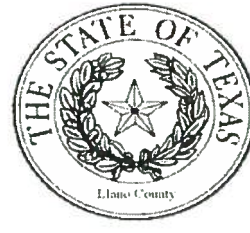


# FY 2014 to 2016 Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties



## COMMUNITY PLAN FOR COORDINATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Approved by the Burnet County Commissioners' Court:

  
Donna Klaeger  
Burnet County Judge

January 22, 2013

Date

Revised: January, 2013

## INTRODUCTION

The Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties Community Plan for the Coordination of Criminal Justice and Related Activities is the culmination of many hours of work by representatives of the participating law enforcement and community agencies. It includes criminal justice issues and goals for the following issue areas as well as 2014 to 2016 goals and accomplishments and successes from 2010 to 2013.

- Law Enforcement
- Victims Services
- Prosecution/Courts
- Juvenile Services
- Substance Abuse/Mental Health

## COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTICIPANTS

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center                                | Llano County Sheriff's Office  |
| Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center                                    | Burnet County Sheriff's Office   |
| CASA for the Highland Lakes  | Burnet County SO/Special Operations Unit   |
| Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes                              | Burnet County SO/Heart of Texas Auto Theft Task Force  |
| 33 <sup>rd</sup> /424 Juvenile Probation Department                    | Marble Falls Police Department   |
| 33 <sup>rd</sup> /424 Juvenile Probation Department                    | Burnet County Court at Law   |
| 33 <sup>rd</sup> /424 <sup>th</sup> Drug Court Program                 | Llano County Attorney Victims Services   |
| 33 <sup>rd</sup> /424 <sup>th</sup> Adult Probation                    | Burnet County Attorney Victims Services  |
| 33 <sup>rd</sup> /424 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Courts          | Burnet County Attorney Victims Services  |
| 33 <sup>rd</sup> /424 <sup>th</sup> District Attorney Victims Services | Blanco Police Department   |
| The Phoenix Center and Camp Phoenix                                    | Johnson City Police Department   |
| Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (MHMR)                            | Blanco County Sheriff's Office   |
| Llano Alliance for Drug Intervention (LADI)                            | Llano County Attorney Victims Services   |
| Heart of Hope Counseling Center  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| <b><u>County Liaisons</u></b>  | <b><u>County Liaison Contact Information</u></b>   |
| Burnet County-Debbie M. Carter   | (512) 715-5229<br><a href="mailto:grantadmin@burnetcountytexas.org">grantadmin@burnetcountytexas.org</a> |
| Llano County-Ron Wilson  | (325) 247-7733 <a href="mailto:ron.wilson@co.llano.tx.us">ron.wilson@co.llano.tx.us</a>                  |
| Blanco County- Chief Randy Holland                                     | (830) 868-0995 <a href="mailto:jcpd401@moment.net">jcpd401@moment.net</a>                                |

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2014-2016 Criminal Justice Related Community Plan for Burnet, Llano and Blanco counties provides information and supporting data for the criminal justice related community priorities for five subject areas, including: Law Enforcement, Victims Services, Prosecution/Courts, Juvenile Services, and Substance Abuse/Mental Health. This plan is the culmination of many professional's expertise and dedication to the process. The primary theme throughout the plan is the need for more resources, primarily personnel and equipment, in order to reduce crime and increase the safety of citizens, law enforcement, and visitors.

## GEOGRAPHIC AREA COVERED

This plan covers Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties.

## GENERAL STATISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Burnet County is approximately 50 miles west of Austin and 75 miles north of San Antonio with a 2010 census population of 42,750. The majority of citizens identify as White (75%), with Hispanic (20%), Black (2%) and 3% identifying as mixed or other races. The 2010 median household income is \$48,187 and approximately 14% of the population lives below the poverty level. Major employers in Burnet County include local governments, school districts (2), and several large retail stores.

Llano County is located west of Austin and slightly northwest of San Antonio with a 2010 census population of 19,301. The majority of citizens identify as White (88%), with Hispanic (9%) and Black (1%) and the remaining 2% identifying as mixed race or other races. The 2010 median household income is \$41,969 and approximately 13% of the population lives below the poverty level. Major employers in Llano County include local governments and the Llano Independent School District.

Blanco County is located about 40 miles west of Austin and 40 miles north of San Antonio with a 2010 census population of 10,497. The majority of citizens identify as white (78%) with Hispanic (19%) with Black citizens comprising 1% and 2% identifying as mixed race or other races. The 2010 median household income is \$46,128 and approximately 12% of the population lives below the poverty level. Major employers in Blanco County include local governments, school districts (2) and Pedernales Electric Cooperative.

## AREAS ADDRESSED

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### 1. ISSUE:

Reducing drug related criminal activity including, methamphetamine use, manufacturing, and trafficking.

#### Supporting Data:

- From 2009 to 2010 there was a 350% increase in meth lab seizures and from 2011 to 2012 a 200% decrease (Burnet County Special Operations Unit (SOU)).

- In FY 2012, 35% of all criminal cases in the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Burnet, Blanco, Llano and San Saba Counties) were drug or alcohol related; a 5-10% increase over FY 2010. (Office of Court Administration, Case Activity Detail FY 12).
- Local law enforcement agencies estimate as much as 80% of all other criminal activity is drug and alcohol related. (Law enforcement and District Judge estimate).

**Goal (s):**

Reduce drug trafficking, manufacturing, and related crimes by increasing patrol and investigative personnel.

**Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013:**

- Burnet CO Special Operations Unit (SOU)-acquired a mobile command center for responding to crime scenes and cleaning up meth houses.
- Burnet County Sheriff's office acquired a drug K-9 for assignment to the Special Operations Unit in October 2010. The drug K-9 has assisted every law enforcement agency in Burnet County along with the Texas DPS, Blanco County Sheriff's Office, Lampasas Sheriff's Office and Police Department, Johnson City Police Department, Llano County Sheriff's Office and Police Department, Texas Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, and Texas Parks and Wildlife.
- The SOU K-9 has been utilized in a total of 195 searches which has resulted in the seizure of more than 50 pounds of marijuana, multiple ounces of Methamphetamine and more than \$33,000 in US currency.
- K-9 deployments resulted in the arrest of 85 individuals on drug charges.
- The Marble Falls Police Department acquired a Critical Incident Response Vehicle for the ESU (Emergency Services Unit) tactical team through a JAG Grant. The response vehicle has been utilized and made available throughout the Western Counties of Burnet, Blanco and Llano as well as the CAPCOG region.
- The Marble Falls Police Department purchased a Mobile Command Center and installed upgraded communications and a wireless video system to meet the needs of the Western Counties of Burnet, Blanco, and Llano. The Mobile Command Center has also been utilized in the CAPCOG Region. Marble Falls Police Department Narcotic Seizure funds were utilized to fund this project.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- Burnet County SOU currently investigates and seizes meth labs and has a mobile crime scene response/command center available to law enforcement in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties, as well as, a trained drug K-9.
- MFPD has a fully equipped mobile command center and SWAT vehicle.

**Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Aggressive investigations and arrests.
- Increase Sheriff's Departments patrol staff to ensure 24/7 coverage throughout the tri-county area.

- Increase small communities police department's patrol staff to ensure 24/7 coverage and reduce the need for SO patrol deputies to respond to calls in those smaller communities.
- Increase cooperation and information sharing between all law enforcement agencies.

## **2. ISSUE:**

Dedicated Mental Health Officer (s) to transport citizens to in-patient mental health facilities when they have been deemed a danger to themselves or others due to mental health issues.

### **Supporting Data: Need Burnet and Blanco Co Data**

- In 2012, Burnet and Llano County Sheriff's Deputies transported 141 people to state hospitals or other mental health facilities who were in need of immediate in-patient assessment or treatment (Burnet (119)/Llano (22) SO, 2012).
- An additional 4 transports were from a state hospital back to Burnet because they were not admitted (Burnet SO, 2012)
- 99 Burnet County citizens were admitted to state hospitals in 2012 (Bluebonnet Trails Community Services)
- Each transport takes a minimum of 4 hours and sometimes as long as 8-10 hours and reduces the number of deputies available for patrol. In 2012 the result was 564 to as many as 1,128 patrol hours lost due to MHMR transports. (Burnet/Llano SO data, 2012)

### **Goals:**

- To eliminate the need to take patrol deputies off patrol in order to transport MHMR patients.
- Maintain full patrol capabilities.
- Divert persons arrested who have mental health issues from jail to treatment.

### **Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013:**

- Burnet County Sheriff's Office is currently coordinating with the Bluebonnet Trails Community Mental Health Services and a Crisis Diversion Project is in the early stages of planning. A dedicated and trained Mental Health Deputy should be in place by summer 2013, if approved by the Burnet County Commissioners' Court.

### **Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- The Sheriff's Departments are statutorily required to transport emergency MHMR patients to Austin, Kerrville, and San Antonio for assessment and treatment. There has been much discussion about the need for dedicated transport officers in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties and Burnet County is currently working with Bluebonnet Trails on a federally funded Crisis Diversion Project.
- Llano County is collaborating with Scott and White Hospital to implement a transport program funded by the 1115 Medicaid Waiver that would be more cost effective and beneficial to the Sheriff's staff.

- MHMR has requested office space in Eastern Llano County to serve clients by using a 3<sup>rd</sup> party delivery system for less expensive mental health medications.

**Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Hire dedicated MHMR law enforcement personnel.
- Reduce by 60% the patrol hours lost due to MHMR transports.
- Hire at least one dedicated MHMR law enforcement transport officer with specialized training in mental health issues.
- Maintain full patrol capabilities.
- Divert defendants from jail to mental health treatment services

**3. ISSUE:**

Safe and proper destruction of illegal narcotics, drug paraphernalia, biological materials and other hazardous material evidence post adjudication.

**Supporting Data:**

- Federal law (EPA) requires that hazardous material including narcotics and drug paraphernalia, be incinerated in compliance with established environmental protocols.
- The nearest incinerator stations are located in Dallas, Houston, and Beaumont.
- Texas Department of Public Safety no longer accepts items in need of incineration from other law enforcement agencies.

**Goal (s):**

- To provide a legal, safe and economical way to dispose of hazardous material evidence post adjudication.

**Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013**

None noted

**Existing Efforts:**

Existing protocols require the materials to be transported to Dallas, Houston, or Beaumont for destruction because there is not an approved incinerator in the CAPCOG region.

**Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Research funding to acquire an incinerator for use by law enforcement agencies in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties as well as any law enforcement agency within the CAPCOG region.
- Research funding for training on proper use of the incinerator.
- Acquire an incinerator.
- Decrease the cost of transporting hazardous materials
- Decrease the amount of hazardous materials being stored in law enforcement evidence rooms.

#### **4. ISSUE:**

Additional equipment, tools, and technology and personnel in order to investigate crimes, apprehend suspects and analyze evidence quickly and locally.

#### **Supporting Data:**

- The City of Marble Falls has the highest percentage of criminal activity in Burnet County and is home to the largest retailer(s) in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties (Marble Falls Police Department).
- Thefts, assaults and hit and run collisions are very difficult to solve due to the poor quality of the retailer's surveillance images (Marble Falls Police Department).
- Burnet County and Llano County Sheriff's Offices report that due to the rural area and limited lighting, numerous suspects in the past year have evaded detection by hiding in dark, wooded areas.
- In 2012, two Warrant Bond Deputies in Burnet County processed 6,329 warrants with 3,225 being issues and 3,104 were closed (recalled, served or offender detained elsewhere) (Burnet County Sheriff's Office).
- Burnet County Sheriff's Office manages warrants issued by their department as well as, 4 municipalities, 4 Justices of the Peace, the District Court and the County Court.
- Sheriff's Office staff report needing additional staff as they work through thousands of new warrants and a backlog of un-served warrants left from the previous administration (Burnet County Sheriff's Office).
- The Burnet County Sheriff's Office is responsible for every bond posted at the Burnet County Jail and must be in possession of the actual paper bond and must review each one by hand before it can be approved. (Burnet Co Sheriff's Office).

#### **Goals:**

- Serve warrants and apprehend suspects in a timely manner.
- Solve crimes quickly and locally.
- Increase officer and community safety.
- Placement of law enforcement in more strategic locations for faster response times.

#### **Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013**

- Burnet County SO added 1 additional deputy for the Bond/Warrant Division in FY 2012 and FY 2013 using grant funds and county match. Another application for partial funding will be submitted for FY 2014. Llano County added a Code Enforcement Officer in their FY 2013 budget.
- Burnet County achieved a 96% rate on warrants issued versus served and recalled for 2012.
- Llano County has a new annex that consolidates portions of the Llano County Sheriff's Office, DPS, and Parks and Wildlife in one location to serve the Eastern portion of the county. Incident response time is likely to increase and the location allows for citizens to have more access to law enforcement in this area.

### **Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- Existing protocol is to send the poor quality video/still images to the DPS lab in Austin to be enhanced. This results in a several month delay in identifying and arresting the offenders. The Burnet County Sheriff's Office currently has one thermal imager for use by one night patrol deputy.
- JAG Grant applications were submitted for a Forensic Video / Imagery Enhancement System but were not funded. An application for FY 14 funding will be submitted in early 2013.

### **Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Acquire a forensic video/still imagery enhancement system with video editing capability.
- Acquire thermal imaging and night vision technologies for area law enforcement agencies.
- Acquire other technologies and tools to help reduce crime and improve the criminal justice system.
- Continue to staff the Bond/Warrant Division at the Sheriff's Offices with additional deputies.
- Acquire at least one forensic video/still imagery enhancement system for use throughout the three county areas.
- Outfit all night patrol vehicles with thermal imagers and night vision technology.
- Increase the likelihood of successful apprehension and prosecution of offenders.
- Decrease the likelihood that suspects will evade detection and apprehension at night.
- Increase the usefulness of video and still surveillance images.

## **5. ISSUE:**

Patrol cars for the Sheriff's Departments in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties as well as, municipal police departments within the counties.

### **Supporting Data:**

- There are 30 patrol/investigator vehicles and 5 jail cars for use at the Llano County Sheriff's Office. 11 of those vehicles have over 100,000 miles and six of those have over 130,000 miles. The Commissioners' Court approved 3 replacement vehicles in FY 2013, but the Sheriff requested 5 (Llano Co Sheriff's Office, 2013)
- Deputies often have to share patrol vehicles because of frequent repairs on the higher mileage cars (Llano Co Sheriff's Office, 2013)
- In April 2012 the Burnet County Sheriff's Office fleet consists of 49 vehicles, with 23 assigned to active Patrol. The lowest mileage active patrol unit has 25,345 miles; with the highest mileage active patrol unit has 119,765 miles. (Burnet Co SO)
- The other 26 vehicles are assigned to support staff (Sheriff, Chief, Captains, Investigators, Civil Process, Bailiffs, Animal Control, Inmate transport, and spare units for Patrol). The lowest mileage Support vehicle is assigned to Animal Control with 10,269 miles; with the highest mileage support vehicle have 167,621 miles (Burnet Co SO)
- When a patrol deputy's vehicle breaks down they must use a "back-up" vehicle that has over 160,000 miles on it. (Burnet Co SO)
- Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties have a total of 2,612 square miles of land and 58 square miles of water. (U.S. Census Bureau).
- In Burnet and Llano Counties, over half of the county population lives in the county and the other half in municipalities. (U.S. Census Bureau).



**Goals:**

- To obtain lower mileage/reliable/safe vehicles to meet the needs of each law enforcement agency.
- Increase the reliability and safety of law enforcement vehicles.
- To replace vehicles at 100,000 miles rather than the current practice of 150,000 miles or more.

**Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013**

- The Burnet County SO plans to get a new vehicle for the new Mental Health Deputy via collaboration with Bluebonnet Trails Community Services if the project goes forward.
- Burnet and Llano Counties have been able to add 3-4 patrol vehicles each year using the county budget and/or tax notes but there continues to be a need for specific patrol vehicle funding.

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- Llano County and Burnet SOs purchase 3 to 4 new vehicles each year to replace their oldest /highest mileage cars subject to the approval of their respective Commissioner's Court, but generally need more cars than are approved.

**Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Acquire new patrol vehicles for sheriff's departments and police departments in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties.
- Purchase 1-2 additional vehicles each year.
- Increase officer safety.
- Decrease patrol vehicles that are out of service due to repairs related to high mileage.

**6: ISSUE**

Vehicle Burglaries/Thefts

**Supporting Data:**

- Burnet County ranks 8<sup>th</sup> for vehicle thefts in Non-Metropolitan Counties (2010 FBI Crime Statistics).
- Fifty Percent of all vehicles stolen were unlocked or had keys left in them. (Texas ABTPA)
- Vehicles burglarized often have valuables left in plain sight, making them an easy target.(Texas ABTPA)

**Goals:**

- Educate Citizens steps in preventing their vehicles from being stolen and burglarized.
- Increased Patrol of areas known for vehicle crimes.
- Aggressive investigations and arrests.
- Increase cooperation and information sharing between agencies.
- Increase the number of patrol officers trained to recognize a stolen vehicle.

### **Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- Burnet County is headquarters for the Heart of Texas Auto Theft Task Force, which allows for an Investigator to focus on vehicle crimes within Burnet County. The task force encompasses the Counties of Burnet, Lampasas, Coryell, McLennan, and Limestone with an investigator for Coryell and Limestone and provides assistance to other neighboring counties as requested.
- Task Force personnel are responsible for completing goals. Some of the goals include conducting Public Awareness Events; Checking for vehicles that are unattended with keys in them and easy target vehicles in shopping centers in an effort reduce the instances of vehicle crimes.
- The Theft Task Force will continue to conduct training classes in an effort to provide at minimum a basic knowledge of auto theft to patrol officers. Patrol officers are in contact with a high number of vehicles and people while performing their daily duties. When the patrol officers have the proper training, they will learn to recognize signs of stolen vehicles.

### **Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Secure funding for a Mobile LED sign to be used in public awareness – The message sign may be deployed at shopping centers, major public events, and popular recreational areas to remind drivers to lock their vehicles, take their keys, and hide their valuables. Additional deployment for major traffic accidents to advise of road closures and for natural disasters to alert persons to keep clear from hazardous areas is probable.
- Expand the Task Force Coverage area to include Blanco, and Llano Counties. Llano and Blanco County are currently part of the Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force, which has a headquarters of Travis County. This could allow for additional public awareness and education performed, a larger public audience reached, and assistance with investigations in an effort to reduce the instances of vehicle crimes.
- Increase the use of social media as a tool to reach a larger audience. The use and popularity of social media is increasing daily. Often persons have more involvement with social media than actual printed or televised news. When a following is established, persons can receive updates about crime occurring in their areas as it happens. The program is hopeful in reaching out to a younger audience in an effort to make them aware of current trends to have them become more involved in protecting their vehicle and property.

## **PROSECUTION/COURTS**

### **1: ISSUE**

Adult Drug Court

#### **Supporting Data:**

- In FY 2012, 35% of all criminal cases in the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Burnet, Blanco, Llano and San Saba Counties) were drug or alcohol related; a 5-10% increase over FY 2010. (Office of Court Administration, Case Activity Detail FY 12).
- Current capacity of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/42<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Drug Court program is only 45 (Drug Court Program, 2013)
- Current Drug Court capacity is limited due to having only one Drug Court Officer and one Drug Court Judge for the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts (Drug Court Program, 2013)
- Approximately 15-20% of adult offenders on probation who need drug or alcohol treatment services may not receive it due to inability to pay (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Adult Probation, 2013)

### **Goals:**

- Hold drug and alcohol offenders legally accountable while diverting them from incarceration to treatment.
- Consider expanding the capacity of the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Drug Court Program.
- Provide drug court participants with support to remain drug free by using hair follicle testing, SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring) units and GPS ankle monitors.

### **Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013**

- 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Adult Probation/Drug Court now has funding for SCRAM units and ankle monitors to help offenders and hold them accountable. First SCRAM units/GPS ankle monitors should be in place by February 2013 or sooner.

### **Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- There is currently a Drug Court Program for the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts that can accept up to 45 offenders a year. Previous efforts to expand the program capacity by applying for federal drug court funds have been made, but not successful. Program will continue to look for additional funding sources.

### **Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Apply for federal drug court grant funds and other drug court funding.
- Identify sliding fee/free drug and alcohol treatment providers.
- Provide drug court services to at least 45 drug/alcohol offenders a year.
- Hire at least one additional Drug Court Officer.
- Hire at least one additional Drug Court Judicial Officer.
- Divert drug and alcohol offenders from incarceration to treatment.
- Increase accountability of drug court participants by using higher levels of drug testing and electronic monitoring.
- Provide funding for treatment when the offenders are unable to pay.
- Consider creating a DWI court particularly for repeat offenders.

## **VICTIM SERVICES**

### **1: ISSUE:**

Additional therapy and counseling support services for all types of victims of crime.

### **Supporting Data:**

- In 2012 the District Attorney's Victim Services provided victim services to 276 victims (.21% decrease from 2011) that included 556 different types of services (advocacy, referral, court notification, crime victim's compensation, etc. (.18 % decrease from 2011).
- In FY 2012, 1950 domestic violence and sexual assault related crisis calls were answered by Crisis Center staff and volunteers representing an increase over 2011 calls.

- In FY 2012, 3.5 outreach counselors provided 4357 counseling hours to 606 non-residential adult and child victims. This continues to be a very large caseload per counselor per year.
- In 2011, one (1) counselor at The Hill Country Children's Advocacy (HCCAC) center provided 523 counseling hours to 95 victims on-site and in other counties as well as spending over 200 hours traveling in order to provide counseling and extended assessments of child abuse victims.
- In 2011, three counselors provided 3,640 counseling hours to clients of the Heart of Hope Counseling Center in Llano (Heart of Hope).
- 66% of children served by CASA of the Highland Lakes are over five years old and almost all are in need of some sort of counseling related to the abuse/neglect (CASA, 2012)

### **Goals:**

- Provide additional counselors in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties for victims of crime.
- Enhance current counseling services through a network of providers qualified in treating trauma by contracting with specialized therapeutic service providers, hiring additional therapists, and/or securing Master Level Social Work/Counseling Interns.
- Increasing victims services staff at the District Attorney's Office.
- CASA for the Highland Lakes will include awareness of the crime victim's compensation process in advocate training.
- Assist families and victims in applying for crime victim's compensation in order to reduce any financial burden the victimization has caused.

### **Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013**

- Referrals to other local providers including Phoenix Center and private therapist have been accomplished during the FY 2012 year to help enhance current counseling needs.
- Utilization of Master Level interns have also been incorporated into counseling programs of the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center and the Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center to meet the demands of the victims and survivors served.
- Heart of Hope Counseling Center opened in November 2010 and provides individual and group counseling and support services for crime victims including domestic violence and sexual assault as well as other services noted in other sections of this plan. Services are provided in Llano only at present.

### **Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center (HLFCC) has 4.5 counseling staff that currently offer individual and group counseling to adult and child victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual abuse and sexual assault. Maintaining current levels of counseling services is paramount; however more assistance is needed to serve this population. Counselors travel over 5000 miles to provide counseling services to victims and survivors within their communities due to barriers experienced by families related to transportation and financial limitations. Additional need exists as the increase in acute or chronic mental health issues and/or substance abuse issues continues to rise requiring specialized therapeutic approaches for some victims and survivors.

- The Hill Country Children’s Advocacy Center (HCCAC) employs 1 counseling staff and has 1 Master’s Level Intern that currently offer individual and group counseling to children and their families who have experience all forms of child abuse. Counselors also travel within Burnet, Blanco and Llano counties offering counseling services to child victims and their families.
- The HCCAC is working with a network of counseling professionals.
- The HCCAC and the HLFCC are the two primary agencies providing comprehensive victims services in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties and both help victims file for Crime Victims Compensation when possible and applicable.
- Heart of Hope plans to hire an additional therapist and possibly expand services into Marble Falls in the next few years.
- CASA volunteers advocate very strongly in court for therapy for children in foster care. If there are roadblocks such as transportation or funding, CASA advocates often help with these challenges.
- The Phoenix Center (Camp Phoenix) opened in 2007 and serves children and families who have experienced physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse, trauma, grief/loss, as well as children with any other emotional and behavioral need. All programs are either free or sliding scaled based on income. Programs currently include:
  - **Phoenix Counseling Services:** Individual and family counseling, including play therapy for young children. Phoenix Center counseling sessions are free of cost or offered on a sliding fee scale based on each family’s income and needs.
  - **Phoenix After-School:** Therapeutic after-school programs twice a week for children ages 4 – 18.
  - **Camp Phoenix:** Therapeutic camp sessions at Candlelight Ranch, including equine therapy, outdoor therapy (high and low ropes challenge course), art therapy, team building, and yoga/wellness programs. Our innovative camp sessions provide an uninterrupted opportunity for healing, expression, and empowerment in a natural, restorative setting for children with emotional and behavioral needs.
  - **Parenting Classes (Child Parent Relationship Therapy):** An intensive parenting class for parents, guardians, and caretakers. We provide a free dinner for the entire family along with a coinciding children’s group (child care) for children ages 4-18.

**Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Increase the number of counselors available for victims of crime.
- Increase the number of counselors skilled in treating victims of crime with other issues (substance abuse, mental health, etc.)
- Hire at least two (2) additional counselors/therapists to provide services to victims involved with the Crisis Center.
- Identify at least one (1) private counselor, skilled in the dynamics of criminal victimization, to contract with victim’s services agencies to provide services.
- Decrease fear associated with victimization related to violent crimes.
- Increase in knowledge and understanding of crime victim rights.
- Increase in feelings of safety as a result of individual and group counseling services.
- Increase understanding of the court process related to victimization.
- Reduction in trauma, crisis, stress, and/or anxiety of child victims and/or protective family member.
- Work with area universities to identify Masters Level Social Work interns to provide additional services.

## **2: ISSUE:**

Crisis Intervention, including emergency shelter and support services for victims of family violence and sexual assault.

### **Supporting Data:**

- 226 victims of domestic violence receiving emergency shelter at the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center Higher acuity of their needs has increased, particularly in finding permanent, safe and affordable housing (FY 2012 HLFCC).
- 606 new victims received nonresidential services including crisis intervention, individual counseling, group counseling, legal assistance, financial assistance, advocacy, accompaniment and information and referral at the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center. (FY 2012 HLFCC)
- 4694 bed days offered via the emergency shelter at the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center (FY 2012).
- 1950 crisis and informational calls received through the hotline at Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center. (FY 2012)
- 189 new sexual violence victims received crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, and support through services received at the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center. (FY 2012 HLFCC)
- 523 direct service counseling hours were provided by the Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center to victims in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties and 1,056 primary and secondary victims were provided services. (HCCAC, 2011)
- 130 child victims of abuse from Blanco, Burnet & Llano Counties were interviewed at the Hill County Children's Advocacy Center (2,314 hours of service) as part of the crisis intervention process involved in the investigation of child sexual/physical abuse and/or traumatic events to children (HCCAC, 2011).
- The Hill Country CAC provided crisis intervention services to 585 secondary (non-offending) family members, through family intakes, family/peer support groups, assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation, follow-up services through referrals to outside agencies to meet the needs of the family (HCCAC, 2011).
- Crisis intervention is also provided by coordinating case management, MDT meetings. In the past year 336 cases were reviewed, with multiple agencies involved in all phases of the victim's case from crisis intervention, case investigation, prosecution, and continued services to help with the healing process, i.e., counseling and follow-up (HCCAC, 2012).
- Crisis intervention is also provided through the ability to provide on-site sexual abuse/assault medical exams, 30 in the past twelve months, for child victims (HCCAC, 2012).
- 20 % of felony aggravated assault cases involved family violence (2012-33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Victim's Services Division).
- From 2011 to 2012, there was a .6% decrease in the number of felony child physical abuse cases and a .65% decrease in felony child sexual abuse cases (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Victim's Services Division).

### **Goals:**

- Provide 24-hour emergency shelter services for victims of family violence, 24-hour crisis hotline for victims of family violence and sexual assault and 24-hour access to emergency response, assistance, and support.
- Provide crisis intervention and support through-out the criminal legal process.
- Provide emergency food, clothing and financial assistance to victims of family violence and sexual assault.
- Provide forensic interviews for child victims of abuse.
- HCCAC will continue to coordinate MDT meetings and even plans are underway to establish a team meeting specific to Blanco County, held in Blanco County, to encourage participation by all agencies involved in the investigation of child sexual abuse/assault cases.
- Continue to provide qualified personnel the space and equipment for sexual assault exams and the collection of forensic evidence in child sexual abuse/assault cases.
- HLFCC will continue to coordinate SART meetings, assist with coordination of comprehensive services for acute rape victims and trainings associated with acute sexual assault response.

### **Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013**

- Crisis Intervention, emergency shelter services for victims of family violence and sexual assault have been maintained at the current level without waitlists or turning victims away. (HLFCC 2012)

### **Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center provides 24-hour emergency shelter for victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The facility is located within Burnet County and services three other counties including Blanco, Llano, and Lampasas. Ensuring the availability of this life saving program is essential since this facility is the only emergency shelter dedicated to this service within this service area.
- The HCCAC provides crisis intervention services to child victims and non-offending family members.

### **Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Maintain current level of emergency and crisis support services for victims of family violence and sexual assault.
- Maintain currently levels of personnel who offer 24-hour emergency shelter services, 24-hour crisis hotline response and 24-hour access to emergency response, assistance, and support.
- Maintain emergency food, clothing and financial assistance to victims of family violence and sexual assault.
- Reduction in trauma, crisis, stress, and/or anxiety of child victims and/or protective family member.
- Increase in knowledge and understanding of crime victim rights and the criminal legal process.
- Increased feelings of safety as a result of receiving emergency shelter and support services.
- Increase availability of sexual assault exams at a local level through coordinated efforts of the local SART protocol.

### **3. ISSUE:**

Education, training, and awareness programs focused on reducing family violence, sexual assault, and child abuse.

#### **Supporting Data:**

- From 2011 to 2012, there was a .6 % decrease in the number of felony child physical abuse cases and a .65 % decrease in felony child sexual abuse cases (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts Victim's Services Division).
- Yello Dyno-the child abuse prevention program provided education to 5,370 children in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano school districts (HCCAC, 2011 and 2012 school years).
- In 2011 and 2012 school years the need for Yello Dyno and recruiting the number of volunteers needed to present the curriculum in five school districts and 11 schools has been challenging. The number of children attending K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in the 11 schools totals 4,965 and HCCAC provided the program to 2,653 students in 2011 and 2,717 in 2012 (HCCAC, 2012).
- In FY 2012, over 2100 middle and high school students were provided with the Primary Prevention Healthy Relationship Curriculum (HLFCC, 2012).
- In FY 2012, 44 community Presentations and professional trainings resulted in reaching 3200 participants increasing awareness about family violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault (HLFCC, 2012).
- In FY 2012, over 500 community members and professionals received training on identifying signs and symptoms of child abuse and proper reporting procedures (HCCAC, 2012).
- From 2009-2012, 100 Burnet County students at the Boys & Girls Club of the Highland Lakes(BGC-HL) were paired with mentors and completed a validated healthy relationship/good choices curriculum including anti-bullying components, SmartMoves, all of these students have shown in post evaluations their behaviors were positively affected by increased school attendance, social interactions with adults and peers, refraining from violent behavior, increased academic success, and/or refraining from entering the juvenile criminal justice system. (BGC-HL)
- From 2009-2012 Burnet County students 80 students at the (BGC-HL) completed SmartMoves and showed their behaviors were positively affected by increased school attendance, social interactions with adults and peers, refraining from violent behavior, increased academic success, and/or refraining from entering the juvenile justice system. (BGC-HL)

#### **Goals:**

Provide awareness presentations and events that educate the general public about violent crime statistics, the effects on victims and survivors, cost to the community and reduction of risk. Violent crime includes domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse (including physical & sexual abuse), and drug and alcohol related crimes.

#### **Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013**

- Community grant funds were secured to purchase a new projector and laptop to enhance HCCAC's community education efforts.
- HCCAC has maintained partnerships with the 11 schools previously served and also offers educational programs on bullying.



- In 2012, HCCAC paid for MDT Team members to attend a professional conference on child abuse.
- Ongoing presentations and trainings have been available in the four county service area of Burnet, Blanco, Llano, and Lampasas counties related to family violence and sexual assault. (FY 2012)
- An increase in risk reduction presentations have occurred in area Middle and High Schools utilizing other staff positions and volunteers in an effort to support the Prevention Educator and the Healthy Relationship Curriculum. (HLFCC, 2012)

**Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center currently offers a Healthy Relationship Curriculum in area middle and high schools located in Burnet, Blanco, Llano, and Lampasas counties. This 8-week curriculum is focused on root cause effects that sustain violence and risk factors that may lead to intimate partner violence. This curriculum is offered in area schools but is currently limited due to funding. Only one Prevention Educator is currently available to administer the program. Additional Educators could expand this further into other area schools.
- HCCAC continues to offer Yello Dyno classes and will look to expand volunteer network to provide more classes. Plans for additional educational programs for area elementary school children are also being explored.
- HCCAC also currently provides parenting classes to non-offending family members and caregivers.
- The Boys & Girls Club of the Highland Lakes continues to offer the ‘BGCA’s experience’ to youth in Burnet County. Public/Private Ventures (a national nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the effectiveness of social policies and programs. P/PV designs, tests and studies initiatives that increase supports, skills and opportunities of residents of low-income communities; works with policymakers to see that the lessons and evidence produced are reflected in policy; and provides training, technical assistance and learning opportunities to practitioners based on documented effective practices and an independent evaluation company) concluded that attendance by a youth at a Boys & Girls Club for a minimum of 52 days showed positive changes in social, education, and ethical behaviors. (P/PV 2005) BGC-HL confirms the same results in Burnet County in post evaluations by youth, their parents, and staff in Burnet County, (BGC-HL Annual reports)

**Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Continue to provide Yello Dyno and professional and community trainings (HCCAC).
- Continue to provide Healthy Relationship Curriculum presentations in area Middle and High Schools (HLFCC).
- Community education presentations to parent groups, community members, and professionals (HLFCC and HCCAC).
- Hire at least one additional Violence Prevention Educator (HLFCC)
- Train at least two volunteers to present the healthy relationships curriculum in area schools (HLFCC)
- Train at least two volunteers to present the Yello Dyno curriculum in area schools
- Add one elementary school to receive Yello Dyno presentations.
- Maintain current level of crisis intervention services and coordinated response to child victims and their non-offending family members (HCCAC)
- Conduct forensic interviews to approximately 300 children alleged victims of abuse. (HCCAC)
- Maintain crisis intervention services to child victims and their non-offending family members.

- Increase in knowledge of the factors that allow family violence, sexual assault, dating violence and child abuse to occur. (HLFCC and HCCAC)
- Increase in knowledge of strategies that help reduce or eliminate violence within communities located in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties. (HLFCC and HCCAC)
- Increase awareness and education to adults and children in Burnet, Blanco, and Llano counties to help reduce child victimization.
- To continue offering the 'Boys & Girls Club Experience and increase enrollment.
- To continue to target specific youth for mentorship programs
- To continue offering SmartMoves to youth in Burnet County
- To involve more community members in BGC-HL and to offer more safe, challenging opportunities for youth
- To collaborate with other local services working with youth.

## JUVENILE SERVICES

### **1. ISSUE:**

Additional options for Mental Health Services

### **Supporting Data:**

- 95 % of children in the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program need mental health services and few are receiving them (HL CASA). All children who are removed from their families because of neglect or abuse need, at a minimum, assessment, and counseling. The 5% not acknowledged here are too young for either (CASA, 2012)
- School Individual Education Plans (IEP) are not adequately addressing the needs of individual children, especially children with mental health issues. Section 504 of the Civil Rights Act requires that students with special needs be assessed and an educational plan be designed and implemented to meet the educational needs of the student, but does not address the needs of a student outside the educational framework (Consensus among area youth services providers)
- In FY 2011, the Juvenile Probation Department was referred a total of 141 cases from the three counties. Of these referrals a total of 77 %, 110 juveniles were from Burnet County, Llano County referrals at 19%, 22 juveniles and Blanco County 4%, 5 juveniles with a reported 17% noting mental health issues (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department).
- In FY 2012, the Juvenile Probation Department was referred a total of 141 cases from the three counties. Of these referrals a total of 73%, 91 juveniles were from Burnet County, Llano County referrals at 24%, 33 juveniles and Blanco County 3%, 4 juveniles with a reported 20% noting mental health issues (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department).
- The Phoenix Center (and Camp Phoenix) served 381 children and families in 2012 (Phoenix Center).
- The Phoenix Center provided 906 hours of free of cost counseling services to 109 children and families in need during the year 2012 (Phoenix Center).
- The Phoenix Center had a waiting list of over 23 families (for counseling services) at the end of December 2012 (Phoenix Center).

### **Goals:**

- To expand the capacity of local out-patient, mental health services available to juveniles and their families.

### **Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013**

- The Phoenix Center opened in 2007 and provides no cost or sliding fee counseling, therapeutic after-school programs, and therapeutic camp sessions.
- Heart of Hope Center opened in November 2010 and provides a wide range of counseling and therapy services to children and youth at their offices in Llano.

### **Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- There are a few private practice counselors/therapists within the three counties that provide individual services for juveniles with insurance or on a fee basis. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services also provides some mental health services for children. The Phoenix Center in Marble Falls is providing no cost counseling and therapy to children and Heart of Hope in Llano provides services in Llano currently but plans to expand to Marble Falls in the future.
- In January 2013, the Phoenix Center hired a second part-time licensed therapist in order to meet the community need for mental health services for families and children (free of cost and sliding scale counseling services are available).
- The Phoenix Center partners with the University of Texas and Texas State University for graduate level internships. In addition, the Phoenix Center collaborates with the Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center, Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center, CASA and the Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes.
- In January 2013, three master's level Interns from the University of Texas at Austin will provide free counseling services under the supervision from the Phoenix Center's Clinical Director.
- Three parenting classes (Child Parent Relationship Therapy) are planned for 2013.

### **Strategies/Tasks:**

- To encourage local implementation of mental health services.
- To continue working through the planning consortium to meet the critical needs for mental health needs.
- Identify at least one additional agency or service provider to provide free or sliding scale services.
- To prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.
- To provide mental health services to juveniles already involved in the juvenile justice system to help break the cycle of criminal behavior.

## **2. ISSUE:**

Juvenile drug and alcohol treatment programs.

### **Supporting Data:**

- In FY 2011, the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department was referred a total of 141 cases from the three counties. Of these referrals a total of 77 %, 110 juveniles were from Burnet County, Llano County referrals at 19%, 22 juveniles and Blanco County 4%, 5 juveniles and 22% confirmed drug related.

- In FY 2012, the 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department was referred a total of 141 cases from the three counties. Of these referrals a total of 73%, 91 juveniles were from Burnet County, Llano County referrals at 24%, 33 juveniles and Blanco County 3%, 4 juveniles and 22% confirmed drug related.
- FY 2011, 353 drug tests were performed, of these 73 tested positive and 280 negative for substances (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation)
- FY 2012, 344 drug tests were performed, of these 82 tested positive and 262 negative for substances (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation).

### **Goals:**

- To encourage and support efforts for local residential and out-patient drug/alcohol treatment for juveniles and their families.
- To encourage and support drug and alcohol prevention programs to prevent youth from becoming drug/alcohol abusers.
- Additional in-school educational prevention programs.
- Add a Juvenile Probation office to the new annex in the Eastern portion of Llano County.

### **Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013**

- Heart of Hope Counseling Center opened in November 2010 and provides drug and alcohol assessments and education classes for adults and juveniles. They work with Juvenile Probation and provide UA's and drug treatment, education and prevention classes, as well as alcohol education programs in the Llano ISD.
- The 33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation Department implemented the Rainbow Days program as an early education prevention program and in FY 2012 a total of 47 children participated. Programs were 10 sessions, 45 minutes in length. Each session had a focus or topic: 1) Getting to Know You 2) Celebration of Me 3) Feelings 4) Handling Anger 5) Dreams and Goal Setting 6) Making Healthy Choices 7) Friends 8) Resisting Negative Peer Pressure 9) Putting It All Together 10) Celebration and Commitment. Programs were provided by department juvenile probation officers.

### **Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- Llano Alliance for Drug Intervention (LADI) provides individual and group counseling services in Llano County and several private practice counselors and therapists provide services.
- Heart of Hope Counseling Center also provides individual and group counseling services for drug and alcohol issues in Llano and hopes to expand to Marble Falls in the future.

### **Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Explore the possibility of establishing a juvenile drug court to divert juveniles to treatment rather than incarceration.
- To address the fact that juvenile drug/alcohol abuse is a family problem and make sure that families are involved in the process.
- Increase the availability of drug and alcohol support services for juveniles already in the juvenile justice system and those with a high probability of future involvement.
- To reduce and/or prevent juvenile drug and alcohol use by all juveniles.
- To reduce drug and alcohol use by juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system.

### **3. ISSUE:**

Juvenile justice prevention programs

#### **Supporting Data:**

- FY 2011 a total of 141 cases were referred to the department, Blanco received 4%, Llano 19% and Burnet 77 % (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation).
- FY 2012 a total of 141 cases were referred to the department, Blanco received 3%, Llano 24% and Burnet 73% (33<sup>rd</sup>/424<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Probation).

#### **Goals:**

- To decrease youth involvement in the criminal justice system.

#### **Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013**

- The Smart Moves Program offered by The Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes is having a positive impact on the youth involved, including increased school attendance and positive social interactions with adults and peer and a reduction in violent behavior and youth entering the juvenile justice system.
- There was a 38% increase in membership at the Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes (BGC-HL) from 2011 to 2012.
- In 2011 the enrollment was approximately 10% of the public school enrollment. In 2012, the enrollment increased to 15% of the public school enrollment, including both Burnet CISD and Marble Falls ISD, the only 2 public school systems in Burnet County.
- From 2009-2012, 100 Burnet County students at the Boys & Girls Club of the Highland Lakes(BGC-HL) were paired with mentors and completed a validated healthy relationship/good choices curriculum including anti-bullying components, SmartMoves, all of these students have shown in post evaluations their behaviors were positively affected by increased school attendance, social interactions with adults and peers, refraining from violent behavior, increased academic success, and/or refraining from entering the juvenile criminal justice system. (BGC-HL)
- From 2009-2012 Burnet County students 80 students at the (BGC-HL) completed SmartMoves and showed their behaviors were positively affected by increased school attendance, social interactions with adults and peers, refraining from violent behavior, increased academic success, and/or refraining from entering the juvenile criminal justice system. (BGC-HL)

#### **Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- The Boys & Girls Club of the Highland Lakes provides intervention services in Burnet County. The 33<sup>rd</sup> and 424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts have a mentorship/intervention program that works with some of the juvenile probationers.
- The Boys & Girls Club of the Highland Lakes continues to offer the 'BGCA's experience to youth in Burnet County. Public/Private Ventures (a national nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the effectiveness of social policies and programs. P/PV designs, tests and studies initiatives that increase supports, skills and opportunities of residents of low-income communities; works with policymakers to see that the lessons and evidence produced are reflected in policy; and provides training, technical assistance and learning opportunities to practitioners based on documented effective practices and an independent evaluation company) concluded that attendance by a youth at a Boys & Girls Club for a minimum of 52 days showed positive changes in social, education,

and ethical behaviors. (P/PV 2005)BGC-HL confirms the same results in Burnet County in post evaluations by youth, their parents, and staff in Burnet County, (BGC-HL Annual reports)

- In 2013, CASA for the Highland Lakes plans to educate its advocates on the services of Gary Job Corp. as a resource for our youth aging out of DFPS care. Gary Job Corp. offers free educational and skills training in a residential setting.
- Juvenile Probation Department implemented the Rainbow Days program as an early education prevention program and in FY 2012 a total of 47 children participated. Programs were 10 sessions, 45 minutes in length. Each session had a focus or topic: 1) Getting to Know You 2) Celebration of Me 3) Feelings 4) Handling Anger 5) Dreams and Goal Setting 6) Making Healthy Choices 7) Friends 8) Resisting Negative Peer Pressure 9) Putting It All Together 10) Celebration and Commitment. Programs were provided by department juvenile probation officers

### **Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- To support agencies providing character building and prevention & intervention programs.
- To provide liaisons between school, family, and programs for issues including: drug and alcohol prevention, character building, positive peer interaction, team building, academic success, and increased physical activity.
- To reduce/prevent the number of youth involved in the juvenile justice system as the population of the three counties continues to grow.
- Increased graduation percentages
- drug/alcohol Education for families
- Positive peer interaction – anti-bullying
- To continue offering the 'Boys & Girls Club Experience and increase enrollment.
- To continue to target specific youth for mentorship programs
- To continue offering SmartMoves to youth in Burnet County
- To involve more community members in BGC-HL and to offer more safe, challenging opportunities for youth.
- To collaborate with other local services working with youth.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE/MENTAL HEALTH**

### **1. ISSUE:**

Specialized drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, and support services for victims of crime.

### **Supporting Data:**

- Victims of crime, particularly family violence, child abuse, and sexual assault often have issues with drugs and alcohol (Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center).

### **Goals:**

- Provide specialized therapeutic services to assist victims and survivors of violent crimes (including child abuse, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual violence, etc.) experiencing mental illness or substance abuse issues.

### **Accomplishments FY 2010 to FY 2013**

- There are more drug and alcohol treatment providers who understand the dynamics of family violence, sexual assault, and victimization now than in the past.
- Agencies are coordinating and collaborating to maximize services.

### **Strategies/Tasks/Future Goals:**

- Increase the number of counselors skilled in treating victims of crime with other issues (substance abuse, mental health, etc.).
- Hire at least two (2) additional counselors to provide services to victims involved with the Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy Center.
- Identify at least one (1) private counselor, skilled in the dynamics of criminal victimization, contract with victim's services agencies to provide services.
- Identify and provide cross training with potential contract counselors and specialty agencies located within the service area.
- Decrease barriers to counseling and service provision attributable to mental illness and/or substance abuse issues.
- Victims of violent crime will have access and receive counseling services within their communities.
- Victims of violent crime will receive specialized mental health interventions.
- Group counseling sessions will be available to victims of violent crime within their communities.

### **Existing or Planned Efforts Already Addressing this Issue:**

- Victims and survivors experiencing acute or chronic mental illness have limited resources. Local community mental health service providers appear to be understaffed and unavailable due to a reduced workforce and funding for services. Substance abuse treatment services are limited and costly.
- The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center and the Hill Country Advocacy Center will maintain and enhance current level of counseling service provision by supporting current counseling staff and increasing number of counseling staffing to meet the needs of victims and survivors of violent crime as well as secondary victims. Crimes include but are not limited to child abuse, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault. An emphasis will be placed on securing counselors with experience in dealing with acute and/or chronic mental illness and/or substance abuse issues.
- Utilize contract-counseling professionals to supplement and enhance current counseling program services to meet the unique needs of victims experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and child abuse within the communities located in community plan service counties.
- Collaboration of victim services providers does and will continue to occur to avoid possible duplication of victim related services. This will be accomplished through participation in Child Protective Team meetings, SART meetings, and mutual memorandums of understanding.

