Limestone 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 have a Criminal Justice Community Plan in order to identify gaps in services regarding criminal justice issues.

This document reflects the efforts of Limestone County citizens concerned with assuring that any gaps in services are addressed to the benefit of the entire county. 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 Limestone 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 Community Plan Coordinator for Limestone County, at the Criminal Justice Program of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. Contact information is provided on page 32.

The Limestone County Commissioner's Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for the development and implementation of the Limestone 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, as well as, community organizations that address gaps in services identified in the Community Plan.

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

Coolidge	Groesbeck	Thornton	Mexia
Tehuacana	Kosse		

School Districts:

Coolidge ISD	Groesbeck ISD
Mexia ISD	

Brief Description and History of Limestone County:

Limestone County was created by the Texas Legislature in 1846, the first year of statehood. Springfield, which was established on the banks of the Navasota River in 1838, halfway between the present cities of Groesbeck and Mexia, was named the county seat by the legislature. However, in 1873 an election was held in Limestone County and the permanent location of the county seat was moved to Groesbeck.

With its location in Central Texas, there is easy access to Austin, Dallas, Houston, and Waco. Recreation in Limestone County includes Lake Limestone, which is a paradise for fishermen and campers, and Fort Parker Lake. In 1993, The Old Restored Fort Parker was contracted by Groesbeck and the Texas Department of Wildlife for upkeep along with contributions from Mexia and Limestone County and has become a tourist attraction with events such as "Christmas at the Fort".

There are three school districts that serve Limestone County: Coolidge, Groesbeck, and Mexia Independent School Districts. The county's two largest cities are Mexia and Groesbeck. These two cities along with smaller communities derive their main income from a mix of agriculture, small industries, and other commercial opportunities.

Source: http://limestone-tx.tamu.edu/

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Limestone 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.

Name	***Agency***
Murry Agnew	Limestone County Sheriff's Office
	Family Abuse Center
Aleigh Ascherl	Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
Chris Henson	Groesbeck Police Department
Matt Groveton	Limestone Co OEM

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 Limestone 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 Limestone 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, business 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, it is imperative that prevention issues 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 Limestone County. Below is a discussion of the problems, the manner in which the problems are being addressed, and strategically how responses to these community problems could be improved. In some problem areas identified, there is not 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.

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

1. Specialized Equipment

Significant pressures 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-f federal, state and local. Compounding the problem is that these pressures are being placed on systems that are frequently 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 Information Systems (IJIS).
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 and
(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 entry of data in a county's IJIS system, is 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 county, or by state and federal agencies.

Problem Statement
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 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 legacy systems.

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

On January 1, 2014, the State of Texas amended its criminal discovery statute, (referred to now as the Michael Morton Act). This act now permits open file discovery of nearly all contents of a prosecutor's file, as well as mandates supplementing the discovery even after the case is over. While the Limestone County DA's office had an open file policy, the fact is that now there has been a tremendous increase in the amount of videos and reports requested since the Act's passage. This includes not just officer in-car videos, but surveillance videos (think Wal-Mart, Dollar General, or your local bank) jail calls, CPS records (which have to be reviewed and

redacted. There are times when the social security numbers and identifying numbers must be redacted. There is software on the market that will do that. There are duplication costs for CD's, software programs that will duplicate the videos, etc… We would be interested in getting grants for assistance in complying with the discovery statute, for the software needed and computer hardware needed (CD and DVD duplicators) and items that will cut down on the amount of time required to complete discovery.

Data Collection:

- Need for adequate funding for basic law enforcement equipment for smaller jurisdictions (i.e. vests, weapons, vehicles, cameras, including body-worn cameras, etc.)
- Needed upgrade for radio equipment in the field
    - Mexia ISD PD needs new handheld walkie-talkies
- Needed upgrade for Mobile Data Terminal System, to include the records management system and computer-aided dispatch system

Recommendations:

- Basic equipment needs are a continuing need for smaller jurisdictions. This requires additional funding.
- Upgraded communications, specifically voter sites
- New or upgraded in-vehicle video systems
- Automated license plate readers
- Mexia ISD PD needs metal detectors and in-vehicle cameras
- Upgrade software and hardware to assist in compliance with discovery statutes

Resources/Successes:

- 2012 Mexia FD and PD received radios through Homeland Security grant funds
- 2012 Mexia PD purchased five new patrol units and updated video systems in vehicles.
- Thermal imaging equipment is available through Groesbeck P.D
- In 2010 Groesbeck PD purchased MDTs for their patrol vehicles through JAG Grant
- Cell phone data processing and retrieval available at LCSO
- Groesbeck has video enhancement capabilities

2. Substance Abuse

In recent years the overall crime rate has decreased; however, studies show that a record number of crimes 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.

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 in order 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.

Recommendations:

- Pursue funding streams and resources to support prevention and treatment programs

- Support Drug/Alcohol Court programs with mandatory participation
- Seek medically supervised alcohol detoxification services for offenders suffering from acute alcohol abuse
- Work toward affordable residential and supportive outpatient services for offenders needing longer-term care.
- Utilize the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that provides 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
- Develop a county special crime unit – Drug task force

Resources/Successes:

- Baylor S & W Medical Center Teen Safe Program
    - Reality Education for Drivers (RED) Program: This is a one-day hospital-based program for court referrals that focuses on traffic safety factors for those aged 15-19.
- Community Supervision & Corrections Department
    - DWI education, drug offender education, DWI intervention classes
- Lighthouse for Men
- VOICE, Inc.
- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- MADD
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR

3. Increase in Domestic Violence Calls

Domestic violence is the number one cause of injury to women in the U.S. – more than muggings, rapes, and auto accidents combined. The escalation of violence in families has become a justice, public health, and economic problem for the families themselves and society as a whole. Domestic violence and violence between intimate partners is a problem for Limestone 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 families. Domestic violence crosses all racial, ethnic, economic, social, and religious barriers. Violence between intimate partners continues to be a perpetual cycle leading victims to feelings of hopelessness and despair.

Data Collection:

- Domestic violence is the number one cause of injury to women in the U.S.
  - Source Book: Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence and Public Health
- Family Abuse Center
    - Limestone County had 173 incidents of family violence reported to law enforcement in 2018 according to the Crime in Texas report
    - In the fall of 2016, FAC and the Limestone DVRT created uniform family violence paperwork for all law enforcement departments to use with family violence investigations and hosted a criminal justice training to address gaps in knowledge and training

Gaps in the community

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

There is a need for funding and programming of the following:

- Victim services funding
- Resources and access to resources for victims with physical disabilities
- Support groups for male victims
- Training for judges granting protective orders

- Outreach and awareness for elder abuse
- Non-English speaking resources for victims of domestic violence
- Outreach and awareness among various ethnic/cultural groups
- Awareness of available resources in the community
- Transportation (to shelter and to other services)
- Affordable and accessible childcare
- Comprehensive case management, and job training
- Seamless continuum of care
- Improved collaborative relationships among service providers, law enforcement, and other local agencies
- Need for legal aid to process protective orders
- Need for emergency shelter
- Need for low-income housing

Recommendations:

- Establish safety zones in the county (e.g. the hospital) where victims can stay until victims' services personnel can transport them to the shelter.
- Continue officer education in responding to domestic violence calls. Include training and education for judges.
- Develop a transportation plan for getting victims to a shelter after business hours.

Resources:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children; counseling and case management; office in Mexia; referrals or 24/7crisis hotline
- Hathaway House
- Crime Victims Coordinator at District Attorney's Office
- Adult Protective Services
- Heart of Texas Workforce Solutions
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
- CRCG
- Child Protective Services
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
- Trained volunteer advocates who will respond to domestic violence calls when requested
- Limestone County Domestic Violence Task Force

Statistical Information:

- Family Abuse Center
  - On average, shelter clients stay 22 days at the Family Abuse Center
  - Averages 169 hotline calls per month
    - 72% of the calls convert into clients receiving services with domestic violence
    - 28% of the calls receive safety planning and referrals to other resources
  - 58% of the victims seeking emergency shelter each month actually enter the shelter.
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
  - Hosts an annual conference for more than 250 professionals that targets resources to help law enforcement agencies equip their officers with research-based methodologies that focus on child abuse investigations, victim advocacy, and client care. This conference brings the expertise of District Attorney Representatives to engage front-line investigators regarding case dynamics toward prosecution while offering TCOLE and other continuing education credits.

4. Transportation

Data Collection:

- Transport of mental health individuals strains law enforcement (not enough personnel to transport; lack of appropriate mental health facilities)
- This places a financial burden on law enforcement due to the lengthy processing required to screen and assist individuals who have mental health issues. Processing and transport often require many additional hours of staff time
- Improvements have been made in time management. Patients get medically served in Limestone County before going to Providence Health Center for mental treatment in Waco

Recommendations:

- Additional personnel and vehicles
- Additional state beds would lessen the burden on law enforcement vehicles and personnel

Resources:

- Parkview Regional Hospital
- HOTRMHMR
- Two attorneys who specialize in mental health clients
- HOTRMHMR has a case manager who is handling a limited caseload of clients in the county

5. Training for Law Enforcement

Data Collection:

- Training opportunities are hindered by the inability to provide backfill and the lack of training and travel funds.
- In 2016 the Family Abuse Center and the Limestone County Domestic Violence Response Team hosted a family violence training in Groesbeck that provided 6 hours of TCOLE credit
- Training continues to be mandated by the state. Funding is needed to provide on-site training to accommodate shift personnel. Training should include:
    - Crisis Management
    - Mental Health Issues
    - Victims Assistance
    - Legal updates
    - School-Based Law Enforcement Training

Recommendations:

- Seek funding in the next grant period to allow for sufficient training of staff.
- Ideally, it would be beneficial to have trainers within the departments. Recommend reimbursement for jurisdictions to send officer(s) to Train-the-Trainer courses.

Resources/Successes:

- Family Abuse Center – provides training to law enforcement (TCOLE)
- Advocacy Center – TCOLE accredited training
- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center KidSafe Program: Provides training to law enforcement on Texas child passenger safety laws and enforcement practices.
- Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Regional Law Enforcement Training Program

6. Increase in Sexual Assault/Assault Allegations at State Schools

Data Collection:

- Each allegation has to be investigated by the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney instead of being handled by the campus

Recommendations:

- Hire another investigator for Sheriff's Office
- Hire an investigator for the prison
- Hire an investigator for the Mexia Supported Living Center
- Train and equip a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) to conduct exams at the Mexia State Supported Living Center

Resources/Successes:

- Sheriff's Office
- District Attorney
- Commissioner's Court funded a new investigator position in the 2007/2008 budget to help address sexual assault/assault allegations at Mexia State School
- Adult Protective Services
- Office of the Inspector General
- Family Abuse Center: (if the case involves dating violence)
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) at Limestone Medical Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR/Hope Shelter Emergency shelter for child victims of sex trafficking

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

1. Youth Substance Abuse

Data Collection:

- Lack of services for teen alcohol and drug abuse prevention or treatment programs
- Need for in-house treatment
- Need for follow-up care
- Need for prevention alternatives and education
- Need for additional enforcement of juvenile substance abuse for alcohol and cigarettes

Recommendations:

- Support funding sources 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
- Grants for juvenile enforcement

Resources:

- Juvenile Probation Licensed Chemical Dependence Counselor
- Mexia P.D. provides an annual drug prevention publication for the community
- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe Program
    - Conducted "Shattered Dreams" program in Mexia
    - Reality Education for Drivers (RED) program: Referrals are received from the judicial system for "at risk" youth. The class covers traffic safety, risky driving, and alcohol/drug abuse.
- DSHS Region 7 - Office of Tobacco Prevention & Control
- MADD
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR
- Community Supervision & Corrections Department
    - DWI education, drug offender education, DWI intervention classes

2. Residential Treatment Facilities

Data Collection:

- Long-term and short-term needed

Limestone County Juvenile Justice Division coordinates with MHMR for client mental health needs and assessments. However, resources are stressed due to the lack of counselors to accommodate Limestone and surrounding counties. Additional staff and mental health resources are needed. Due to recent mandated state laws persons previously eligible for MHMR services have been reclassified as non-eligible. There remains, however, the need to address these individual's needs.

Recommendations:

- Support programs for treatment facilities with adequate staff and residential beds for in-house treatment. Currently, there are waiting lists at most facilities.
- Develop early identification and intervention programs that divert children and adolescents into treatment.
- Enhance the availability of residential services in Limestone County for children and adolescents who need a structured therapeutic environment outside of their homes.
- Develop a mobile mental health crisis unit that can respond to calls involving children and adolescents.

- 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.
- 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.
- Develop a tracking system to follow a child through juvenile justice, mental health, and/or substance abuse treatment programs.
- Create programs that address anger management for children and adolescents.
- Develop programs that address goal setting for children and adolescents.
- Provide outpatient counseling programs for children and adolescents.

Resources:

- Granbury Regional Juvenile Justice Center
- Rockdale Regional Juvenile Justice Center
- The Oaks Brownwood/G4S

3. Delinquent Behavior

Truancy is often the least enforced juvenile crime in most communities within Limestone County. 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. Dropout rates for 16 to 24-year-olds were reported at 11% nationally. (The Condition of Education 2001, National Center for Education Statistics)

The high percentage of students dropping out of high school threatens the overall well-being of the community.

Data Collection:

- Truancy
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Sexual Aggression
- Dating Violence
- Aggression/Anger Management
- Substance Abuse

Schools are generally understaffed with regard to student-teacher and student-counselor ratio and 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 acts.

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. In order to meet needs of 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, 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 program and services for youth attending alternative schools submitted.

Interim services for youth on waiting lists is lacking.

There is a lack of communication and coordination 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 persistent misbehaviors of children and youth continue to increase.

Recommendations:

- Support programs that will allow for 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 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 impulsivity, 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.
- Support programs addressing Anger Management for children and adolescents
- Develop programs addressing goal setting for children and adolescents

- Foster outpatient counseling programs for children and adolescents
- Training for police and juvenile probation officers on dealing with juveniles and medication awareness.

Resources/Successes:

- Family Abuse Center
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children has educational presentations for students and school staff
- VOICE, Inc.
- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR
- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYSB) Communities in Schools (CIS)
- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center TeenSafe program: This program is building a database for ages 10-19 including crash factors (MIP, MIC, DUI).
- DSHS Region 7 Limestone County Health Needs Assessment Coalition http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/limestone/default.shtm
- Limestone County Juvenile Probation Dept
- Groesbeck ISD After School Program

4. Training for Juvenile Service Providers

Data Collection:

- Lack of training for juvenile detention officers
- Limited qualified personnel

Recommendations:

- Support funding for the training of county personnel in identifying and responding to issues concerning juveniles/youth issues.

Resources:

- Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

5. Need for Comprehensive Mental Health Services

Data Collection:

Limited resources are available if the juvenile doesn't qualify for MHMR services. Limestone County Juvenile Justice Division coordinates with MHMR for client mental health needs and assessments. However, at times the resources are stressed due to the lack of counselors to accommodate Limestone and surrounding counties. Additional staff and mental health resources are needed. Due to recently mandated state laws, persons previously eligible for MHMR services have been reclassified as non-eligible. There remains, however, the need to address their needs.

Recommendations:

- Support programs for the aftercare services for extended support, treatment, and prevention geared towards the special needs of juveniles.
- More funding for personnel and facilities

Resources:

- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYSB) Communities in Schools (CIS)
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR
- Heart of Texas Regional Psych Forum through Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council (HOTRAC)

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

1. Support Services

Data Collection:

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
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program
- Need multi-discipline investigation and response to child abuse

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

- Stable victim resource revenues to enable organizations to maintain core services
- Resources and access to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Support groups and counseling 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 LGBTQ 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

Secondary Victims

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
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Need for a suicide prevention program.
- Post suicide/homicide services for family members affected by suicide or homicide.

Sexual Violence

- Need for local SANE response
- Need for local volunteers
- Need for training
- Need for outreach
- Need for counselor/case management.

Elder Abuse

- Shortage of mental health services reasonably accessed with a 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 adult victims
- Programs for adults who witness violence
- Resources and access to resources for victims with physical handicaps
- Easier facilitation and awareness for obtaining a protective order
- Awareness of available resources in the community
- Transportation
- Organized, and identified emergency response team.

Aftercare/Follow-up Care for Victims

- Long-term
- Short-term
- Need for a suicide prevention program.

Recommendations:

- Continue to support programs that address services for victims of violence and crime.
- Encourage collaboration of service agencies to network and bridge the services gaps that exist between the agencies.
- Multi-disciplinary team through the Children's Advocacy Center
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) needed at Limestone Hospital
- Transportation for victims of crime appointments in Waco
- Forensic Interviewer
- Case management, raising awareness of services.
- Counseling, raising awareness of services.
- Speed up processing of Crime Victim's Compensation (CVC) applications. Develop procedures to coordinate between law enforcement and advocacy agencies for submission of CVC Presumptive Eligibility applications
- Computer enhancements to assist with tracking and notifications of crime victims
- Further develop DVRT
- Raise awareness of FAC Rural Program services

Resources:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- Family Abuse Center
- District Attorney's Office – Victims Assistance Coordinator
- Child Protective Services
- Adult Protective Services
- DSHS Region 7 Limestone County Health Needs Assessment Coalition http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/limestone/default.shtm
- Limestone County Transit
- SART
- SANE at Limestone Hospital
- Limestone County Domestic Violence Task Force
- The Heart of Texas Regional Sexual Assault Response Team
- 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 2019, FAC received 54 hotline calls from Limestone County and worked with 11 clients from Limestone County.
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
  - collaborates with Limestone County LE agencies, CPS, Limestone County DA, and County Judge in the investigation of all crimes suffered by Limestone County Residents.
  - Advocacy Center conducts an average of 430 forensic interviews per year to children alleging sexual or physical abuse. Of those interviews, 10% are children that live in Limestone County that also have access to medical exams and case management.
  - Each client case with the Advocacy Center that is prosecuted has case management contact or accompaniment to court.
  - All clients of the Advocacy Center are offered counseling for primary victims and to family members who may be secondary to the victimization.
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2. On-Scene Victims Services

Data Collection:

There are limited on-scene victims' services due to personnel and funding issues.

Recommendations:

- Increase law enforcement awareness of services
- Encourage service providers to bridge the gap between their services and law enforcement to ensure law enforcement and schools are made aware of the victim's services programs available.
- Victim services groups must collaborate and create a crisis intervention resource list for Limestone/Freestone jurisdictions and schools (plan to call it a "Bi-Stone County Resource List").
- Support programs that address support services for victims of violence and crime.
- Develop a team of trained on-scene volunteers
  - To help calm the situation for crisis intervention
  - Include Family Violence training for on-scene volunteers

Resources/Successes:

- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
- DA's Victims Assistance Coordinator
- Family Abuse Center
- Trained advocates who will respond to scenes when requested
- Limestone County Domestic Violence Task Force

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.

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:

- Family Abuse Center
- Limestone County Domestic Violence Response Team

Statistics:

- Advocacy Center conducts 20 parenting class groups for families referred by CPS 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.
- Advocacy Center prevention education programming is available to school districts, civic organizations, churches, and other groups interested in addressing Hill County community concerns regarding child abuse and teen issues that impact young lives.

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

1. Limited Service in the Rural Area for Indigent and Medicaid

Data Collection:

- Limited dental services
- Lack of assistance regarding in-home checkups for individuals on medication
- Limited services to low-income or persons without insurance who need medical, psychological, and dental hygiene services.

Recommendations:

- Continue to recruit dentists and other health practitioners
- Support programs like the "Are You Okay" program.
- DSHS continues to recruit doctors and other practitioners to provide gaps in services

Resources/Successes:

- Limestone County Indigent Health Care
- Limestone Medical Center
- 2-1-1
- Are You Okay program
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR/initiating an integrated health clinic
- Heart of Texas Workforce Center programs include:
    - Project RIO – for ex-offenders
    - Choices – for TANF recipients
    - Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
    - Food Stamps – Employment and training for food stamp recipients

2. Transportation

Data Collection:

- Limited transportation available for indigent/elderly/disabled individuals into the city for services:
    - Rural transportation hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., appointments must be made in advance, and no service is available during non-traditional business hours.

Recommendations:

- More vehicles and staff
- Extended hours to include evenings and weekends

Resources/Successes:

- Limestone County Transit System

3. Teen Pregnancy

Recommendations:

- Support services that provide education, prevention, and parenting skills to teen mothers

Resources:

- DSHS
- Planned Parenthood
    - Provides counseling and OBGYN exams
- Advocacy Center – sexual awareness training

- Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Kid Safe Program – provide educational classes and distribute car seats to those who qualify
- Groesbeck ISD offers program for teen pregnancy
- Brazos AHEC
- Family Abuse Center: healthy relationships and dating violence curriculum for school students

4. Homeless Population

Data Collection:

- There is a need for a homeless shelter in Limestone County
- Need for health care for those who have no money or health insurance
- 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

Resources/Successes:

- 2-1-1
- Are You Okay program
- Workforce Center programs include:
  - Project RIO – for ex-offenders
  - Choices – for TANF recipients
  - Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
  - Food Stamps – Employment and training for food stamp recipients
- Life House for Men, Mexia
- Life House for women, Mexia
- Limestone Medical Center
- Family Abuse Center: shelter for homelessness caused by family violence
- Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, formerly HOTRMHMR

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

1. Involvement of the public/residents to work together and participate in neighborhood groups that will assist law enforcement and other first responders in the community.

Recommendations:

Homeland Security Strategic Plan includes private citizen involvement in emergency response and assistance including but not limited to:

- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Volunteers In Policing (VIPs)
- Protect Texas
- Fire Corps

Special Note – An increased emphasis is needed regarding outreach to local faith-based organizations.

Resources/Successes:

- Neighborhood Watch is in place
- Sheriff's Department – "Wise Eyes" in place
- Protect Texas has been implemented with increased volunteer numbers
- DSHS Region 7 Faith-based presentations on preparedness
- Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council (HOTRAC)
- Heart of Texas Council of Governments Bomb Making Awareness Program (BMAP)

2. Need for Hazmat Team

Data Collection:

Due to 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.

Recommendations:

Support programs and funding to support training and equipment acquisition for all first responders and law enforcement in the county. Explore grant opportunities from EPA/GDEM for First Responder training.

Resources:

Limestone Medical Center does have some limited resources in this regard. Limestone Medical Center does have "fine–de–con" capabilities and equipment through regional funding.

3. Mandates to School Districts Concerning Emergency Planning

Recommendations:

The school districts have begun and will continue to work with the County Emergency Coordinator as well as law enforcement and other first responders to prepare the school and school-aged children for potential catastrophic events.

Limestone Emergency Management is actively working with Limestone School Districts regarding mitigation and management of catastrophic events.

Resources:

Limestone County Emergency Management Coordinator . All Limestone School Districts SB11 mandated Emergency Plans are in place and have been vetted by EMC.

Resources Available

Included below are resources identified by the Limestone 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
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
Central Texas Youth Services Bureau (CTYS)		Provides full services to Bell, Coryell, Lampasas, Falls, McLennan, Milam, Limestone, and Freestone counties. Each county has local CTYS offices except Falls which is served from Waco and Freestone which is served from our Groesbeck office.
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	24-hour. Hotline 800.283.8401 Office254.772.8999 www.familyabusecenter.org
Baylor S & W Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe 254.202.6533	Hospital	The Teen Safe Youth Traffic Safety Educational program focuses on teen traffic safety, driving responsibility, underage drinking, substance abuse,

866.332.0005 FB: TeenSafe Waco		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 Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, and APS 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
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.
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
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
Mexia ISD PD	School Police	Mexia School District
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 Victims' Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, and APS 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
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 Domestic Violence Shelter & Resource Center	24-hour Hotline 800.283.8401 Office254.772.8999 www.familyabusecenter.org
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
TX Dept of Public Safety	Law Enforcement	All crime victims in region are eligible for services: crisis intervention; personal advocacy; assistance

		filing for crime victim's compensation; court accompaniment.
Limestone County Attorney Crime Victim Coordinator	Law Enforcement	All crime victims in the region are eligible for services: crisis intervention; personal advocacy; assistance filing for crime victim's compensation; court accompaniment.
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 Victims' Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, and APS 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.
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 & Resource Center	24-hour Hotline 800.283.8401 Office254.772.8999 www.familyabusecenter.org
Limestone County Transit		Schedule a ride, toll-free call 1.877.875.7433. 48-hour notice is required. In-county or out-of-county trips for appointments and other needs.
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

Limestone County Indigent Health Care		County tax dollars pay for prescription, doctor and hospital bills. 254.729.5406
Limestone Medical Center		Indigent program. 254.729.2014
Parkview Regional Hospital		Level IV trauma facility
MADD	Victim Services	Free Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs
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
Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council (HOTRAC)	Non-profit, 501c3 State and Federal grant funded	Prevention and education for cardiac, stroke, and trauma.
Cenikor Foundation 254.224.8881 Waco 888.cenikor	501c3	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 own 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 available. Medicaid accepted. 214-724-0702 or www.cnimetro.com

Prevention / Intervention:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Description
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 • Major Depressive Disorder • Obsessive Compulsive Disorder • Anxiety Disorder • Attention Deficit Disorder • Delusional Disorder • Bulimia nervosa, anorexia nervosa or other eating disorders 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	24- Hotline 800.283.8401 Office254.772.8999 www.familyabusecenter.org
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 Victims' Compensation and VINE registration through its Victim Center program. Forensic interviews are available to children from each county upon request of CPS, and APS 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
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, effects of medication on

		driving, vehicle features that can positively affect driving abilities. Presentations for caregivers on unsafe driving and how to "have the talk" are available.
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Teen Safe 254.202.6533 866.332.0005 FB: TeenSafe Waco	Community-based injury prevention program	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. There are child passenger safety programs established in Mexia, Groesbeck, and Coolidge high schools.
Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Trauma Services Kid Safe 254.202.6538 888.675.0260	Community-based injury prevention program	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. There are two current child safety seat fitting stations within Limestone County – Groesbeck P.D. and Mexia F.D.
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 government 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** *(please click on any of the links below to view information about those programs)* **1.** Birth Defects Monitoring Division 2. Children With Special Health Care Needs 3. Consumer Health Protection 4. Epidemiology 5. Field Office Locations 6. Immunization Program 7. Public Health Improvement 8. Public Health Nursing 9. Sexually Transmitted Diseases 10. Tobacco Prevention and Control

		11. Tuberculosis Elimination Division 12. Vision and Hearing Services 13. Zoonosis Control Program **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. To view the Limestone County Health Needs Assessment Executive Summary prepared by DSHS Region 7 go to: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/limestone/default.shtm Shelby.hyde@dshs.state.tx.us Dorothy Turrubiarte 254.562.3897
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.

Transportation:

Limestone/Freestone County Transit	Rural Transit System	Call 48 hrs. ahead, minimal cost. Call 254.750.1620

Interagency Cooperation

The Limestone 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 own special interests aside, they succeeded in developing a strategic plan to aid in prioritizing and closing the identified gaps in the community.

The Planning Committee shared the different services they offered, as well as, services offered by agencies and individuals that were unable to attend the planning meetings. The team met only once to make updates and corrections to the previous year's plan. However, the cooperative working relationship is still in place.

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

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Limestone 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 Limestone County Community Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the plan and make necessary additions and deletions. At least one formal meeting of the entire group is held each biennium, but 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. A current copy of the plan is posted on the www.hotcog.org website on the Criminal Justice page.

It is the intent of the Community Planning Team to improve outcomes for Limestone County families struggling with problems described in the plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Limestone 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

Limestone County Community Planning Coordinator

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