hillsboro	Hubbard
Itasca	Malone	Mertens	Mount Calm
Penelope	Whitney		

School Districts:

Abbott ISD	Hubbard ISD
Aquilla ISD	Itasca ISD
Blum ISD	Malone ISD
Bynum ISD	Mt. Calm ISD
Covington ISD	Penelope ISD
Hillsboro ISD	Whitney ISD

Brief Description and History of Hill County:

Hill County, home to 34,321 residents and comprised of 657,452 acres of land, is located in the Central Texas Backlands, approximately 60 miles south of the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth.

The first settlers of Hill County were attracted to its rolling prairie land because of the rich soil and abundance of timber and artesian wells. With the arrival of the MKT railroad, Hillsboro became a commercial cross-road for Texas and by the turn of the century, Hill County was the second largest cotton producer in the state.

Agriculture remains the leading industry today, with agricultural commodities sales averaging about \$91,000,000 annually. Four-year average yields (2015-2018) for wheat, cotton, corn, and grain sorghum were 48 bushels/acre, 625 pounds-1.25 bale/acre, 74 bushels/acre, and 68 bushels/acre, respectively. Other than agriculture, gas exploration, and light manufacturing, Hill County is economically driven by light industry and retail outlets.

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Hill County: Lana Gudgel the 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. Some members serve in multiple capacities and categories.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Justin Lewis	Hill County Judge
Tina Lincoln	Hill County Juvenile Probation Department
Beverly McCarley	Hill Co Indigent Healthcare
Chris Cary	Hillsboro DPS
Aleigh Ascherl	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
Tom Hemrick	Hill County Emergency Preparedness Manager
Hunter Barnes	Hill County Sheriff
Samantha Dietzler	Family Abuse Center

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. Countywide 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 Hill 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 Hill 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 criminal and juvenile justice system segments.

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 the problems' existence and severity as they are found in Hill County. Below is a discussion of the problems, the manner and how they are being addressed, and strategically how responses to these community problems could be improved. In some problem areas identified, there is no current data to support the problem areas, due to the funding and program cuts taking effect within the last few months. The data collection will be added to the plan as the problem area statistics become available throughout the year.

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

1. Juvenile Crime

DATA COLLECTION:

Hill County falls within the North Texas region regarding oversight by its governing agency, Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). The North Texas region has seen a rise in violent juvenile criminal activity and has seen an increase in commitments to TJJD.

Referrals to the Juvenile Probation Department continue to be consistent, while treatment needs, including mental health and substance abuse, of the youth have increased significantly. There were 455 referrals in FY 22023, 54 % were male, 46% female. 69 referrals were formal, 4 referrals were other, and 382 were prevention/intervention referrals. In FY23, the court placed 4 youths, 1 youth was committed to TJJD. Access to detention was an identified as a significant issue which resulted in the county paying for two pre-paid beds for detention beginning FY24. The numbers reflect a trend being seen with juvenile offenders due to the treatment needs of the youth increasing.

Schools are generally understaffed concerning student-teacher and student-counselor ratios and find it difficult to address individual needs. At-risk, residents may be overlooked and are often behind academically before anyone identifies the problem and takes action. Further, at-risk students are more likely to enter the juvenile justice system.

Communities need to provide a full range of services to youth. To meet the needs of the youth involved in the juvenile justice system, targeted mental health and substance services must be available at all levels of need. Services that target this population include early intervention and prevention programs, diversion programs, services in detention, and aftercare treatment.

Risk factors in children should be identified as early as possible with services to include evaluations in all domains.

Intervention services, if needed, should be available to all children.

Access to programs and services for youth attending alternative schools needs to be addressed.

The school, family, and community at large must continue to work together to strengthen awareness and support students' attendance, academic success, and graduation.

Greater awareness of the importance of education and its lifelong impact must be provided to intermediate, middle, and high school youth.

First-generation citizens are unable to navigate the complex systems of barriers to attending school.

There is a lack of interim services for youth on waiting lists.

There is a lack of coordination and lack of funding between the involved systems which results in uneven access to services and programs, duplication of services, missed identification of at-risk youth, philosophical barriers, and ineffective intervention/treatment strategies.

Services are often provided in a piecemeal fashion or address only a fragment of the problem. Strategies should include intensive service plan coordination as well as a “wrap around” approach that targets all domains (psychological, academic, physical, family, social, economic, and mental health/substance abuse).

Instances of delinquency, violence, and serious misbehaviors from children and youth continue to increase.

There is a need for education for juveniles regarding sexual crimes and age of culpability, and human trafficking risks and victimization.

Recommendations:

- Search and obtain grants that will provide local services for juvenile crime prevention.
- Support programs that will allow for aftercare services that provide extended support, treatment, and prevention for all youth after placement.
- Educate youth and parents on the value of completing high school by exposing them to career opportunities related to school completion.
- Expand stay-in-school, after-school, and school appreciation activities for all youth.
- Provide information to youth and parents regarding financial assistance for pursuing advanced training opportunities or education.
- Continue programs that reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and strengthen protective factors that prevent such behavior; prevention programs addressing youth issues including a range of behaviors such as impulsivity, bullying, and racial name-calling and threats, as these are precursors to more violent and aggressive behaviors; prevention program addressing coping skills, social competency skills, and enhancement of personal responsibility and respect for others.
- Enhance the availability of services, both inpatient and outpatient, for children and adolescents who have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder and mental health issues.
- Develop mechanisms for improving communication and collaboration among providers who serve juvenile offenders.
- 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.
- Create programs addressing Anger Management for children and adolescents.
- Provide programs addressing goal setting for children and adolescents
- Outpatient counseling programs for children and adolescents.
- Continued funding for school-based mental health tandems.
- Education for all school districts and communities on human trafficking.

Resources/Successes:

- The Hill County Juvenile Resource Officer/Truancy Prevention Program helps reduce truancy by intervention, filing complaints, and education related to truancy and juvenile law to school districts.
- Family Abuse Center
- The Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provide case management and counseling to juveniles referred for issues related to victimization at no cost. Prevention education programming is available to school districts, civic organizations,

churches, and other groups interested in addressing Hill County community concerns regarding changing attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that tend to lead toward sexual violence...

- All Church Homes provide early intervention counseling.
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator
- Crime prevention training (emphasis on illegal gang activity, bullying, and substance abuse) is provided to all local school districts by the Juvenile Probation Department.
- A substance abuse program has been developed for all parents, teachers, and administrators in Hill County.
- Two school-based mental health tandems were created through the Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network System of Care grant.
- Heart of Texas Human Trafficking Coalition, Unbound, Common Thread
- Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition
- Boys and Girls Club of Hill County
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network

2. Truancy and School Dropouts

Truancy is often the least enforced juvenile crime in most communities within Hill County. In fiscal year 2023, a significant increase in truancy referrals has been experienced. A total of 382 referrals regarding truancy were received. There is substantial evidence that youth who become truant will eventually drop out of school. Truancy, tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use are often linked and can lead to other chronic delinquent behaviors. Coupled with academic failure, truancy is an early warning sign of an “at risk” youth. According to the Department of Education/National Center for Education Statistics, over the past decade between 347,000 and 544,000, 10th through 12th-grade students left school each year without having earned a high school diploma. The high percentage of students dropping out of high school jeopardizes the future economic security of the target area, increases the number of individuals with low educational attainment levels, and indicates a definite need for academic and prevention services.

Data Collection:

There is a need to continue the efforts of the Juvenile Probation Department through the Hill County Juvenile Resource Officer to decrease truancy and promote completion of high school in Hill County.

- Schools are generally understaffed in student-teachers and student-counselors find it difficult to address individual needs. At-risk students may be overlooked and behind academically and unable to catch up before anyone identifies the problem and takes action.
- The school, family, and community at large must continue to work together to strengthen awareness and support students’ attendance, academic success, and graduation.
- Greater awareness of the importance of education and its life-long impact must be provided to middle and junior high school youth.
- First-generation citizens are unable to navigate the complex systems of barriers to attending school.
- Communities need to provide the full range of services to youth. To meet the needs of the youth before involvement in the juvenile justice system, targeted mental health and substance services must be available at all levels of need. Services that target this population include early intervention and prevention programs, diversion programs, services in detention, and aftercare treatment.
- Risk factors in children should be identified as early as possible with services to include evaluations in all domains.
- Intervention services, as needed, should be available to all children.

- There are currently no easily accessible and coordinated programs for youth experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- Access to programs and services for youth attending alternative schools needs to be addressed.
- Interim services for youth on waiting lists are lacking.
- There is a lack of communication and coordination between the systems involved which results in uneven access to services and programs, duplication of services, missed identification of at-risk youth, philosophical barriers, and ineffective intervention/treatment strategies.
- Services are often provided in a piecemeal fashion or address only a fragment of the problem. Strategies should include intensive service plan coordination as well as a “wrap around” approach that targets all domains (psychological, academic, physical, family, social, economic, and mental health/substance abuse).
- Instances of delinquency, violence, and persistent misbehaviors of children and youth continue to increase.

Recommendations:

- Support programs that will allow aftercare services that provide extended support, treatment, and prevention.
- Expand stay-in-school, after-school, and school appreciation activities.
- Expose youth to the value of pursuing higher education through college visitation programs.
- Provide information to youth and parents regarding financial assistance for pursuing advanced training opportunities or education.
- Educate youth and parents on the value of graduation from high school; expose them to career opportunities or education.
- Educate youth and parents on the value of graduation from high school; expose them to career opportunities related to school completion and advanced education.
- Continue programs that reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and emphasize protective factors that prevent such behavior. Supportive prevention programs should address issues of impulsive bullying, and racial name-calling and threats, as these are precursors to more violent and aggressive behaviors. Coping, social competency skills, enhancement of personal responsibility, and respect for others must be included in the curricula.
- Ensure 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.
- Raise awareness among policymakers of funding needs to develop new services or improve existing services.
- Educate the general public about the behavioral health needs of children and adolescents.
- Develop a tracking system to follow a child through juvenile justice, mental health, and/or substance abuse treatment programs.
- Foster outpatient counseling programs for children and adolescents.
- Provide rural transportation for school-aged youth to access alternative school and after-school programs.

Resources/Successes:

- Hill County Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program and Juvenile Truancy Court
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, School Based Mental Health Program

- The Hill County Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program helps reduce truancy by intervention, filing cases, and education to school districts.
 - Family Abuse
 - The Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides case management and counseling to juveniles referred for issues related to victimization at no cost. Prevention education programming is available to school districts, civic organizations, churches, and other groups interested in addressing Hill County community concerns regarding changing attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that tend to lead toward sexual violence.
 - All Church Homes offers free counseling services to non-adjudicated youth and their families.

3. Juvenile Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Data Collection:

- Drug and alcohol abuse continues to be a problem, as substances are easily accessed.
- In FY 2023, 7% of supervised youth tested positive for illegal substances according to the Hill County Juvenile Probation Department. 1151 tests were administered with 77 of those resulting in positive screens.
- There are limited youth substance abuse programs in Hill County. HOTBHN has begun substance abuse counseling services and provides services to adolescents in the county and serves as the providers for the Hill County Juvenile Drug Court Program.
- Creation of “preventive programs” for alcohol and/or drug use intervention services is needed.

Recommendations:

- Support and provide funding sources to allow for prevention, treatment, and follow-up care for juveniles struggling with addictions and peer pressure.
- Develop a tracking system to follow a child through juvenile justice, mental health, and/or substance abuse treatment programs.
- Develop programs that address Anger Management for children and adolescents
- Develop programs that address goal setting for children and adolescents
- Develop early identification and intervention programs that can divert children and adolescents into treatment

Resources/Successes:

- The Hill County Juvenile Probation Department offers free prevention programs and schools are encouraged to inquire. They have provided presentations during Red Ribbon Week and other times for school districts in Hill County.
- Hill County Juvenile Drug Court Program offers a pre- and post- adjudicated non-residential program for drug offenders through a partnership with HOTBHN
- Baylor S&W Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe Program - Education for Drivers (RED) Program- juvenile offenders can be referred to attend the one-day program.
- Crime prevention training (emphasis on sexting, gang activity, bullying, substance and alcohol abuse, and e-cigarettes or vaping) is provided to local school districts by the Juvenile Probation Department.
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network.

4. No Juvenile Detention Center

In fiscal year 2023, a total number of 23 youths were detained at a contracted juvenile detention facility. Currently, the Juvenile Probation Department pays \$200- \$350 per day to house juvenile

offender's dependent on offense and facility use. The total detention expense for FY 2023 exceeded \$46000.00.

After the initial arrest, the juvenile probation department staff is responsible for all transport to and from detention/placement and all required appointments. This puts a significant financial burden on the department, as well as limits staff interaction due to being required to be in the field frequently. Availability of juvenile detention beds has become an issue and there have been circumstances where youth have not been detained because of no availability. A recent trip to juvenile detention was a 2 ½ drive one way.

Data Collection:

- There is currently no discussion on the building of a juvenile facility within Hill County.

Recommendations:

- Increase funding for the secure detention of youth.
- Increase funding for the juvenile probation department to adequately maintain vehicles for the transport of youth.
- Increase funding for the juvenile probation department and/or sheriff's department to hire additional staff to assist in the excessive amount of transports required.

Resources:

- None currently available.

5. Lack of Youth Services

Data Collection:

- Lack of mentoring programs
- Lack of services for first-offender youth
 - First offender programs are needed to divert youth from the juvenile justice system
- Lack of leadership and mentorship training for youth

Recommendations:

- Seek additional funding for the juvenile probation department to continue and enhance the Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program, intervention programs, and the drug court programs.
- Increase funding opportunities for programs such as the Boys and Girls Club.
- Increase funding opportunities for 4-H programs.

Resources:

- Drug court offers an alternative to court for a first misdemeanor offense. Truancy Prevention and Intervention programs provide intervention through referrals.
- Boys and Girls Club
- Hill County has hosted two Human Trafficking training events aimed at rural communities and local schools and churches have access to requested training.
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, Crisis Respite Center for Youth, and Runaway Homeless Youth Program
- City of Hillsboro Recreational Programs
- Mentors Care Program at Hillsboro and Itasca High School.

6. Increase in Sexual Assault

Each year males and females are victims of sexual abuse which often leads to shame and emotional and psychological trauma.

Data Collection:

- Sexual assault by juvenile offenders continues to be a major problem in Hill County.
- There are no services for juveniles that are sexual offenders available in Hill County. Offenders are expected to go to Waco and Cleburne for services.
- Sexual assault is an extremely personal and potentially devastating form of victimization. Many require years to recover from the physical and emotional effects caused by sexual assault. Many rape victims of rape experience the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and may exist in a psychological cycle of depression, fear, anger, shame, and secrecy.
- The crime of rape may also greatly impact an entire community in a variety of ways. It can shatter the sense of safety and trust among the citizens. A community may also experience both a psychological and financial toll as well.
- During the fiscal year 2022, the Advocacy Center offered services to 16 victims of crime through the Victim's Center, 61 forensic interviews, and 3 sexual assault exams for Hill County residents. Services included counseling, case management, and investigation collaboration with the Hill County Multi-disciplinary team.

Recommendations:

Seek and obtain grants for local treatment services for offenders and treatment placement.

The following services are needed:

- Education of the public about acquaintance rape and sexual assault
- Education of the public about resources available for rape and sexual assault victims
- Expansion of counseling and advocacy services for rape and sexual assault victims
- Expansion of services available to male victims of sexual assault
- Expansion of efforts to increase the reporting of rape and sexual assault incidents
- Expansion of services available to handicapped victims of rape and sexual assault
- Expansion of services available to non-English speaking victims of rape & sexual assault and the elderly
- School and community education on Human Trafficking

Resources/Successes:

- Family Crisis Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children: Prevention education programming is available to school districts, civic organizations, churches, and other groups interested in addressing Hill County community concerns regarding changing attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that tend to lead toward sexual violence. Case management and counseling are offered to survivors of sexual assault in the Hillsboro office.
- Advocacy Center offers free counseling to those suffering from secondary trauma, including but not limited to first responders, medical/mental health personnel, CPS, APS, educators, and attorneys.
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator
- Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE)
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, / Hope Shelter Emergency Shelter services for child victims of sex trafficking

Stats:

- During the fiscal year 2023, the Advocacy Center offered services to 178 survivors of crime, 77 forensic interviews, and 4 sexual assault exams for Hill County residents,

Services included counseling, case management, and investigation collaboration with Hill County Multi-disciplinary team.

7. Gang Activity

Data Collection:

- Gang activity has been recognized as a problem in Hill County schools and the community.

Recommendations:

- Provide gang prevention training to all teachers, law enforcement, school administrators, and juvenile probation officers.

Resources:

- Prevention training is being provided through Victims Assistance, Juvenile Probation Department, and Hillsboro PD.
- Crime prevention training (emphasis on sexting, gang activity, bullying, substance and alcohol abuse, and e-cigarettes or vaping) may be provided to local school districts by the Juvenile Probation Department.
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, /Gang Awareness and Prevention Safety Program

8. Lack of Viable Youth Activities

Data Collection:

- There are limited programs available to the youth of Hill County for after-school or summers.
- There are limited public recreational facilities for youth.
- There are limited ongoing youth leadership programs available to all youth.

Recommendations:

- Continue with the County Resource Coordination Group (CRCG) to increase awareness of needs and possible solutions
- Increase funding opportunities for programs such as the Boys and Girls Club and 4-H programs.

Resources/Successes:

- Hill College continues to sponsor summer programs for youth.
- Fort Graham Baptist Church After School Program
- Summer programs offered for youth at participating school districts
- Boys and Girls Club
- City of Hillsboro Recreational Programs

9. Lack of Job Skills for Youth

Data Collection:

- Develop age-appropriate in-school programs for schools that focus on career options, job readiness, interviews, and work-related skills.
- Develop a speakers' bureau of county business persons willing to give presentations to students.
- Develop strategies to utilize the distance learning facilities at Harris Education Center and Hill County schools to be used in speakers' bureau events, career awareness, day events, etc.
- Develop parent education programs and implement them in Hill County schools.

- Develop mentoring programs to provide 1:1 partnering with students and representatives from the community/workplace.
- Develop additional General Education Degree (GED) and English as Second Language (ESL) classes and make them available to the public.
- Develop community volunteer programs to help staff mentoring and parent education programs, etc.
- Develop strategies to promote Partnership in Community Supervision (PACES) in all Hill County high schools; target at-risk students.

Recommendations:

- Develop mentoring programs to provide 1:1 partnering with students and representatives from the community/workplace.

Resources/Successes:

- Parenting classes offered through All Church Home in Hillsboro ISD
- GED and ESL offered through All Church Home, Hillsboro ISD, Hill College, Heart of Texas Workforce
- Engagement with Texas Workforce Commission and Communities in Schools
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR/Transition Age Youth program

10. Lack of Transitional Services for Special Needs Youth Exiting Public School

Data Collection:

- Mental health
- Education
- Employment

Recommendations:

- Cooperative Team Building programs are needed.

Resources/Successes:

- Independent Living Center and Adult Rehabilitation Center (Arc) of Texas
- The Heart of Texas Transitional Council offers a 2-hour training for parents.
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR System of Care grant TAY (Transitional Age Youth) program
- Engagement with Texas Workforce Commission and Communities in Schools

11. Insufficient Facilities for Existing and New Programming for Youth, Including Region 12, and Juvenile Probation

Data Collection:

None

Recommendations:

- Explore funding resources for juvenile services

Resources/Successes

- Cenikor Foundation

12. Child Safety

Child safety concerns in Hill County range from lack of appropriate after-school care to child abduction and sexual assault to environmental hazards. The lack of safe bike and walking routes

to school results in a reduction of physical activity for children and adds to parental stress in transporting children.

Data Collection:

- Law enforcement
- Healthcare providers
- School officials
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children

Recommendations:

- Put crosswalks, pedestrian crossings, and safety lights in areas that are dangerous to children and other pedestrians.
- Develop bike and walking trails which are safe, well-lit, and monitored for safety.
- Increase the number of neighborhood parks.
- Increase and fund positive activities for youth after school, evenings, and weekends.

Resources:

- Churches with youth facilities and gyms
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children – Prevention and Education Program
- Heart of Texas Human Trafficking Coalition
- Boys and Girls Club
- Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition

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

1. Lack of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program

Data Collection:

- Hill County Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG) and Domestic Violence Task Force, along with the Advocacy Center, will be contacting local hospitals regarding this issue. The feasibility of having the program brought to the county will be determined.
- Family violence and sexual assault continue to rise

Recommendations:

- Explore and support projects to obtain a SANE Nurse program in hospitals
- Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG) in Hill County

Resources:

- The Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children convenes the Hill County multi-disciplinary team monthly to review cases of child abuse or neglect.
- The Advocacy Center will pay travel, hotel, and per diem for nurses wishing to attend the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) training provided by the Office of the Attorney General.
- The Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children also provides similar training on sexual assault and child abuse.
- Hospital administrators are informed about pending SAFE classes and indicate staff participation. Continued follow-up by the Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator will explore the availability of a SAFE nurse.
- Heart of Texas Sexual Assault Response Team.
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR/Hope Shelter Emergency shelter for child victims of sex trafficking

2. Limited Services for Domestic Violence Victims

Data Collection:

Family Violence and domestic sexual assault continue to rise

- Stable victim resource revenues to enable organizations to maintain core services
- Resources and access to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Identify and outreach to male victims
- Standardized 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 to shelter
- Outreach to the lesbian and gay population
- Comprehensive case management, transportation, and job search services
- Seamless continuum of care
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement, and other local agencies
- Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) for repeat Family Violence offenders
- Need education and counseling for perpetrators
- Need for local emergency shelter
- Need for primary prevention programming
- Need for quicker results with Crime Victim's Compensation (CVC)

Recommendations:

- Strengthen relationships between FAC Rural Advocate, transportation, law enforcement, and local agencies
- Creation of a batterer's intervention program
- Acquire space to see domestic violence victims for Hill County
- Identify and provide services for survivors of sexual violence
- Develop a system between FAC and police departments for filling CVC through Presumptive Eligibility

Resources:

- Family Abuse Center:
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides case management, counseling, court accompaniment, and assistance with filing crime victims' compensation forms and registering for VINE in the Hillsboro office.
- Advocacy Center offers free counseling to all providers suffering from secondary trauma, including but not limited to first responders, medical/mental health personnel, CPS, APS, educators, and attorneys.
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator

Statistical Information:

- Family Abuse Center
 - On average, shelter clients stay 22 days at the Family Abuse Center
 - The Family Abuse Center hotline received 56 calls from Hill County residents in 2022 and served 8 clients from Hill County.

3. Crimes Against Children and Child Abuse

Data Collection:

The needs of children are complex and varied.

- Need for a multi-discipline investigation of crimes against children and child abuse
- There is currently a lack of resources for foster children. Trained volunteers, more foster homes, and emergency shelters are needed in Hill County.
- Need for education and prevention programming
- Counseling and support for secondary victims

Recommendations:

- Funds and support programs that will provide for the recruitment of volunteers, training, and education for foster care parents and volunteers.
- Collaboration between ISDs and colleges to provide prevention education

Resources:

- Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA)
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Family Abuse Center
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator

4. Limited Victim Services for Family Members Affected by Homicide and Suicide

Data Collection:

Secondary victims

Services for family members affected by suicide or homicide

- Counseling and support

- Education and intervention services concerning traumatic grief
- Resources for adults dealing with issues of grief
- Services for mental health issues
- Services to non-English speaking populations
- Awareness of services to address victim rights
- Continue collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement, and other local agencies.
- Court accompaniment

Recommendations:

- Support projects that expand services to secondary victims of violent crimes.

Resources:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Family Abuse Center
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator
- Hill County Resource Coordination Group (CRCG)

5. Limited Accommodations for Special Need Populations

Data Collection:

Defined as people with physical and mental disabilities, older adults, language barriers, and undocumented status

Recommendations:

- Support groups and projects that provide needed services to county residents
- Case management/counseling
- Forensic interviews

Resources:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides forensic interviews, medical exams, case management, and counseling to clients with special needs
- Adult Protective Services
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator

6. DWI Incidents Involving Victims Services for Intoxicated Injury and Death

Data Collection:

Effective and consistent monitoring of DWI offenders is necessary to ensure that offenders are attending and completing court-ordered alcohol education classes, counseling, and other treatment regularly and that they are complying with all other conditions of supervision. Monitoring is also critical in determining whether offenders' alcohol-related problems and issues are being addressed effectively.

Recommendations:

- Support groups and projects that provide these services to the county
- Pursue funding streams and resources to support prevention and treatment programs
- Support Drug and Alcohol Court Programs with mandatory participation
- Seek medically supervised alcohol detoxification services for offenders suffering from acute alcohol abuse
- Need for affordable residential and supportive outpatient services for offenders needing longer-term care.

- Utilize Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) that provide affordable and appropriate treatment services for employees with alcohol problems
- Ensure supervision of all DWI offenders who are required by law to have an ignition interlock
- Victim Impact Panel may be added through County Attorney's Office
- Counseling and support services for family members and friends
- Forensic interviews for children involved in cases resulting from intoxication or drug-endangering incidents.

Resources:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator
- The Hill County Youth Substance Abuse Coalition (HCYSAC) began and provides education to the community and supports and participates in programs that will help reduce substance abuse in youth.

7. 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.

Recommendations:

- Develop task forces to address domestic violence and sexual assault
- Motivate DA's office, judges, lawyers, and law enforcement to work together and raise awareness about domestic violence in their communities.
- 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:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children – case management, counseling, prevention, and education staff programming to school districts, civic organizations, churches, and other groups interested in addressing Hill County community concerns regarding changing attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that tend to lead toward sexual violence.
- The Heart of Texas Sexual Assault Response Team.

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

1. Equipment

Data Collection:

- Communication
 - Radios
 - Communication Centers
 - Repeaters
 - Mobile Data Terminals
 - RMS and CAD
 - Telephone/Telephone Service (PDA)
 - Body-worn cameras
- Vehicles and associated equipment
 - K-9 units
 - Support vehicles for special usage
 - Juvenile Probation
 - Adult Probation
 - Tactical unit

2. Funding Shortages

Data Collection:

- Limited salaries/benefits for attraction and retention of quality law enforcement personnel
 - No available funds for new personnel.
- No funds to create and operate task-specific programs
 - School Resource Officers
 - Drug task forces
 - Investigation follow-up
 - Gang and juvenile crime
- Limited law enforcement with issue-specific training
 - Victims' assistance
 - Crisis management
 - Mental health issues
 - Training in child passenger safety issues – KidSafe
 - Need for available funding for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and PPE training
- Small cities' police departments constrained in size and funding
 - Note: The population of Whitney increases by 30,000 to 50,000 from Friday to Sunday due to recreational facilities. This creates issues for Whitney and other Hill County communities as this generates unusual levels of traffic and an increase in criminal activity overall.
 - Need for emergency assistance for displaced, homeless, and indigent individuals
- RMS and CAD

Recommendations:

- Search and obtain grants and funding sources to support personnel and training.
- Need for treatment within Criminal Justice System
- Develop agreements with local vendors to provide services
- Training in crisis intervention for sexual assault and domestic violence

Resources:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Hill County Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator

- Family Crisis Center, Johnson County
- KidSafe Program at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center
- HOTCOG Law Enforcement Training Program
- Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council offers courses in Critical Incident Stress Management for first responders and other partners
- Hillsboro Police Department, Hill College, and Hill County Juvenile Probation Department

3. Victims Services

Child Abuse

- 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
- Supervised visitation and exchange center for children to safely visit their parents without repercussions of violence in their homes

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
- 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 to shelter
- Services specific to the lesbian and gay population
- Comprehensive case management, transportation, and job search services
- Seamless continuum of care
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement, and other local agencies
- Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) for repeat Family Violence offenders.
- Need education and counseling for the perpetrators
- Need for local emergency shelter
- Need for primary prevention programming

Secondary Victims

Post-suicide services for family members affected by suicide or homicide.

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
- Services for mental health issues
- Organized, and 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

- Need for supervised visitation and exchange center

Recommendations:

- Support projects that provide outreach and support for victims of violent crimes.
- Establish a supervised visitation/safe exchange center for the HOTCOG geographical area

Resources/Successes:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides case management, counseling, court accompaniment, and assistance with filing crime victims' compensation forms and registering for VINE in the Hillsboro office.
- Advocacy Center offers free counseling to all providers suffering from secondary trauma, including but not limited to first responders, medical/mental health personnel, CPS, APS, educators, and attorneys.
- Family Abuse Center
- Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR/ Hope Shelter Emergency Shelter for child victims of sex trafficking

Statistical Information:

- Family Abuse Center
 - On average, shelter clients stay 22 days at the Family Abuse Center
 - In 2022, FAC received 56 hotline calls from Hill County and worked with 8 clients from Hill County.
- During the fiscal year 2023, the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children served 178 clients for case management/counseling, conducted 77 forensic interviews, and 4 sexual assault exams for Hill County residents. Services included counseling, case management, and investigation collaboration with Hill County Multi-disciplinary team.

4. Substance Abuse – Adult and Juvenile (see Juvenile Justice section)

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. 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.

Data Collection:

In a study conducted by the Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice 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 the 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.

DUI/DWI

- High incident rates
- Insufficient law enforcement manpower to process within local jurisdictions, smaller departments have to use DPS services which may not be available

Recommendations:

- Seek and obtain grants and funding sources to support additional personnel
- Petition the Governor's Office to support programs like the methamphetamine program

Resources/Successes:

- Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe
- Voices, Inc.
- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- State-certified DWI and Drug Education and substance abuse counseling for adults through the Hill County Community Supervisions and Corrections Department (CSCD).
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Victim Impact Panels are put on twice a year for first and second-time DWIs
- Hill County MHMR for Dual Diagnosis clients
- Hill County Supervision and Corrections Department (Adult Probation) alcohol and drug education for adults
- The Hill County Youth Substance Abuse Coalition (HCYSAC) began and provides education to the community and supports and participates in programs that will help reduce substance abuse in youth.
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR

5. Enforcement, Education, and Prevention Issues Relating to Methamphetamines

Data Collection:

- Lack of urban and rural community awareness of increased use, manufacturing techniques, warning signs, and environmental concerns
- Lack of partnership among the retail community enforcement and prevention efforts
- Lack of oversight in remediation (environmental response)
- Anhydrous ammonia theft
- Lack of treatment resources available to identify and treat methamphetamine abuse

Recommendations:

- Establish a resource list with contacts for local agencies to access information and services in their areas.
 - Need an up-to-date list of contacts and resources.
 - Needs to be updated regularly
 - Develop a resource list per county to be distributed to all local agencies.
 - Assisting in the investigation of crimes of this nature by offering forensic interviews of drug-endangered children

Resources:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children

6. Animal Control Problems

Data Collection:

- Limited animal sheltering facilities throughout the county
- Limited animal control officers due to lack of funding

Recommendations:

- Obtain funding for personnel and equipment

Resources:

- PAW PALS of Hill County
- RNJ Animal Rescue Services

7. Nuisance Abatement

Data Collection:

- Limited funding for nuisance abatement
- Limited development of opportunities

Recommendations:

- Public/private partnerships for redevelopment
- Obtain funding for personnel and equipment

Resources:

None

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

1. Limited Services for Individuals with Mental Health Issues

Data Collection:

- Severe eligibility limitations for services. MHMR can only service a specific population.
- Lack of counseling services for individuals with mental health problems
- Lack of out-patient services, especially for youth

Recommendations:

- Search and obtain funding streams that will allow for more services to be provided for persons with mental health issues
- Transportation from rural areas to city where services are provided
- Continue funding for school-based mental health programs.

Resources/Successes:

- Lack of Whitney Medical Clinic Senior Care
- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Hill County Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator
- Hill County MHMR, System of Care grant
- Resources available for First Responders through the Hillsboro Department of Public Safety CISM Team

2. Accessing Healthcare and Dental Services for the Indigent or the Disabled

Data Collection:

- Transportation from rural areas to the city where the services are provided continues to be a problem
- Lack of education and accessibility to Medicaid and CHIPS systems

Recommendation:

- Support projects that will allow for transportation to be provided for persons who have appointments during “non-traditional” hours. Public Health Clinic has been a success in the past; however, due to recent program cuts, not all services needed are being provided to the rural community.
- Increase funding for rural transit programs

Resources:

- Hill County Indigent Healthcare

- HOTCOG Rural Transit
- Hope Dental Clinic – Waxahachie
- Mission Hillsboro
- Tx HHS Community Partner Program
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR/Hill County Integrated Health Clinic

3. Substance Abuse – Adult and Juvenile (see Juvenile Justice Section)

Data Collection:

- Lack of local resources and limited support groups
- School awareness, prevention, and intervention
- Family involvement
- Residential treatment facility

Recommendations:

- Support projects that can bring the needed resources into the area, as well to the rural communities

Resources:

- Hill County Juvenile Drug Court Program, for juveniles who have committed an alcohol or drug offense
- Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe Program
- Hill County Crime Victims Assistance Coordinator
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR

4. Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs

Tobacco use is a common problem in Texas and Hill County. Although some small progress has been made in the number of “smoke-free” facilities, smokeless tobacco continues to be a problem. Tobacco usage among children and youth continues to be a problem.

Data Collection:

- Health Care Providers
- School Districts
- DSHS Office of Tobacco Prevention and Control

Recommendations:

- Implement tobacco cessation programs
- Media campaign
- Promote free State Quit-line
- Promotion of tobacco prevention in county schools, targeting youth and middle school students
- Education update on point of purchase and enforcement
- Increase education for the schools and community on the dangers of e-cigarettes and vaping.

Success/Resources:

- Point of purchase education and enforcement has been implemented.
- Voice, Inc. has a curriculum for K-12
- The Hill County Juvenile Probation Department has provided the Dangers of Vaping presentation to Itasca ISD, Hillsboro Intermediate, Hillsboro Junior High

5. Crisis Management

Data Collection:

- Many individuals with mental health issues go untreated until in a crisis or when they come into contact with law enforcement. Recent legislative cuts in Medicaid funding have increased the likelihood of individuals being unable to seek mental health services until they are in crisis.
 - Law enforcement needs training in identifying and dealing with mental health-related incidents.
- Accessing health care, in general, is an issue.
- Issues of teen pregnancy continue to be a concern.
- Under-educated population
- Juvenile gang activity on the rise.

Recommendations:

- Support projects that can bring the needed resources into the area, as well as to the rural communities.

Resources:

- Lake Whitney Medical Clinic Behavioral Center 24-hour on call
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children maintains a 24-hour hotline for crisis intervention and coordinated response to Sexual Assault and other violent crimes.
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR/Crisis Respite Center for Youth

Transportation Issues

1. County-wide Transportation System

- Stations are needed in Hillsboro, Itasca, Whitney, Hubbard, and possibly a link to Waco
- People cannot get to where the services are
- Need buses that run from each station and back to make it easier to get to the services
- Expand access to services to all areas in Hill County

2. Child Passenger Safety

- New CPS law requiring children up to age 8, unless they are 4 foot 9 inches tall to ride in a child safety seat
- County child restraint usage rate is lower than the national and state average.
- Need for more educational services
- Need for a greater number of no-cost or low-cost child safety seats for families in need.

Resource:

- KidSafe Program at Hillcrest
- Family Abuse Center;
- Hillsboro PD
- LeFluer Transportation, call 48 hours ahead

3. Teen Driver's Education

- 75% of all fatal crashes occur in rural counties in Texas
- Establish county-wide driver's education course

4. Alcohol and Drug Awareness

- Teen driver education
- Need for greater awareness within the community that teen driving safety and use of alcohol and drugs is a problem

Resource:

- The Hillsboro Police Department, through the School Resource Officer, began and provides education to the community and supports and participates in programs that will help reduce substance abuse in youth.
- The Hill County Juvenile Probation Department offers free prevention programs and schools are encouraged to inquire. They have provided presentations during Red Ribbon Week and other times for school districts in Hill County.
- Baylor Scott & White KidSafe program

5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues

- Limited safe riding routes for bicyclists
- Limited safe sidewalks and pedestrian walking trails
- Low bicycle helmet usage rate in Hill County
- Limited educational services provide on bicycle and pedestrian safety issues
- Need for expanded sidewalks and repair of existing sidewalks.
- Need for safe bicycling routes and trails

Resource:

- Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council

6. Senior Driving Safety

- High number of senior drivers in Hill County
- High poverty level for residents ages 65 and older
- Limited transportation options for older drivers
- Need for driving awareness and education for older drivers and their families
- Need for intervention services for older drivers and their families
- Hillcrest Mature Driver Program
-

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

1. Emergency Management Training

Data Collection:

- Emergency management training needed for residents
- VIPS and Neighborhood watch programs
- Community Emergency Response Teams
- “Are you Okay?” programs for the elderly and disabled
- Hill County Victims Assistance Coordinator

Recommendations:

- Support funding and programs to train the community in emergency response and homeland security issues
- Tabletop exercise involving all cities within the county.

Resources/Successes:

- Local jurisdictions oversee community programs. The Heart of Texas Council of Governments helps to facilitate training and distribute educational/training supplies.
- Heart of Texas Council of Governments 2-1-1 provides information to the public
- Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council (HOTRAC)

2. Mandates to School Districts Concerning Emergency Planning

Data Collection:

- School emergency plans completed

Recommendations:

- The school districts have begun and will continue to work with the Office of Emergency Management, as well as, Law Enforcement and other first responders to prepare the schools and school-aged children for potential catastrophic events.

Resources/Successes:

- Office of Emergency Management
- ESC Region 12
- Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council

3. Need for HazMat team

Data Collection:

- Due to the legislation dissolving the Regional Drug Task Force, extensive training and education, as well as equipment for responders and law enforcement will be needed in the counties to safely break down Meth. labs, as well as respond to chemical hazards and spills caused by transportation accidents and accidental releases.
- There are some individuals specifically trained in Hazardous Materials in Hill County, however, there isn’t an organized team.

Recommendations:

- Support programs and funding that will allow for the training and equipment of all first responders and law enforcement in the county.

Resources:

- Regional C.B.R.N.E. Response Team
- HOTRAC

Resources Available

Included below are resources identified by the Hill 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
The Heart of Texas Regional SART	Victim Services	Provides training and information resources to regional Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Judges, and Victim Services. Conducts case reviews of adult sexual assault cases and provides support and guidelines for agencies, investigators, and Prosecutors.
Amie Cheek, MSSW	Private Provider	Provides counseling services for families and youth as well as individual and group counseling.
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
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
Hill County Juvenile Probation Department	Juvenile Probation	Supervises youth and provides services (or referrals) for youth that are placed under supervision in Hill County.
Hill County Drug Court Program (Juvenile) Hill County Truancy Prevention Program	Juvenile Drug Court Truancy Prevention/Truancy Court	A voluntary program (or maybe court-ordered that provides intensive services to youth that are using illegal substances and alcohol. The truancy prevention program offers intervention for students in Hill County who have been referred to the program for unexcused school absences.
Hill County S.O., Whitney P.D. Itasca P.D., Covington P.D., Hubbard P.D., Hillsboro PD	Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement Agency
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	Nonprofit DV Shelter & Resource Center	24-hour-Hotline 800.283.8401 Office 254.772.8999 www.familyabusecenter.org
Boys & Girls Club	Nonprofit	Provides after-school and summer activities for youth.
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. Offers juvenile offenders the Reality Education for Drivers (RED) program.
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. 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
Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA)		CASA of McLennan and Hill Counties currently employs one full-time supervisor for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. CASA is currently recruiting volunteers to assist with this program to ensure that children do not become lost in the system
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.
Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator	Hill County District Attorney's Office & Hill County Attorney's Office	Assists all victims of violent crime (adult & juvenile) including referrals for resources of legal advocacy, assistance with protective orders, crime victim compensation, 9-1-1 safety phones, plea bargains, and court appearances. Training for professionals and the community; participation in Multidisciplinary Team; assistance with law enforcement. Katie Cole 254-582-4077
Counseling Network	Counseling services	Multiple counselors are available for individuals, children, adolescents, families, and group counseling. Specializing in play therapy, EMDR, substance abuse (out-patient) treatment and domestic abuse issues. Bio-psycho-social assessment for drug and alcohol abuse (hair follicle and UA tests available). 211 E. Elm St. Hillsboro, TX 76645 (by appointment only). 214-724-0702 or www.cnimetro.com

Law Enforcement:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
TX Dept of Public Safety	Law Enforcement	All crime victims in the region are eligible for services: crisis intervention; personal advocacy; assistance filing for crime victims compensation; court accompaniment;
Hill County S.O., Whitney P.D. Itasca P.D., Covington P.D., Hubbard P.D., Hillsboro PD	Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement Agencies within the County.
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, formerly HOTRMHMR	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	Non-profit 501 c3 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	501C3 Non-Profit	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children provides 24/7 crisis hotline services, sexual assault forensic examination, counseling and case management, court accompaniment, and assistance in filing Crime Victims Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim's Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, APS, or law enforcement. Educational presentations on victims' issues and the prevention of sexual assault 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 LE 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).
Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator	Hill County District Attorney's Office & Hill County Attorney's Office	Assists all victims of violent crime (adult & juvenile) including referrals for resources of legal advocacy, assistance with protective orders, crime victim compensation, 9-1-1 safety phones, plea bargains, and court appearances. Training for professionals and the community; participation in Multidisciplinary Team; assistance with law enforcement. Katie Cole 254-582-4077
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
Hill County Children And First Responders in Every School (Hill Co. CARES)	Advocacy 501(c)(3) Non Profit	Hill Co CARES seeks to establish and grow positive and trusting relationships between the youth of Hill County and the first responders in their community. We seek to do this by coordinating positive interactions between the groups through cooperation with schools, churches, and athletic sponsors. www.hillcocares.org info@hillcocares.org

Victim Services:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
The Heart of Texas Regional Sexual Assault Response Team	Victim Services	Provides training and information resources to regional Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Judges, and Victim Services. Conducts case reviews of adult sexual assault cases and provides support and guidelines for agencies, investigators, and Prosecutors.
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 forensic examination, counseling and case management, court accompaniment, and assistance in filing Crime Victims Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim's Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, APS, or law enforcement. Educational presentations on victim issues and the prevention of sexual assault 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.
Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR	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	24-hour Hotline 800.283.8401 Office 254.772.8999 www.familyabusecenter.org
Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator	Victim Services	Services to victims of all violent crimes include but are not limited to emergency protective orders, legal advocacy, on-scene intervention, transportation, 911 safety phones, information and referrals, and legal options for victims of family violence.
Hill County Child Welfare Board		Support to foster children.
Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator	Hill County District Attorney's Office & Hill County Attorney's Office	Assists all victims of violent crime (adult & juvenile) including referrals for resources of legal advocacy, assistance with protective orders, crime victim compensation, 9-1-1 safety phones, plea bargains, and court appearances. Training for professionals and the community; participation in Multidisciplinary Team; assistance with law enforcement. Katie Cole 254-582-4077
Counseling Network, Inc.	Counseling Services	Bi-lingual counselors are available for individual counseling with survivors of domestic abuse. Supervised Visitation 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, formerly HOTRMHMR	Mental Health	Provide specialized substance abuse services to people who also have a co-occurring psychiatric disorder.
Waco-McLennan County Public Health District	Public Health	HIV/AIDS STD Clinic

Hill County Department State Health Services	Public Health	STD testing Barbara.blake@dshs.texas.gov Barbara Blake, RN 254.582.7331
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 888. cenikor	501(c)(3)	Addiction treatment, detoxification, short-term only.
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.
2-1-1		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
Hill County Supervision and Corrections	Adult Probation	Alcohol and drug education for adults
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.
Klara's 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, formerly HOTRMHMR	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 • Homelessness support for youth and adults
MCYC-CIS, PACES	School Social Work	Work with students in schools who are at risk of dropping out. Also, work with students who are in juvenile detention.
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 & Resource Center	24-hour. Hotline 800.283.8401 Office 254.772.8999 www.familyabusecenter.org
Hillcrest Baptist 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.
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe 254.202.6533	Hospital, Non-profit 501c3, grant-funded	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

866.332.0005 FB: TeenSafe Waco		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.
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Kid Safe 254.202.6538 888.675.0260	Hospital, Non-profit 501c3, grant-funded	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. Kid Safe provides services to McLennan, Bosque, Hill, Falls, Limestone, Coryell, and Bell counties. Currently has a monthly child safety seat fitting station at Hillsboro P.D.
Hill County Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator	Victims Services	Services to victims of all violent crimes include but are not limited to emergency protective orders, legal advocacy, on-scene intervention, 911 safety phones, information and referrals, and legal options for victims of family violence.
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. 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, HOTRAC, 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.
Hill County Youth Substance Abuse Coalition	Non-profit	Provides education to the community and supports and participates in programs that will help reduce substance abuse in youth.

Provides Assistance for the Economically High-Risk Populations:

Lake Whitney Ministerial Alliance	Food Bank & other	Provides food, clothing, and other needed assistance
Hill County Salvation Army	Local unit	Provides temporary housing, medical, and transportation
TXU Energy Aid	Part of Hill County Salvation Army	Provides utility assistance to TXU customers
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Government funding	Provides utility and housing assistance
Potter's Vessel: Hillsboro & Whitney	Pharmaceutical Assistance Program	Assists with long-term medication assistance
Hilco Electric Coop		Provides utility assistance to Hilco customers
Hillsboro Interfaith Ministries	Food Bank & other	Provides food and clothing and access to other agencies

Transportation:

HOTCOG Rural Transit District	254.292.1873	Schedule trips at a minimal cost, call 48 hours ahead for trips to/from Hill, County.
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Interagency Cooperation

The Hill 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 strategic 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 maintains a cooperative working relationship.

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

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring, and Evaluation

The Hill 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 Hill County Community Planning Team strives to meet periodically 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.

Drafts and 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 Community Planning Team intends to improve outcomes for Hill County families struggling with problems described in the plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Hill 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 outlined focus areas.

Contact Information

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