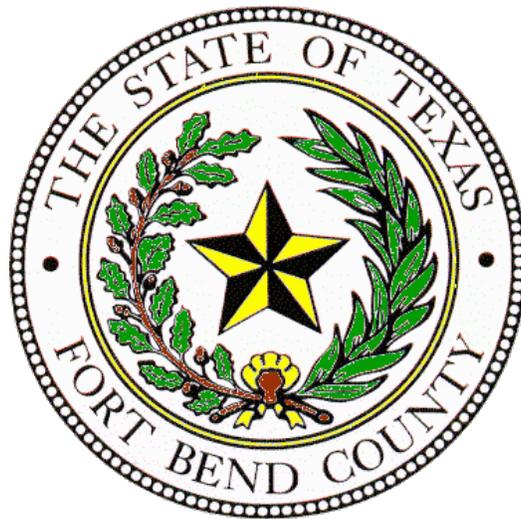


# Fort Bend County Public Safety Community Plan 2019-2020



Fall 2019

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# Fort Bend County Public Safety Community Plan

## **What Is a Community Plan?**

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This plan is formally known as the Fort Bend County Public Safety Community Plan, and its purpose is to identify gaps in services regarding public safety issues. The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office (CJD) requires that Public Safety Community Plans be developed and maintained by counties and regions throughout Texas.

The document that is represented here reflects the efforts of many in Fort Bend County who are concerned with closing any gaps in services to make our communities safer places in which to live and work. It is with grateful acknowledgement that the names of those involved in the process of developing the Community Plan are listed in the Community Planning Team section.

Though the final draft of this plan was completed in December 2019, this is a work in progress. New criminal justice goals are identified, the Planning Group changes as a result of individual and agency circumstances, and requirements concerning the makeup of the Plan are subject to change from year to year. Fort Bend County is interested in keeping up with these changes and includes them in updates that will be posted from time to time.

If you are reading this plan and have not been involved in its development, you are invited to join in this ongoing effort. Any questions you may have can be addressed to Frances Desmond, Community Plan Coordinator for Fort Bend County, or to a Public Safety Program staff member of the COG. Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

The Fort Bend County Commissioners Court supports community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the Fort Bend County Public Safety Community Plan. Additionally, the Commissioners Court supports grant applications from county departments and community organizations that address gaps in services identified in the Community Plan.

## **Areas Represented**

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### **Incorporated Communities:**

Arcola	Kendleton	Pleak	Sugar Land
Beasley	Meadows Place	Richmond	Thompsons
Fulshear	Missouri City	Rosenberg	Weston Lakes
Houston	Needville	Simonton	
Katy	Orchard	Stafford	

### **Unincorporated Communities:**

Crabb	Guy	New Territory
Fairchilds	Longpoint	Pecan Grove
Fresno	Mission Bend	Town West

### **School Districts:**

Brazos Independent School District	Needville Independent School District
Fort Bend Independent School District	Stafford Municipal School District
Katy Independent School District	
Lamar Consolidated Independent School District	

## **Brief Description and History of Fort Bend County**

Fort Bend County is a direct bordering county of Harris County, located on the southwest side of Houston. The county has a population of 787,858 (*U.S. Census Bureau, 2018*) and a land area of 875 square miles. Fort Bend County leads the Houston region, as well as much of the state and nation, in demographic excellence. A recent Rice University study declared Fort Bend County the most diverse County in the nation with the percentage breakdown representing 20.8 percent Asian, 24.7 percent Hispanic or Latino, 21.1 percent African-American and 32.5 percent White. According to the Texas State Data Center, Fort Bend County is the fastest growing county in Greater Houston and could have 845,058 residents in 2020.

Fort Bend County is a ‘pass through’ county during evacuation in neighboring counties including Galveston and Brazoria Counties. Interstate 69 traverses the center of the county from northeast to southwest, while U.S. 90A crosses from east to west. State highways (SH) 6 and 36 also provide important north-south routes. Neighboring counties include Austin, Brazoria, Harris, Waller and Wharton.

Law enforcement agencies include the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office, four precinct Constables’ offices, ten municipal police departments, Department of Public Safety investigators and troopers, and officers of the Texas Rangers, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Besides Houston, the municipalities with police departments are Arcola, Fulshear, Katy, Meadows Place, Missouri City, Needville, Richmond, Rosenberg, Stafford and Sugar Land.

There are eight District Courts, six County Courts-At-Law, five Associate District Courts, two Associate County Courts-at-Law, five Justice of the Peace Courts, 18 Municipal Courts. Fort Bend County has five Specialty Courts – Drug Court, Girls Court, Infant Toddler Court, Veterans Court and Special Sanctions Court. A District Attorney’s Office serves the courts. There is also a community supervision and corrections department, a juvenile probation department and juvenile detention facility, and a county jail.

### **History:**

Fort Bend County holds a prominent place in Texas history. In the early 1820s, the Anglo-American colonization of Texas was initiated with land grants from the Spanish government. The death of Moses Austin and Mexico’s independence delayed the arrival of Stephen F. Austin’s original colony of 300 families at the bend of the Brazos River was delayed until 1922. Ninety miles inland from the coast, the settlers built a two-room cabin called both Fort Settlement and Fort Bend. Fifty-three of the land grants to the early settlers were in Fort Bend.

In 1837, the Congress of the Republic of Texas incorporated Richmond and eighteen other towns. Later in the same year, the Texas Legislature created the County of Fort Bend from portions of Austin, Harris and Brazoria County. Notable citizens of the county included Jane Long, Mirabeau B. Lamar, and Samuel May Williams.

Richmond became a prosperous trade center for the surrounding agricultural region. Cotton, sugar and other products were transported down the Brazos River to the Port of Galveston. The early sugar cane plantations and farms supplied the Imperial Sugar industrial complex and its company town evolved into the current City of Sugar Land. When the railroad from Galveston through Richmond was built in the 1850s, the county became a ready provider of agricultural products and raw materials to coastal markets and beyond. Much of the early prosperity based on the plantation system ended with the Civil War.

Additional railroads further opened the county to new settlers, many from central Europe. Small productive family farms formed the central focus of the economic and social life from the 1880s through World War II. Ranching and cotton production then began to replace the small farms. Missouri City, Stafford, and Rosenberg developed along the rail lines. Discovery of oil and gas at Blueridge in the early 1920s, followed by discoveries at Orchard and Thompsons, and then later at Katy, signaled the beginning of Fort Bend's petroleum industry.

Beginning in the early 1970s with Houston's expansion, Fort Bend saw new growth in the form of increased residential development. The master planned communities of Quail Valley, First Colony and Pecan Grove came first, followed by Greatwood, New Territory and Cinco Ranch. More recently, Sienna Plantation, River Stone, Texana Plantation, Cross Creek Ranch, Aliana, Harvest Green and Veranda have joined the ranks.

In recent years, Fort Bend has experienced tremendous growth and increased diversity. Although these changes bring new challenges, the long-standing partnerships among local government, businesses, organizations and volunteers within the community allow Fort Bend County to manage challenges and sustain quality of life. Fort Bend has a long and richly varied history and an exceedingly bright future as it continues to build on the foundations established by the original settlers of Texas and the persistence and dedication of its current citizens.

# Community Planning Team

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Community Plan Coordinator for Fort Bend County: Frances Desmond, Project Manager – Grants, County Judge’s Office.

In developing this Community Plan, members of the team divided themselves into focus groups to narrow the scope of research and data that the Community Plan contains. Some members may serve in multiple capacities/categories. The team lead’s name is in bold.

## Juvenile Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
<b>Susan Bearden</b>	Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation
Gary Grier	Houston Coalition for the Homeless
Michael Gutierrez	Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services
Lauren Ibekwe	Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse
Shannan Stavinoha	Parks Youth Ranch
Toni Wallace	County Court At Law Four
Dallis Warren	Lamar Consolidated Independent School District

## Victim Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Khara Breeden	Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners
Chad Bridges	Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office
Micah Gamboa	Elijah Rising
Gary Grier	Houston Coalition for the Homeless
Michael Gutierrez	Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services
Adele Janczak	Fort Bend County Attorney’s Office
Rachna Khare	Daya, Inc
Erica Kinney	Child Protective Services
Tonya Lewis	Fort Bend Rainbow Room
Metoyer Martin	Child Advocates of Fort Bend
<b>Alison Parker</b>	Fort Bend Women’s Center
Julie Sengstacken	Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners
Jordan Schlafer	Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office
Shannan Stavinoha	Parks Youth Ranch
Rachel J. White	Fort Bend County Community Supervision and Corrections

## Law Enforcement:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Mike Beard	Fort Bend County Constable, Precinct 1
Edward Gordon, Jr.	Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office
Mark Grothaus	Sugar Land Police Department
George Holub, Jr.	Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office
Brian Middleton	Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office
<b>Ashley Smith</b>	Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office
Daryl L. Smith	Fort Bend County Constable, Precinct 2
Chris Thompson	Sugar Land Police Department
Wayne K. Thompson	Fort Bend County Constable, Precinct 3
Dwayne Williams	Missouri City Police Department
Wesley Wittig	Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office

## Behavioral Health Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
<b>Connie Almeida</b>	Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services
Deysi Crespo	Katy Christian Ministries
Michael Dotson	AccessHealth
Dawn DuBose	Stafford Municipal School District
Roderick "Rocky" Glass	Fort Bend County Mental Health Public Defender
Anna Gonzales	Fort Bend County Social Services
Gary Grier	Houston Coalition for the Homeless
Brian Gurbach	Texana Center
Leslie Haack	Katy Independent School District
Palak Jalan	AccessHealth
Tennille Jones	Fort Bend County Public Transportation
John Lockhart	First Baptist Church – Richmond
Anthony Mayshack	Fort Bend County Community Supervision and Corrections
Kaye Reynolds	Fort Bend County Health and Human Services
Jennifer Roberts	Lamar Consolidated Independent School District
Curtis Rhodes	Needville Independent School District
Cherie Steinberg	Texana Center
Sarah White	Second Mile Ministries
Robert Yack	Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office

## Other Issues- Literacy and Other Areas

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Dawn DuBose	Stafford Municipal School District
<b>Nicola Johnson</b>	Literacy Council of Fort Bend
<b>Tennille Jones</b>	Fort Bend County Public Transportation
Adam Yates	Fort Bend Hope

## **Identification of Community Problems**

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### General Public Safety Needs and Issues

Through a process of information sharing and statistical data collection, the governmental agencies, school districts, law enforcement agencies and non-profit agencies in Fort Bend County continue to highlight significant problems faced by children, youth and families.

Continued improvement in the communication and cooperation among various agencies must occur when addressing the contributing factors of crime, e.g., poverty, child abuse, truancy, and teen drug use. Also cited were insufficiencies in pro-active areas such as crisis management, conflict resolution, effective parenting, and literacy training.

Lack of access to public transportation in Fort Bend County, which has a land area of 875 square miles, is a major contributing factor in a multitude of problems faced by residents. Access to service providers and parent involvement in school activities is challenging when transportation is unavailable.

Affordable, habitable housing often proves to be inaccessible for many of our residents. Currently, there is a two-year waiting period for families needing housing assistance in this county. Families often have no choice but to live in motels or sub-standard housing with faulty wiring, plumbing, and other unsafe conditions.

The continued rapid growth of Fort Bend County exacerbates all the problem areas. While the state of Texas grew at a rate of 1.3% in 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Census concluded that Fort Bend County grew at a rate of 3.1% last year, gaining 21,722 residents. That growth is likely to continue, and the University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs predicts that Fort Bend County's population will increase by more than 2.1 million people by 2050. In other words, it took 160 years for Fort Bend to gain its first 350,000 residents, but will add more than a million residents within the next twenty years.

## 2010 United States Census Statistics

	<b>Texas</b>	<b>Fort Bend County</b>
Total Population – 2010	25,145,561	585,375
Population % change from 2000	20.6%	65.1%
Child population % (under age 18)	27.3%	29.7%
Language other than English spoken in home	33.6%	36.0%
Persons below poverty line	17.1%	7.5 %
Households	8,269,046	140,542
Average household size	2.81	3.57

*2018 Population: 787,858*

In each of the areas on the following pages, problems are identified and data is included that supports both the existence and severity of gaps as they are found in Fort Bend County. Below the description and data are a discussion of the problems, the manner in which the problems are being addressed, and strategical responses to ameliorating these community problems.

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

<b>Priority #1</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Juvenile delinquency and children in need of supervision (status offenses), especially at-risk youth exhibiting negative behaviors.</b></p>	<p><b>Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018, there were 1,660 referrals to the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department.</li> <li>• Misdemeanor and status offenses (Children in Need of Supervision cases): 1, 235. Felony offenses: 425.</li> <li>• In 2018, JPD supervised 388 juveniles on formal probation and 529 juveniles on deferred prosecution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lamar Consolidated ISD –Truancy Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the 2018-2019 school year, Justice of the Peace Court Precinct 1 Place 1 heard 132 Parent Contributing cases and placed 135 juveniles on remedial orders.</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>The lack of adequate and consistent supervision by the family and the community is a major contributing factor to delinquency and anti-social behavior among Fort Bend County youth. Poorly supervised children are exposed to danger and risk, and are more likely to engage in anti-social, high-risk behavior. This behavior includes children who are chronically truant, dropouts, runaways, and who lack after-school supervision and programs. These situations act as some of the early warning signs for students headed for potential delinquent activity, social isolation, or educational failure due to suspension, expulsion or dropping out.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p><b>Saved by the Bell</b>  <a href="#">Saved by the Bell</a> is a truancy reduction program that serves four Fort Bend County school districts. It offers services including counseling, mentoring, presentations and referrals to additional resources. Juvenile Probation partners with <a href="#">Fort Bend Regional Council</a> for life and substance abuse services and with <a href="#">Fort Bend Partnership for Youth</a> to offer financial assistance to families in need.</p> <p><b>#Attend2Achieve Truancy Diversion Program (TDP)</b>  Fort Bend ISD offers the <a href="#">Truancy Diversion Program (TDP)</a> to students and their parents experiencing truancy. The Office of Student Affairs and Student Support Services social workers operate this program. In the 2018-2019 school year, 7,726 students were assigned to TDP and 2,254 attended (30.35%).  The TDP is a preventative, information-based program that offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an alternative to a court referral,</li> <li>• education on the consequences of truancy for parents/guardians and students,</li> <li>• and connections to available and appropriate resources for families.</li> </ul>	

### **Juvenile Leadership Academy & Juvenile Justice Alternative Educational Program (JLA-JJAEP)**

Lamar CISD and Fort Bend ISD provide a community-based juvenile justice alternative education program ([JJAEP](#)) in conjunction with Fort Bend County, as well as other local school districts. Students in grades 4-12 shall attend the Fort Bend County JJAEP if they have committed serious offenses and receive a court order, and/or have violated their school district's code of conduct and have been expelled on a mandatory or discretionary expulsion order placement.

### **Crisis Intervention Program**

The Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department's [Crisis Intervention Program](#) receives referrals from parents, schools and law enforcement agencies requesting emergency intervention for juveniles and children experiencing mental health crises. This program includes counseling, explanation of the laws regarding delinquent youth and possible consequences, and information on referral sources for psychological and/or substance abuse counseling. In 2018, 65 juveniles received counseling and only two were subsequently referred to Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation for an offense.

### **Parent Project**

Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation offers [Parent Project](#), a nationally acclaimed parent-training program designed to teach parents strategies to identify, prevent, and intervene when their child engages in destructive behavior. In 2018, 117 parents successfully completed the program, which is approximately 2,808 total hours of parenting classes.

### **Teen Parenting**

Instructors conduct one-on-one teen parenting instruction and give the teens literature on the importance of being a good parent. The teens also receive referrals to community resources or agencies relevant to their individual circumstances. They learn about the importance of baby safety and how to baby-proof their home. In 2018, 12 juveniles benefited from the teen parenting instruction.

### **Tattoo Removal Program**

[The tattoo removal program](#) is a partnership between the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation, AccessHealth, Dr. Tolbert S. Wilkerson and the Houston Endowment Foundation. In 2018, two potential clients were referred to AccessHealth for this service.

### **Canine Leadership Program**

[The Canine Leadership Program](#) is a partnership between Fort Bend County Animal Services, the Juvenile Probation Department and Fort Bend Partnership for Youth. In 2018, 40 youth participated in the canine program.

### **Horsemanship Program and Equine Assisted Therapy (EAP)**

Students in the [Horsemanship Program](#) not only learn how to ride, they also learn about the horse's natural instincts and survival techniques to improve important life skills. In 2018, ten juveniles participated in the Horsemanship Program.

### **Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department Mentoring Program**

[This program](#) recruits, screens, and trains volunteer community mentors to visit youth in the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department Detention Center. Mentors support, listen and encourage the juveniles while they are being detained or are in the detention center's Juvenile Leadership Academy (JLA) dormitory. In 2018, 305 juveniles received a detention center mentor.

The juveniles who receive a mentor are usually those who:

- (1) do not have any visitors,
- (2) are going to be there longer than average, or
- (3) need special one-on-one visits.

The One-to-One Mentoring Program provides mentors to juveniles ages 10-17 years who reside at home. The mentor offers weekly one-to-one support and encouragement by engaging in activities like talking at the park, playing sports, having dinner, or going to the library or the movies. This program gives the juvenile an opportunity to spend quality time with a positive adult role model. The goal of the program is to build the youth's self-worth by developing healthy, thriving behaviors and thus deter further involvement with the justice system. In 2018, 20 juveniles received a community mentor.

The Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Staff Mentor visits a juvenile one-to-one during the school day on a weekly basis. The juvenile is referred by a probation officer or is court ordered into the mentoring program. In 2018, 64 juveniles had a one-on-one probation staff mentor.

### **General Equivalency Development (GED) Program**

Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation continues to serve the youth of Fort Bend County in [a unique GED setting](#). Class sizes are small to maximize one-on-one teacher instruction. The class are located in Richmond and Arcola. The majority of juveniles enrolled in this program have dropped out of regular school or were at-risk of dropping out. In addition, the department utilizes the [Transitions Program](#) to help graduates find a job or progress to higher education. In 2018, 19 juveniles enrolled in the GED program.

### **The Bridge Program**

[The Bridge Program](#) is a collaborative effort by the court and the Juvenile Probation to increase parental involvement and investment, and increase the child's success while in residential placement and after they return home. Parents are required to attend and participate in Parent Project, remain active and supportive in their child's lives and communicate frequently with all probation teams involved. In 2018, 29 juveniles participated in the Bridge Program.

### **Fort Bend County Juvenile Court**

These [courts](#) hear truancy conduct referrals for students who have failed to attend school or parents who have contributed to their children's non-attendance. The collaboration between Fort Bend County government, Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department and the area's independent school districts allows for a consistent and timely response to truancy issues.

<b>Priority #2</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Limited availability of programs that provide adequate mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment for youth.</b></p>	<p><b>Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Division Psychology Services, 2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7,020 mental health contacts were provided to youth and families involved with the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation and Juvenile Detention Center</li> <li>• 2,325 individual and family counseling sessions were provided for youth detained in the Fort Bend County Juvenile Detention Center</li> <li>• 1,312 individual and family counseling sessions were provided for youth as a condition of their probation</li> <li>• 347 MAYSI crisis assessments and interventions were conducted</li> <li>• 446 counseling sessions were conducted at schools</li> <li>• 584 individual counseling sessions were provided for students at the JJAEP sites</li> <li>• 248 group counseling sessions were provided for youth who attended school at the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program sites</li> <li>• 247 youth were referred to the Psychology Division for counseling and intervention services as a condition of their probation</li> <li>• 196 group counseling sessions were provided for youth detained in the Fort Bend County Juvenile Detention Center</li> <li>• 146 Forensic Behavioral Health Assessments/Psychological Evaluations were conducted</li> <li>• 57 counseling sessions were provided for the families of youth who attended the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program sites</li> <li>• 13 youth successfully completed the First Offender Intervention Program (FOIP)</li> <li>• 29 youth received services in the Sexual Treatment Offender Program (STOP)</li> <li>• 65 youth were referred to the Aggression and Violence Intervention Program (AVIP)</li> <li>• 26 youth received services in the Creating Opportunities through Rehabilitation and Empowerment program (CORE)</li> <li>• 21 youth received services in the Healthy Boundaries Counseling Program</li> <li>• 18 youth received services in the Special Needs Diversion Program (Mental Health / SNDP)</li> </ul>

*Problem Details*

The number of youth who receive positive mental illness diagnoses in the juvenile justice system is significantly greater than in the general population. Up to 70% of the youth in the juvenile justice system have at least one mental health disorder and approximately 20% have a serious mental illness (*Cocozza and Skowryra, 2000*). The most recent Fort Bend County needs assessment states that the lack of services for the mentally ill has resulted “in mental health becoming a law enforcement issue.”

Mental health awareness education is important for people of all ages. Being aware of mental health disorders, their signs, symptoms and impacts helps young people understand that mental health is important and that they can effectively address and manage their life situation. Awareness programs that promote open dialogue and educate youth about where to seek help, and increased availability of youth programs for co-occurring mental health/substance abuse disorders will benefit this community.

*Potential Response to Problem*

**Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department Psychology Division**

In 1998, Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation started the psychology division to provide psychological services to youth in its care and supervision. Psychology staff offers specialized counseling, treatment services, and forensic evaluation services for youth referred to the probation department. Forensic evaluations assist probation officers and judges in developing effective treatment plans. These services may also decrease the amount of time a youth spends in the detention center.

The division also serves as a training site for counseling and psychology graduate students who are completing academic requirements.

**First Offender Intervention Program (FOIP)**

The FOIP is a program specifically designed for youth who receive a referral to the juvenile justice system for the first time. The intervention program consists of an intake session with the youth and their parents/guardians followed by four weekly group counseling sessions. The educational curriculum addresses peer selection, decision-making, empathy, and safety plans during high-risk situations. The intervention program utilizes homework assignments designed to foster personal insight and awareness and role-play interventions to improve youth competency, understanding, and skill level. Program goals strive to hold youth accountable for their behavior choices and increase their ability, confidence, and motivation for prosocial function in society. In 2018, 13 juveniles completed FOIP.

**Sexual Treatment Offender Program (STOP)**

Youth adjudicated to STOP attend individual, group, and family counseling services in addition to weekly meetings with their probation officer. A probation officer monitors the juvenile’s behavior during home and school visits to assess safety and any signs of inappropriate behavior. The probation officer also speaks with teachers and school officials about the youth’s behavior, rule compliance, and academic performance. Individual and group counseling sessions focus on increasing the juvenile’s awareness of

the importance of protective factors such as education, healthy sexuality, true consent, choosing positive peers, and decreasing risk factors such as drug use, pornography use, and deviant sexual urges. The goals of Sexual Behavior Treatment (SBT) include: (1) no more victims, (2) teaching youth appropriate sexual boundaries, (3) emotion regulation skills, (4) sexual arousal awareness skills and self-control skills, and (5) communication skills.

The rehabilitation program’s intent is to increase ability, confidence, and motivation for prosocial function in society, and teach youth problem solving skills and how to manage their emotions and sexual urges. Adolescents participating in SBT also complete homework assignments designed to increase their personal awareness and improve their decision-making skills. In 2018, 29 juveniles participated in STOP.

**Creating Opportunities through Rehabilitation and Empowerment (CORE)**

[CORE](#) is a specialized intervention program for adolescent females who are at risk of becoming or are victims of human trafficking. The target population includes females exhibiting high-risk behaviors, and survivors of sexual abuse, sexual victimization, and sexual trauma. The program utilizes individual, family and group counseling, monthly life skills development activities and female role modeling/mentorship. Adolescent females participate in specialized interventions to attain trauma resolution, improved self-esteem, healthy sexual decision-making, improved family relationships, and prosocial behavior.

CORE strives to empower adolescent females and their families with the inner strength to heal from the past, the confidence to share their journey, and the courage to make a change in their lives. In 2018, 26 females received services from CORE.

**Successful Outcomes Using Resiliency for Child Empowerment (SOURCE)**

[SOURCE is an 1115 Waiver program](#) for youth with behavioral health disorders to improve functioning and divert them from the criminal justice system. One clinical care coordinator and one case manager specialist provide case management services, psychoeducation and other interventions individually tailored to each youth and family’s unique needs. Additional program staff and wrap around supports would be required to work with the number of youth and families in need. The program staff typically manage 17 to 24 clients and their families. In 2018, it served 32 individual youth and families.

<b>Priority #3</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Need to expand and diversify programs that identify youth development needs</b></p>	<p><b>Project LEARN</b>            In FY 2019, 99 students between birth and 19 years participated in Project LEARN.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of first and second graders had a 98% or above attendance record in school</li> <li>• 99% of program participants were promoted to the next grade level</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of birth to three-year-old children were screened for developmental delays</li> <li>• 100% of children ages 0-3 years with developmental delays received resource referrals</li> <li>• 100% of the parents received parent education classes</li> <li>• 100% of the parents improved their oral and written English communication skills</li> </ul>
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*Problem Details*

The early years of a child’s life present unique opportunities to lay the foundation for healthy development and academic success. Socioeconomic status, language abilities, and parental educational attainment are at-risk factors that affect young children’s academic, linguistic, cognitive and social-emotional health and development. Research shows that children from low-income households are more likely to experience behavioral and academic difficulties that negatively influence their success at school and in life. Children from low-income families also tend to have less exposure to the rich language and literacy activities at home that make obtaining academic success easier. As a result, an achievement gap that only strategic intervention can close appears between them and children from higher-income households.

*Potential Response to Problem*

**Project Let’s Eliminate At-Risk Needs (LEARN)**

[Project LEARN](#) benefits the entire family. Parents have the opportunity to increase their literacy levels through enrollment in ESL, Adult Basic Education (ABE) or GED, and learn how to become involved in their children’s education. Additionally, while the parents are in class, their children receive homework assistance, tutoring or early childhood education. Student involvement in LEARN begins at birth through fifth grade and afterwards many become program volunteers. In addition to Adult and Early Childhood Education, LEARN offers Parent Education, Computer learning, Intergenerational activities and Home Instruction.

There is something for every family member and all services are free of charge. This gives children of low-income families the opportunity to participate in a quality pre-school program that prepares them for pre-kindergarten. For many families, Project LEARN is the only opportunity to give their child an educational head start. With regular program attendance and parental home instruction, these children, at the age of four-years-old, begin school above the educational level of other children facing similar obstacles.

Parent Educators facilitate opportunities for parents and children to interact in class during Parents and Children Together (PACT) Time. During this activity, parents strengthen their role in their children’s social, emotional, and cognitive development through observation, communication and strategically applied concepts.

For families in need of additional parenting expertise, LCISD Early Childhood Family Engagement Specialists offer family workshops to Pre-Kinder campuses throughout the

district. The English Language and Bilingual leads on campuses are encouraged to offer a workshop from this series after they have observed one presented at their campus. Family workshops include parent-child engagement through hands-on activities and age appropriate developmental resources that the Children’s Learning Institute curriculum has included. Workshops are available in English with Spanish translation to ensure all of our families understand and participate equitably in the events.

<b>Priority #4</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Need to expand and diversify programs that identify youth development needs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• resource programs that include problem solving, anger management and a range of relevant services</li> <li>• early intervention services before entry into the juvenile justice system</li> <li>• intervention programs targeting educational gaps</li> <li>• human trafficking prevention and intervention</li> </ul>	<p><b>Resource programs serving juveniles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DePelchin Children’s Center Services to At-Risk Youths (STAR) Program</li> <li>• Goodwill Industries of Houston Career Online High School</li> <li>• Lamar CISD Alternative Learning Center (ALC)</li> <li>• Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse</li> <li>• Juvenile Probation My Reading Coach Literacy Program</li> <li>• Juvenile Probation Transitions Work/Study Program</li> <li>• KUDER Navigator</li> <li>• Texana Center</li> <li>• Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI)</li> <li>• Traffick911</li> <li>• 1621 Place</li> <li>• Centralized Intensive Behavior Class</li> <li>• Dads as Mentors</li> <li>• Fort Bend ISD Ridgemont Early Literacy Center (RMELC)</li> </ul>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p><b>DePelchin Children’s Center STAR Program</b>  <a href="#">STAR</a> is a state-funded grant program serving at-risk youth and families. To qualify for services, the family must live in Fort Bend County and have a child aged 17 or under that is experiencing runaway issues, truancy, or family conflict. STAR provides:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Crisis intervention family counseling</li> <li>2) Skills-based training that focuses on truancy prevention.</li> <li>3) Collaboration with Lamar CISD – A therapist goes Terry High School once a week to obtain referrals on students who could benefit from free individual and family counseling.</li> </ol> <p><b>Goodwill Industries of Houston “Dare to Dream” Youth Initiative and Career Online High School (COHS)</b>  <a href="#">The Youth Initiative</a> serves seven counties, including Fort Bend County. The program</p>	

focuses on youth between the ages of 14 and 21 who are out of school (dropped out, chronically truant, pursuing a GED, or completed high school). The program helps youth re-engage in high school, pursue a GED, or pursue vocational training at a local junior college or online through the [Career Online High School](#), which became available in 2018.

### **Alternative Learning Center (ALC)**

[ALC](#) is Lamar CISD's Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP). Lamar CISD provides a school-community guidance center to assist students with behavioral problems or students who engage in serious misconduct that interferes with their education. A structured academic and behavioral program teaches appropriate social skills and self-discipline. Parents must attend parent education and support sessions for each week of their child's ALC assignment.

### **Fort Bend Regional Council (FBRC)**

[FBRC](#)'s prevention programs understand that resilient children who can withstand difficult circumstances are the least likely to use addictive substances. FBRC youth prevention counselors lead classroom-based programs in 36 local schools. Counselors also conduct small group exercises, one-on-one sessions and leadership building activities during summer programs and at schools. The program also serves students who are demonstrating unexcused absences.

### **My Reading Coach Literacy Program**

My Reading Coach, distributed by Mindplay Educational Solutions, is a component of Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation's Transitions: Work/Study Program. [This literacy program](#) includes an assessment tool that tests each student to pinpoint deficiencies in the student's reading skills. In 2018, 215 youth completed the assessment and 42 subsequently enrolled and received approximately 447 hours of one-to-one programming with staff.

### **Transitions Work/Study Program**

[Transitions: Work/Study Program](#) provides juvenile probation youth, ages 14-18 years, with the tools that they will need to be educationally ready, job literate, and informed about higher education opportunities. Educational readiness is a primary focus of this program. In 2018, 47 juveniles benefitted from the Transitions Program. In addition, 82 juveniles received one-to-one math tutoring from a Transition's staff member.

### **KUDER Navigator Program**

Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation has a license for the KUDER Navigator, an online career guidance assessment tool. It offers college and career guidance based on the student's interests and skills. Juveniles that exiting the JLA and Residential Placement, as well as youth court-ordered to undergo an assessment, are assessed with this program. In 2018, 47 juveniles completed the KUDER Navigator assessment.

### **Texana Center**

[Texana Center](#) is a local non-profit organization that is the Local Mental Health Authority and Local Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Authority for Fort Bend County and five surrounding counties. The Center is the main provider of services to individuals with behavioral health issues and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities in the county. The

Behavioral Healthcare Services provides a 24/7/365 crisis intervention program. It is the only provider of crisis residential services for Fort Bend County residents who are indigent or rely on Medicaid. In 2018, Texana's Behavioral Healthcare Services served 8,815 individuals; 7,469 adults and 1,346 youth.

### **Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairment (TCOOMMI) Turnaround Program**

[The Turnaround Program](#) is a joint effort with Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation and the Texana Center. This program offers behavioral healthcare services, intensive in-home individual and family therapy, probation supervision and wraparound supports for youth who are encountering the juvenile justice system for the first time. The program's services strengthen families, develop appropriate coping skills, and build support systems to promote healthy parenting and family support and treat the youth's mental illness. The goal is to prevent further encounters with the juvenile justice system, and stabilize and continue treating the youth's mental illness. In 2018, 27 juveniles received these services.

### **Traffick911**

[Traps](#) is Traffick911's evidence-informed, interactive youth program designed to equip youth ages 12-18 years with the tools they need to avoid the tricks, traps and lures of human traffickers. Traffick911 helps encourage trafficked youth who are sitting undetected in the Juvenile Detention Center to make an outcry. In 2018, 97 female juveniles participated in the program.

### **1621 Place**

[1621 Place](#) is a self-paced high school choice program offered to all qualifying Lamar CISD high school students. Before placement, students apply, have their credits and STAAR EOC status analyzed, and go through a testing process. Students stay enrolled on their home high school campus and when they graduate, they can walk with their high school class. The home campus awards diplomas.

### **Centralized Intensive Behavior Class (CIBC)**

Lamar CISD's CIBC is a special educational program for students in grades K-12 who exhibit documented and detrimental behavior that may affect their or others' educational quality in the regular classroom environment. CIBC serves all Lamar CISD campuses. This program seeks to collaborate and coordinate with campus mental health workers to stabilize the student's mental and behavioral conditions so the student may return to their home campus.

### **Ridgemont Early Literacy Center (RMELC)**

[The RMELC](#) is a multi-service learning center where children and families can grow together as a community of learners. The RMELC opened in 2010 on the Ridgemont Elementary School campus. It provides early childhood development in an economically disadvantaged neighborhood within Fort Bend ISD. The Center is designed to address the multi-faceted needs of children and their parents with a dynamic interconnected support system:

- (1) Early Head Start/Head Start (from birth to 5 years of age) FBISD pre-kindergarten
- (2) PPCD (Special Education program)
- (3) Extended Day Program (before and after-school childcare)

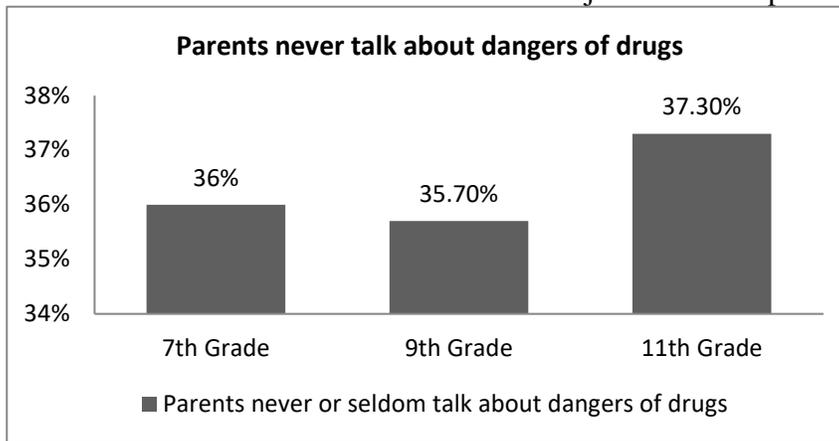
- (4) FBISD Family Literacy
- (5) Adult ESL, GED, computer, health and dental services, parental classes and social work and psychological services
- (6) Teacher mentorship services

**Priority #5**

<i>Problem Details</i>	<i>Data</i>																																																		
<p><b>Lack of substance abuse prevention services increases juvenile crimes and reduces academic success.</b></p>	<p>The following graph shows the percentage of students who reported using alcohol use in the past thirty days:</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 20px;"> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <caption>Past 30 day Alcohol Use</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>7th Grade</th> <th>9th Grade</th> <th>11th Grade</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>3.40%</td> <td>12.50%</td> <td>22.80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>6%</td> <td>15%</td> <td>28.10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>4.70%</td> <td>13%</td> <td>24.10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>4.30%</td> <td>12.10%</td> <td>16.10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 20px;"> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <caption>30 Day Drug Use</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Marijuana</th> <th>Rx Drugs</th> <th>Any Illicit Drug</th> <th>Tobacco</th> <th>E-Cigarettes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>11.90%</td> <td>10.30%</td> <td>4.70%</td> <td>1.90%</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>13.60%</td> <td>10.90%</td> <td>4.10%</td> <td>3.80%</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>10.40%</td> <td>8.20%</td> <td>2.60%</td> <td>2.20%</td> <td>6.70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>9.90%</td> <td>7.70%</td> <td>2.10%</td> <td>1.80%</td> <td>7.20%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p>The graph above compares the percentage of middle and high students who reported drug use in the past 30 days.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Source: FBISD PRIDE Data</i></p>	Year	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade	2012	3.40%	12.50%	22.80%	2014	6%	15%	28.10%	2016	4.70%	13%	24.10%	2018	4.30%	12.10%	16.10%	Year	Marijuana	Rx Drugs	Any Illicit Drug	Tobacco	E-Cigarettes	2012	11.90%	10.30%	4.70%	1.90%	0	2014	13.60%	10.90%	4.10%	3.80%	0	2016	10.40%	8.20%	2.60%	2.20%	6.70%	2018	9.90%	7.70%	2.10%	1.80%	7.20%
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<i>Problem Details</i>	<p><b>Fort Bend ISD Needs Assessment Highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eleventh graders reporting past 30-day use of alcohol declined by eight percent from 2016 to 2018 (16.1 % in 2018 vs. 24.1% in 2016).</li> </ul>																																																		

- Students reporting past 30-day use of prescription drugs declined by half a percent from 2016 to 2018 (2.1% in 2018 vs. 2.6% in 2016).
- Eleventh graders reporting past 30-day marijuana use: 15% (2018) vs. 16.1% (2016).
- Substance use is higher among girls than boys: 40.3% of girls reported using alcohol compared to 30.2% of boys, and 3.8% of girls reported using prescription drugs compared to 3.4% of boys.
- Among the eleventh graders who reported using alcohol or marijuana, 52.5% find access to alcohol to be very or fairly easy and 42.4% find access to marijuana very or fairly easy.
- The perceived risk of alcohol use has decreased slightly from 79.1% in 2016 to 76.6% in 2018.
- 21.8% of students see no risk or only a slight risk in drinking one or two drinks nearly every day. However, the perception of risk towards marijuana has increased from 52.1% in 2016 to 54.4% in 2018.
- Students reported that 70.5% of friends think it is wrong or very wrong to use alcohol.

\* Note – Students see less harm associated with marijuana use compared to alcohol use.



Substance abuse can lead to an array of community problems including addiction, child abuse and neglect, domestic abuse, homelessness, juvenile crimes and low academic success.

Easy access, social norms, limited perception of risk, and low enforcement rates contribute to continued use. This population is also underserved by prevention programming. Fort Bend County’s fast growth has stretched resources to the limit. Social service organizations’ capacity to serve has been limited due to funding cuts and reduced philanthropic giving. Parents seem unaware that offering alcohol to minors is a class A misdemeanor. Fort Bend County has no county or municipal ordinances targeting underage drinking. Citations for minors in possession of alcohol remain low, despite youth reporting regular alcohol use.

PRIDE 2018 school survey data shows that in the past thirty days, 2.3% of eleventh graders abused prescription drugs and annually abuse of prescription drugs is 3.4%. Perceptions of harm of prescription drug use among eleventh graders is 86.5% and for seventh graders it is 81.8%. The PRIDE survey also reported 23.2% of eleventh graders say prescription drugs are “very easy” or “fairly easy” to obtain. More than fifteen percent of students believe their

friends think there is “little or no harm” in using non-prescribed prescription drugs.

Number of Lamar CISD students sent to alternative campuses for substance abuse offenses:

	Total # of LCISD Students sent to Alternative Campuses	# of LCISD Students sent to Alternative Campuses (Substance Abuse related)	% of total LCISD students sent to alternative campuses
<b>2017-2018</b>	340	90	26.5%
<b>2018-2019</b>	353	61	17.3%

Number of FBISD students sent to alternative campuses for substance abuse offenses:

	Total # of FBISD Students sent to Alternative Campuses	# of FBISD Students sent to Alternative Campuses (Substance Abuse related)	% FBISD students sent to alternative campuses that were sent for substance abuse offenses
<b>2017-2018</b>	643	237	36.8%
<b>2018-2019</b>	596	259	43.5%

*Potential Response to Problem*

**Fort Bend Community Prevention Coalition (FBCPC)**

[The FBCPC](#)’s goal is to identify and address community issues that contribute to substance use among youth and young adults. The FBCPC promotes coordination, collaboration, and efficient use of community resources among parents, youth and young adults, schools, law enforcement, community leaders, faith and non-profit organizations, health care providers, businesses, the media, and local and state government agencies.

FBCPC believes it can change the environment, social norms and perceptions regarding substance abuse through seven proven strategies that affect community change:

- (1) providing information,
- (2) enhancing skills,
- (3) providing support,
- (4) enhancing access/reducing barriers,
- (5) changing consequences,
- (6) changing physical design, and
- (7) modifying/changing policies.

**Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse (FBRC)**

Please see description of prevention programming in Priority #4.

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

<b>Priority #1</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Limited access to available emergency shelters and basic human needs</b></p>	<p><b>Fort Bend Women’s Center (FBWC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018, FBWC served 292 family violence and sexual assault victims, women, and children.</li> <li>• In 2018, FBWC referred 1,651 callers to other shelters due to lack of space at the shelter.</li> <li>• In 2018, FBWC served 31,160 meals at the shelter and provided food boxes for 493 non-shelter families and 978 individuals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Missouri City Police Department</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In FY 2019, the Missouri City Police Department Victim Assistance Program aided 85 victims of family violence.</li> </ul> <p><b>Daya, Inc.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018, Daya served 97 domestic violence/sexual assault survivors from Fort Bend County.</li> <li>• The Daya helpline received 2,614 calls from Fort Bend County.</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p><a href="#">The Fort Bend Women’s Center (FBWC) shelter</a> is the only provider of emergency shelter services for domestic violence and/or sexual abuse survivors in Fort Bend County. The shelter provides emergency shelter for up to 65 survivors at a time. Entrance into the shelter is limited to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children.</p> <p><a href="#">Daya</a> provides culturally specific, non-residential services to South Asian and other similar immigrant groups who are survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Daya meets immediate, basic needs for clients including access to shelter, emergency hotel stays, transportation, food and financial assistance for food, housing, medical needs, and legal services.</p> <p>There is limited emergency shelter space available to victims of family violence. Local police departments regularly struggle to find adequate resources for victims in the area.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Staff refer people to alternative shelters when they are not eligible for the FBWC’s services or when there is insufficient space in the Shelter. However, local resources are limited and most referrals must be made to sources outside Fort Bend County.</p>	

<b>Priority #2</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Continuing need for additional resources for prosecution and follow-up investigation of protective orders and criminal cases involving family violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office</b> From September 2018 to August 2019, the Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office – Family Violence Division received approximately 2,300 domestic violence related cases from law enforcement for possible prosecution.</li> <li>• <b>Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners (TxFNE)</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>As Fort Bend County’s population continues to grow rapidly, there is a continued strain on the criminal justice system, and specifically in the area of family violence. The Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office continues to vigorously prosecute these cases, but it needs continued support from existing grants to make this possible.</p> <p><a href="#">Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners (TxFNE)</a> conducts medical forensic exams on victims of domestic violence. These exams not only assist with evaluating the victim’s health and trauma, they also link victims of domestic violence to crucial community partners and provide a valuable medical forensic record that can assist the Fort Bend County District Attorney’s office with additional evidence. They provide the opportunity for expert witness testimony for these cases. TxFNE is unable to bill insurance for medical forensic exams for domestic violence as currently they are not a billable type of exam.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
State and federal funding is crucial to be able to continue to conduct these important exams to victims of domestic violence.	

<b>Priority #3</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Victim/witness services for adults within the criminal court system</b>	<b>Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Victim Witness Division provided services to 7,447 victims from September 2018 to September 2019.</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Fort Bend County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. That increase requires additional personnel to work the growing caseload and provide victims with not only mandated assistance but the additional services they need and deserve.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
The Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office Victim/Witness Division assists crime victims with court setting notification, case status, court accompaniment, victim impact	

statements, crime victims' compensation, court procedure, referrals, follow-up and other services.

The District Attorney's Office strives to assist victims with case information, status, and support. Other important duties include addressing a victim's specific needs and making appropriate referrals for counseling and other resources. It is imperative that crime victims in Fort Bend County have these services available on a consistent basis.

<b>Priority #4</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Continued need for crime victim liaisons to address victim rights during the probationary period</b>	<p><b>The Fort Bend County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD)</b>  <b>September 2018 – September 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victim Services Program assisted 2,100 assaultive and monetary crime victims.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sugar Land Police Department (SLPD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From January 2019 to October 2019, the Victim Assistance Program aided 4,934 victims of family violence.</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>In the criminal justice system, victims often feel disconnected from the process when they try to obtain assistance or information. The Victim Services Program provides a linkage whereby victims can obtain assistance. Without these services, victims of assaults as well as of property crimes will not receive proper notification of probation status, updates, and/or monetary compensation.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>The response to the problem is to continue supporting the crime victims; to assist the victims in understanding the criminal justice system; to liaison between the probation officer and the community counterparts with the victims' problems, concerns and to keep the victims updated with the offender's case. However, maintaining the personnel to provide the mandated services for victims is essential.</p>	

<b>Priority #5</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Lack of adequate affordable housing for crime victims in Fort Bend County</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Missouri City Police Department Victim Assistance Program</b> In FY 2019, the Missouri City Police Department Victim Assistance Program aided 7 victims in direct services. Three victims received shelter and housing aid, three victims with emergency shelter or safe houses, and one victim with relocation assistance.</li> <li>• <b>U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018</b></li> <li>• <b>The Fort Bend Women’s Center (FBWC)</b> provided 194 housing units in 2017.</li> <li>• <b>Daya</b> provided three apartment units with 12-month leases in Fort Bend County in 2018.</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Victims of domestic violence face a major disruption in their lives, going beyond just physical health and emotional well-being. As victims rebuild their lives, they experience extreme financial hardships related to the cost of relocating and restoring a standard of living independent of their abuse. Victims often lose their jobs because they miss work to hide scars, seek medical attention, and attend police interviews and court dates. As is the nature of domestic violence, abusers use power and control to get victims fired from jobs by filing false complaints and causing disturbances at the work place to sabotage victims’ employment. The Missouri City Police Department Victim Assistance Program has documented such incidences and recognizes a major need in Fort Bend County for adequate employment options for victims of domestic violence so that they can be financially independent of their abuser.</p> <p>The Missouri City Police Department Victim Assistance Program has found numerous incidences of a lack of affordable housing for victims who are attempting to relocate in order to escape their abusers. In certain cases, the <a href="#">Texas Crime Victims’ Compensation Fund</a> will reimburse victims for relocation. However, the maximum reimbursement is \$1,800.00 for three months of rent and \$2,000.00 for deposits and moving expenses. Since the median monthly rent in Fort Bend County is \$1,357, it can be extremely difficult for victims to relocate within the county. Finding affordable housing in other counties places an unnecessary victim on burdens because they must travel back to Fort Bend County to cooperate with investigations, attend court dates, and apply for protective orders. In other cases, victims may not qualify for reimbursement and must pay one hundred percent of the cost of relocation. Since Hurricane Harvey and other recent flood events have reduced housing in the area as residents relocate into temporary apartments, it has become even more challenging to find affordable housing.</p>	

*Potential Response to Problem*

Although domestic violence and sexual assault affect people of all socioeconomic status, the majority of Daya and FBWC clients have income levels below \$10,000 per year. Children raised in violent homes are more likely to grow up to be abusive or abused as adults. Lack of affordable housing and other factors, including broken leases due to fleeing, are major barriers to the success of survivors trying to start safe, self-sufficient lives for themselves and their children.

Rapid rehousing and permanent housing through Tenant Based Rental Assistance are essential components of a successful self-sufficiency program for this population. Daya has specifically seen that multiple Fort Bend County clients must leave Fort Bend County to find affordable housing.

<b>Priority #6</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Continuing need for support services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking and their children</b></p> <p><b>Lack of dedicated bed space and transitional housing for adult victims of sex trafficking</b></p>	<p><b>Fort Bend County Women’s Center (FBWC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Texas Department of Public Safety’s Crime in Texas Report indicated that in 2018, 4,065 incidents of family violence and 260 sexual assault offenses were reported to law enforcement in Fort Bend County.</li> <li>• In 2018, the Fort Bend Women’s Center served 998 women, men, and children who were victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Missouri City Police Department Victim Assistance Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In FY 2019, 85 incidents of domestic violence and 16 sexual assault offenses were reported to the Missouri City Police Department.</li> <li>• In FY 2019, the Missouri City Police Department Victim Assistance Program aided 101 adults and children who were victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.</li> </ul> <p><b>Elijah Rising Restoration Campus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018, Elijah Rising’s Fort Bend intervention teams contacted 354 females actively being sex trafficked in Fort Bend County.</li> <li>• In 2018, Elijah Rising located 42 different sexually oriented business with either confirmed or highly probable instances of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation occurring on a regular basis.</li> <li>• The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task</li> </ul>

	<p>Force has called the provision of services “the most difficult challenge facing anti-trafficking efforts” in the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Daya Inc</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018, Daya supported 97 South Asian clients from Fort Bend County with culturally specific services.</li> <li>• Mental Health Services – Daya provides trauma-informed, culturally specific mental health services such as Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in a variety of South Asian languages.</li> <li>• Legal Services – Daya provides legal advocacy and financial assistance for legal fees for family and immigration law. Daya is also a Department of Justice accredited organization and can prepare immigration paperwork in house for clients seeking immigration relief due to abuse.</li> </ul>
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*Problem Details*

Victims of domestic violence face a major disruption in their lives, going beyond just physical health and emotional well-being. As victims rebuild their lives, they experience extreme financial hardships related to the cost of relocating and restoring a standard of living independent of their abuse. Victims often lose their jobs because they miss work to hide scars, seek medical attention, and attend police interviews and court dates. As is the nature of domestic violence, abusers use power and control to get victims fired from jobs by filing false complaints and causing disturbances at the work place to sabotage victims’ employment. The Missouri City Police Department Victim Assistance Program has documented such incidences and recognizes a major need in Fort Bend County for adequate employment options for victims of domestic violence so that they can be financially independent of their abuser.

The 2014 Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report found that finding and providing appropriate services for victims of human trafficking was a challenge statewide. Texas has recognized this as a unique population of victims in need of specialized therapeutic services. Adult women coming out of trafficking situations need not only secure shelter, but also trauma-informed mental health counseling and skilled social work, legal services, life skills training, education, childcare, and job skills training. Devotion of resources by the Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office and law enforcement agencies in the county in 2019 to the time intensive investigation of human trafficking related offenses will result in a significant increase in the number of victims of human trafficking related offenses needing services. These individuals often have no home other than that provided by the perpetrator.

*Potential Response to Problem*

The [Fort Bend Women's Center](#) serves women, men, and children who are domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Providing a safe haven and support services to these survivors is essential to ending the cycle of violence. Available services include emergency shelter, crisis intervention, case management, individual and group counseling, legal advocacy, medical services (including hospital accompaniment advocates), job and housing placement. These and other support services are key to the success of survivors trying to begin self-sufficient lives for themselves and their children in an environment free from abuse.

The [Elijah Rising](#) Restoration Campus, formerly known as Kendleton Farms, is a dedicated therapeutic facility for adult victims of sex trafficking in Fort Bend County. It is an 18-24 month, trauma informed restorative program built on evidence-based practices. Its practices are informed by the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) guidelines for Complex PTSD, as well as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in conjunction with other experts in the field. The program also features case management, mental health services, mentorship, and job skills training. The Elijah Rising Restoration Campus currently has the capacity to house six survivors of sex trafficking in the restoration program and plans to increase available bed space for adult survivors and their children by the end of 2020.

Fort Bend County must prioritize development of the Office of the Governor's mandated CARE Coordination initiative to implement trauma-informed services for victims of human trafficking related offenses.

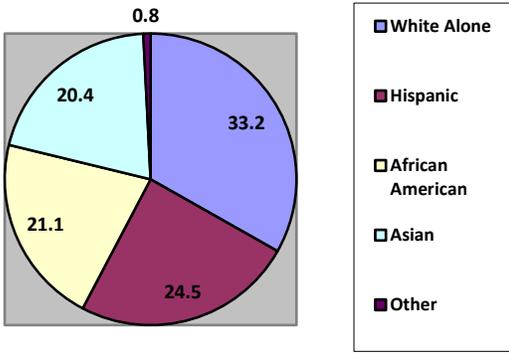
[Daya](#) supports South Asian survivors of domestic and sexual violence with culturally specific services. Services are trauma informed and client centered to meet the mental health, legal, housing, medical, and case management needs of survivors. In 2018, Daya supported 462 clients, of which, 21% were from Fort Bend County. Through targeted outreach and co-location of services, Daya continues to increase their presence in Fort Bend County.

Fort Bend County must create partnerships with local businesses that recognize the dynamics of domestic violence and are willing to employ victims who are attempting to be financially independent of their abusers. More outreach with corporate managers, business owners, and human resources departments is necessary to raise awareness about the consequences of domestic violence and the workplace. Businesses must incorporate proactive policies that advocate and help victims recover from trauma.

<b>Priority #7</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Domestic violence and sexual assault prevention programs need to be in place in all Fort Bend County educational institutions, from elementary school through post-secondary educational and vocational programs</b></p>	<p><b>Fort Bend County Women’s Center (FBWC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018, three women died from intimate partner violence in Fort Bend County.</li> <li>• Texas Council on Family Violence found that women ages 20-39 made up 49% of the intimate partner violence (IPV) deaths in 2017.</li> <li>• According to the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, 53.7% of total victimizations occur between the ages of one and twenty-four, and 70% of victimizations are perpetrated against females.</li> <li>• Data from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence indicates that one third of women and one fourth of men have been victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime. Women between the ages of 18-24 are most commonly abused by an intimate partner. One in 15 children witness intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.</li> <li>• <b>Daya Inc (Daya)</b></li> </ul>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>The Fort Bend Women’s Center (FBWC) has taken a holistic approach to address domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. The initial focus was on reaching youth ages 12-24, which has been accomplished in several ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) In 2018, more than 1,300 12 to 18-year olds were exposed to conversations about healthy relationships through <a href="#">Fort Bend ISD Leadership 102</a>. Each student in the group attends a different district high school and is in charge of awareness activities in their specific school. FBWC also helped launch the Katy ISD “Classmates for Consent” club.</li> <li>(2) Created the Student Athlete Awareness division, which raises awareness of sexual assault using a curriculum that addresses issues specific to student athletes. FBWC has spoken to approximately 170 student athletes about consent laws, sexual assault, and Bystander Intervention strategies.</li> <li>(3) Partnering with Texas State Technical College (TSTC). Forming a working relationship with TSTC was a priority because they enroll a high percentage of both college-aged and young adult males. The curriculum includes bystander intervention strategies, consent laws, healthy relationship traits, and in-depth discussion about perpetration.</li> </ol> <p>FBWC currently employs one person dedicated to community education. This year they have been able to reach 2,200 people as of October 2018. However, those numbers could</p>	

grow exponentially with each extra position dedicated to community education. Expanding further into Lamar CISD and Katy ISD are the highest priorities, followed by the Houston Community College System, University of Houston, and Rice University. An additional staff would allow FBWC to double its area of influence.

Daya follows a two-prong approach to end the cycle of abuse in the South Asian community. Along with direct services, Daya educates the community in an effort to prevent domestic violence. Daya’s SAFE ([South Asians for Empowerment](#)) program is open to high school students age 15-18. In this afterschool program, students learn about the dynamics of dating and sexual violence, explore the intersections of violence in the South Asian community, and initiate projects to promote empowerment and healthy relationships. The inaugural cohort hosted 14 students.

<b>Priority #9</b>													
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>												
<p><b>Lack of culturally sensitive resources for crime victims</b></p>	<p><b>U.S. Census Bureau Fort Bend County Demographics:</b></p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <caption>Fort Bend County Demographics</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Race</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White Alone</td> <td>33.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hispanic</td> <td>24.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>African American</td> <td>21.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asian</td> <td>20.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0.8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Missouri City Police Department</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In FY 2019, the Missouri City Police Department assisted 10 Asian, 154 Black/African American, 2 Hispanic/Latino, 93 White, and 2 “other race” victims of violent crimes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Daya, Inc (Daya)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2018, Daya supported 462 clients, 97 of whom resided in Fort Bend County. Daya also conducted 25 awareness and education events, reaching over 1,100 Fort Bend County residents. In 2018, Daya also engaged 28 volunteers from Fort Bend County, all of whom serve as repeat volunteers for the organization.</li> </ul>	Race	Percentage	White Alone	33.2%	Hispanic	24.5%	African American	21.1%	Asian	20.4%	Other	0.8%
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<i>Problem Details</i>													
<p>Fort Bend County is one of the largest and most diverse counties in Texas. Recent census data indicates almost equal representation of the nation’s four major ethnic</p>													

communities — African American, Asian, Hispanic, and White. Violent crimes such as domestic violence and child abuse are prevalent in all societies, regardless of ethnicity. Fort Bend county’s services must be culturally sensitive to serve its diverse population. Cultural and language barriers can keep crime victims from reporting crimes and seeking assistance.

Since 1996, Daya has supported South Asian victims facing unique barriers when navigating mainstream systems. Some challenges are more apparent, such as limited English proficiency. However, victims also face a distrust of law enforcement that stems from experiences in their home country. They experience violence from their in-laws and lack family support due to distance and cultural taboos. A victim’s immigration status is often tied her abuser and used as a tool of control. Abusers threaten deportation and fail to file the proper paperwork, trapping their partners who are kept from learning about valid immigration relief. These challenges compound an already complex system for South Asian victims who need safety and recovery. South Asian victims do not readily access mainstream services. Domestic and sexual violence is underreported and underestimated. Cultural taboos cause victims to minimize their abuse. Worse, traditional danger assessments do not capture the unique vulnerabilities faced by victims in this community.

Victims of domestic minor sex trafficking are often detained for crimes committed in the process of their captivity (drugs, truancy, theft, assault, etc.). They are often not aware they are victims of a crime, so they rarely self-identify. As a result, they are underserved within the criminal justice system and by appropriate social services. This increases the likelihood they will return to their trafficking situation upon release and be in and out of jail throughout their lives.

*Potential Response to Problem*

Daya is a trusted cultural expert for South Asian survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Daya provides crisis and ongoing counseling, including innovative approaches for trauma. Sessions are in the victim’s native language with mental health experts who understand cultural nuances. Advocates assist victims throughout the criminal justice process to ensure a timely and knowledgeable experience. They assist in police interviews, criminal justice notifications, and the protective order process. Daya also supports clients throughout their family and immigration legal processes. They provide in-depth legal advocacy, financial assistance, and court accompaniment. They serve as a liaison with attorneys for language and cultural expertise. As a Department of Justice accredited agency, Daya plays an active role in assisting clients to prepare their immigration cases. By partnering with mainstream shelters, Daya bridges the gap to help victims access immediate safety. They provide transportation to shelter, food to meet cultural dietary restrictions, case management, and emergency accommodation. They then assist clients in transitioning into one of two culturally specific housing programs. Daya also provides community awareness and education at cultural events and trainings to reach untapped victims. They lead a grassroots program in which volunteers speak privately about victims services to groups in their homes or places of worship. Once the victim has safely fled, advocates also provide mobile advocacy.

Print and electronic materials should be translated into the major spoken languages. Further, an effort must be made to partner with agencies such as Daya and [Boat People S.O.S.](#) to provide culturally sensitive resources. Agencies can also raise awareness about the services they provide and encourage victims to seek help by hosting outreach efforts with culturally specific populations.

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

<b>Priority #1</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Child abuse/neglect issues in Fort Bend County:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued need for additional appropriate, specialized trauma treatment services for abused and neglected children</li> <li>• Continued need for additional, specialized treatment services for non-offending caregivers</li> <li>• Continued need for additional system and facility to meet acute and non-acute sexual assault exam needs for children</li> <li>• Lack of appropriate, specialized treatment services for alleged adult and juvenile offenders</li> <li>• Lack of a program for reunification services for adolescent offenders and their sibling victims</li> <li>• Lack of mentoring program for child victims of abuse/neglect but not in foster care</li> <li>• Continued need for collaborative efforts to meet needs of abused/neglected children</li> <li>• Number of children serving as victims/witnesses in criminal court system and the associated trauma</li> <li>• Need for trained personnel to assist families with Crime Victim Compensation applications</li> <li>• Lack of appropriate</li> </ul>	<p><b>Child Advocates of Fort Bend, 2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Served 1,847 clients</li> <li>• 1,421 forensic interviews of child victims</li> <li>• 437 criminal court advocacy clients</li> </ul> <p><b>Fort Bend Community Partners Rainbow Room, FY 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Served 2,065 CPS clients</li> <li>• 4,276 allegations of child abuse/neglect</li> <li>• 3,617 assigned cases</li> </ul> <p><b>Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners (TxFNE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TxFNE has seen 251 patients since its launch in March 2019 through October 2019. Sixty-seven patients were pediatric and adolescent, and of those eight were Fort Bend County law enforcement cases.</li> <li>• 21 of 251 total patients were Fort Bend County cases.</li> </ul>

<p>emergency material needs for abused and neglected children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for services to address the specific needs of sex trafficking victims including shelter and trauma treatment.</li> <li>• Need for all of the above services to be available for Spanish speaking clients</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Problem Details</i></p>	
<p>The American Medical Association has found that the lasting effects of childhood sexual abuse are associated with a significantly higher lifetime prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety disorders including panic attacks, and substance use problems. Left untreated, abused children can spend a lifetime battling the effects of their childhood trauma. Additionally, according to Dr. Nancy Kellogg, M.D. at the University of Texas Health Science Center of San Antonio Department of Pediatrics, 40% of abused children will be abused again before their eighteenth birthday.</p> <p>Fort Bend County’s Hispanic/Latino population is growing alongside the rest of the County’s populations. Many Fort Bend County residents speak Spanish as their primary language, and they need access to culturally sensitive Spanish language services.</p>	
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p>	
<p><a href="#">The Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC)</a> offers specialized, trauma-focused therapeutic services in English and Spanish for child victims and their non-offending family members. Among other barriers, lack of transportation and the caregiver’s work schedules prevent clients from accessing CAC services. The therapy department has increased the number of therapists to accommodate its clients’ needs. Efforts are being made to connect with trauma-informed community clinicians who can be referral sources to address the growing need for access to services.</p> <p>There is limited access to medical facilities in Fort Bend County that provide full service forensic nursing services for child victims of sexual and physical abuse. In 2019, Harris Health System secured space at AccessHealth’s Richmond location to provide forensic nursing services to children locally on a part-time weekly basis. Additionally, <a href="#">Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners (TxFNE)</a> launched two locations in Fort Bend County to provide forensic nursing services for children and adults. TxFNE also offers mobile service.</p> <p>Professionals in the child abuse system have observed an increase in the number of adolescent offenders and a corresponding strain on the availability of specialized treatment providers for this population. The CAC collaborates with CPS, law</p>	

enforcement, and the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office to seek out the best course of action to ensure child safety and treatment. When adolescent offenders have completed a sex offender treatment program, there needs to be a structured, therapeutic reunification program for those families seeking reunification between adolescent offenders and their sibling victims.

The CAC has implemented a mentoring program for child victims who are no longer at risk of abuse in the home but still need extra support to help them heal from their experiences. The volunteer mentors meet with children at the home, school and events to provide support and guidance. Families and children must opt-in to the program and the volunteers are supervised by a social worker.

Because of the complexity of child abuse cases, all of the agencies that investigate and prosecute these cases must collaborate to lessen the trauma children experience going through the system and when appropriate, to strengthen cases. The CAC help facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration between CPS, law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, and community providers. Regular meetings are scheduled among these agencies to ensure that the focus remains on the child.

When the alleged offender is being prosecuted, child witnesses and their non-offending family members must stay engaged in the criminal justice process. The CAC provides criminal court orientation, accompaniment and support to families as they go through this system. The support helps families understand the process and helps child witnesses build resiliency and strength.

The CAC is the designated care coordinator for child sex trafficking victims. The CAC will need to partner with community groups to provide specialized services for those victims.

The [Fort Bend Rainbow Room](#) provides emergency and transitional supplies for the unmet material needs of children and families involved with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. The Rainbow Room also serves children aging out of the system or attending college. The Rainbow Room is a resource room stocked with snacks, diapers, school supplies, clothes, toiletries, toys and other items that families in crisis may need. Only new items are stocked. Receiving new items can have a significant impact on how well children feel cared for and fit in with their peers. The Rainbow Room is available to caseworkers 24/7.

<b>Priority #2</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Issues for children in foster care:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of trauma-informed care training for professionals working with children in the foster care system</li> <li>• Lack of available licensed foster care homes, adoptive homes and shelters</li> <li>• Lack of funding to assist family/kinship placements for children in foster care</li> <li>• Lack of parent/child visitation programs (training, facility, protocol, volunteers, etc.) to create emotional and physical bonding between parents and children</li> <li>• Need for expanded customized programs to serve “at-risk” teens, infants, toddlers, and primary school-aged children in foster care to address issues such as transitioning to adult life, improving graduation rates, life skills training, bonding, family reunification, decrease recidivism, education, and social well-being</li> <li>• Absence of transitional housing and services for children aging out of foster care</li> <li>• Lack of child abuse and</li> </ul>	<p><b>Child Advocates of Fort Bend, 2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 279 children in foster care in Fort Bend County served by Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers- 100% match for CASA volunteers to children in foster care</li> </ul> <p><b>Fort Bend Community Partners Rainbow Room, FY 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPS clients served 2,065</li> <li>• Allegations of child abuse/neglect 4,276</li> <li>• Assigned cases 3,617</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Texas Department of Family and Protective Services</b></li> </ul>

<p>neglect prevention programs in schools to educate children and school personnel about symptoms, protocols, and services available in Fort Bend County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of collaborative efforts to meet needs of abused/neglected children</li> <li>• Lack of trauma-informed care training for professionals working with children in the foster care system</li> </ul>	
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*Problem Details*

Children in care of the state face many difficulties, both because of the original abuse and because of the lack of permanency in their lives. Many must live in a succession of different homes and shelters and remain in care for the rest of their childhood. Children who suffer from abuse and neglect are much more likely to grow up with unmet medical, emotional, mental health, and social needs.

Research has found that foster children face roadblocks that other economically disadvantaged children do not face. Children in foster care reported that they had concerns about maintaining ties with their biological parents and caring for siblings that distracted them from schoolwork. Foster children reported that they often avoided social interactions with peers in order to keep their foster care status hidden. Loss for a foster child is not only the loss of family, but of community, friends, and traditional support systems. All foster children, to some degree, have experienced trauma through physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, or sexual abuse. The effects of trauma for the child are cumulative and often lead to social and learning problems. Most foster children have difficulty trusting adults who can help and support them. Entering foster care immediately decreases a child’s chance at academic success. Students lose 4 to 6 months of academic progress every time they change schools and attend an average of 6 different schools in their K-12 experience. Children in long-term foster care average 10 different moves during their first 3 years in care. Low academic performance creates serious long-term consequences. Roughly, 50% of these children repeat at least one grade, are below grade level, or never finish high school. In 2018, there was an average of approximately 750 children placed in Fort Bend County foster homes, but only approximately 50 of those children are actually children removed from homes in Fort Bend County. Approximately 50% of the children removed from Fort Bend County homes are placed in other counties across the region/state. This only adds to the trauma children incur when they come into care.

*Potential Response to Problem*

[Child Advocates of Fort Bend](#) is a non-profit agency serving abused and neglected children in Fort Bend County. When children are in foster care, they go to court and judges must make important decisions that greatly impact their lives. *Court Appointed Special Advocates* (CASA) is a program under the umbrella of Child Advocates in which a volunteer is appointed to every child in protective custody. Volunteers generally carry only one case, have the opportunity to spend more time with the children than other parties involved in the case, and serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for the judge.

[The CASA program](#) has two specialized staff members dedicated to supervising volunteers who are involved in the infant-toddler court team. CASA has an infant and toddler team that trains volunteers to work with this special population. However, there is an ongoing need for specialized programs that provide more hands-on training for parents.

There is a gap in specialized services and targeted support for children aged 6-13 years. These children are at a critical age as they establish their values, character, educational performance, self-esteem, peer connections and adult role models. Child Advocates provides a program called *Nurturing Education and Social Triumphs* (NEST) that focuses on education, social skills and health.

Participating youth may attend *WINGS Life Skills* trainings, where they visit local businesses to learn about different fields of work and learn how to interview for a job, manage a budget, rent an apartment, get a car and open a checking account. Expanding the learning environment beyond the classroom setting has proven that hands-on learning is effective. These youth also participate in *WINGS Campus Crawls* to visit post-secondary education sites. The youth are able to experience college life by visiting the campuses and interacting with college students.

The CASA program also has two Trust Based Relational Intervention Practitioners (TBRI, a trauma-informed care model) on staff that have been trained to work with children from hard places that have experienced trauma. These staff members are able to provide training in TBRI to CASA volunteers as well as other community partners.

<b>Priority #3</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Lack of programs to prevent child victimization</b></p> <p><b>Need for parenting classes that provide hands on training to improve wellness, family reunification, and prevent child abuse</b></p> <p><b>Need to expand and diversify programs that identify youth development needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ESCAPE Family Resource Center (closed in 2019)</b></li> <li>• <b>Texas Department of Family and Protective Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Texas Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017</b></li> <li>• <b>Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2018</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Research indicates that yelling and other harsh discipline practices put children at risk for maltreatment and stunt efforts to help children develop the social and emotional competencies they need to successfully navigate life. Findings from “<i>Tuning In</i>,” a national parent survey conducted by Zero to Three, show that the “exception gap” between what children are able and expected to do in early childhood is a significant source of frustration for parents. This lack of understanding can result in parents using harsh discipline methods instead of regulating their emotions and helping their children learn to do the same.</p> <p>Teen pregnancies and teen births are a proxy for risky sexual activity. In 2017, 45.3% of Texas high school students seventeen years and younger reported ever having had sexual intercourse.</p> <p>In Fort Bend County, there were 254 births to mothers aged 15-19 years in 2018. Parenting classes will help these young parents better support their children’s development, prevent child maltreatment and future unplanned pregnancies, as well as avoid other risk-taking activities.</p>	

*Potential Response to Problem*

The DFPS Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Five Year Strategic Plan emphasizes goals and activities related to prevention and early intervention programs which include improved parenting skills. PEI's strategies are rooted in the understanding that families are primarily responsible for creating a safe and nurturing environment for their children, and that almost all families want to do what is best for their children but may need some support to do so.

Scientific research indicates that the first five years of life are critical to a person's physical, emotional and intellectual development. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease control's article [Parent Training Programs: Insight for Practitioners](#), teaching emotional communication, positive interaction skills and requiring parents to practice with their own child during program sessions are tools that are helpful in developing effective parenting skills.

ESCAPE Family Resource Center was a program designed to increase parents' knowledge about child development. The Center's closure after forty years has left a void in the community.

<b>Priority #4</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Prevalence of child victims of juvenile sex offenders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued need for a specialized prosecutor to handle cases involving Juvenile sex offenders</li> <li>• Lack of appropriate reunification counseling and services for Juvenile offenders and related victims cohabitating in the same residence</li> <li>• Lack of Licensed Sex Offender Treatment Providers to provide appropriate counseling services for offenders</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since January 2012, 355 juveniles have been referred to the Fort Bend County Juvenile Courts for sexual based offenses. This number does not reflect multiple offenses or multiple victims. The number of victims in need of appropriate counseling and treatment services is significantly higher.</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Juvenile crimes, and more specifically, juvenile sex crimes, tend to fall into the category of opportunistic offenses. Juveniles offend when they are unsupervised or improperly supervised. As a result, it is common for the victims of a juvenile's sex offense to be a member of the victim's family or household. The juvenile justice system has a strong</p>	

preference for rehabilitation, and the juvenile offender may receive intensive sex offender treatment and rehabilitation while residing in the same home as their victim.

In preparation for the juvenile offender’s reintegration into the home, the victim should have the opportunity to receive appropriate counseling and therapeutic services to minimize further emotional trauma. Because the victims and offenders are often both minors in the care of an appropriate parent or legal guardian, the entire family unit is affected by the juvenile offenders return into the residence. (See “Juvenile Issues, Priority #2, The STOP Program”)

There is a strong need for appropriate and specialized counseling and therapeutic services to address the unique issues and needs of these families. Juvenile sex offenders often have unique issues involving their potential rehabilitation that are very different from the rehabilitation approach taken with adult sex offenders. The result is a continued and growing need for appropriate Licensed Sex Offender Treatment Providers (LSOTP) who specialize in working with juvenile offenders. There remains a need for more LSOTPs who have the additional education and training required to successfully treat juvenile sex offenders. Successful rehabilitating these offenders prevents new victimizations and re-victimizations from occurring.

*Potential Response to Problem*

In 2013, the Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office added a staff attorney to assist in handling referrals from law enforcement agencies alleging felony-grade sex offenses committed by juvenile perpetrators. By 2015, the number of juvenile offender referrals and the creation of County Court at Law #5 (also sitting as a Juvenile Court), necessitated adding another staff attorney to handle the intake and prosecution of juvenile offenders. Generally speaking, sex offenses require more lengthy and sophisticated investigation. For prosecutors, this equates to dedicating more time to insure a proper review of the cases that will result in appropriate and thoughtful charging decisions. These cases also generally involve younger victims and always involve younger offenders (as young as ten years old). On average, it takes four months to a year for each of these cases to move through the juvenile justice system. Additionally, supervision of these youth during the course of their respective sex offender treatment programs is rarely less than two years. Maintaining specially trained prosecutors focused on juvenile law and sex offense prosecution results benefits the victims and offenders. The victims’ and the offenders’ rehabilitation can be better supervised and connected to the appropriate outreach services.

<b>Priority #5</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Inadequate crisis intervention programs and shelters for juveniles</b></p> <p><b>Inadequate programs for</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parks Youth Ranch is the only emergency shelter for at-risk youth or homeless youth in Fort Bend County.</b></li> </ul>

<b>runaways/ “unwanted” teens and at-risk teens</b>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p><a href="#">The Fred and Mabel R. Parks Youth Ranch</a> was established in response to a gap in community services for the at-risk and homeless youth population. In the 2017-2018 school year, 1,804 at-risk and homeless youth registered with Lamar Consolidated and Fort Bend independent school districts. Accessing services locally allows homeless youth to continue their education in their home school, which increases the chance that they will complete their high school education. Having a youth shelter in Fort Bend County allows families living in or near Fort Bend to participate in family counseling and visit on a more frequent basis, which makes family reunification more plausible. It also offers youth stability in a familiar environment.</p> <p>The ranch houses three facilities: The George Counseling Center, The Fort Bend Junior Service League Recreation Center and Parks Emergency Shelter. Referrals come from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Juvenile Probation or from the community. Constituency served includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abused, homeless and troubled youth ages seven to seventeen in Fort Bend County and the Greater Houston area. CPS may refer youth from outside Region 6. Boys and girls of any ethnicity, from families of any income level, are served.</li> <li>• Youth involved in Class C misdemeanor cases or status offenses.</li> <li>• Youth referred by law enforcement for a cooling off period when there is a threat of violence in the home.</li> <li>• Other Fort Bend County youth who request available services</li> </ul> <p>Youth referred to the shelter receive services for up to 90 days with the possibility of two additional 90-day extensions. The services support at-risk, unaccompanied, or homeless youth and their families to continue toward conflict resolution. Services focus on creating a stable living environment, continuing education, and connecting to collaborative community-based social services.</p>	

<b>Priority #6</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Lack of transportation for child victims and families</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Texas Department of Family and Protective Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Child Advocates of Fort Bend</b></li> <li>• <b>Texas Forensic Nursing Services (TxFNE)</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
When Child Protective Services (CPS) is involved with a family due to findings of abuse and/or neglect in the home, the courts order parents to utilize community resources and	

complete services to attempt to address and resolve the behaviors and concerns which were present when the child came into the care of the state. The community service providers are located across the Fort Bend County. It is frequently an issue in CPS cases that the parents have limited, if any, transportation to complete these court-ordered services. There are few community resources to help families obtain transportation. Although the county has a transportation service, either parents cannot afford the cost (albeit minimal) or the providers are located outside the transportation service zones.

It is imperative that transportation be accessible to families and children in Fort Bend County. The services that are provided to parents trying to make positive changes and to children who are victims of abuse are the keys to making progress towards eradicating child abuse and neglect in Fort Bend County.

In addition to the children in foster care, there is a largely separate group of children who are victims of sexual abuse and serious physical abuse. Many of these children continue to live at home with non-offending family members. They bear the burden of the trauma of the abuse itself, coupled with remaining in an environment that gave rise to the trauma in the first place. These children often need transportation to get to and from therapy services provided by the Children’s Advocacy Center. They are often in home environments that lack transportation and have limited resources.

*Potential Response to Problem*

Fort Bend Transit receives federal, state, and local dollars and is limited to only public transportation within Fort Bend County. Fort Bend Transit is currently exploring possible partnerships with other counties to provide evening and weekend transit utilizing taxicabs and/or private operators.

Texas Forensic Nursing Services (TxFNE) offers Lyft services for families that struggle with transportation issues to/from a medical forensic exam. TxFNE staff will assist with coordination of this service when needed. AccessHealth offers clients a limited number of complimentary Uber Health rides for patients who need transportation to and from medical visits, therapy sessions, and nutritional service appointments.

<b>Priority #7</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Need for victim/witness services for children in the criminal court system</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Child Advocates of Fort Bend</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office</b></li> </ul>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>In 2007, the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) began providing specialized criminal court advocacy services to children. Children who are victims of crime or witnesses to acts of violence require special assistance to understand and participate in the criminal justice system without experiencing further trauma. The CAC provides information on</p>	

legal procedures, emotional support, referrals, court orientation and court accompaniment.

In cooperation with the CAC, the Victim/Witness Division of the Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office also aids parents, guardians, and family members of child victims. These adult witnesses often need support, referrals and court accompaniment as well. The Victim/Witness Division also provides information regarding legal procedures and court orientation.

<b>Priority #8</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Continuing need for additional resources for investigation and prosecution of criminal cases involving physical and sexual abuse of children, including offenses involving sexual exploitation of children such as Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) and human trafficking.</b></p>	<p><b>Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In FY 2019, the Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office received 398 child abuse-related cases from law enforcement for review and possible prosecution.</li> <li>• In FY 2018, the Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office received 351 child abuse-related cases from law enforcement for for review and possible prosecution.</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>There has been a significant increase in the number of computer-related crimes against children being submitted for prosecution. In 2019, The Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office and other law enforcement agencies in the county have devoted significant resources toward the time intensive investigation of human trafficking related offenses. This has and will in the future result in a significant increase in the number of human trafficking related offenses involving children being submitted for prosecution.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>In 2013, an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Investigator position was implemented in a joint collaboration between the Houston Metro ICAC Taskforce and the Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office. The Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office continues to vigorously prosecute child injury, child sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation cases, but it needs additional resources for prosecution. The time, demand, and specialized knowledge required to effectively investigate and prosecute sexual offenses committed against children is considerable. Therefore, there is a substantial need for increased training and personnel for investigative law enforcement agencies countywide to investigate child sexual abuse (including ICAC cases), and child injury and death cases.</p>	

In 2019, the Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office implemented a Human Trafficking Unit within its Child Abuse Division to pursue investigation and prosecution of human trafficking offenses, especially those involving sexual exploitation of children.

<b>Priority #9</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Lack of reasonable accommodations for CPS caseworkers to stay within Fort Bend County while waiting to obtain placement for children when they initially come into conservatorship</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Texas Department of Family and Protective Services</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Fort Bend Community Partners Rainbow Room, FY 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPS clients served 2,065</li> <li>• Allegations of child abuse/neglect 4,276</li> <li>• Assigned cases 3,617</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Since Region 6 split, Harris County comprises Region 6A and the outlying counties are in 6B. There is not a local office or facility with adequate accommodations to house Fort Bend County children. The outlying counties need a facility or community resource where staff who take children into custody can stay until placement is obtained, rather than driving to Montgomery or Brazoria Counties to utilize their office spaces.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (Texas DFPS) is aware that staff drive all the way to Harris County, sometimes stay overnight, drive back to Fort Bend, and repeat until a placement is obtained. Other resources such as the <a href="#">Region 6 Child Welfare Board</a> and the Fort Bend Rainbow Room Board, among others, are collaborating to come up with a solution to assist staff and keep children in Fort Bend County. (Please see Victim Issues – Child, Priority #1 for a description of the Fort Bend Rainbow Room)</p>	

<b>Priority #10</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Lack of funding and site for resource for drug testing facility</b></p>	<p><b>Texas Department of Family and Protective Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80-90% of cases involved with Texas DFPS involve substance use issues</li> </ul>

<i>Problem Details</i>
The cases that come into the Texas DFPS involve investigating child abuse and neglect. In many instances, assigned caseworkers go into the homes and find a parent incoherent, under the influence, or passed out.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>
Texas DFPS will seek out resource opportunities and agencies that can conduct drug testing in the Rosenberg area. They would contract to provide the drug testing site and possible treatment services for the clients instead of sending them to Sugar Land or Harris County to be drug tested.

<b>Priority #11</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Prevalence of unidentified, unserved child victims of sex trafficking within the criminal justice system</b>	<p><b>Elijah Rising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The FBI has estimated the typical age of entry into prostitution as 12-14 years old. If true, it is likely that many girls in detention are victims. Anecdotal evidence demonstrates this is a regional problem and a significant driver of adult prostitution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners (TxFNE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TxFNE is a partner of the Southwest Division of the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance (HTRA). It has provided on scene exams during coordinated HTRA operations that Fort Bend County has participated in.</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
Victims of domestic minor sex trafficking are often detained for crimes committed in the process of their captivity (drugs, truancy, theft, assault, etc.). They are often unaware that they are a victim of a crime, so they rarely self-identify. Additionally, this class of victims is generally uncooperative with authorities due to trauma bonds with their perpetrators. As a result, they are underserved by the justice system and by appropriate social services.	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
See “Juvenile Issues – Priority #4” and “Victim Issues – Adult – Priority #6”	

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

<b>Priority #1</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Need to expand law enforcement personnel and associated prosecutorial resources with the proportionate growth of Fort Bend County</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend Economic Development Council</b></li> <li>• <b>U.S. Census Bureau, 2019</b></li> <li>• <b>Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance</b></li> <li>• <b>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019</b></li> <li>• <b>Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)</b></li> <li>• <b>Texas Tribune, September 25, 2018</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>According to the U.S. Census Bureau estimates from 2010-2018, Fort Bend County is the tenth fastest-growing large county in the country. The current population is 787,858, and since 2010, the population has grown 34.7%. The Texas State Data Center estimates that the population could reach 845,058 by the year 2020. FBI statistics indicate that Texas has a statewide law enforcement officer ratio of 1.5 officers per 1,000 residents, while the national average is 2 officers per 1,000 residents. All law enforcement agencies within the county have a common need for additional officers and personnel.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>In Fort Bend County, the majority of the police departments apply their own subjective formulas to this ratio to determine the law enforcement needs for their municipality. For instance, the majority of law enforcement agencies use a workload analysis that examines the time each officer spends on various law enforcement tasks and factors and a number of other variables, such as the number of calls for service. This analysis will determine the number of officers, investigators and support staff they need.</p>	

<b>Priority #2</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>A need for equipment, updated equipment and technology in the areas of investigation, patrol, tactical, communication, radios, surveillance, identification, prosecution and evidence gathering</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend Economic Development Council</b></li> <li>• <b>U.S. Census Bureau, 2019</b></li> </ul>

*Problem Details*

Fort Bend County continues to gain approximately 15,000 residents per year. Considering these population increases and technological advances, a proportionate amount of equipment, updated equipment, and technology is crucial to assist law enforcement in the performance of their duties. Items include body cameras, MDCs, mobile and portable radios, mobile and stationary videos, ATVs, bicycles, vehicles, surveillance cameras, evidence gathering technology, electronic data management, etc. In addition, communication equipment and technology help bridge the gap caused by language barriers and improve communication between law enforcement, the community and victims.

**Priority #3**

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

**Need for specialized and skills-based training and exercises for law enforcement and other public safety professionals in this region**

- **Fort Bend County Public Safety Training Needs Assessment**
- **Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee**

*Problem Details*

Fort Bend County conducted a yearlong public safety training needs assessment of Police, Fire, and EMS agencies. Collectively, these agencies employ over 1,400 full time law enforcement and over 400 additional public safety professionals. The most glaring deficiency noted by the committee involved a lack of joint multi-disciplinary training and exercises in general and specialized and skills-based training for law enforcement in particular. The single largest obstacle is funding.

*Potential Response to Problem*

According to the committee's findings, the most cost-effective solution to this problem is to conduct this type of training and exercises on a regional level. Many fast growing communities around the nation have solved similar problems by pooling resources on a regional level. The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is in a unique position to provide both funding and leadership toward the problem area.

<b>Priority #4</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Need for an effective means for Fort Bend County law enforcement agencies to address with mental health calls for service and mental health commitments</b></p> <p><b>Need for a means to address mental health of first responders</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>1115 Waiver Community Survey</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Trained responses to persons with mental illness remains a significant issue. Specific policies and procedures that aid in recognizing these types of incidents at their onset indicate increase in public confidence. Evidence of this is sustained by an increase in calls specifically requesting trained officers.</p> <p>First responders routinely encounter traumatic events. This repeated exposure to trauma can produce incident-specific and cumulative stress exposure responses, including PTSD. There are proactive, peer-oriented critical incident stress management strategies and reactive, therapeutic strategies specifically to assist first responders.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>By a consensus of agencies within Fort Bend, enhancement of the mental health program includes advanced training and coordinated protocols for response to persons in mental crisis. In April 2014, the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office formed the CIT with 1115 Waiver funding. This team is crucial, but it is only part of the overall problem resolution. First responders from all agencies share the potential for being the initial contact with a mentally ill person; therefore, all officers will receive training as part of the response enhancement initiative.</p> <p>In FY 2019, the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office made 46 transports to mental health facilities following judicial authorization and 861 Emergency Detention Orders. Additionally, the Sheriff’s Office Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), comprised of ten deputies, made 1,986 total contacts and 1,576 unique contacts for individuals who needed follow-up mental health or other service.</p>	

<b>Priority #5</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>A need for personnel, equipment and technology to meet the demand for investigations of internet and computer related crimes against children</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children (HMICAC) Task Force</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office</b></li> <li>• <b>According to the Texas Department of Public Safety’s Sex Offender Registry, 597 registered sex offenders reside in Fort Bend County as of November 2019.</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>There is a substantial need for increased training and personnel for investigative law enforcement agencies countywide to investigate Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) cases. In addition to specialized child abuse investigation training, successful investigation of Internet and computer related crimes against children requires complex training in an ever-changing technical field to maintain competence.</p> <p>The Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office has one detective assigned to ICAC. As of November 2019, ICAC had been assigned 67 reactive cases for calendar year 2019. These cases generated by patrol taking reports from the public or come in through the <a href="#">CyberTipline</a> generated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.</p> <p>ICAC has the ability proactively investigate by utilizing undercover networks to locate people distributing child sexual abuse content over the internet. These are cases of Possession/Promotion of Child Pornography. ICAC also conducts undercover online chat operations to combat Online Solicitation of a Minor/Sexual Assault of a Child cases. The workload is limitless, and any additional personnel for ICAC investigation would aid the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of these crimes.</p> <p>Internet and computer facilitated crimes against children involve a high level of specialized technical knowledge, and training is critical for those involved in these types of investigations. In a technology driven world, many investigations involving live victims also require a computer component.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>The National ICAC Data System (NIDS) is an evolutionary step in the pursuit of innovation. "Operation Fair Play" is a solution allowing law enforcement to target those who traffic images of child sexual abuse. Operation Fair Play finds a minimum of 100</p>	

offenders observing multiple child pornographic sites every month. The NIDS builds on top of the success of Operation Fair Play to bring open access to investigators around the world.

The Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children’s (HMICAC) Task Force is comprised of an eight-county area of operation that includes Fort Bend County. With additional resources, law enforcement agencies within Fort Bend County, such as municipal police agencies, could affiliate with the HMICAC Task Force.

<b>Priority #6</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Need for personnel to investigate and prosecute human trafficking crimes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend District Attorney’s Office – 79 Human Trafficking Cases have been tracked in Fort Bend County year to date for 2019.</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Human trafficking is among the forefront of criminal law as a problem that was recently recognized to be of mass proportion. As a contiguous county to Harris County, and directly between them and the border, the potential for stash houses, travel routes, and “pass-through” offenses are high in Fort Bend County. Additionally, human trafficking investigations are initiating locally, and not just a pipeline from the border.</p> <p>Dedicated law enforcement personnel, training, and equipment are necessary to make a concerted effort to effectively reduce and eliminate this threat.</p>	

<b>Priority # 7</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Community Policing and Crime Reduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Report of The President’s Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing, 2015</b></li> <li>• <b>Houston Region Grows More Racially/Ethnically Diverse, With Small Declines in Segregation (Kinder Institute for Urban Research)</b></li> <li>• <b>The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Kinder Houston Area Survey</b></li> </ul>

*Problem Details*

The relationship between local law enforcement agencies and their respective communities continues to evolve, in both service and expectations. The national discussion includes themes such as legitimacy, trust, oversight, crime reduction, and community policing. In a final report published in May 2015, President Obama’s Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing made 57 recommendations for improving this relationship. Some of the distrust rests within ethnically and culturally diverse communities. Fort Bend County presents an exclusively diverse community and, according to the Kinder Institute at Rice University, Fort Bend County is the most ethnically diverse county in the United States.

*Potential Response to Problem*

Create and strengthen constructive partnerships with the community, improve community relations, and seek novel approaches to identify and solve community problems. Additionally, initiate and support a collaborative effort between law enforcement and our community that identifies problems of crime and disorder and searches for solutions to these problems. Emphasize our community’s active participation in the process of problem solving alongside law enforcement.

Police agencies within Fort Bend are currently performing many of the aforementioned recommendations with an eye for future implementation of strategies for compliance, often exceeding all recommendations. Fort Bend County’s unique diversity presents a distinctive opportunity to engage a complex, multicultural community. Programs of engagement, policy development, publication of information (including by social media), and technology improvements requires personnel appropriately situated, trained, and philosophically consistent with community and agency culture and expectations.

**Priority #8**

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

**A severe need for school resource officers with specialized training and equipment for youth delinquency prevention and community policing programs**

- **Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee**
- **Fort Bend Independent School District Police Department**
- **Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department**
- **Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office**

*Problem Details*

The six school districts in Fort Bend County are experiencing consistent growth in student population, increasing the need for police resources to address youth delinquency.

Fort Bend ISD is one of the six school districts in Fort Bend County. In the 2018-2019

school year, there were three Aggravated Assault, 47 Assault on a Public Servant, 168 Drug cases, 42 Alcohol Offenses (intoxicated or in possession), 115 Terroristic Threats, and 44 Sexual Assaults at Fort Bend ISD schools.

Data from the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department shows that during 2018, there were 1,660 referrals. The total number of juveniles placed on formal or deferred probation in 2018 was 917.

*Potential Response to Problem*

Fort Bend ISD is one of the six school districts in Fort Bend County. In the 2018-2019 school year, there were three Aggravated Assault, 47 Assault on a Public Servant, 168 Drug cases, 42 Alcohol Offenses (intoxicated or in possession), 115 Terroristic Threats, and 44 Sexual Assaults at Fort Bend ISD schools.

The Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office has a Kids and Cops Unit that sends school resource officers to present award-winning program to school-aged Fort Bend County youth. During the 2019-2019 school year, the Kids and Cops Unit, made 525 presentations to 26,112 students in 119 area schools.

The presentations include popular *Now That You’re 10, Before It’s Too Late*, and *Legal Terms* programs. The Kids and Cops deputies also teach the *Stranger Danger Awareness* program to children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Fifth graders also participate in an eight-week curriculum that covers peer pressure, resistance techniques, consequences, stress, gang awareness and alternatives to drug abuse. The four-day *Kids and Cops Summer Camp* promotes leadership skills, boosts self-esteem and advocates for teamwork to students ages ten through twelve years.

<b>Priority #9</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Need for traffic safety enforcement and education as it pertains to DWI, Teen Driver Issues, Texting while Driving, Distracted Driving</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office</b></li> <li>● <b>Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)</b></li> <li>● <b>Fort Bend County Constable’s Offices; All Precincts</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>In Fort Bend County, people are more likely to die in a motor vehicle crash than as a result of violent crime. In 2018, there were 1,741 crashes resulting in injury or death in Fort Bend County. Those crashes impacted a total of 2,604 persons. Alcohol related crashes totaled 282 and young drivers (ages 16-20 years old) accounted for 2,461 crashes. Distracted driving accounted for 989 crashes, which affected 2,762 persons.</p>	

There were 30 deaths caused by 26 motor vehicle crashes in 2018.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>
Dedicated law enforcement personnel and training are necessary to make a concerted effort to effectively reduce and eliminate this threat. Increased DWI Task Force participation has already helped to reduce the number of incidents, especially during the holiday periods. Additional personnel are necessary to help educate the public, especially young drivers.

Priority #10	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Need to continue developing a network of intelligence and information-sharing relating to the detection and prevention of terrorism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
Funding for analysts positions and the needed technological hardware and software are critical to developing and sharing actionable intelligence for the detection and prevention of terrorism within Fort Bend County.	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
This effort, in concert with the Houston Regional Intelligence Service Center (HRISC), is accomplished via a coordinated network of intelligence analysts from the different law enforcement agencies within Fort Bend County. The creation of a Fort Bend Satellite Center that would serve as an extension of HRISC would allow for improved intelligence and information sharing for Fort Bend County and the jurisdictions within. This would also improve information sharing with our regional partners through HRISC. This is not possible without an increase in personnel, equipment, training and technology.	

Priority #11	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Continuing need for additional resources for investigation and prosecution of criminal cases involving physical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In FY 2019, the District Attorney’s Office received 398 child abuse related cases from law enforcement for review and possible prosecution. Consultation occurred regarding many other cases not submitted for prosecution.</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>and sexual abuse of children and child deaths</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> </ul>
<p><i>Problem Details</i></p>	
<p>The Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office continues to vigorously prosecute child injury and child sexual abuse cases, but it needs additional resources for prosecution. There is a substantial need for increased training and personnel for law enforcement agencies countywide to investigate child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child injury and death cases. As Fort Bend County’s population continues to grow rapidly, the strain on the system will only become more problematic.</p>	
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p>	
<p>The time and demand required to effectively investigate sexual offenses committed against children is considerable. The cases are complex and time-consuming relative to investigation and prosecution of other types of crimes. In the majority of cases, numerous offenses are committed against the child victim over time. Successful investigation and prosecution require specialized training and skills, as well as information gathering and consultation with medical professionals, children’s protective services investigators, victims and prior victims, parents, school personnel and others. Skillful interrogation is critical to successful prosecution in sexual offenses committed against children as well as in child serious injury and death cases. Investigators must receive specialized training to obtain admissions in these cases.</p>	

<p><b>Priority #12</b></p>	
<p><i>Problem Identified</i></p>	<p><i>Data</i></p>
<p><b>Continued need for law enforcement personnel to register sex offenders, monitor them for compliance, and work cases as investigators</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Texas Department of Public Safety Database</b></li> <li>• <b>As of November 2019, there are 597 registered sex offenders residing within Fort Bend County.</b></li> </ul>
<p><i>Problem Details</i></p>	
<p>Texas state laws regarding documenting sex offenders and maintaining a database require staff to continually review data and update information. Fort Bend County currently has a growing population of sex offenders and there is a need for the County to have additional personnel to monitor and register these offenders.</p>	

<b>Priority #13</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Need for personnel to investigate and prosecute financial fraud crimes to include identity theft</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Federal Trade Commission</b></li> <li>• <b>Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book 2018</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft has been the top consumer complaint for 15 of the past 16 years. In 2018, Texas ranked eighth for fraud and other related complaints with 204,531 total fraud reports and fifth for identity theft with 45,030 total reports.</p> <p>In a 2018 ranking of the largest metropolitan areas (population of 100,000 or more), the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land metroplex ranked eleventh for identity theft with 196 complaints per 100,000 population.</p>	

<b>Priority #14</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Need for personnel to document gangs and their members, as well as investigate gang-related crimes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Texas Anti-Gang Center (TAG)</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Constable Precinct 3</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office - Detention</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>According to data provided by Fort Bend County Constable Precinct 3, there are over 240 individual gangs with over 2,000 total members residing within Fort Bend County. Many of these documented members are responsible for numerous crimes in the area. Several gangs are actively recruiting at schools and within the Fort Bend County Jail. New gangs continue to form locally. However, many gangs and hate groups are forming with membership across state lines.</p> <p>Texas state laws regarding documenting gang members and maintaining an intelligence data base require law enforcement agencies to continually review the data and update the members' last involvement with the agency or purge that data entirely. Fort Bend County's gang population is large enough to warrant a fully functioning anti-gang unit.</p>	

<b>Priority #15</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Need for investigators assigned to specifically investigate family violence cases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office</b></li> <li>• <b>Texas Department of Public Safety</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>According to the Texas Department of Public Safety 2018 Crime in Texas Report, there were 4,065 family violence cases reported in Fort Bend County. This is an increase of 760 from 2017. It does not include data from the Houston Police Department, part of which extends into Fort Bend County.</p> <p>Currently, some agencies have no investigators specifically assigned to investigate family violence cases. If more investigators were assigned to investigate these cases, violent offenders would be removed from society, preventing more victims from falling prey to them. Statewide, more than 70% of victims of family violence are female.</p>	

<b>Priority #16</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Need for investigators assigned to specifically investigate the violent crimes against women cases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Economic Development Council</b></li> <li>• <b>U.S. Census Bureau, 2019</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Fort Bend County is one of the top fastest-growing large counties in the U.S. 2013-2018, and 50.9% of the population is female.</p> <p>Currently, many agencies have no investigators that are specifically assigned to investigate violent crimes against women. Dedicated investigators to violent crimes against women would target a victim group comprising more than 50% of the county population and a victim group that is disproportionately affected by family violence and sexual assault.</p>	

<b>Priority #17</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Need for an automated system and sufficient staff to process and maintain emergency protective orders, temporary ex parte orders and formal protective orders</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> </ul>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>At this time, all emergency protective orders (temporary orders for 30 to 90 days) are generated on paper in the Fort Bend County Jail upon the arrest of the alleged abuser. The District Attorney's Office requests the formal protective order (two years) from a Judge, who signs it. Then, a Constable or the District Attorney Investigations Division serves the order.</p> <p>Temporary ex parte orders are grounds for arrest and fill the gaps between the emergency protective order and the short period before a formal protective order can be filed. These are also generated on paper.</p>	

<b>Priority #18</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>A need for crime victim liaisons and coordinators in criminal justice areas to handle all aspects of the victims' rights from the incident throughout the entire justice process</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>As of October 2019, The Fort Bend County Crime Victim Liaison has referred 1,137 individuals to other victim support agencies and has provided aid and individual advocacy to 1,774 individuals.</b></li> </ul>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>In all areas of criminal and juvenile justice, the role of a trained victim liaison is invaluable in informing the victim and family of the various proceedings. In addition, these crime victim liaisons can be responsible for ensuring that crime victims receive financial restitution as ordered by the courts.</p> <p>The number of crime victim liaison positions need to increase proportionately with the increasing referrals and caseloads. The numbers of individuals served in 2019 was lower than expected because the Fort Bend County Crime Victim Liaison position was unfilled.</p>	

<b>Priority #19</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>In cases of domestic violence, sexual abuse, robbery and homicide there is an insufficient victim protection system.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD)</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>There is a heightened awareness regarding the lack of protection for victims of violent crime, in particular women who have separated from their abusive partner and have filed a charge of domestic violence against them. This is prior to any adjudication that would place the perpetrator on a monitoring system.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>When the perpetrator is subject to bond conditions or placed on probation, the Fort Bend County CSCD issues ankle monitors. These systems of electronic monitoring focus on the perpetrators, rather than on the victims.</p>	

<b>Priority #20</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Need for a fully accredited regional crime and forensic lab, including DNA testing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Regional Public Safety Academy Study</b></li> <li>• <b>Sugar Land Police Department (SLPD)</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>The Texas Department of Public Safety’s (DPS) Crime Lab is severely overloaded. As a result, DPS has limited submissions based on types of crimes. In addition, Texas law mandates DNA testing of all biological evidence collected in a capital offense. With the growing population of the region comes a proportionate increase in criminal activities that requires specialized investigative techniques. At this time, all lab work goes to outside agencies. The law enforcement agency must wait on results to be sent back to them from the outside source, which can severely hinder an ongoing investigation.</p> <p>Most Fort Bend County law enforcement agencies submit DNA evidence to the Texas DPS Crime Lab. The turn-around time for this analysis is approximately 9-30 months. The turn-around times for these requests varies greatly depending on current caseload. For example, in calendar year 2018, the Sugar Land Police Department (SLPD)</p>	

submitted 1,376 items to the Texas DPS Crime Lab for analysis, averaging almost 115 items per month. SLPD currently has a fingerprint analysis lab. This lab has sought out its own forensic accreditation. In August 2019, The SLPD Crime Scene Unit (CSU) earned accreditation in Forensic Inspection through the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB). This type of forensic accreditation is based on ISO 17020 standards and applies to the discipline of Crime Scene Investigation and Friction Ridge, aka fingerprint analysis. Currently, the SLPD CSU is the only agency within Fort Bend County to have earned this accreditation. Thanks to this in-house service, SLPD CSU has been able to maintain a monthly average of 75% of the fingerprint analysis completed within five days. SLPD feels confident that they could continue to add accreditations and services to their lab to support the growing need for these various services in Fort Bend County.

Texas law (CCP Chapter 38) and the industry standard for crime laboratories require crime laboratories to obtain accreditation in all analytical disciplines applied through the American Society of Crime Laboratory of Directors (ASCLD/LAB) for International Accreditation.

<b>Priority #21</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Need for a 24-hour District Attorney intake system based on the growth of the county population and after hours / weekend referrals to the District Attorney’s Office</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>The Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office currently has a prosecutor available on call after business hours available to law enforcement agencies to answer intake/charging questions and assists officers in drafting search and arrest warrant affidavits. Once an offender is booked into the county jail, the arresting officer must draft an affidavit that contains sufficient facts to justify the suspect’s arrest to a magistrate. This affidavit is read and occasionally supplemented by that prosecutor. However, the ultimate decision to accept or reject the case is made several days later, after reasonable time is given to the officer to fully document his offense report. This can ultimately lead to the possibility of a person being incarcerated, only to later have the District Attorney’s Office reject the charges.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>A potential response is the example of the Harris County system, which provides several Assistant District Attorneys who are physically present 24/7. Officers are</p>	

required to provide the Assistant District Attorneys with sufficient information over the phone prior to booking the suspects in city jail that will substantiate the charge. Further, these departments must complete their offense reports prior to transferring the suspects to county jail. This is usually required within forty-eight hours. This ultimately accelerates the intake process as it relates to the work of the police agency and the District Attorney's Office.

<b>Priority #22</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>A need for personnel, equipment and technology to meet the demand for autopsies and the investigative support they provide law enforcement.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>FY 2018 recorded 329 autopsies at a cost of \$583,150 to Fort Bend County.</b></li> <li>• <b>In FY 2019, 376 autopsies were performed at a cost of \$695,510.</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>In December 2019, Fort Bend County opened a Medical Examiner's Office. The goal is to control rising costs of autopsy services and to provide quicker results for law enforcement agencies, thereby positively affecting criminal investigations. The facilities were part of a bond, and the Fort Bend County Medical Examiner's Office must seek funding for further improvement and unforeseen gaps.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>In order to meet its goal of quicker autopsies with more efficient reporting to appropriate agencies, the Fort Bend County Medical Examiner's Office must maintain adequate staff, equipment and up-to-date technology.</p>	

<b>Priority #23</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Need for a Crime Data/Information Sharing Initiative (Interoperability) linking all Fort Bend County law enforcement agencies</b></li> <li>• <b>Need for standardized electronic Records Management Systems (eRMS) in all county law enforcement agencies</b></li> <li>• <b>Need for county-wide electronic filing capabilities between criminal justice system partners and the District Attorney's Office</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Community Plan Committee</b></li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Currently the law enforcement agencies in Fort Bend County do not have the ability to share information. A survey was sent to eight selected law enforcement entities in Fort Bend County: Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, Stafford, Sugar Land, Missouri City, Katy, Richmond, Rosenberg and Needville. Five agencies responded. Their responses indicated that every participating agency supports interagency data information sharing and further believes information or data sharing can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all police agencies in prevention and detecting crime.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>An integrated system would provide interagency telecommunications and information services, i.e., centralized indices of people, materials, and events of interest to more than one agency submitted through a central repository. It would enhance agencies' ability to communicate with each other to identify missing persons, known criminal offenders, and people/property involved in crime. The impetus of this initiative is to link the different records management systems to a central repository enabling local law enforcement to query people and property involved in crime, members of criminal gangs, stolen property, criminal suspects, criminal methods of operation, reported crime, reported arrests, and to share crime bulletins about major crimes.</p>	

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

<b>Priority #1</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Lack of timely access to services that prevent incarceration and support recovery and reintegration for persons with mental illness and co-occurring disorders</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AccessHealth, 2019</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Emergency Management Services (EMS)</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Crisis and Response Intervention Team: Action Plan, September 2013</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Crisis and Response Intervention Team: Mapping and Gap Analysis, September 2013</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services (BHS)</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD)</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Public Defender - Mental Health Division (MHPD)</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Recovery &amp; Reintegration Program, September 2017</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office</li> <li>• Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse</li> <li>• Mental Health America (MHA) of Fort Bend</li> <li>• National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Fort Bend</li> <li>• Texana Center</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>The Fort Bend County Jail identifies and treats inmates with mental illness. As of September 2019, 40.8% of the jail population have mental health needs and receive services. In addition, many have co-occurring substance use disorders, although that data is not readily available. The percentage has increased from 2018 due to a decrease in total population and an increase in the number of inmates receiving mental health services</p> <p>The Fort Bend County Public Defender – Mental Health Division provides competent legal defense for indigent mentally ill defendants. In FY 2019, the Mental Health Public Defender (MHPD) represented 366 defendants in 637 cases. Approximately 40% had a co-occurring substance use disorder. Finding treatment for this population has become more difficult because inpatient treatment waitlists are 10-12 weeks long. Local outpatient services quickly become overwhelmed.</p> <p>Fort Bend County does not have a residential chemical dependency treatment facility, so those who require inpatient care or hospitalization cannot access it and funding constraints restrict the length of stay. Fort Bend County has two outpatient, brief-stay</p>	

treatment providers despite a marked increase in prevalence of substance use disorders.

[Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse \(FBRC\)](#) is the county's largest state-funded outpatient substance use disorder treatment facility. To qualify for outpatient treatment, the substance use severity must be treatable in a non-medical, relatively stable home environment. If a client lacks adequate housing, requires medical detoxification, or needs a residential care structure, they are referred to the appropriate service and then may return to continue their care at FBRC. In 2018, FBRC admitted 610 individuals into their substance use disorder treatment program. Of these individuals, 37% were African-American, 33% were Hispanic/Latino, 58% were White, 5% were Asian-American, and three were Native American.

In 2018, the most prevalent drug clients reported using was hallucinogens (48%), followed by alcohol (33%). Fifteen percent sought treatment for stimulant abuse and three percent sought treatment for opiates and synthetics abuse. Other drugs identified during the admission process included sedatives/hypnotic drugs and benzodiazepines.

Twenty-three percent of clients were female and 77% were male. Thirty-seven percent of FBRC's clients were between 18 and 25 years, 27% were between 26 and 35 years, 19% were between 36 and 45 years old and 12% were between 46 and 55 years of age. FBRC admitted four clients who were under 18 and 31 over the age of 56 years old.

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There is also a need for more trauma-informed, specialty behavioral health services for veterans and female offenders. Many of these offenders are victims of domestic violence, victimization, or war-related trauma. These populations require an additional layer of care. Unfortunately, the families of people with untreated mental illnesses are often the victims of the offense that leads to the individual's criminal justice involvement. Therefore, the families of these victims also need community intervention and support. More and more young women with histories of abuse are entering the criminal justice system. Many of them are at risk of victimization and sexual exploitation if left without appropriate services.

People reintegrating into the community face various complexities and challenges.

Although the available resources and options in Fort Bend County have expanded, there are still specific areas for improvement. Upon release, clients do not have immediate access to public assistance programs like Medicaid, SNAP, or Social Security. Clients also have limited or no housing options or are at risk of losing present housing. Many clients also lack transportation to critical appointments, like probation and medical appointments. Furthermore, there is often a long waitlist to access psychiatric care upon release, which delays timely care and support. This care includes outpatient treatment and ongoing medication management. These situations leave the clients vulnerable and susceptible to reoffending.

The service array for individuals with complex mental and behavioral health needs, particularly those at high risk for recidivism, has increased and expanded. However, the current services still fall short of the demands and needs of the target population in the county. The 1115 Waiver Recovery & Reintegration program has identified gaps in the following service areas: inpatient substance use disorder treatment (clients are still being referred to other counties for treatment); group homes and transitional housing options (available options are too costly for clients, fully booked, and/or have criteria that disqualify clients for residency, e.g. Their offense); and specialized support for clients who experienced human trafficking victimization. Many clinicians have PTSD and trauma-based therapy training, but there are not enough therapists in Fort Bend County who can address this specific issue.

#### *Potential Response to Problem*

[Texana Center](#) is Fort Bend County's Local Mental Health Authority and Local Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Authority. It is the main service provider to individuals with behavioral healthcare issues, and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities in the county. Texana serves as the "gatekeeper" to the state hospital system and to local psychiatric facilities, as well as for individuals and families seeking services.

Texana operates a 24/7/365 crisis intervention program. It is the only residential crisis services provider in the county for those who have Medicaid or are indigent. In FY 2019, Texana provided behavioral healthcare services to 4,749 individuals in Fort Bend County. Texana's crisis services included 732 total admissions to the crisis center, 2,716 total activations from the Crisis Hotline, and 2,736 Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) screening.

[AccessHealth](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center that has expanded its behavioral health services in the past year. It provides integrated health care services without regard to income or circumstance. It has three locations in Fort Bend County. Available services include adult and pediatric primary care, women's health, HIV, behavioral health, nutrition and dental services. In FY 2019, AccessHealth provided services to more than 20,000 adult and pediatric patients. Recent program expansions include Medication Assisted Treatment, Access Increase in Mental Health Services, and focus on social determinants of health. AccessHealth has also strengthened its partnerships with the criminal justice system in Fort Bend County to provide access to physical and behavioral

health care.

In October 2010, Fort Bend County established Behavioral Health Services (BHS). BHS coordinates with the courts, probation departments (adult and juvenile), emergency medical services, and health and human services to improve the care for persons with mental illness and addictions that come into contact with Fort Bend County courts.

In 2013, Fort Bend County received approval for an 1115 Waiver Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Project. The project's directive is to develop a crisis system to better identify people with behavioral health needs, respond to those needs and link persons with their most appropriate level of care. The goal of this project is to keep individuals healthy and safe, develop processes and interventions to manage challenging behaviors, and avoid unnecessary use of the emergency room, hospitals, and jails. In a county with limited options for these patients, first responders have become the default interveners in behavioral health crises. Unfortunately, many persons with mental illness end up in the emergency room for several hours waiting for an evaluation or transport to the county jail. The Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Crisis Response and Intervention Project enhances the safety net and provides necessary intervention and diversion services. As a result, it serves as the main gatekeeper to EMS transports, admissions to the emergency room, and incarcerations.

An additional 1115 Waiver project was approved to develop a "recovery and reintegration" program for persons with mental illness at risk of recidivism. Since the Recovery & Reintegration Project implementation in January 2015, it has served 255 individuals and developed services and systems to support reintegration into the community. The project monitors in-program progress and provides post-discharge follow-up. Early results indicate improvement in functioning and lower recidivism rates, and expansion of this program offers great promise for supporting community reintegration. The program works closely with the Mental Health Public Defender, the District Attorney's Office mental health division, Fort Bend County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD), Fort Bend County Social Services, and community providers. This program has identified housing, unemployment and transportation as some of the major challenges for individuals receiving intervention.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) has been a core component of this system since it began operation on April 1, 2014. Formed out of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, it not only responds to mental health crises received through the 911 system, but interfaces and supports all other police departments in the county. The CIT works closely with Texana, public and private hospitals, and Fort Bend County EMS and BHS to coordinate access to care and provide follow-up to prevent future crises. From April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2019, the CIT diverted 1,159 individuals from admission/readmission to the Fort Bend County Jail, provided 8,340 individuals with crisis intervention and/or follow-up services, and made 11,760 contacts for services.

Fort Bend County's specialty courts have been another successful intervention. These specialty court programs unite the community in a strong collaborative to support participants and help them achieve independence from criminal justice involvement.

These programs create a multi-disciplinary team (probation officer and judge) to supervise the client and treats the substance use and/or mental health disorder. Three examples are the Fort Bend County Drug Court (2002), the Mental Health Initiative (2009), and the Veterans Court (2015).

The Fort Bend County Drug Court has served more than 880 individuals through its *Closing Addictions Revolving Door* (CARD) program. In FY 2019, it served 106 individuals in the specialty felony drug court and 52 in the misdemeanor drug court. The Mental Health Initiative served 235 individuals in 2019, compared to 297 in FY 2018.

Fort Bend County CSCD safeguards the flow of information between the courts, jail and treatment providers. This work has improved treatment coordination and case processing. Expanding this process to include residential options and increased coordination of care would more effectively serve a greater number of people and maximize the existing community systems.

Fort Bend County has made significant strides in the development of a system that responds to crisis and directs persons to the right care. However, in order to prevent people from chronically cycling through the justice system, it must develop an adequate array of clinical services and supports that meet the ongoing needs of this population. Beyond access to appropriate mental health and substance use disorder treatment (medication, therapies, assertive community treatment, and hospitalization), this system must offer wraparound services, housing, and employment opportunities. These supports are critical to recovery and ultimately breaking the cycle of recidivism. Social determinants of health in this program found unmet needs in housing and employment.

<b>Priority #2</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Limited access to behavioral health services for children who are at risk of or are involved in the juvenile justice system including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of inpatient psychiatric beds</li> <li>• Lack of crisis stabilization services</li> <li>• Limited access to behavioral health services (substance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBISD <i>Pride Survey</i>, 2018</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Juvenile Diversion Project: Needs Assessment Report, September 2013</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD)</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Health &amp; Human Services (HHS)</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Women’s Center (FBWC)</li> <li>• Lamar CISD Safe and Drug Free Schools Survey, 2007</li> <li>• A Needs Assessment of Fort Bend County, LBJ School of Public Affairs at University of Texas and The George Foundation, 2006 and 2011</li> <li>• Community Profile: Fort Bend County Homeless and Marginally Housed, Office of Community</li> </ul>

<p>use disorders and mental health)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased need for trauma focused interventions</li> <li>• Limited access to family and wraparound supports</li> <li>• Limited access to continuity of care</li> <li>• Additional primary youth substance abuse prevention efforts and support for community- based coalitions who implement environmental level strategies</li> </ul>	<p>Projects, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Houston Treatment Outcomes Study, 1997</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tools for Putting Social Determinants of Health into Action, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</li> </ul>
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*Problem Details*

The Fort Bend County juvenile justice system continues to be a major mental health services provider to children. In the juvenile justice system, the number of youth diagnosed with mental illness is significantly greater than that in the general population. It is estimated that up to 70% of the youth in the juvenile justice system have at least one mental health disorder and approximately 20% have a serious mental illness (*Cocozza and Skowrya, 2000*).

There is agreement between both mental health and corrections systems that many of these youth achieve better outcomes in community-based programs with clinically appropriate interventions and supports.

In Fort Bend County, the lack of comprehensive and coordinated services for youth with serious mental illness has resulted in the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department and its Detention Center becoming the assessment, stabilization, and even treatment center for many of these youth. The most recent needs assessment stated that the lack of services for the mentally ill has resulted in “mental health becoming a law enforcement issue.” The same study also indicated the scarcity of mental health services, especially for the poor, as a priority need for the county. Mental health services for youth with complex behavioral health needs, especially those with no insurance or on Medicaid, are a significant need in Fort Bend County.

In the past decade, Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department has experienced a

significant increase in the number of youth with mental health issues. Although the total number of juvenile cases has decreased slightly, the number of cases involving mental health disorders has nearly doubled. From 2005-2009, 18% to 22% of the youth in juvenile detention were on psychotropic medication. The most recent data indicated that 40% to 45% of the youth in detention are on psychotropic medications. The juvenile justice system, much like the adult justice system, has become the default system for providing mental health services to youth. Unfortunately, this is often the start of a cycle with the criminal justice system that continues into adulthood.

#### *Potential Response to Problem*

Many children involved in the juvenile justice system are at a high risk for adult criminal behavior. However, successful interventions and prevention can make a difference. Many of the processes and services developed for adults can also benefit Fort Bend County's youth. For example, additional law enforcement training on how to respond to mental illness, development of crisis intervention teams, crisis stabilization services, intensive treatment services, wraparound services and aftercare are necessary for both adults and children.

Fort Bend County has also developed a "behavioral health juvenile diversionary" project as part of the 1115 Waiver initiative. The program helps divert youth with complex behavioral health needs from initial or further involvement with the juvenile system. Examples of these needs are serious mental illness, a combination of mental illness and intellectual developmental disabilities, substance abuse, and physical health issues. To support the youth in their communities, the program provides individualized and community-based services. These services include assessment, multidisciplinary treatment planning, crisis stabilization services, family supports, respite, specialized therapies, medication management, case management, and wraparound supports. The county also needs to expand mental health intervention teams that work with high-risk students and crises in the schools and communities. Teams should have the capacity respond to crisis and then support the recovery process.

Fort Bend Regional Council (FBRC) receives Texas Health and Human Services Commission funding to provide counseling services in 36 schools. They are concentrated in the alternative program campuses and collaboratively intervene with truant youth. The [Fort Bend Community Prevention Coalition \(FBCPC\)](#) is an FBRC program that serves a vital role in protecting the health and welfare of youth, families, and community members within the Fort Bend Independent School District service area, but needs funding to expand its reach to larger portions of Fort Bend County.

Fort Bend County is also the site of the Infant Toddler Court Initiative for abused/maltreated infants and toddlers. This specialty court focuses on early interventions for abused and neglected birth to three-year olds and their families. This court initiative recognizes the importance of early intervention for healing trauma, repairing the child-parent relationship, and improving the odds for the youngest and most vulnerable victims. Ultimately, this specialty court's goal is to end the cycle of abuse and cradle-to-prison pipeline.

In recent years, there has been increased attention to the importance of trauma –focused services. Fort Bend County BHS, Juvenile Probation, and several other departments have increased staff awareness of trauma and introduced services to address the complex trauma experienced by many of the children in their care. Fort Bend County BHS has also expanded training and services around Trust Based Rational Interventions (TBRI) for children who have had traumatic experiences.

Another area of critical importance and focus has been Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). Recent data from Center for Disease Control illustrates the importance of social and environmental factors on health outcomes. This attention to SDOH has been a key component of the 1115 Waiver programs as well as of several Fort Bend County departmental programming.

Moving forward, service providers must give more attention to building resiliency in children and families, assessing and addressing SDOH and providing trauma-informed services.

<b>Priority # 3</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Lack of transitional supportive housing for vulnerable populations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of adequate housing services for offenders with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders</li> <li>• Lack of transitional housing and services for children aging out of foster care</li> <li>• Lack of housing for persons with physical and intellectual disabilities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fort Bend County Women’s Center (FBWC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Fort Bend County Women’s Center Hotline received 21,998 calls; 966 callers were referred to other shelters due to lack of space at the shelter.</li> <li>• In 2017, the Center provided 194 housing units.</li> </ul> <p><b>Texas Education Agency (TEA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,112 youth were reported homeless in the 2017-2018 school year for the following school districts: 1,404 in Fort Bend ISD; 585 in Lamar CISD; Needville ISD reported 15; 108 in Stafford MSD; and 15 in Needville ISD.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fort Bend County Consolidated Plan, 2015</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a great need for housing for persons with special needs, which includes the “elderly, the frail elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with alcohol/drug addictions, and persons with AIDS”</li> </ul> <p><b>Annual Disability Statistics Compendium Texas Report for County-level Data: Prevalence, 2015</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The American Community Survey (2016) found, “there were 51,082 persons with a disability in Fort Bend County”</li> </ul>

*Potential Response to Problem*

Vulnerable populations include the mentally ill, the elderly, homeless youth, youth aging out of foster care, victims of crime, victims of natural disaster, individuals with developmental disabilities, children and families in the child welfare system, and previous offenders.

There is limited emergency shelter space available for victims of family violence. The Missouri City Police Department, along with other local police departments, struggles to locate adequate shelter for victims. A dearth of affordable housing, and other factors including broken leases due to fleeing, are major barriers to the success of survivors.

The Fort Bend County Women’s Center Shelter is the only provider of centralized emergency shelter, and it has capacity 65 survivors at a time. Entrance into the shelter is limited to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. In 2017, they turned away more than 950 callers due to lack of space.

The Rosenberg Housing Authority seeks to include services for those who are “homeless, elderly, disabled, or handicapped” (“Administrative Plan for the Housing Choice Voucher Program,” p. 1-2, 2018). The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) “Developers and Builders” website provides resources for companies that are interesting in creating affordable housing for people with disabilities. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released notices of funding opportunities for developers who wish to target these populations.

<b>Priority #4</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Lack of stable, affordable housing in Fort Bend County for offenders suffering from mental illness and co- occurring disorders</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AccessHealth</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD)</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Mental Health/Public Defender</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Social Services</li> <li>• Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse</li> <li>• NAMI Fort Bend</li> <li>• Texana Center</li> <li>• Texas Department of Health and Human Services</li> <li>• Texas Department of Transportation</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Fort Bend County CSCD Mental Health Initiative served 235 offenders in FY 2019. Many of the offenses involve assaults, injury to a child/elderly, robbery, possession of a</p>	

controlled substance, or burglary of a habitation/building. The nature of these offenses often creates barriers for offenders returning to their home to live with family. Research has shown that decent, safe, affordable housing can improve the recovery of the mentally ill and offenders with co-occurring disorders. Fort Bend County currently lacks adequate housing services for offenders with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

It is through Fort Bend County's enduring collaborations and networking that the lack of resources to address the behavioral needs of the criminal justice and veteran reentry populations has been determined. These populations need safe and stable housing that provides comprehensive case management, behavioral health, healthcare, brief financial, and social services, as well as substance use disorder treatment. These populations require considerable reentry assistance and the county lacks a coordinated, co-located resource to stabilize them, help prevent criminal justice recidivism and address specific health and wellness concerns.

Further, Fort Bend County lacks the capacity to address both the housing and the behavioral needs of the criminal justice/veterans populations as they return to their community. Major gaps include: (1) transitional and long-term housing, (2) mental health services (medication management), (3) substance use disorder treatment and (4) wraparound supports. Housing and case management are also essential to community reintegration. Fort Bend County's current housing process is seriously impeded due to seriously limited and unreliable resources.

The Fort Bend County Homeless Coalition conducted a survey to determine causal factors, available services and deficits, immediate needs, and the impact these services may have on preventing homelessness. Survey results indicate:

- Thirty seven percent of the clients reported job loss/eviction as the reason for homelessness, 15% reported domestic violence, seven percent reported medical expenses, and six percent reported divorce/separation as their causal factor.
- Five percent of respondents identified behavioral health or criminal justice reasons for homelessness.
- 21% shared other reasons, many which implicated the lack of housing resources in Fort Bend County

Further survey analysis revealed that of the respondents, 56% identified a lack of preventative wraparound services as a casual factor. These preventative services included, but were not limited to, a lack of centralized emergency shelter, legal aid, food and rental assistance, veteran specific services, and vocational training and placement.

This clearly demonstrates the lack of community supports that may prevent or allow an individual to overcome their homeless status. A confounding factor is that many of these residents are under the supervision of the Fort Bend County justice system. Many probationers or parolees experience struggle with addiction, mental illness, or both.

Fort Bend County must prioritize funding to offer medications and transition services

for up to ninety days after release from jail. Funding is also needed to implement evidence-based practices like “peer mentoring” to assist with reintegration and ongoing recovery. Fort Bend County should also develop “[Housing First](#)” programs and other evidence-based housing programs to meet the critical requirements of persons with behavioral health needs who are transitioning from incarceration. Enhancing efforts to prevent and curtail substance use, mental health and co-occurring disorders is critical because these disorders are the primary reasons these individuals become entangled with the justice system in the first place.

#### *Potential Response to Problem*

Fort Bend County has implemented multiple measures including in-custody screening, Mental Health Public Defender representation, Mental Health Felony and Misdemeanor Courts, the Recovery & Reintegration Project, and ongoing service coordination with local substance use disorder treatment and mental health providers and advocacy groups. It has also enhanced inmate mental health services. The Public Defender’s Office, CSCD and Texana provide continuity of care for many people re-entering society, and as a result assist in services coordination. Fort Bend County BHS provides court-ordered evaluations, mental health consultations, wraparound supports assistance and coordination, follow-up, clinical oversight, and training on evidence-based practices. BHS also provides the Recovery & Reintegration program (see Behavioral Health Services- Priority #1 for an in-depth description).

Fort Bend County Social Services has spearheaded the Fort Bend County Homeless Coalition. This entity’s goal is to coordinate county organizations that provide homeless services, identify service gaps, and then strategize to meet client needs with limited or collaborative funding.

Fort Bend County received several 1115 Waiver projects to address this need: Behavioral Crisis Response and Intervention Project, Juvenile Jail Diversion Project, a Recovery & Reintegration program for persons at risk of recidivism, and an integrated behavioral/physical health project. The latter includes the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment project. This project houses a behavioral health counselor in AccessHealth, the local federally qualified health care center, to address potential negative health outcomes related to substance use. These projects represent Fort Bend County’s progress toward achieving an evidence-based continuum of care for persons with severe mental illness, mental illness and physical health conditions, and veterans who are high risk of recidivism due to housing instability, substance use disorders, lack of access to services, complex trauma, lack of family supports, and/or lack of integrated care. The target population is the Medicaid and uninsured population.

Unfortunately, many of the individuals helped by these efforts return to situations that cannot support their progress and they revert to destructive behaviors. The most effective response to this problem would be implementing a local “Housing First” program that integrates primary and behavioral health care (treatment for substance use and mental illness, PTSD, etc.) with a full array of wraparound support services. Fort Bend County would benefit from retaining a housing specialist, who could build a comprehensive housing resource portal on the most up-to-date housing options, locations, eligibility

criteria and support services.

Priority #5	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Unemployment of individuals with mental health and substance use disorders</b></p>	<p><b>Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services Crisis Intervention Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) data from October 2014 through September 2017, indicated that employment was the most frequently cited unmet need in the “other” category for persons receiving crisis response services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fort Bend County CSCD Offender Revocation Profile (FY 2019)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 57% of FY 2019 probationer’s revocations were unemployed or employed less than full time. Studies have shown that the root cause of many of the problems probationers encounter is their inability to obtain or keep steady employment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fort Bend County Public Defender – Mental Health Division (FY 2019)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fort Bend County Public Defender – Mental Health Division FY 2019 data indicated that 75% of client probation revocations were of those without employment or who were underemployed.</li> </ul>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>An Employment Coordinator who helps connect resources and training opportunities to individuals involved in the criminal justice system and others with mental health and substance use disorders would be invaluable. Examples of these resources and opportunities include the <a href="#">Texas State Technical College (TSTC)</a>, <a href="#">Workforce Solutions</a>, <a href="#">SER Jobs</a>, and the <a href="#">United Way THRIVE Center at Fort Bend</a>, among other unidentified partner agencies and local businesses that are willing to hire individuals with mental illnesses or disorders. All the information for potential training and job opportunities could be available to these individuals on an easily accessible, centralized, and bilingual website.</p>	

**Priority # 6**

<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Unmet demand for mental health services including screening and assessment, mental health nursing services, treatment planning, continuity of care, substance abuse services, and psychiatric services for victims of domestic violence and people involved in the criminal justice system that have suffered Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).</b></p>	<p><b>Fort Bend County Women’s Center (FBWC)</b>                      The average percent changes in assessments scores of negative symptoms before and after neurofeedback training (274 participants):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHODAS -24%</li> <li>• Cross-cutting symptoms -46%</li> <li>• Depression -60%</li> <li>• Generalized Anxiety Disorder -49%</li> <li>• PTSD -48%</li> <li>• Substance Abuse -97%</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	

The Fort Bend Women’s Center’s (FBWC) mental health services include screening for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and subsequent neurofeedback training to all clients who screen positive for TBI.

Women who suffer abuse often have TBI-inducing injuries to their head, neck, and face. The high potential for women who are abused to develop mild to severe TBI continues to be of growing concern, since the effects can cause irreversible physical and psychological damage. As injuries accumulate, the likelihood of recovery decreases dramatically. Further, sustaining another head trauma before the first injury heals can be fatal.

A woman with TBI who enters the criminal justice system may appear aggressive, confused, disorganized or temperamental. If her behaviors are misunderstood or misdiagnosed as indicating a mental health disability, which often happens, she may have difficulty obtaining custody or being considered credible by law enforcement when she reports her abuser or by a jury during witness testimony. FBWC’s Direct Service staff have all received training on a basic understanding of TBI which resulted in increased sensitivity, screening, neurofeedback and counseling referrals, accommodations and ultimately, better outcomes for women who are abused.

FBWC first began using the HELPS TBI screening instrument to determine eligibility for a neurofeedback program with a board-certified neurofeedback clinician. Experts recommend that domestic violence advocates and program staff consistently screen women entering shelters and programs for TBI-related symptoms.

The Center currently has three board certified neurofeedback clinicians, as well as four more clinicians who have received neurofeedback training. After determining eligibility, clients are assessed with a multitude of instruments that include:

- (1) World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 (WHODAS 2.0)
- (2) DSM-5 Cross Cutting Symptom Measure
- (3) DSM-5 Severity Measure for Depression
- (4) DSM-5 Severity Measure for Generalized Anxiety Disorder,
- (5) DSM-5 Severity Measure for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- (6) DSM-5 Measure of Substance Use

Each client is additionally assessed with a Quantitative Electroencephalograph (qEEG) and a videotaped interview. The clients repeat all assessments at the completion of the training to measure their progress.

The largest obstacle has been training completion. In 2017, the FBWC secured funding to hire three child mentors/neurofeedback technicians and two mobile neurofeedback clinicians. These additional positions have begun to lower non-completion related to a lack of transportation and other difficulties abuse victims face like lack of childcare, multiple jobs, court appearances, etc. Clients often cite these challenges as obstacles that interfere with their ability to attend sessions. To date, 274 individuals from FBWC's shelter, housing, and non-residential locations have participated in some or all components of the program.

Adding the child mentors/technicians has allowed the FBWC to conduct peak performance neurofeedback training on the shelter children. Peak performance training is a simplified form of neurofeedback in which only one brain site is trained. Evidence-based research suggests that it typically yields significant improvements in focus, memory, concentration, etc. The FBWC mentors track academic progress with grade reports and track behavioral progress using Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL).

In an attempt to quantitatively validate the effects of neurofeedback training on survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) and/or sexual assault, FBWC partnered with Michigan State University researchers to analyze the initial pilot data. The results of that study have been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal and are currently in the review phase. The data shows highly statistically significant changes in overall anxiety, depression, disability, posttraumatic stress, and qEEG changes. Additional work with Michigan State University researchers is underway to conduct a long-term evaluation of the program's effectiveness.

<b>Priority # 7</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Lack of specialized mental health services and family-centered services for children in CPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2015, the number of children in foster care nationwide has increased by approximately 9,844. Approximately 1/3 of children entering foster care in FY 18 were in the birth to three years population. (AFCARS Data, FY 2018 and FY 2015)</li> <li>• The national percentage of parental alcohol and other drug use as a reason for removal was 37%; in Texas it was 68% (AFCARS Data, FY 2018)</li> <li>• Practice &amp; Policy Brief: Healing the Youngest Children: Model Court-Community Partnerships (ABA Center on Children and the Law and Zero to Three Policy Center, March 2007)</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Very young children continue to be the fastest growing cohort in the child welfare system. Texas, like many other states, has seen an increase in the number of young children in the CPS system. These children are at the greatest risk for long-term harm because of their vulnerability and rapidly developing brains. Approximately 85% of the child’s brain develops during the first three years of life. Therefore, early and appropriate interventions are critical to improving these children’s well-being and life outcomes. Early relationships are the foundation for a young child’s development.</p> <p>Unfortunately, mental health issues and parental AOD are frequently factors in child welfare cases that interfere with the parent’s ability to form healthy relationships with their young children. Research has shown that relationship-oriented, family-centered services are critical to teach parents how to respond to their children’s emotional and behavioral needs, help children develop corrective attachments, heal trauma. Unfortunately, it is difficult to find available services for these children. Their age, provider availability, and providers with the right specialty are all obstacles. Relationship based services, such as visit coaching, and other family-centered services have positive outcomes for this population.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	

The 328th District Court, under the leadership of Judge Ronald Pope, was one of the original Zero to Three Courts for maltreated infants and toddlers. Now called the Fort Bend County Infant Toddler Court (ITC), this specialty court focuses on early interventions for abused and neglected birth to three-year olds and their families.

Fort Bend County has also collaborated with the Infant Toddler Court Initiative in Harris County and the Child Abuse and Neglect Committee of State Bar of Texas to present the Keeping Infants and Toddlers Safe (KITS) Annual Training Conference. The Conference educates attorneys, caseworkers, judges and others on best practices to working with families and children in the child welfare system.

The purpose of the Fort Bend County's ITC treatment model is to address the unique and urgent needs of very young children in the foster care system. It utilizes relationship-based and family-centered services, like visit coaching, and offers a treatment program for the substance abuse, co-occurring disorders, and trauma needs of the offending parents. In FY 2019, VOCA funding through the Governor's Office continued to support the enhancement of services to these victims. Fort Bend County BHS provided enhancement therapeutic services to 27 children and their families. The average child's age was three years.

Of the children who participated in services; 85% completed a parent-child assessment; 81% received visit coaching services; 67% received trust-based relational interventions; 55% received case management services and 52% wraparound supports. Wraparound support services have also helped remove barriers to care and support family reunification.

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

<b>Priority #1</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>At least one in four Fort Bend County residents are functionally illiterate</b></p> <p><b>Low rates of literacy have relationships to higher rates of incarceration, lower levels of educational attainment, and poorer health outcomes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy Council of Fort Bend County, 2017-2018</li> <li>• U.S. Census Bureau, 2019</li> <li>• National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 2003</li> <li>• Literacy Council of Fort Bend County, 2017-2018</li> <li>• Texas Learns, 2005</li> <li>• National Council for Adult Learning, 2014</li> <li>• ProLiteracy, Adult Literacy Facts</li> <li>• Literacy, Learning Disabilities and Their Association with Imprisonment, Barnard-Brak &amp; Sulak, 2010</li> <li>• Center for Health Care Strategies, Health Literacy Fact Sheet (2013)</li> <li>• Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Understanding Health Literacy (2016)</li> <li>• National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Health Literacy</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>In 2003, the last time the National Center for Education Statistics conducted the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 24% of Fort Bend County residents lacked basic literacy skills. The statewide rate was 19% and neighboring Harris County was 21%. Surrounding counties reported the following rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waller County: 20%</li> <li>• Wharton County: 20%</li> <li>• Brazoria County: 13%</li> <li>• Montgomery County: 11%</li> </ul> <p>Functional illiteracy is a term used to describe reading and writing skills that are inadequate to manage daily living and employment tasks that require reading skills beyond a basic level. According to <i>Barnard-Brak and Sulak</i> (2010), there is an inverse relationship between literacy and imprisonment. The study concluded that incarcerated people have lower rates of literacy than the general population. Lower levels of literacy decrease the likelihood of acquittal and lighter sentencing during the justice process and decreases participation in programs or therapy that may result in earlier parole once in prison.</p> <p>Health literacy includes the ability to understand instructions on prescription drug bottles, appointment slips, medical education brochures, doctor's directions and consent forms. It also involves the ability to negotiate complex health care systems. Individuals with low health literacy are less likely to understand written and oral information given by physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and insurers. They also visit doctors less and hospitals more than a person with adequate health literacy does. Nearly 36% of adults in the U.S. have low health literacy, with higher rates found among low-income adults who are eligible for Medicaid. Low health literacy costs the United States up to \$236 billion</p>	

per year in medical errors, increased illness and disability, wage loss, and compromised public health.

Unproductivity in the workplace, loss of tax revenue, crime, and unemployment resulting from low literacy costs the United States at least \$225 billion per year.

*Potential Response to Problem*

[The Literacy Council of Fort Bend](#)'s mission is to improve family, community, and professional lives through adult education. It is the only [Pro-Literacy](#) accredited literacy provider in Fort Bend County. The Literacy Council has an average of 350 active volunteer tutors every year and served more than 750 adult learners during the 2017-2018 school year. Each tutor provides one to three hours of classroom instruction per week to adult students at all locations. Tutors attend and complete a six-hour onboarding before they may volunteer.

They have outreach programs at eleven partner sites: Sugar Land (main campus), Richmond, Rosenberg, Missouri City, Katy (Cinco Ranch), Fulshear, Stafford, Arcold, and Needville. The Literacy Council collaborates with [Fort Bend Hope](#) to offer adult ESL classes to non-native speakers at all learning levels.

The Literacy Council demographics indicate that 75% of its students are female and 25% are male. The student body's ethnicity is 40% Latino/Hispanic, 39% Asian-American, 14% White and 7% African-American.

<b>Priority #2</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Need to provide GED classes and transitions to post-secondary education to prepare adult students for the workforce and higher education</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Census Bureau, 2016</li> <li>• Literacy Council of Fort Bend, 2017-2018</li> <li>• Needs Assessment of Fort Bend County, 2011</li> <li>• The David H. Murdock Institute, 2007</li> <li>• Accelerate Texas, 2012</li> <li>• Thornburg Center for Professional Development, MultiMedia Schools, January/February 2001</li> <li>• Texas A&amp;M Today, 2016</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>In Fort Bend County, 9.8% of residents 25 or older do not have a high school diploma. However, there are some communities within Fort Bend County that have much higher rates of low educational attainment. In 2018, Texas ranked last in the nation by percentage of residents ages 25 and older who have a high school diploma or GED.</p> <p>Workers must be able to communicate with their coworkers and read instructions, safety regulations and warnings. While literacy does not automatically generate socioeconomic development, it enables individuals to access a wider range of educational and professional choices.</p>	

*Potential Response to Problem*

The Literacy Council began its GED program in 2005. The curriculum includes multiple class levels so that students have the opportunity to succeed regardless of their initial proficiency. All GED instructors are paid staff and earn a stipend for each class. To date, 164 students have graduated from the Literacy Council's GED program. There is a waiting list for GED, Basic Literacy, ESL, and Basic Computer Skills classes.

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

<b>Priority #1</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Need for the development of affordable housing for moderate to low income families</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In FY 2019, Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services assessed 69 total clients for emergency shelter: 59 clients for Rapid Rehousing and assessed 11 for Homeless Prevention.</b></li>   <li>• <b>Fort Bend County Social Services assisted 183 clients with emergency shelter in FY 2019.</b></li>   <li>• <b>Fort Bend County is the tenth most populous county in Texas. The county has a total population of 787,858 and 230,381 families. Seventy-eight percent of the population in Fort Bend County are homeowners, and the average household median income is \$95,561. The median gross amount for monthly rent is \$1,357 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>FEMA, “Direct Housing Assessment DR-4272-TX: Severe Storms and Flooding,” (July 14, 2016)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Post heavy rain from a thunderstorm complex, Fort Bend County demonstrated a housing deficit of 186 units when considering “the amount of available resources compared to the number of applicants identified for potential direct housing assistance”</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County is cited as having the greatest housing needs of those affected by natural disasters: “due to the large population of applicants eligible for direct temporary housing assistance in ratio to the significantly low amount of available resources”</b></li> <li>• <b>Fort Bend County demonstrated a need for direct housing assistance because there was a significant shortage of rental resources available.</b></li> </ul>

- Recurrent multiple storms have resulted in a housing availability reduction in Fort Bend County. As a result, there is a high demand for housing with little supply to fill the demands. Moreover, there was already a housing shortage in Fort Bend County prior to such natural disasters, in relation to the number of rentals available compared to the total population.

**Affordable Housing Online, 2018**

- Currently there are 22 low-income apartment complexes, 2,710 affordable apartments for rent, 210 apartments with rent based on income, 12 project-based Section 8 HUD subsidized units, and 2,500 low-income units that do not offer rental assistance in Fort Bend County
- 38.17% of renters are overburdened, or spending more than one-third of their monthly income on rent.

**Coalition for the Homeless 2019 Homeless Count & Survey: Reporting Results**

- Fort Bend County contains 73 homeless persons: 13 unsheltered and 60 sheltered persons without a home
- In the 2019 “Overview of Fort Bend County, TX,” U.S. News reported that 3.4% of households are overcrowded, and that there is a shortfall of affordable housing by 70.9 in Fort Bend County

**Fort Bend ISD- Texas Education of Homeless Youth and Children Program**

- Number of McKinney-Vinto homeless youth children who received transportation services in previous school years:  

2014-2015	220	2016-2017	420
2015-2016	375	2017-2018	772
- Fort Bend ISD has provided transportation services to an average of 500 students over the past three years.

*Problem Details*

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the population of Fort Bend County grew 34.7% from 2010-2019. The number of households for 2014-2018 was 230,381, with an average of 3.18 per household. During this period, an estimated 7.9% of residents lived below the poverty level. From 2000-2011, of 119,046 households, approximately 30,276 households (25.43%) demonstrated incomes below 80 percent of the HUD Annual Median Family Income.

There is a great need for affordable housing for persons and households with incomes below 80 percent of the HUD Annual Median Family Income. As of June 1, 2015, the Fort Bend County Consolidated Plan found that “the 80% percent income category maximum was \$55,450 for a four person household.” Additionally, 50% of households “with at least one person aged 75 years or older had incomes below eighty (80) percent of HAMFI although there were only 3,238 total households in this category.” The majority of housing in Fort Bend County is “single-family, owner-occupied housing,” and there is “a great need for safe, decent, affordable rental housing for single persons, families and seniors.”

*Potential Response to Problem*

[The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs \(TDHCA\)](#) provides “Competitive (9%)” and “Non-Competitive (4%)” tax credit incentives “for the production or preservation of affordable rental housing” (“Competitive (9%) Housing Tax Credits.” There are grants available for the building or preservation of multifamily rental housing, for homeownership assistance, and for developing affordable, accessible, integrated homes for people with disabilities.

Through strategic leveraging of public and private dollars, [New Hope Housing](#) has been successful in creating attractive, affordable housing priced at \$455-\$701 per month and offering support services for over 9,000 people in the Houston area, and may be available to provide such housing and services in the Fort Bend County area.

<b>Priority #2</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Limited public transportation within Fort Bend County</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fort Bend County Public Transportation Department, 2019</li> </ul>
<i>Problem Details</i>	
<p>Although public transportation services are available in Fort Bend County, there are still gaps in the types of transportation services and hours needed. <a href="#">Fort Bend Transit</a> currently offers Demand Response service, which is a shared ride, curb-to-curb service that requires advance reservations. Fort Bend Transit also offers Commuter Service, which provide weekday service to the Texas Medical Center, Greenway Plaza and the Galleria. These services are available Monday through Friday. Services may begin as early as 4:30 a.m. and end as late as 9:00 p.m. Demand Response service is denying an average of 286 trips per day due to lack of availability. Fort Bend County residents wishing to access services outside of Fort Bend County have difficulty finding affordable, reliable service into adjoining counties. Providers within those counties will often not provide services for a non-resident and/or the provider does not offer services during the hours or days when the person needs them.</p> <p>Some local Fort Bend County services (i.e. parenting classes, therapy, forensic nursing exams, etc.) are beyond the immediate access to children and families due to limited availability and Fort Bend Transit operating hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Lack of transportation is a continued hindrance for individuals seeking community services. This includes seniors, medical patients, Fort Bend County Women’s Center clients and other low-income individuals.</p>	
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Fort Bend County officially formed a Public Transportation Department in June 2005 to provide residents with safe and efficient public transportation services while maintaining service quality and customer satisfaction at a low cost. Fort Bend Transit receives federal, state, and local dollars to provide shared rider service within Fort Bend County.</p> <p><b>Demand Response</b> Fort Bend County currently offers countywide, shared bus ride services to the residents and guests of Fort Bend County. The trips must begin and end within Fort Bend County.</p> <p><b>Commuter Service</b> Fort Bend County also offers commuter services known as Fort Bend Express. Services are available from three park and ride locations: near the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg, the AMC Theater in Sugar Land, and University of Houston in Sugar</p>	

Land. These routes provide service to the Texas Medical Center, Greenway Plaza and Galleria areas of Houston. In 2020, Fort Bend Transit will expand service to include Downtown Houston as well as an additional Park and Ride lot located off the West Park toll road.

**Richmond/Rosenberg Point Deviation Route Service**

Fort Bend County also offers three point-deviation routes operating within the cities of Richmond and Rosenberg. No advance reservations are necessary for individuals accessing the routes from designated pick-up/drop-off locations. Individuals living within ¼ of a mile of the routes who cannot access the designated stops can request the bus deviate from the route for their pick up at their home or desired location. Riders must make an advanced reservation to request a deviated trip.

Fort Bend Transit is currently exploring possible partnerships with other counties to provide evening and weekend service via taxicabs and private operators.

<b>Priority #3</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Lack of available and affordable health care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AccessHealth (2019)</li> <li>• American Communities Survey (2014-2018)</li> <li>• Texas KIDS COUNT Center for Public Policy Priorities (2016)</li> </ul>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Texas continues to have the highest rate of uninsured residents in the nation at 17.7%, or approximately five million uninsured Texans. This figure is equivalent to if every resident of the cities of Dallas, Houston and San Antonio combined were uninsured. In Fort Bend County, 6.7% of children ages 0 to 18 years have no insurance and 14.6% of adults (18-64 years) are uninsured.</p> <p><a href="#">Fort Bend County Clinical Health Services</a> has expanded to offer health screenings, immunizations, STD testing and treatment, and tuberculosis prevention services. <a href="#">AccessHealth</a> is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides primary adult and pediatric, behavioral, and women’s health care in addition to dental services and nutritional assistance for families below 200% of the poverty level of Fort Bend County.</p> <p>In Fall 2019, <a href="#">the San Jose Clinic</a> opened a permanent location at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Rosenberg. The San Jose Clinic offers primary and specialty healthcare, dental and pharmacy services for the uninsured and under-insured on a sliding scale.</p>	

<b>Priority #4</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Limited affordable and available child care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast Workforce Board</li> <li>• BakerRipley</li> </ul>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>BakerRipley partners with <a href="#">Workforce Solutions</a> to offer financial aid for child care to a 13-county region that encompasses Fort Bend County. Due to restricted funds, the current wait time to receive childcare assistance is four to six months.</p> <p>BakerRipley also administers the <a href="#">Head Start and Early Head Start</a> program in Fort Bend County. These programs serve pre-school age children (birth to five years) and their low-income families. There are a dozen centers in Fort Bend County: four locations in the Richmond/Rosenberg area and eight locations in east Fort Bend County.</p>	

<b>Priority #5</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<b>Limited bilingual services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Census Bureau, 2019</li> <li>• Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department</li> </ul>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 39.3% of Fort Bend County residents speak a language other than English at home.</p> <p>Today, Fort Bend County has the ethnic diversity predicted for the United States in 2050. In 2019, the estimated population was 32.5% White, 24.7% Latino, 21.1% Black, 20.9% Asian/Pacific Islander, 2.2% biracial and 0.6% American Indian or Alaska Native. Fort Bend County is one of the first counties in the United States where no one ethnic group is more than half of the population.</p> <p>As the proportion of Asian and Latino families increases rapidly, relevant language services must become available and accessible. Court interpreters, law enforcement interpreters, counselors, and every person that provides services in the justice field need to be able to communicate to pursue justice and support victims and their families.</p>	

## Available Resources

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The Fort Bend County Community Planning Team has identified resources that are available to provide services that could potentially help close public safety gaps:

### Juvenile Justice:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
County Court at Law Courts (6 courts)	Governmental	Administers justice for major criminal cases, major civil action, juvenile dispositions and detention, probate and mental health cases.
Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office	Governmental	Represents the people of the State of Texas in all felony and misdemeanor criminal cases, represents the State in juvenile matters, asset forfeiture cases, Department of Human Services matters, and Victim Assistance Coordinator.
Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department	Governmental	Handles juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 referred by law enforcement agencies, schools and parents for delinquent conduct and conduct indicating a need for supervision. The department's mission is to rehabilitate delinquent children.
Fort Bend Partnership for Youth, Inc.	Nonprofit	Mission is to reduce youth involvement with the juvenile justice system through the support of mentoring and educational programs. Supports a variety of programs for youth and families involved with the juvenile probation department.
Youth for Christ	Faith based	Provides spiritual counseling and religious services for youth in the juvenile detention center.
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Special Youth Services	Faith based	Provides spiritual counseling and religious services to youth involved with the juvenile probation department, e.g., detained youth
Parks Youth Ranch	Nonprofit	Providing shelter, counseling and life changing services to at-risk and homeless youth in Fort Bend County.

**Law Enforcement:**

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Community Supervision and Corrections Department	Governmental	Arm of the County Courts of Law and District Courts of Fort Bend County. Supervises felony and misdemeanor adult offenders in the community and provides tools for rehabilitation.
Fort Bend Sheriff’s Office	Law Enforcement	To protect the lives, property and rights of all people in Fort Bend County.
Justice of the Peace Courts (5 in Fort Bend County)	Governmental	Must act in a neutral capacity to serve all citizens, law enforcement agencies, merchants, school districts and various other county and state regulatory agencies that file either civil or criminal actions. As coroner, the JP must accurately and with efficiency and consideration to all parties, determine cause of death and decide what outside agencies to employ to assist in this responsibility.
Law enforcement: cities, county and school districts	Law enforcement	To protect the lives, property and rights of all people in the various jurisdictions and students in the school district.

**Victim Services:**

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Child Advocates of Fort Bend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)</li> <li>• Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC)</li> </ul>	Nonprofit	CASA: To provide a voice to speak on behalf of abused and neglected children who are involved in the legal system through trained court appointed volunteers. CAC: To lessen the emotional trauma to child victims by coordinating the investigation, assessment, prosecution and treatment of sexual and serious physical abuse.
Daya, Inc	Nonprofit	Provides temporary housing and other wraparound services to South Asian victims of family violence and their children
Fort Bend Women’s Center	Nonprofit	Provides temporary housing and other wrap-around services to women (and their children, if any) who have been victimized. Crisis intervention counseling. Rape crisis program.
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services	Governmental	Child protective services; child abuse prevention; assessment of suspected abuse/neglect; services to families

Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners	Nonprofit	involved in abuse/neglect cases. Provides forensic nursing exams in a culturally competent, linguistically appropriate atmosphere at their locations. They also offer mobile services.
Parks Youth Ranch	Nonprofit	Providing shelter, counseling and life changing services to at-risk and homeless youth in Fort Bend County.

**Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:**

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG) for Children & Youth	Governmental, school districts, and nonprofits	Various community agencies such as Texana MHMRA, the school districts, the juvenile probation department and nonprofits. They staff specific cases to find resources and a plan for the child including residential placement.
Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services	Governmental	Behavioral health support resource for at risk individuals with behavioral health disorders involved in the criminal justice system
Fort Bend County Health & Human Services	Governmental	Clinical Health Services: Immunizations; Screening (blood pressure, glucose, HIV): Disease Treatment (Tuberculosis, sexually-transmitted diseases) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Social Services Veteran’s Services Animal Control Environmental Health Public Health Preparedness
AccessHealth	Nonprofit Community Health Center	Comprehensive healthcare services, including pregnancy care, family planning, pediatrics, adult care, social services, and behavioral health care
Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse, Inc.	Nonprofit	Education, assessment, counseling, youth & adult services, certified offender programs (DWI, MIP, Drug Offender and Tobacco)
Mental Health Association of Fort Bend County	Nonprofit	Education; information; community resource directory; annual screenings for alcohol abuse, anxiety, depression, eating disorders.
Planned Parenthood of Fort Bend, Inc.	Nonprofit	Outpatient medical care; counseling, referral and community programs on reproductive health and sexuality.
Texana Center	Governmental	Provision of a comprehensive array of quality, cost effective services for

people with intellectual disabilities and mental illness.

**Prevention / Intervention:**

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
American Red Cross	Nonprofit	Assist people with recovery from disaster, assist servicemen and their families, transportation services to medical and social service appointments.
Boy Scouts of America	Nonprofit	Scouting programs for boys 6 or 7 years to 21 years of age.
Boys & Girls Club of Fort Bend County	Nonprofit	Recreational facilities and programs for high-risk boys and girls in the East End of Fort Bend County.
East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry, Inc.	Nonprofit	Full service food pantry and rent, mortgage, utilities assistance. (By appointment only.)
Family Service Center	Nonprofit	Preventive, supportive and therapeutic services for individuals, families and communities.
Fort Bend Dispute Resolution Center		Mediation training, peer mediation in schools, and mediation services for family, business, church, neighbors.
Fort Bend Family YMCA	Nonprofit	Serving east Fort Bend County
Fort Bend Independent School District	School District	In addition to regular academics for kindergarten through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, they have literacy services for adults and Extended Day programs at elementary schools.
Girl Scouts of the USA	Nonprofit	Scouting programs for girls ages 5 to 17.
Lamar Consolidated Independent School District	School District	Primary education for grades kindergarten through 12.
Literacy Council of Fort Bend	Nonprofit	Adult literacy education and various programs such as GED preparation, basic computer skills, US citizenship preparation and career certification.

## **Interagency Cooperation**

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The following is a description of how the various resources listed in the previous pages could cooperatively work together to accomplish the goal of closing identified gaps in services:

By using the Community Plan structure, the Community Planning Team conducts a series of meetings throughout the year following the submission of the Community Plan. The topic and invitation list of each of these meetings should be very specific, focusing on one of the priority issues and those agencies that have linkage to that issue. Discussion could be developed on how the participating agencies could work together to try to eliminate some of the identified gaps in service.

## **Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation**

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The Fort Bend 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 Fort Bend County Community Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the Community Plan and make necessary additions and deletions. The Fort Bend County Judge's Office hosts one formal meeting each fall, but agency and community representatives typically submit suggestions and changes via e-mail to the Community Planning Coordinator.

The Coordinator circulates drafts and annual updates of the Community Plan by e-mail with requests for comments, changes, etc. Wherever possible, we use e-mail to reduce the need for meetings, printing, postage, etc.

It is the intent of the Community Planning Group to improve outcomes for Fort Bend County families struggling with the issues described in the Community Plan's issue areas. Many Fort Bend County agencies and organizations are making efforts to address these problems with local funds as well as grant funds from state, federal, and private sources. To the extent that these funds are available, the Community Planning Team will continue to encourage agencies to provide programming that addresses the outlined needs.

## **Contact Information**

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**The Community Plan is available online at**

<https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/your-county/community-plan>