

PERMIAN BASIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLAN 2020-21

A Strategic Plan for Meeting the Criminal
Justice Needs of the Permian Basin Region

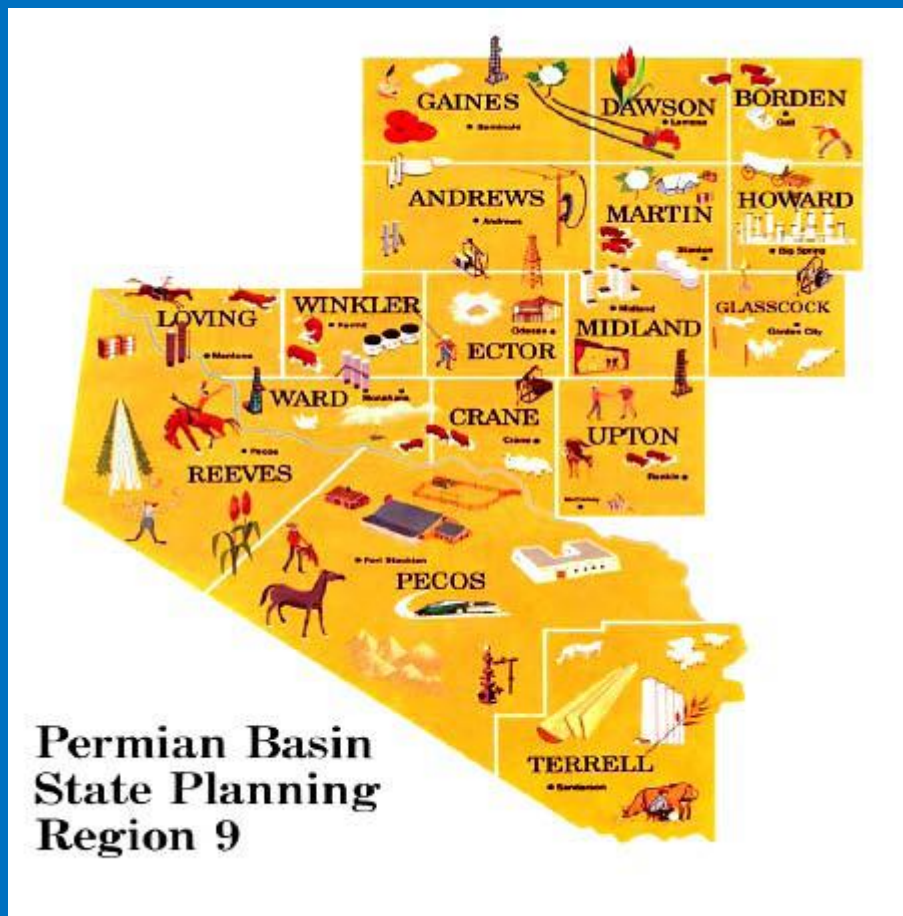


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What Is A Regional Criminal Justice Plan?

The Regional Strategic Plan is the vision and priorities established by stakeholders of the 17-county area known as the Permian Basin Region. The purpose of which is to identify gaps in services regarding criminal justice issues, victim's issues, juvenile issues and mental health/substance abuse issues. The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office (CJD) requires that Strategic Plans be developed and maintained by counties and regions throughout Texas.

The document that is represented here reflects the efforts of many in the Permian Basin Region that are concerned with assuring that any gaps in services are closed, thus making 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 this Plan are listed in the section entitled Community Planning Team.

In an effort to compile data, a survey was sent to all law enforcement, school districts, victim service organizations, juvenile detention facilities, and mental health programs. Participants were asked to rank problems in their community. Needs are often very different from one county to the next; however, the underlying needs for juveniles, mental health, law enforcement and victim services are similar in nature. Agencies must have the support from their community to provide needed services.

Though the final draft of this Plan was completed in June 2018, this is a work in progress. New criminal justice goals are identified, the Planning Group changes because of individual and agency circumstances, and requirements concerning the makeup of the Plan are subject to change from year to year. Thus, the Permian Basin Region is interested in keeping up with these changes and including 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 Dana Hill, Criminal Justice Director of the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission. Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

Permian Basin Areas Represented

Cities:

Ackerly	Andrews	Balmorhea
Barstow	Big Spring	Coahoma
Crane	Forsan	Fort Stockton
Goldsmith	Grandfalls	Iraan
Kermit	Lamesa	Los Ybanez
McCamey	Midland	Monahans
Odessa	Pecos	Pyote
Rankin	Seagraves	Seminole
Stanton	Thorntonville	Toyah
Wickett	Wink	

Counties:

Andrews	Borden	Crane
Dawson	Ector	Gaines
Glasscock	Howard	Loving
Martin	Midland	Pecos
Reeves	Terrell	Upton
Ward	Winkler	

School Districts:

Andrews ISD

Big Spring ISD

Buena Vista ISD

Crane ISD

Ector County ISD

Fort Stockton ISD

Grady ISD

Greenwood ISD

Iraan Sheffield ISD

Klondike ISD

Loop ISD

Midland College

Monahans-Wickett-Pyote ISD

Pecos-Barstow-Toyah ISD

Sands ISD

Seminole ISD

Terrell County ISD

Balmorhea ISD

Borden ISD

Coahoma ISD

Dawson ISD

Forsan ISD

Glasscock ISD

Grandfalls ISD

Howard Junior College

Kermit ISD

Lamesa ISD

McCamey ISD

Midland ISD

Odessa Junior College

Rankin ISD

Seagraves ISD

Stanton ISD

Wink ISD

Regional Profile

The Permian Basin multi-county region consists of 17 counties. The region extends 250 miles wide and 300 miles long and consists of 23,484 square miles with a population density of 16.04 residents per square mile compared to a statewide density of 79.54 residents per square mile.

The Permian Basin is a sedimentary basin largely contained in the western part of the State of Texas. It is so named because it has one of the world's thickest deposits of rocks deposited from the Permian geologic period. On the west and south it extends across the Pecos River valley to mountain ranges in both New Mexico and West Texas. The southernmost county, Terrell, borders the country of Mexico along the Rio Grande River.

The Permian Basin gives its name to a large oil and natural gas producing area. The towns of Midland and Odessa serve as the headquarters for oil production activities in the basin. The Permian Basin is the leading producer of oil and natural gas in the United States, and not only produces a key percentage of the world's oil but is also home to other manufactured products such as clothing, mobile homes, aircraft, fabricated steel, plastics, and even tools for mining and drilling.



The counties of this region include:

COUNTY	POPULATION	2019 POPULATION ESTIMATES
Andrews	17,722	18,705
Borden	673	654
Crane	4,740	4,797
Dawson	12,813	12,728
Ector	157,087	166,223
Gaines	20,638	21,492
Glasscock	1,348	1,409
Howard	36,040	36,664
Loving	134	169
Martin	5,626	5,771
Midland	165,049	176,832
Pecos	15,634	15,823
Reeves	15,281	15,976
Terrell	810	776
Upton	3,663	3,657
Ward	11,472	11,998
Winkler	7,574	8,010

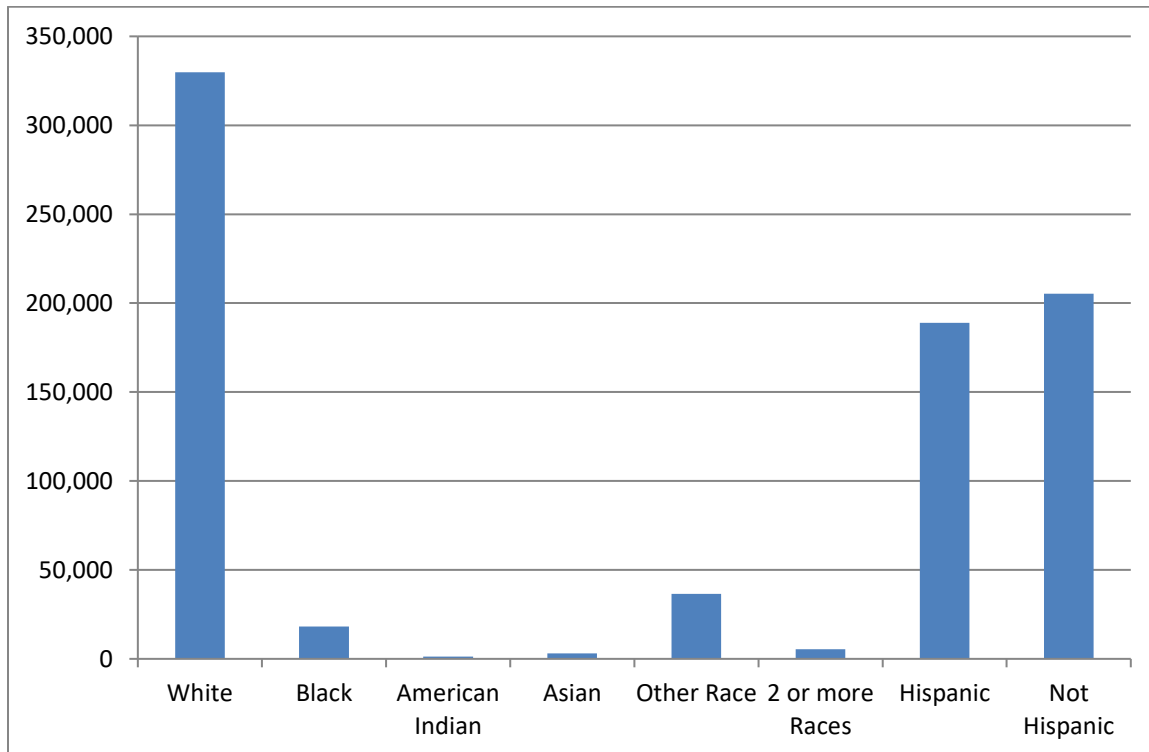
Population by Race/Ethnicity	Projection
White	329,847
Black	18,250
American Indian or Alaska Native	1,330
Asian or Pacific Islander	3,051
Some other race	36,453
2 or more races	5,368
Hispanic	188,930
Not Hispanic or Latino	205,369

The Permian Basin's residential population grew approximately 3.3 percent between 2013 and 2018, adding 65,942 new residents. The Permian Basin is expected to expand another 2.3 percent, adding another 47,000 people, by 2023.

Midland County has the highest percentage of occupied housing units (93.2 percent), followed by Ector County (90.3 percent), El Paso County (90.8 percent), Tom Green County (89.8 percent), Crane County (88.6 percent) and Gaines County (89.1 percent).

The region had 477,378 millennial (ages 20-34) residents last year. This compares to the national average for an area the Permian Basin's size of 423,506.

POPULATION BY RACE



Planning Team

PLAN COORDINATOR:

Dana Hill, Criminal Justice Director, Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission

In developing this Regional Plan, members of the team were divided into several focus groups for the purpose of narrowing the scope of research and data that are incorporated into the Plan. Some members may serve in multiple capacities/categories.

JUVENILE SERVICES:

Name	Agency
Amanda Britton	Midland County
Amanda Navarette	Winkler County
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Lou Serrano	Ector County
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Forest Hanna	Midland County

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Name	Agency
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Jayta Cravy	Dawson County
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Lali Rivera
Michael Munk
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Chelisa Krauser
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Midland Rape Crisis
Stop DWI
Dawson County
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83rd District Attorney Office
Dawson County
STOP DWI
Dawson County
Big Spring Rape Crisis

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Brian Gordon
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Randall Jones
Clay McKinney
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Debra Martin

Agency

Winkler County
Pecos County
Midland County
Terrell County
Midland PD
Crane PD
Midland College PD
Martin County SO
UTPD
Texas Comptroller's Office
Ector County SO
Ector County SO
Ector County Hospital District Police
Ector County Hospital District Police
Midland PD
Ector County Sheriff's Office
Crane PD
Seminole PD
Big Spring PD
Big Spring PD
Odessa College
Fort Stockton PD
ECISD PD
Pecos PD
Andrews PD
Crane County

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Community Centers
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Agency

Citizen
Citizen
PBRPC
PBRPC
Citizen
Citizen

Executive Summary

This Regional Strategic Plan encompasses the seventeen counties (Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward and Winkler) in the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission service area. The region extends 250 miles wide and 300 miles long and consists of 23,484 square miles with a population of approximately 417,679 people.

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to identify gaps in services or issues regarding Direct Victim Services, Juvenile Justice Services, Mental Health Services and Criminal Justice Services. The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office requires that Criminal Justice Strategic Plans be developed and maintained by counties and/or regions throughout Texas.

Strategic Vision: The strategic vision of the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission is to improve public safety and the quality of life in the Region.

Mission: The mission of the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission Criminal Justice Department is to facilitate the provision of comprehensive coordinated services to the citizens of our communities; reflecting the priorities identified in the 17-county region; while supporting the Governor's Criminal Justice Division stated mission and priorities.

Planning Process: This plan emerged from the framework of the existing community plan. The document was shared with current providers of services in all areas to provide input into the strategic planning process. The input process included meetings, and focus groups to determine needs, service priorities and provided the opportunity for stakeholders to have an input in the strategic plan strategies. The document that is represented here reflects the efforts of many in the Permian Basin Region that were concerned with assuring that any gaps in services are closed, thus making our communities safer places in which to live. The organizations that participated in this Plan strive to meet periodically to review the Plan and make necessary additions. Vision and mission statements for each issue along with the focus groups priorities and goals and objectives are listed in the Strategic Plan.

This Executive Summary lists the vision and mission statements and local priorities in each of the following areas: Juvenile Justice, Direct Victims Services, Law Enforcement and Mental Health.

Juvenile Justice Issues

Vision: All juveniles in the Region have access to comprehensive services, transportation to services, and culturally appropriate services especially where language or cultural differences are diverse.

Mission: To support and facilitate the development of services to juveniles that are accessible, effective and cultural appropriate.

Local Priorities:

- **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment**
 - Support programs that address the abuse of illegal substances and alcohol
 - Maintain relationships with juvenile delinquency prevention programs, law enforcement, prosecutors and social service agencies
- **Lack of Juvenile Diversion and Delinquency Programs**
 - Programs are needed to divert at risk juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system
- **Social Media Bullying/Bullying**
 - Promote school and community-based programs to educate parents, students and school officials on social media bullying and student bullying
- **Trauma Informed Care Programs**
 - Programs are needed that embrace trauma informed practices
 - Utilize trauma screening and assessment and evidence-based trauma treatments designed for juvenile justice settings
- **Law Enforcement Training on Juvenile Issues**
 - Help build a partnership between law enforcement, youth and their families
 - Promote training to law enforcement in best practices for working with teens.

Direct Victims Services

Vision: All crime victims in the Permian Basin Region have access to what they need, when they need it.

Mission: To support and facilitate the services to crime victims that is accessible, effective and victim centered.

Local Priorities:

- **Domestic Violence**
 - Support programs that provide direct services, shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence
- **Sexual Assault**
 - Support programs that provide direct services and counseling for victims of sexual assault to ensure victims receive the appropriate level of care
- **Child Sex Trafficking**
 - Collaboration will can help communities develop supports and services to address unmet needs.
- **Transitional Housing**
 - Develop a Transitional Housing Task Force. Research funding opportunities available for Transitional Housing
- **Need for free or low-cost legal services**
 - Support programs that help victims of crime understand how to seek assistance and information on victims' rights and the resources available

Law Enforcement Issues

Vision: To offer a clearinghouse of funding information and opportunities for agencies offering Criminal Justice services in the Permian Basin Region of West Texas.

Mission: To ensure the delivery of excellent Criminal Justice services for the citizens and Criminal Justice agencies of the Permian Basin Region of West Texas.

Local Priorities:

- **Lack of adequate resources for Law Enforcement Training**
 - Support programs for specialized training in a variety of communication skills, tactical skills for patrol officers and jailors, and training simulators to enhance judgment and decision making in high risk activities
- **Unable to acquire adequate state of the art technology for law enforcement and update old equipment**
 - Offer computer information, services and training for officers. Support technology-based programs. Support funding for equipment for law enforcement
- **Law Enforcement Response to People with Mental Illness**
 - Funding is needed to adequately train law enforcement to effectively respond to people with mental illness
 - Fund Specialized Response Teams
- **Retaining and recruiting of law enforcement officers**
 - Funding is needed that is aimed at recruiting and retaining personnel
 - Devise regional recruiting methods, including recruitment of returning military veterans
- **Substance Abuse/Driving Under the Influence**
 - Continued community awareness of the effects of driving under the influence
 - Support funding for Drug Courts

Mental Health Issues

Vision: To eliminate mental health related problems in the community by establishing model programs in partnership with other community agencies.

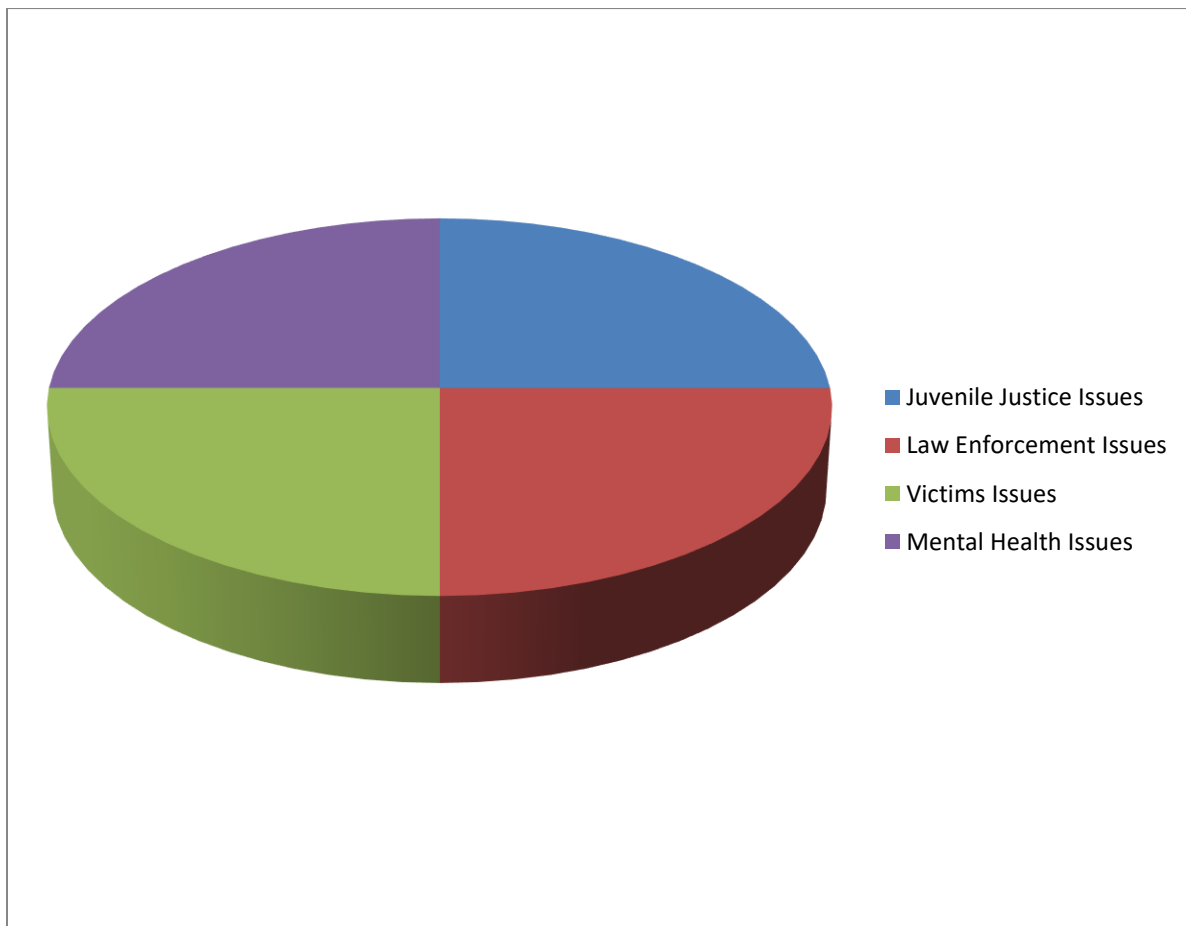
Mission: To provide a comprehensive continuum of services to all persons affected by mental health issues regardless of age, ethnic background and/or financial status.

Local Priorities:

- **Recruitment of licensed mental health professionals and prescribers**
 - Support student training and career development, especially in rural areas
- **Housing for individuals with mental illness**
 - Support Transitional Housing Programs
 - Continue to educate community about services available
- **Mental health treatment for juveniles**
 - Resources are needed for an inpatient facility for the Permian Basin Region
- **Jail Diversion for mental health patients**
 - The implementation of the Jail Diversion Plan has proven effective
 - The Region will continue the local Jail Diversion Task Force
- **Jail Based Competency Restoration**
 - Research evidence-based Jail Based Competency Restoration Programs
 - Seek funding for Jail Based Competency Restoration Programs

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES IN OUR REGION?

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 the Permian Basin Region. Below the description and data are a discussion of the problems, the way the problems are being addressed, and strategically how responses to these community problems could be improved.



Juvenile Justice Priorities



Juvenile Justice Issues

Vision: All juveniles in the Region have access to comprehensive services, transportation to services, and culturally appropriate services especially where language or cultural differences are diverse.

Mission: To support and facilitate the development of services to juveniles that are accessible, effective and cultural appropriate.

The Permian Basin Region has only 2 juvenile justice detention centers. The detention centers are located in Ector County and Midland County. The detention center in Ector County is for Ector County only. The detention center in Midland has only certain amount of spaces available for the rest of the Permian Basin Region. Counties drive hundreds of miles to place juveniles in a facility.

The Permian Basin consists of 28 school districts.

A meeting was held where juvenile justice professionals reviewed the needs and gaps Outlined in the Strategic Plan. During the meetings, each county listed local priorities.

The list of priorities are as follows:

1) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

A regional survey found that Permian Basin youth are increasingly using marijuana and prescription drugs, and while a majority of youth understand the dangers of alcohol, they continue to use it.

Young people who persistently abuse substances often experience an array of problems, including academic difficulties, health-related problems (including mental health), poor peer relationships, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Additionally, there are consequences for family members, the community, and the entire society.

Substance abuse is the harmful pattern of using substances—such as tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs, and prescription drugs—leading to impairment or distress with one or more of the following behaviors:

- Recurrent substance use resulting in failure to fulfill major responsibilities at work, school, or home such as repeated absences, suspension, and expulsion
- Recurrent substance use in situations where it is physically dangerous, such as driving while impaired

- Recurrent substance-related legal problems, such as arrests for disorderly conduct that are substance-related
- Continued substance use despite having persistent or recurring social or personal problems caused or worsened by substance use

It is essential to educate the public that teen substance use is a public health problem and that addiction is a complex brain disease that, in most cases, originates in adolescence. Our health systems must work to prevent the onset of substance use through effective public health measures. Routine screenings should be conducted by health care providers to identify at-risk teens. Once these teens are identified, health care providers must intervene to reduce risky use and provide appropriate treatment if needed.

2) Lack of juvenile diversion programs and school-based diversion programs

Placing less serious juvenile offenders into detention centers can often do more harm than good.

There is a rise in the juvenile population that end up in court every year and are referred to detention centers and residential placement. Most juvenile justice systems are unable to ensure that troubled youth and their families get assistance when programs are still small, before the youth enters the system.

For a substantial proportion of youth in the juvenile justice system, their primary problem is a family, mental health, or substance use disorder that should have been appropriately treated outside of the juvenile justice system to prevent the youth from entering the system. Instead, youth often get no early treatment for these problems, which then escalate and result in the youth entering the juvenile justice system. The evidence is clear that incarceration, mandatory minimum sentences, and mandatory waivers to adult court make young people's long-term success less likely.

Putting troubled youth into restrictive and long-term environments robs these youths of opportunities to learn new skills and ways of behaving that are more positive.

Research studies on high-risk youth show that a system in which problematic youth are detained increases the likelihood that youth will learn negative behaviors from one another.

There is a need to obtain funding to create an evidence based successful diversion program in the Region.

3) Social Media Bullying

Social Media Bullying is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.

Social media is one of the most used types of websites by teenagers. This means it is commonly used for both good and bad purposes. Hiding behind an internet screen can give users power they did not have before. When children are not talking to someone face-to-face, they are less likely to feel the implications of what they really saying. These reasons are why is so much easier for children to bully others through social media sites.

Statistics show that victims of online harassment are at risk for depression at a higher rate than both cyberbullies and victims of traditional bullying. Interestingly, bullies who engage in traditional bullying behaviors are more likely to develop depression than their victims, but the same is not true for cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying can make depression and anxiety more likely to develop, exacerbate existing mental health issues, disrupt academic performance, and impact overall happiness and well-being.

Because of this, it is crucial to make mental health services available to adolescents involved with bullying and encourage them to seek help when they are being bullied. Some options for mental health services for young people include:

- 911, for immediate and severe threats
- Suicide hotlines, for adolescents in crisis who feel like they have nowhere to turn
- School counseling
- Family counselors/therapists
- Teachers and principals

4) Lack of Trauma Informed Care Programs for Juveniles

Adolescence is a time of great opportunity, but also turmoil. As many as two-thirds of all teens face the additional challenge of coping with traumatic events such as life-threatening accidents, injuries, illness, disaster, or violence or sexual or emotional abuse and exploitation. That figure rises to closer to 100 percent for those who live in families or communities in which violence, poverty, neglect, racism or discrimination based on gender, gender identity or disability are prevalent.

Youth exposed to traumatic events exhibit a wide range of symptoms, with not just internalizing problems, such as depression or anxiety, but also externalizing problems like aggression, or conduct problems. Although trauma does not necessarily cause these problems, traumatic stress can interfere with a child's ability to think and learn, and can disrupt the course of healthy physical, emotional and intellectual development.

It is important to not let traumatized youth fall between cracks, instead identifying them and then providing them with services that help them to recover from chronic post-traumatic stress problems. Rather than treating traumatized youth as either irredeemably antisocial (and therefore warranting more restrictive sentences and confinement) or mentally deformed (and thus requiring psychiatric behavior management-oriented treatment), a less stigmatizing and potentially more effective approach is to provide evidence-based treatment or services designed to help them to overcome traumatic stress reactions.

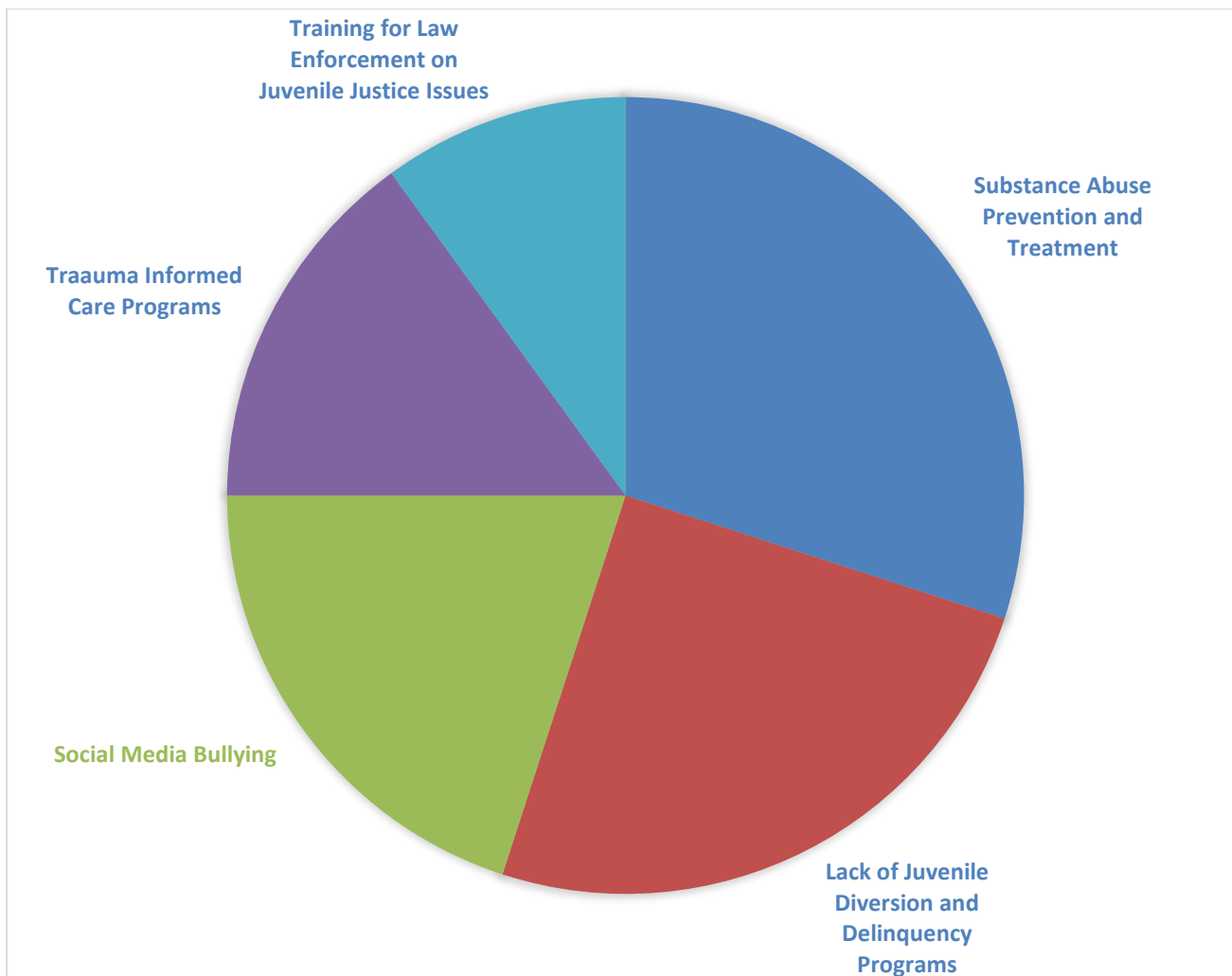
Resources are needed to children and families and providers on trauma exposure and treatment.

5) Law enforcement training on juvenile justice issues

Training law enforcement, probation officers, and other juvenile justice stakeholders on youth issues is an important factor in improving engagement with youth. Training is important to help officers understand how youth differ from adults; how they differ from one another depending on their background; and to be able to respond appropriately to all youth.

Training can expand officers' capacity to effectively respond to youth by offering cohesive training programs that enable officers to understand adolescent development; cultural differences among youth; mental health and trauma issues; and effective strategies for youth engagement, intervention and crisis response.

Law enforcement policies, practices and training will enable officers to respond appropriately to youth with mental health and substance abuse disorders and trauma histories.



**JUVENILE PROBATION REFERRAL ACTIVITY BY COUNTY
2018**

COUNTY	JUVENILE PROBATION	VIOLENT FELONY	OTHER FELONY	MISD A&B	VOP	STATUS	OTHER CINS	TOTAL REFERRALS
Andrews	1780	8	8	38	17	1	0	72
Borden	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crane	476	0	1	4	2	0	0	7
Dawson	1341	1	1	9	1	0	0	12
Ector	16518	54	114	318	59	0	1	546
Gaines	2805	2	5	33	7	3	0	50
Glasscock	123	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Howard	3112	1	24	38	21	20	1	105
Loving	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Martin	533	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Midland	15388	59	136	305	155	0	1	656
Pecos	1530	2	3	23	1	1	0	30
Reeves	1226	7	11	28	5	1	0	52
Terrell	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upton	385	0	6	7	0	0	1	14
Ward	1145	6	9	35	3	12	5	70
Winkler	810	1	5	12	3	0	0	21

JUVENILE PROBATION DISPOSITION ACTIVITY BY COUNTY 2018

County	Dismissed	Consolidated	Supervisory Caution	Deferred	Probation	Commitment	Adult Certification	Total Disposition
Andrews	7	4	20	13	27	1	0	72
Borden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crane	3	0	0	6	0	0	0	9
Dawson	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10
Ector	111	49	237	101	76	8	0	582
Gaines	25	1	3	0	10	0	0	39
Glasscock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Howard	18	21	28	24	30	1	0	122
Loving	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Martin	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Midland	298	89	29	127	83	10	14	650
Pecos	2	0	2	10	14	0	0	28
Reeves	21	1	1	18	6	0	0	47
Terrell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upton	2	0	4	11	1	0	0	18
Ward	12	0	8	27	19	1	0	67
Winkler	5	0	0	9	4	0	0	18

Priority #1	
Problem Identified	Data
Substance Abuse prevention and treatment	Substance abuse and underage drinking contributes substantially to juvenile delinquency, violence and school dropout rates, criminal activity and an increase in economic expenditures.
Goal	
The goal is to reduce substance abuse and underage drinking among adolescents through education.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Through collaborative efforts, the community will continue working to reduce substance abuse and underage drinking in the Region through coordinated education and community awareness programs.</p> <p>The community will maintain relationships with juvenile delinquency prevention programs, law enforcement, prosecutors and social service agencies.</p> <p>Substance abuse and prevention programs are needed such as:</p> <p>Prevention Programs, Education Programs, Mentoring Programs, Supervised activities for after school hours to offset the attraction to alcohol and other drug use, Programs that train youth about the dangers of alcohol and drug use, Programs that help youth explore alternative activities, Law enforcement training projects to understand the issues surrounding substance abuse prevention and treatment, Life skills training and parent training for families to help provide a more stable home life</p>	

Priority #2	
Problem Identified	Data
Lack of juvenile diversion and delinquency programs	Most juvenile justice systems are unable to ensure that troubled youth and their families get assistance when problems are still small, before the youth enters the system.
Goal	
The goal is to divert youth from the juvenile justice system.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Programs are needed to divert at risk juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system such as:</p> <p>Programs that identify mental health needs from adjudication and placement by pairing them with a specialized juvenile probation officer</p> <p>Screening and assessment programs</p> <p>Education programs</p> <p>Victim awareness classes and activities</p> <p>Service-learning programs</p> <p>Substance use education and counseling</p> <p>Job skills training</p> <p>Mental health treatment</p> <p>Crisis intervention</p> <p>Family counseling</p> <p>Parenting, skill development</p> <p>Support for rebuilding family relationships</p> <p>Diversion programs will yield many benefits such as:</p> <p>Decreased rates of recidivism</p> <p>Less crowded detention facilities</p> <p>Providing more appropriate treatments at the community level</p> <p>Increasing family participation</p> <p>Diversion programs are intended to be less costly than formal court proceedings by diminishing the burden on the juvenile court system and reducing the caseload of juvenile probation officers, thus freeing up limited resources that allow the system to concentrate on more chronic or serious juvenile offenders.</p> <p>Assuring that youth who need intervention and treatment receive services will help to reduce the likelihood of future offending and meet their developmental and problem related needs.</p>	

Priority #3	
Problem Identified	Data
Social Media Bullying/Bullying	While bullying is not something new, it has certainly changed over the years. In the past, children were often bullied at school or in their neighborhood. Today, with the increased use of the internet and social media, children are now being bullied in all locations, at all times. Children have no place to go to get away from the harassment.
Goal	
To create a safe environment and open communication where students reporting incidents of bullying are protected and feel safe.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Anti-Social Media Bullying programs are needed such as:</p> <p>Bullying Prevention and Intervention School Safety Programs Addressing Bullying and learning techniques to handle the situation Parent Training in Social Media Bullying</p> <p>Every member of every community can play a role in working towards the goal of putting an end to bullying.</p> <p>It is very important for school districts to have effective, well thought out and executed bullying prevention programs and/or policies. Enforce school policies related to bullying.</p> <p>Parents need to make sure their children are educated about bullying and feel safe in the school setting.</p> <p>Students can help by reporting incidents of bullying to trusted adults.</p> <p>Provide training for school staff in bullying prevention.</p> <p>School officials need to be contacted if the social media bullying is school related or involves another student.</p> <p>Software can be used to block bullying if encountered through chat rooms or instant messaging.</p> <p>Children need to know that the online services and ISPs will provide their identity pursuant to legal process. They can be found and held responsible for what they say and do online. It is very important that we teach our children to understand accountability, online and offline.</p>	

Priority #4	
Problem Identified	Data
Trauma Informed Care Programs	As many as two-thirds of all teens face the challenge of coping with traumatic events. 90 plus percent of youths involved in juvenile justice have experienced at least one traumatic stressor. Youth in the juvenile justice system are often exposed to victimization and other childhood aversities such as separation from or impaired relationship with biological parents.
Goal	
The goal is to not let traumatized youth fall between the cracks, instead identifying them and providing them with services that will help them to recover from post-traumatic stress problems.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Utilize trauma screening and assessment and evidence-based trauma treatments designed for juvenile justice settings.</p> <p>Partner with families to reduce the potential traumatic experience of justice involvement.</p> <p>Develop policies in school system that aim to keep children in school.</p> <p>Whenever possible, prosecute young offenders in the juvenile justice system instead of adult courts.</p> <p>Programs are needed that embrace trauma informed practices that support emotional health, successful community reentry and family-oriented approaches that support youth in becoming effective adults while still holding them accountable for their actions.</p>	

Priority #5	
Problem Identified	Data
Training for law enforcement on juvenile justice issues	<p>Law enforcement officers play an important role in how youth view and trust police.</p> <p>The juvenile population continues to grow. Law enforcement officers' interactions with juveniles will continue to rise. Dealing with juveniles requires different approaches and law enforcement officers will need to train constantly to stay up with changes in the law.</p>
Goal	
The goal is to provide more juvenile training to law enforcement to help build a partnership between law enforcement, youth and their families.	
Potential Response to Problem	
Additional funding and training would ensure that officers are keeping updated on changes in the law.	

Victim Services Priorities



Direct Victims Services:

Vision: All crime victims in the Permian Basin Region have access to what they need when they need it.

Mission: To support and facilitate the development of services to crime victims that is accessible, effective and victim centered.

Monthly meetings were held with the Victims Coalition where victim services professionals reviewed the needs and gaps outlined in the Strategic Plan. During the meetings, each victim service provider listed local priorities.

The list of priorities are as follows:

1) Domestic Violence

The Texas Family Code defines domestic violence; as an act by a member of a family or household against another member that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or a threat that reasonably places the member in fear imminent physical harm.

Domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but also has a substantial effect on family members, friends, co-workers, other witnesses, and the community at large. Children, who grow up witnessing domestic violence, are among those seriously affected by this crime. Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life - therefore, increasing their risk of becoming society's next generation of victims and abusers. The traumatic effects of domestic violence on families can be pervasive and long-lasting. Without the intervention of a comprehensive array of services and programs that address the many issues surrounding domestic violence, victims and their children are left on their own to cope with the physical, emotional, and psychological damage they have suffered.

The agencies providing help to the families dealing with domestic violence spend a significant amount of time with clients determining strategies to help victims find employment, so they can become financially independent and access educational options to build employment skills and abilities.

It is difficult for victims to access appropriate legal representation to address their complex legal issues due to family violence. Some counties of the Permian Basin have an excellent system of assisting victims of domestic violence with protective orders, while in other counties the process is slow and not always successful.

Emotional health and the ability to engage in healthy relationships are extremely important for victims of domestic violence in order to break the cycle. Local agencies are committed to providing counseling by trained and licensed counseling professionals to victims. Victims have access to a number of support and therapeutic groups as well as individual counseling.

Community awareness of the plight of victims of domestic violence is extremely important. If a community has an accurate understanding of domestic violence and the issues a victim faces, communities are better equipped to address domestic violence and encourage community stakeholders to make an active commitment to serve victims and hold batterers accountable for the crime they commit.

2) Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is an involuntary sexual act in which a person is threatened, coerced, or forced to engage against their will, or any sexual touching of a person who has not consented.

Sexual assault can happen to anyone of any age, gender, race, and socioeconomic background. It can happen at any time or place. Statistics show us that sexual assault crosses boundaries of race, class, culture, gender, and sexual orientation. Assaultants may be strangers, acquaintances, friends, or family members. Perpetrators may use violence, threats, coercion, manipulation, or other forms of pressure or deception to commit sexual assault.

The aftermath of a sexual assault not only effects the victim, but also family members. It is important for a victim of sexual assault to receive proper medical care as well as necessary counseling, crisis intervention and court advocacy, as well as other support services. It is crucial all agencies providing services to the victim do so in a professional and empathetic nature as not to “re-victimize” the victim.

Additionally, there are financial costs to communities which include: medical services, criminal justice expenses, crisis and mental health services.

Awareness and education are the key. School presentations, educating parents, and training law enforcement officers which are often the first responders to an assault. Continued funding to support and fund agencies involved in providing appropriate services is needed.

3) Child Sex Trafficking

Child sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, or advertising of a minor child for the purpose of a commercial sex act, which involves the exchange of anything of value – such as money, drugs or a place to stay – for sexual activity.

Traffickers use the internet and mobile devices to reach a large clientele base, which exposes victims to greater dangers. Victims are often conditioned to distrust law enforcement. Often the child victims are not recognized as victims and may be arrested and jailed. These child victims need specialized services that are not widely available.

Emergency needs for child trafficking victims are shelter, food, medical treatment and clothing. Once emergency needs are met, the victim will need health screening, family reunification, trauma counseling, long term counseling, education and life skills.

Identifying, and responding to human trafficking victims requires a multidisciplinary approach. Any professional that comes into contact with a victim is a potential partner. Common partners addressing the trafficking of children include law enforcement, district attorneys' offices, juvenile justice agencies, court personnel, educators, healthcare and mental health providers, nonprofit agencies and community members. Collaboration can help communities develop supports and services to address unmet needs. One method of building relationships with other agencies is to establish a task force.

4) Transitional Housing for Victims

Finding adequate and appropriate emergency, transitional, and long-term housing is often a challenge to victim service advocates. Service providers explore a variety of options depending on the local resources and needs of the victims.

Survivors of domestic violence often must flee their homes to escape life-threatening violence. Securing safe, affordable housing is a crucial step on the pathway to a survivor's long-term security.

Survivors of domestic violence have unique safety, confidentiality, and trauma-related needs that must be addressed through survivor-centered housing. Many survivors of domestic violence have trouble finding rental properties because they may have damaged credit, rental, and employment histories as a result of the abuser. Many survivors have faced economic abuse as part of the violence. They have not had access to the family finances, have been prohibited from working, and have had their credit scores destroyed by the abuser.

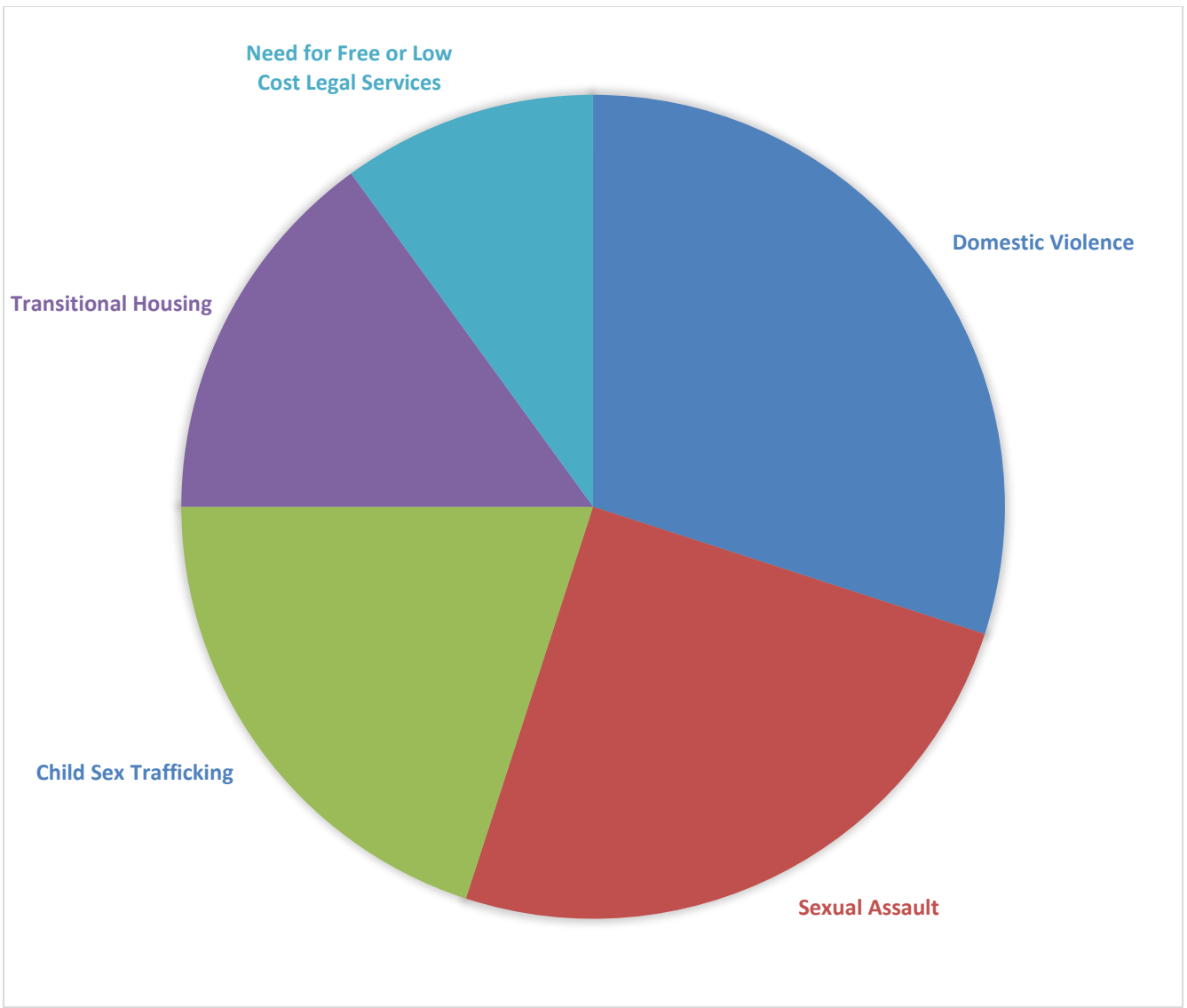
Transitional housing programs can help survivors and their families rebuild their lives after fleeing abuse. Without these safe, affordable programs, survivors may be forced to return to their abuser or face homelessness.

5) Need for Free or Low-Cost Legal Services

Crime victims are subject to physical, emotional, and economic wounds. Because of the crimes against them, a crime victim could have multiple legal needs. Victims are often left with significant legal needs beyond those addressed in the criminal justice system. Often other legal needs arise in the aftermath of crime.

The Permian Basin lost many of its Legal Aid lawyers and is struggling to aid victims with legal assistance. The only organization to assist victims in the Region is through Texas Advocacy Project. This is the agency that provides free legal assistance. However, no legal representation is with the client once they go through the court system. It is strongly suggested the victim hire their own legal representation if the opposing party has an attorney.

There is a need to increase the number of well-trained and supported attorneys that provide representation to victims of crime. Recent studies have confirmed that access to legal representation is one of the most effective resources for victims to escape violent situations and to stay safe.



ARREST STATS 2019

Agency	Family Violence	Sexual Assault
Andrews Sheriff's Department	20	2
Andrews Police Department	37	3
Borden Sheriff's Department	2	0
Crane Sheriff's Department	3	2
Crane Police Department	13	1
Dawson Sheriff's Department	5	13
Lamesa Police Department	96	13
Ector Sheriff's Department	587	26
Odessa Police Department	522	118
University of Texas of the Permian Basin	3	3
Ector County Independent School District	1	1
Gaines Sheriff's Department	29	5
Seagraves Police Department	8	4
Seminole Police Department	58	2
Glasscock Sheriff's Department	3	1
Howard Sheriff's Department	59	20
Big Spring Police Department	502	20
Loving Sheriff's Department	0	0
Martin Sheriff's Department	4	2
Stanton Police Department	12	5
Midland Sheriff's Department	129	6
Midland Police Department	1034	144
Pecos Sheriff's Department	48	17
Fort Stockton Police Department	67	3
Reeves Sheriff's Department	10	0
Pecos Police Department	48	17
Terrell Sheriff's Department	2	0
Upton Sheriff's Department	7	0
Ward Sheriff's Department	63	2
Monahans Police Department	48	5
Winkler Sheriff's Department	6	3
Kermit Police Department	26	3

CHILD ABUSE STATS 2019

County	Non-Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse	Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse	Sexual Abuse of a Child	Child Sex Trafficking
Andrews	138	73	47	
Borden	7		2	
Crane	21	7	5	
Dawson	138	61	56	8
Ector	1512	453	418	5
Gaines	113	40	36	
Glasscock	1			
Howard	346	171	82	
Loving	1			
Martin	58	18	26	4
Midland	1074	237	303	2
Pecos	117	35	24	
Reeves	76	19	21	
Terrell				
Upton	46	11	17	
Ward	123	67	38	6
Winkler	62	10	13	

Priority #1	
Problem Identified	Data
Provide services to victims of Domestic Violence	<p>Domestic Violence is widespread in the Permian Basin Region and has serious impact on women's health and well-being. The cost to individuals; health systems and community is enormous.</p> <p>It has been found that children who witness domestic violence in their homes are more likely to be involved in a violence relationship later in life, perpetuating the cycle of violence.</p>
Goal	
The goal is to identify, represent and serve victims of family violence and assist them in stopping the cycle of family violence while holding the perpetrators of family violence accountable for the crime they commit.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Increase the consistency of Protective Orders throughout the region with an emphasis on cooperative efforts focused on victim safety and batterer accountability.</p> <p>Increased education and outreach to citizens and law enforcement community concerning the dynamics of family violence, victim needs and batterer accountability.</p> <p>Focus efforts on underserved population affected by domestic violence to ensure all victims have information regarding community resources available.</p> <p>Provide community response to victims of domestic violence in a culturally appropriate and relevant manner.</p> <p>Continue to support and fund agencies involved in providing appropriate services to victims of family violence.</p> <p>Continue to train first responders in response to victims of crime.</p> <p>Have a Multidisciplinary Task Force in place</p>	

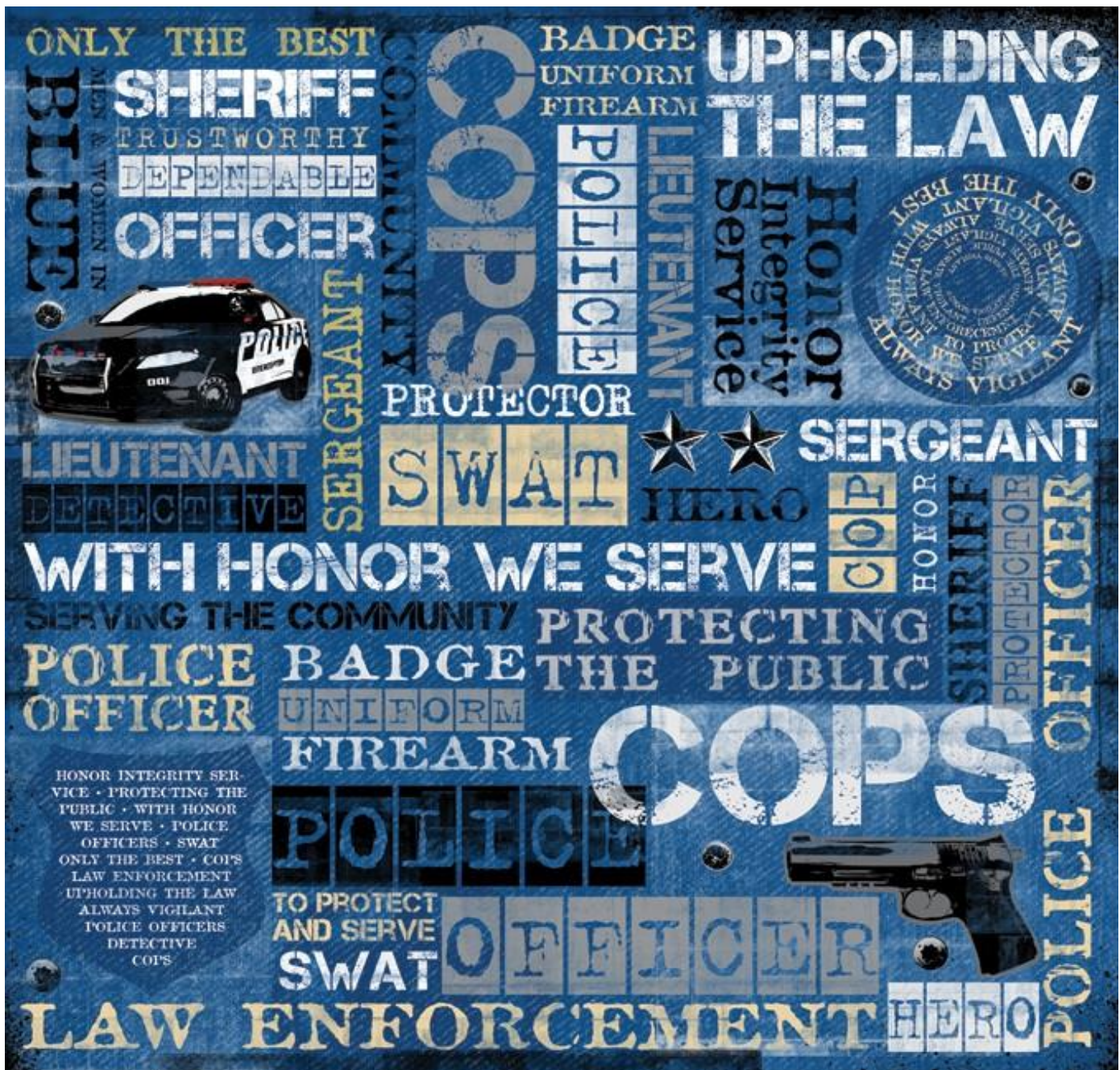
Priority #2	
Problem Identified	Data
Provide services to victims of Sexual Assault	Sexual assault has proven to be a huge issue but remains to be an underreported crime. Survivors of sexual assault often blame themselves for behaving in a way that encouraged the perpetrator.
Goal	
To issue recommendations on methods that will educate the public about sexual assault and promote the establishment of a comprehensive system to prevent sexual assault, assist victims, hold offenders responsible and ensure effective justice in a way that is consistent, collaborative and accountable throughout the region.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>The community understands that sexual assault is a problem. That it is predominantly common for society to believe that sexual assaults occur by strangers. However, this is not a true statement and the facts show that. Permian Basin Region agencies are working to correct this misunderstanding with the community.</p> <p>Seek collaborative service programs and training opportunities to reduce service cost.</p> <p>Agencies in the Permian Basin have developed numerous coalition groups to begin strategic planning of prevention in the main areas of victim services. A few of the groups are MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team) meetings, SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) meetings, CAP (Child Abuse Prevention) meetings, as well as, a Family Violence Coalition. The region is benefiting from the positive actions taken by the key leaders to make changes.</p> <p>Continue to support and fund agencies involved in providing appropriate services to victims of sexual assault.</p> <p>Prevention programs are needed to provide training that educates the public regarding sexual assault.</p> <p>Continue to train first responders in response to victims of crime.</p>	

Priority #3	
Problem Identified	Data
Child Sex Trafficking	<p>Human Trafficking is an underground crime, it is difficult to measure, and more research is desperately needed.</p> <p>Children are vulnerable because their brains are still developing, and they depend on adults for safety and resources. Although all youth are vulnerable to being groomed by traffickers, some are particularly vulnerable, including children in the foster care system, runaway and homeless youth.</p>
Goal	
The goal is to recover victims and investigate traffickers and provide supportive services to children who have been victims of child sex trafficking.	
Potential Response to Problem	
Identifying, and responding to human trafficking victims requires a multidisciplinary approach. Collaboration can help communities develop supports and services to address unmet needs. One method of building relationships with other agencies is to establish a task force. Training for child protective services workers, specialized training programs for law enforcement officers, first responders, health-care officials, juvenile justice personnel, prosecutors, and judicial personnel to identify victims and acts of child trafficking is needed.	

Priority #4	
Problem Identified	Data
Transitional Housing for Victims	Advocates and survivors identify housing as a primary need of victims and a critical component in survivors' long-term safety and stability.
Goal	
To provide safe housing to victims so they may begin to rebuild their lives.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Community awareness and education on effects of domestic violence is key.</p> <p>Agencies in the Permian Basin have developed numerous coalition groups to begin strategic planning in the areas of victim's services. The Region is benefitting from the positive actions taken by the leaders to make changes.</p> <p>Develop a Transitional Housing Task Force. A Task Force can create an environment where agencies involved in Transitional Housing efforts, or seeking to become involved, can learn the roles and capacities of the other agencies.</p> <p>Research funding opportunities available for Transitional Housing.</p>	

Priority #5	
Problem Identified	Data
Need for free or low-cost legal services	<p>Access to legal services is vital to the Region. There is a need for legal services for low-income individuals and victims.</p> <p>As the economy rises in the Region, so does the demand for financial assistance. Prices continue to skyrocket in the communities served. However, not all jobs are meeting the consistent demand of living costs.</p>
Goal	
Increase access and availability of legal resources and continue programs that provide legal services to traditionally underserved populations.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>The agencies that serve victims are working out solutions to bring legal assistance to the victims served. It is agreed that Satellite Services would be a huge asset to the region.</p> <p>Also, many of the agencies are working on trying to find lawyers in the region who are willing to do the occasional pro bono case for victims.</p> <p>Legal service providers can educate victims through community awareness. Victims can be informed of their rights and how to navigate the court system.</p> <p>Agencies that provide legal services would greatly benefit from assistance in providing living arrangements and help with cost of living expenses to new employees or qualified workers who are applying for the job.</p>	

Law Enforcement Priorities



Law Enforcement Issues

- Vision:** To offer a clearinghouse of funding information and opportunities for agencies offering Criminal Justice services in the Permian Basin Region of West Texas.
- Mission:** To ensure the delivery of excellent Criminal Justice services for the citizens and Criminal Justice agencies of the Permian Basin Region of West Texas.

There are over 1,950 licensed peace officers and 72 law enforcement agencies in the Permian Basin Region.

Law enforcement planning meetings were held with Chiefs, Sheriffs, and Licensed Instructors in the Region. During the meetings, the law enforcement professionals listed the local priorities.

The list of priorities are as follows:

1) Lack of adequate resources for law enforcement training

There are a certain number of state mandated training hours and courses officers must attend each year. Special training is required on an on-going basis to ensure that law enforcement procedures are progressively advanced for the modern world. Particular areas of interest include legislative updates (traffic, penal, juvenile) patrol procedures, criminal investigations, juvenile procedures (gangs), homeland security, victims of violent crime and fraud and investigations of computer related crimes. Law enforcement officer's primary duties as first responders require training related to Homeland Security as in the areas of terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, hazardous materials and post bomb blast scenes. First responders will also require on-going training in narcotics identification, interdiction, drug cartel and border issues, active shooting procedures, motorcycle and prison gang identification and street survival skills. The Permian Basin Region currently has over 1,950 licensed peace officers.

In order to cope with the ever-increasing challenge of society, well trained officers are a necessity. Police training has taken on a significant role in all police departments especially in today's environment. Ensuring officers receive proper training is the most important task a department faces. Training gives officers knowledge and confidence and can also raise the level of confidence a community has in their police force. Training must cover tasks the officer will face in their career. During tough economic times or a recession, training is usually the first budget item to be cut even though the demand for trained police officers is high.

2) Unable to acquire state of the art technology for law enforcement and update old equipment

With the massive growth in the Permian Basin Region, there is a need for new equipment and replacement of outdated equipment. New equipment solutions currently available to law enforcement are needed throughout the community. Due to regional economic issues and growing crime rates, law enforcement is in need of replacing worn out and outdated equipment to enhance law enforcement operations, and to support law enforcement needs and crime reduction efforts.

Technology has shaped policing in many important ways. Technological advances have great potential for enhancing police work. Technology may strengthen crime control by, for example: improving the ability of police to identify and monitor offenders, particularly repeat offenders; facilitating the identification of places and conditions that contribute disproportionately to crime; speeding the detection of and response to crimes; enhancing evidence collection; improving police deployment and strategy; creating organizational efficiencies that put more officers in the field and for longer periods of time; enhancing communication between police and citizens; increasing perceptions of the certainty of punishment; and strengthening the ability of law enforcement to deal with technologically sophisticated forms of crime (e.g., identity theft and cybercrime) and terrorism.

Equipment includes body armor, portable breath test equipment, lap top computers, radios, specialized SWAT equipment, crime scene equipment and patrol equipment. Budget constraints for all local jurisdictions, especially the smaller jurisdictions, keeps technology that is considered “standard for day to day operation” out of reach.

3) Law enforcement response to people with mental illness

Law enforcement officers are often the first called to handle situations involving people dealing with a mental health condition or a crisis and this has inadvertently turned officers into front line mental health workers. There are many officers still not properly trained on how to recognize and safely interact with people experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis. This can leave both the officer, agencies, person in crisis, and our communities vulnerable to irreversible tragic events. Officers must be able to recognize symptoms of mental illnesses or someone in a crisis and have the skills to properly interact and de-escalate the situation and provide resources.

Crisis Intervention Teams are needed and statistically show value. A Crisis Intervention Team officer can respond to a call, and help de-escalate the situation, keeping the subject and bystanders safe, and then put those involved in contact with the mental health resources that are needed.

Resources need to be made available to train officers in mental health and divert people to the proper needed services. The costs for training officers such as paying over-time, and covering shifts are considerable.

4) Retaining and recruiting law enforcement officers

Recruiting sufficient numbers of qualified applicants to meet the staffing needs of an agency is the most fundamental human resource process in a police department. The success of the department's recruitment efforts impacts every other function in the agency.

In recent years, police agencies have experienced increasing levels of staff turnover and difficulty in recruiting new officers. The problem is compounded by experienced officers, who have been the core of their agencies' operations for years, who are beginning to retire. Some agencies are finding they do not have enough seasoned officers to take their place. If agencies are not able to address this issue, a serious imbalance will form in many departments between the number of experienced officers and newer recruits. As a result, the average years of experience for patrol officers will drop significantly. Over time, agencies with higher turnover and less experienced officers will suffer a reduction in productivity and lower quality of service.

The current economy boasts single digit unemployment rates. Officers are leaving law enforcement agencies for more available and lucrative positions in petroleum related industries.

Funds are not available to enhance local law enforcement agencies' recruitment efforts to hire officers.

5) Substance Abuse/Driving Under the Influence

The use of alcohol and drugs can negatively affect all aspects of a person's life, impact their family, friends and community, and place an enormous burden on the community. One of the most significant areas of risk with the use of alcohol and drugs is the connection between alcohol, drugs and crime. Jails and prisons have exploded beyond capacity with inmates incarcerated for alcohol and drug crimes.

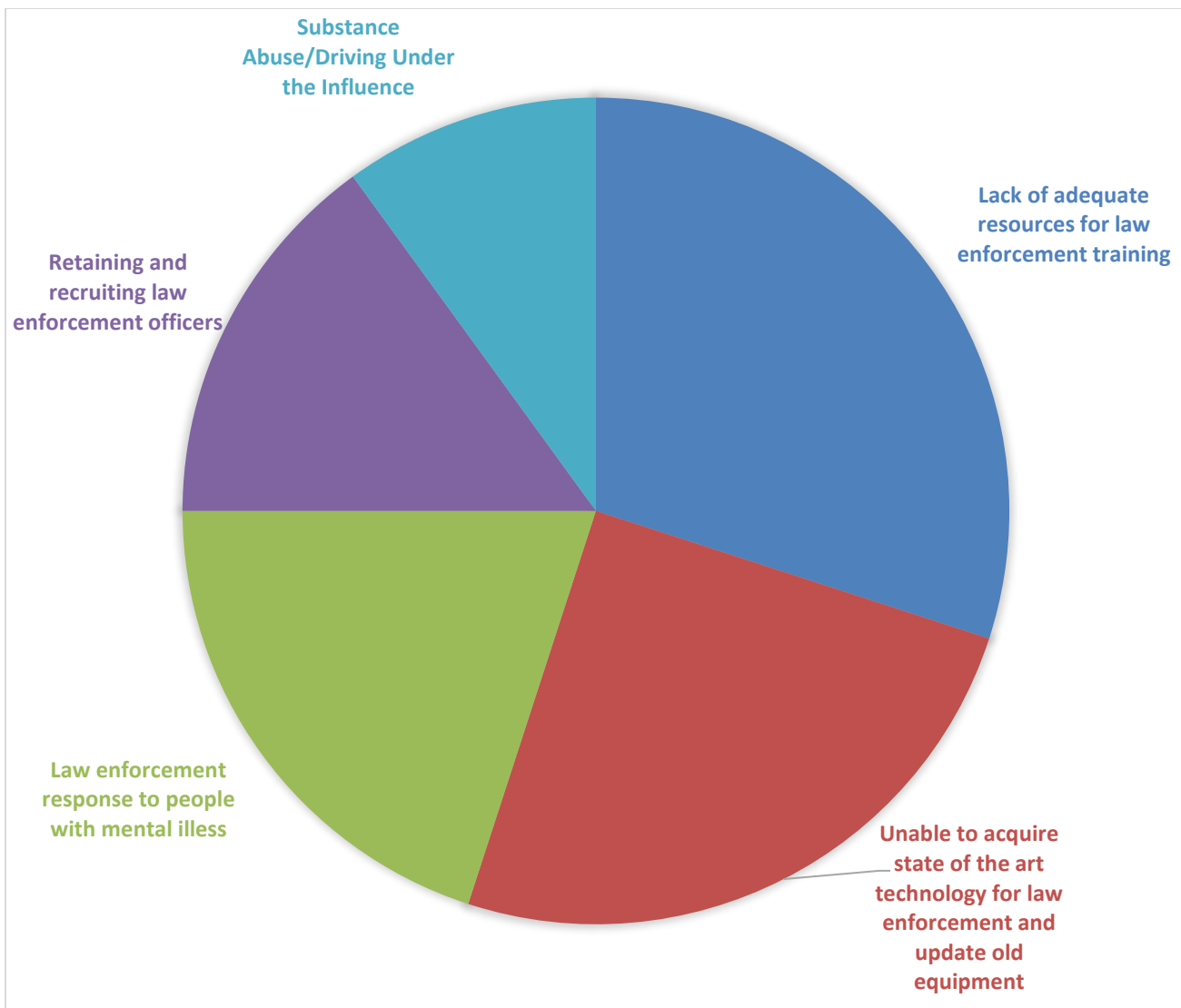
Consuming alcohol prior to driving greatly increases the risk of car accidents, highway injuries, and vehicular deaths. The greater the amount of alcohol consumed, the more likely a person is to be involved in an accident. When alcohol is consumed, many of the skills that safe driving requires – such as judgment, concentration, comprehension, coordination, visual acuity, and reaction time – become impaired.

People know the terrible consequences of drunk driving and are becoming more aware of the dangers of distracted driving. Drugged driving poses similar threats to public safety because drugs have adverse effects on judgment, reaction time, motor skills, and memory. When misused, prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, and illegal drugs can impair perception, judgment, motor skills, and memory.

A Texas law firm recently compiled statistics from the Texas Department of Transportation ranking Texas cities with the highest drunken driving fatality rates and Odessa made the top of the list.

The cities were ranked by annual drunken driving deaths per 100,000 residents, and Odessa was ranked No. 1 with 6.26 per 100,000 people. Midland was not far behind, ranking No. 2 with 6.19.

Funding for Drug Courts is crucial in the Permian Basin Area. Drug courts are essential to protect the community safety and the need to hold people accountable for their actions.



The following are statistics for the Permian Basin Region

AGENCY	MURDER	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	AUTO THEFT
Andrews Sheriff's Office	0	0	15	18	50	12
Andrews Police Department	0	1	46	42	137	21
Borden Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	4	10	1
Crane Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	3	2	1
Crane Police Department	0	0	0	2	8	1
Dawson Sheriff's Office	0	1	3	19	30	2
Lamesa Police Department	1	3	29	98	257	19
Ector Sheriff's Office	4	22	77	271	1020	263
Odessa Police Department	8	104	819	504	2123	369
Gaines Sheriff's Office	0	0	6	27	43	12
Seagraves Police Department	0	0	4	2	10	1
Seminole Police Department	0	2	47	26	83	6
Glasscock Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	2	17	1
Howard Sheriff's Office	1	0	30	38	117	30
Big Spring Police Department	2	15	143	167	566	79
Loving Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	0	17	0
Martin Sheriff's Office	0	0	2	4	34	1
Stanton Police Department	0	1	5	5	17	10
Midland Sheriff's Office	4	7	86	86	362	111
Midland Police Department	5	59	279	378	2108	278
Pecos Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	18	64	9
Fort Stockton Police Department	1	2	59	49	55	4
Reeves Sheriff's Office	0	1	3	0	105	2
Pecos Police Department	0	5	102	26	135	3
Terrell Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upton Sheriff's Office	0	0	1	0	16	2
Ward Sheriff's Office	0	0	29	46	114	7
Monahans Police Department	1	1	5	23	59	2
Winkler Sheriff's Office	0	0	6	15	41	5
Kermit Police Department	0	1	25	14	30	12
Wink Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	0

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS BY JURISDICTION

CITY/COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS
Andrews Sheriff's Department	21
Andrews Police Department	17
Borden Sheriff's Department	3
Crane Police Department	9
Dawson Sheriff's Department	11
Lamesa Police Department	13
Ector Sheriff's Department	119
Odessa Police Department	155
Ector Independent School District	28
Gaines Sheriff's Department	20
Seagraves Police Department	3
Seminole Police Department	12
Glasscock Sheriff's Department	9
Big Spring Police Department	45
Howard Sheriff's Department	29
Loving Sheriff's Department	4
Martin Sheriff's Department	9
Stanton Police Department	8
Midland Sheriff's Department	136
Midland ISD Police Department	15
Midland Police Department	189
Fort Stockton Police Department	16
Pecos Sheriff's Department	24
Pecos Police Department	24
Reeves Sheriff's Department	27
Terrell Sheriff's Department	8
Upton Sheriff's Department	21
Monahans Police Department	11
Ward Sheriff's Department	20
Kermit Police Department	11
Wink Police Department	3
Winkler Sheriff's Department	9

ARREST STATISTICS BY COUNTY 2018/2019

COUNTY	DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE CHARGES	CONVICTION OF ORIGINAL OFFENSE	CONVICTION OTHER THAN ORIGINAL OFFENSE	DISMISSALS
Andrews	170	44	19	10
Borden	6	4	2	3
Crane	43	12	0	2
Dawson	60	13	0	6
Ector	1584	486	91	31
Gaines	138	34	4	9
Glasscock	7	3	0	1
Howard	150	37	2	20
Loving	0	0	0	0
Martin	15	3	6	2
Midland	1941	264	80	29
Pecos	49	10	5	1
Reeves	103	30	3	2
Terrell	2	0	0	0
Upton	44	7	3	3
Ward	98	4	0	2
Winkler	57	7	8	5

The following are statistics for the Permian Basin Region

AGENCY	MURDER	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	AUTO THEFT
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Monahans Police Department	1	1	5	23	59	2
Winkler Sheriff's Office	0	0	6	15	41	5
Kermit Police Department	0	1	25	14	30	12
Wink Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	0

Priority #1	
Problem Identified	Data
Lack of adequate resources for Law Enforcement Training	Special training is required on an on-going basis to ensure that law enforcement procedures are progressively advanced for the modern world. Particular areas of interest include legislative updates (traffic, penal, juvenile) patrol procedures, criminal investigations, juvenile procedures (gangs), homeland security, victims of violent crime and fraud and investigations of computer related crimes. Law enforcement officer's primary duties as first responders require training related to Homeland Security as in the areas of terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, hazardous materials, and post bomb blast scenes. First responders will also require on-going training in narcotics identification, interdiction, drug cartel and border issues, active shooting procedures, motorcycle and prison gang identification and street survival skills. The Permian Basin Region currently has over 1,950 licensed peace officers.
Goal	
The goal is to provide training to law enforcement personnel and jailers. This will maintain licensing requirements and will offer advanced education to improve the expertise and safety of police and jail personnel. The on-going training efforts will enhance these professionals' abilities to perform their jobs in the safest possible manner.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>All sworn personnel (i.e. jailors, police officers) will have completed State mandated training during the required cycle. Basic Peace Officer candidates will meet at least 80% pass rate on State Licensing Test. Jailor candidates will meet at least 80% pass rate on State Licensing Test. All peace officers and jailors will attend required courses to receive intermediate, advanced and masters certificates when eligible.</p> <p>Identify funding and resources: To continue in-service courses Locate trainers: a) from the regions departments, b) from returning military veterans To continue in-service courses To support specialized training in a variety of communications skills, tactical skills for patrol officers and jailors, and training simulators to enhance judgment and decision making in high risk activities.</p>	

Priority #2	
Problem Identified	Data
Unable to acquire state of the art technology for law enforcement and update old equipment	In the diverse and wide-spread population of West Texas, providing the latest in technology to law enforcement personnel is costly and challenging.
Goal	
The goal is to identify, evaluate, and prioritize cutting-edge, relevant technologies that hold the greatest priority for policing.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Modern law enforcement is technologically based. Therefore, equipment for law enforcement agencies needs funding to utilize the most current highly technological equipment for law enforcement to police the community in a safe, effective and efficient manner.</p> <p>Identify funding and resources such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Analysis • Information Collection (Including Surveillance) • Information Delivery (Including Communications) • Information Management (Including Information-Sharing) • Management/Knowledge Development and Training • Personnel Clothing, Protection, or Augmentation • Weapons and Force. <p>Programs that address the following:</p> <p>Needs specifically relating to improving the health of law enforcement personnel</p> <p>Needs specifically relating to reducing casualties in the line of duty</p> <p>Needs specifically related to solving crimes</p> <p>Needs specifically related to physical equipment used by law enforcement</p> <p>Support funding for equipment for law enforcement agencies.</p>	

Priority #3	
Problem Identified	Data
Law enforcement response to people with mental illness	The nature of law enforcement responses to people with a mental health condition has become an issue of concern. Law enforcement officers are first responders; among their growing list of responsibilities is the need to effectively respond to people with mental illnesses. Officers need more resources and training to respond to these challenging calls. These calls are often time consuming and difficult to resolve and can result in tragedy.
Goal	
The goal is proper and effective mental health training for law enforcement. Proper training will enhance officer and citizen safety.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Law enforcement officers' partner with mental health groups.</p> <p>Funding needed to provide adequately train law enforcement to effectively respond to people with mental conditions.</p> <p>Fund Specialized Law Enforcement Response Teams.</p>	

Priority #4	
Problem Identified	Data
Retaining and Recruiting of law enforcement officers	The Permian Basin Region has over 72 local agencies that employ law enforcement officers and support staff. Each agency must compete to attract and hire officers.
Goal	
To assist law enforcement agencies in their recruiting efforts, and with retention of their current personnel.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>To address the challenges of retaining and recruiting officers successfully, law enforcement leaders must examine the process in an entirely different manner. This process will require a constant review of the labor market, compensation systems, leadership, recruiting techniques, supervision of recruiters, employer brands, leadership and operational management systems, and retention systems.</p> <p>To work with agencies to enhance their recruiting efforts.</p> <p>To fund agencies programs aimed at recruiting and retention of personnel</p> <p>To devise regional recruiting methods, including recruitment of returning military veterans.</p>	

Priority #5	
Problem Identified	Data
Drug Abuse/Driving Under the Influence	Drug and Driving Under the Influence arrests are on the rise in the Permian Basin Region.
Goal	
The goal is to reduce the burden of drug and alcohol abuse and their many adverse consequences for individuals.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Through collaborative efforts such as sobriety checkpoints, ignition interlocks and mass media campaigns the community will continue to try and reduce substance abuse and driving under the influence offenses.</p> <p>Continued funding for drug courts is crucial in the Region.</p>	



Mental Health Issues

Vision: To eliminate mental health related problems in the community by establishing model programs in partnership with other community agencies.

Mission: To provide a comprehensive continuum of services to all persons affected by mental health issues regardless of age, ethnic background and or financial status.

The Region across the nation is struggling with the increased demand for mental health Providers, treatment programs, facilities and extended care options.

Meetings were held with mental health professionals to review the needs and gaps outlined in the Strategic Plan. During the meetings, the mental health professionals listed local priorities.

The local priorities are as follows:

1) Recruitment of licensed mental health professionals and prescribers

Recruitment involves attracting people to train in the mental health professions as well as employer efforts to hire people to provide services. Retention refers to attempts to keep employees from leaving an organization or the field of mental health. The ability to enter the mental health professions is contingent upon the capacity of institutions of higher education to train students.

Fewer mental health providers are accepting Medicaid which makes it impossible for the indigent to get the care needed. Low reimbursement rates and administrative burdens are driving physicians away from Medicaid and Medicare patients.

Insufficient State funding for non-target diagnosis population, lack of available specialty care providers especially for the indigent care population, and a rapidly expanding population as a result of the strength of the local oil economy are factors that exacerbate the access barriers for people suffering from mental illness.

Offering incentives is a way to recruit mental health professionals to the area.

2) Housing for individuals with mental illness

One of the biggest issues some people with mental illness face is the availability of housing. The cascading effects of mental illness can leave in a precarious housing situation, or even cause them to lose their homes. Having a safe and secure place to live is an important part of recovery, along with access to services that enable those with mental health conditions to live as independently as possible.

Having a mental health condition can make finding and keeping a home challenging. Permian Basin Community Centers encompasses 8 counties which is the largest geographic area in the State.

When identifying the number of households that spent more than 30% of their total income toward rent, the findings were based on the average FY 2013 Fair Market Rent by unit bedrooms in the area.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (2013), Midland is the second highest person income per capita in metropolitan area across the country. In contrast, consumers on disability or social security do not experience the benefits of a wage rate increase.

Permian Basin 360 (2013) reported West Texas' rental costs compared to other metropolitan areas to be:

22% higher than DFW

14% higher than Austin

13% more expensive than Houston

Funding for subsidized housing is crucial. Research shows that people living with a mental illness who live where they want to are more likely to have a job, social supports and a higher quality of life than those whose housing does not meet their needs.

3) Mental health treatment for juveniles

Mental health issues in juveniles can cause difficulty concentrating, substance abuse, aggression, depression, relationship problems, sexualized behavior, low self-esteem, inability to trust others, mood changes, avoidance of friends and family, poor performance at school, and adjustment and life transition issues.

As the Region goes through a population boom, many psychiatrists deny service to new clients. Postings on the Reporter Telegram Facebook illustrate client struggles. It is taking 3 to 6 months to get an appointment and most of the doctors do not treat patients on Medicaid.

School districts are working to better identify mentally ill students to properly refer treatment options. But with West Texas "inadequate" mental health care, more referrals lead to longer wait times for treatment.

The need to travel out of town adversely affects homicidal and suicidal juveniles and the law enforcement officers who transport them.

Funding for evidence-based programs that specialize in treatment for mental illness in children is needed. Mental illness in children can be frustrating and frightening. It is not unusual for parents, caregivers, and teachers to feel hopeless, understandably so. Knowing the types and signs of mental disorders in children and adolescents can lead to proper treatment and improved quality of life for everyone, adults and kids.

4) Jail Diversion for mental health patients

This population of incarcerated individuals with mental illness has complex and challenging needs.

Inmates with mental illness tend to serve longer sentences than inmates without mental illness. While in jail, persons with mental illness tend to be more vulnerable to violence from other inmates.

Mental health treatment while incarcerated is either limited or non-existent. The correctional experience has often both worsened their mental illness as well as made it more difficult to obtain necessary mental health treatment in the community once these individuals return home.

Having a history of conviction and being labeled as a criminal may make community-based providers reluctant to treat some individuals. If eligibility to receive Medicaid benefits has been terminated during incarceration, it is unlikely that they will be available to persons with mental illness upon discharge from correctional facilities.

A Jail Diversion Plan is crucial to divert individuals from incarceration who would be better served in a therapeutic setting such as inpatient hospitalization, crisis respite, and/or outpatient services that could address the mental illness and resulting behaviors.

It is essential to implement methods allowing for the identification of patients who are at high risk before they encounter the legal system or required inpatient hospitalization.

5) Jail Based Competency Restoration

Competency restoration is the process used when an individual charged with a crime is found by a court to be incompetent to stand trial, typically due to an active mental illness or an intellectual disability. A criminal defendant must be restored to competency before the legal process can continue. To be considered restored and competent to stand trial, a defendant must be able to consult with his or her defense lawyer and have a rational and factual understanding of the legal proceedings.

State Hospitals are responsible for returning competency individuals charged with a felony who have been found mentally incompetent to stand trial. Defendants who are incompetent to stand trial are committed to state hospitals for care and treatment in an effort to restore competency.

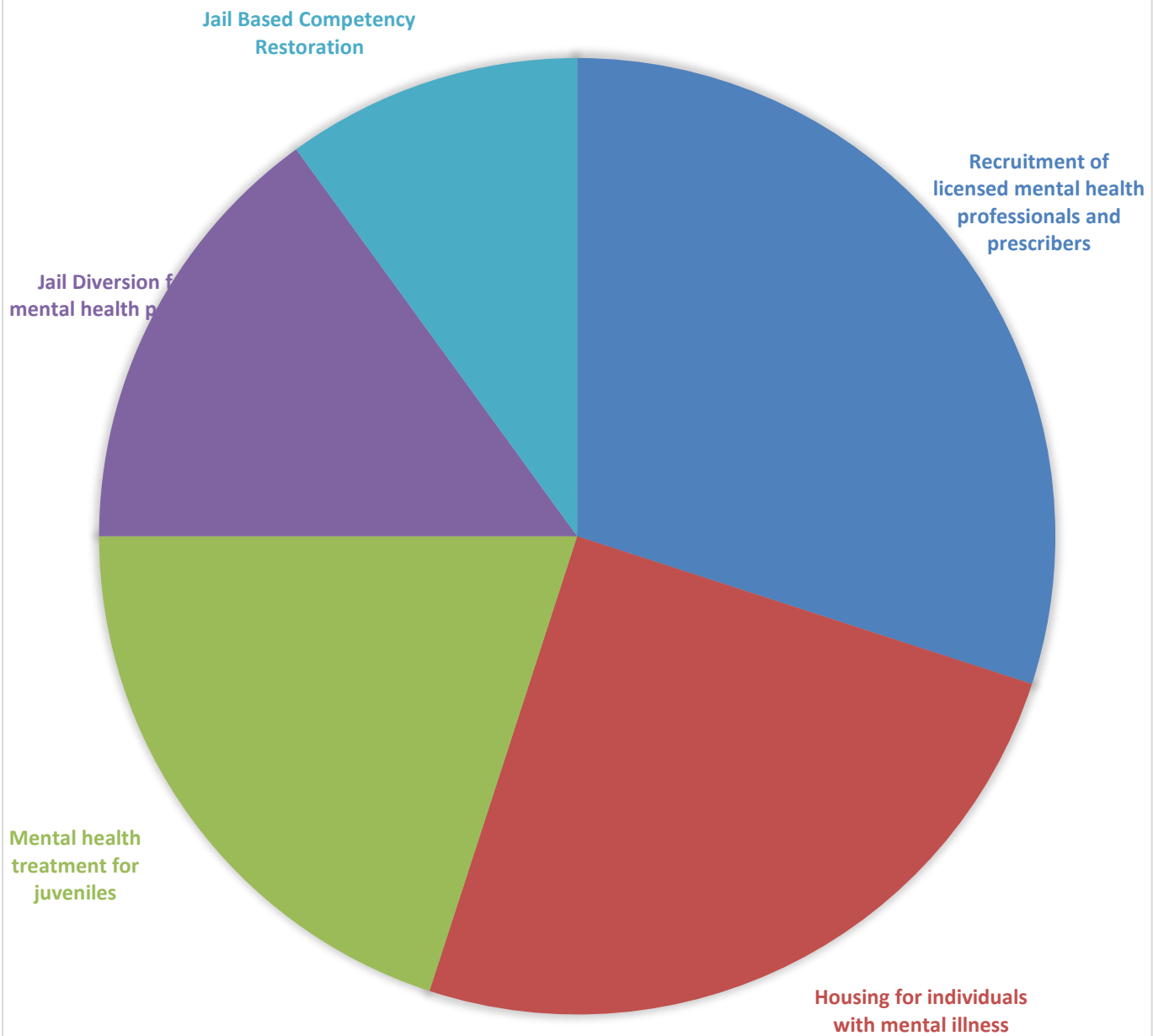
The problems with the current system include:

Jeopardizing defendants' rights to a speedy trial by long wait times for a bed at state hospitals,

Defendants remain at a state hospital for a long period of time, occupy a bed space, and limit new transfers.

A Jail -based Competency Restoration Program can deliver the same treatment and restoration of competency services to inmates as would be received in a state hospital and allows inmates to begin treatment immediately upon receipt of a court order. Currently, incompetent to stand trial inmates wait months to be admitted to a State facility. During this waiting period, incompetent to stand trial inmates are left under treated, creating custody challenges for both the inmate and Sheriff's staff. To best serve these inmates it is essential that they receive appropriate treatment as soon as possible.

A Jail based Competency Restoration Program can provide essential, timely treatment services to inmates mentally incompetent to stand trial which benefits the inmate, the State, and the County by speeding up treatment and the judicial process.



Priority #1	
Problem Identified	Data
Recruitment of licensed mental health professionals and prescribers	The Permian Basin Region needs more well-trained and supported mental health professionals especially in rural areas.
Goal	
Increase ability to recruit and retain mental health providers in a high cost living environment.	
Potential Response to Problem	
Broadening the concept of workforce to include consumers and family members and encouraging communities to support student training and career development in mental health professions especially in rural areas. Offering scholarships with loan forgiveness and competitive salaries to a way to attract doctors. Also, revising payment models to make reimbursement easier and more common for these professionals are needed to attract doctors to the area.	

Priority #2	
Problem Identified	Data
Housing for individuals with mental illness	Rent in the Permian Basin Region has tripled in the last three years. Basic utilities such as electricity, gas and water have increased as well due to the economic growth causing even further hardship for residents.
Goal	
Increase the availability of affordable housing for mental health consumers in the Permian Basin.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Transitional Supporting Housing Program will be utilized to assist tenants to search for scattered-site housing throughout the community by receiving vouchers to reduce the cost of rental units of their choice.</p> <p>Tenant Based Rental Assistance provides rental subsidies for a 24-month period during which the consumers are participating in the Self Sufficiency Plan which is designed to transition the consumer into permanent affordable housing.</p> <p>The Self Sufficiency Plan is comprised of the following: 1) case management, 2) skills Training and Psychosocial Rehab, 3) Supported Housing, 4) Supported Employment, 5) Community Collaboration.</p> <p>Permian Basin Community Centers will continue to deliver presentations that inform community members about services offered by Community Centers.</p>	

Priority #3	
Problem Identified	Data
Mental health treatment for juveniles	<p>“One in four adults and one in five children have a diagnosable mental disorder.”</p> <p>Midland-Odessa with a population of greater than 300,000 has one psychiatric facility. Children and youth in need of mental health services do not receive them.</p>
Goal	
Reduce child adolescent suicide rate in the Permian Basin Region.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Permian Basin Community Centers has a 24-hour crisis hotline and a team that responds to calls.</p> <p>Initial calls are triaged by staff certified by American Association of Suicidology.</p> <p>Permian Basin Community Centers offers a mental health first aid class, which teaches people how to recognize mental illness in friends and family members.</p> <p>Resources are desperately needed for an inpatient facility for the Permian Basin Region.</p>	

Priority #4	
Problem Identified	Data
Jail Diversion for mental health patients	<p>The problem of mental illness among the population of persons in the nation's jails and prisons is serious and growing.</p> <p>Most of the inmates with mental illness in prison are incarcerated for committing a non-violent crime.</p>
Goal	
Divert individuals suffering from mental illness from the criminal justice system and connect them with mental health services.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>The implementation of a Jail Diversion Plan has proven effective in diverting individuals from incarceration, thereby decreasing detention space occupied by the mentally ill, and providing a more appropriate setting for care.</p> <p>It is essential that a process exist for the early and on-going identification of patients with serious mental illness and serious emotional disturbances in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.</p> <p>When an inmate of a county jail is recognized to be in acute mental health crisis, the jail staff will call on The Sheriff's Office Mental Health Unit/Crisis Response Team to assist in getting suitable mental health services for the inmate.</p> <p>Permian Basin Community Centers will continue the local Jail Diversion Task Force. The Task Force is comprised of members of the judiciary, local law enforcement, community service providers, and individuals suffering from mental illness and family members of consumers.</p>	

Priority #5	
Problem Identified	Data
Jail Based Competency Restoration	The demand for access to the state mental hospital for pretrial competency restorations greatly exceeds the hospital space available. This jeopardizes defendant's rights to a speedy trial by long wait times for a bed at State hospitals.
Goal	
The goal of a Jail Based Competency Restoration Program is to reduce the number of defendants on the State Mental Health Program determined to be incompetent to stand trial due to mental illness.	
Potential Response to Problem	
<p>Seek evidence-based funding for a Jail Based Competency Restoration Program.</p> <p>A Jail Based Competency Restoration Program will provide a less costly alternative to a State Hospital and enable patients to receive more timely treatment.</p> <p>A Jail Based Competency Restoration Program will ease the congestion of patients heading to State Hospitals and reduce the waiting list.</p>	

WHO IS DOING WHAT?

Included below are resources identified by the Permian Basin Region Planning Team that are available to provide services that could potentially help in closing criminal justice gaps.

ABUSE CHILD

CASA of the Permian Basin
CASA of West Texas
Harmony Home
Midland Rape Crisis & Advocacy Center
Safe Place of the Permian Basin
Crisis Center
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Andrews, Dawson, Ector, Midland
Victims Services Howard County

ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE/INFORMATION

Alternative Life Solutions Counseling
Basin Detox
Midland Court Residential Treatment Center
New Day Counseling
Odessa Police Department
Odessa Teen Court
Palmer Drug Abuse Program
Permian Basin Community Centers
Samaritan Counseling Center
Serenity Al-Anon Family Group
Stop DWI
Teen Challenge

COUNSELING SERVICES

Centers for Children and Families
Harmony Home
Midland Rape Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy
Permian Basin Community Centers
Safe Place
The Crisis Center
West Texas Centers for MHMR

CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES

Centers for Children and Families
Harmony Home
High Sky Children's Ranch
Midland County Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention
Midland Rape Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy Center
The Crisis Center
Victim Services
West Texas Centers for MHMR

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION

Andrews Association for Retarded Citizens
Big Spring State Hospital
Midland Association for Retarded Citizens
Permian Basin Community Centers
West Texas Centers for MHMR

PARENTING

Centers for Children and Families
High Sky Children's Ranch
Teen Court
Palmer Drug Abuse Program

VICTIM SERVICES

American Red Cross
CASA of the Permian Basin
CASA of West Texas
Harmony Home
Midland County Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention
Midland Rape Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy
STOP DWI
Safe Place
The Crisis Center
Centers for Children and Families
Big Spring Rape Crisis Center
Ector County District Attorney's Office
Ward County District Attorney's Office

YOUTH SERVICES

Boys & Girls Club
CASA of the Permian Basin
CASA of West Texas
Center for Children and Families
Harmony Home
High Sky Children's Ranch
Midland Rape Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy Center
Probation Departments and Juvenile Justice Facilities

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Andrews Sheriff's Office
Andrews Police Department
Borden Sheriff's Office
Crane Sheriff's Office
Crane Police Department
Dawson Sheriff's Office
Lamesa Police Department
Ector County Sheriff's Office
Odessa Police Department

Gaines Sheriff's Office
Seagraves Police Department
Seminole Police Department
Glasscock Sheriff's Office
Howard Sheriff's Office
Big Spring Police Department
Loving Sheriff's Office
Martin Sheriff's Office
Stanton Police Department
Midland Sheriff's Office
Midland Police Department
Pecos Sheriff's Office
Fort Stockton Police Department
Reeves Sheriff's Office
Pecos Police Department
Terrell Sheriff's Office
Upton Sheriff's Office
Ward Sheriff's Office
Monahans Police Department
Winkler Sheriff's Office
Kermit Police Department
Wink Police Department

WHO CAN WORK WITH WHOM?

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:

The criminal justice system is involved in issues of child abuse, juvenile crime, family violence and substance abuse. Collaborative approaches are needed in order to effectively address these issues.

Law enforcement, prosecution and courts will continue to address community safety and crime prevention and remain focused on the goal of improving crime control capabilities.

Training continues to be a priority for officers especially in rural areas to receive the mandated courses required by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

Collaboration in meeting the needs of victims of crime is essential to effectively offer seamless services. In the effort to meet identified needs, priorities are based on victim's safety, security, and the ability to access adequate resources and alternatives. By promoting services, working with law enforcement, coordinating with victim-services agencies, and helping victims through the complicated judicial system, our collaborative efforts will better meet the needs of victims.

The victim's services agencies in the Region have formed a victim's coalition group, which include members from law enforcement, victim's services, counseling services and state agencies. The Victims Coalition Group meets at least once a month to guarantee that all victims' needs are being met in the Region.

The Juvenile Justice Committee works closely with community leaders and community agencies to mobilize all the resources and coordinate all activities concerning substance abuse and juvenile justice issues.

The Permian Basin Law Enforcement Academy holds meetings with Criminal Justice officials on a regular basis, to brainstorm and discuss training needs for the region:

A meeting for all trainers in the region is held quarterly.
A meeting of the Advisory Board of the Permian Basin Law Enforcement Academy is held at least once per calendar year.

The Director of the Permian Basin Law Enforcement Academy regularly meets with individual Department Heads (Chief, Sheriff) of the region to determine Criminal Justice needs.

Permian Basin Community Center's (PBCC) collaborates with a variety of organizations across its eight county, 27,000 square mile catchment area. It is PBCC's goal to ensure that lines of communication are kept open in order that the Center can provide consistent and effective services to individuals with Mental Health (MH) disorders, Substance Abuse (SA) disorders, children with developmental delays, and individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disorders (IDD).

PBCC employs a Public Relations Specialist and partners with a variety of agencies to ensure Continuity of Care (COC) between services providers for individuals residing in the Permian Basin. The Center is the agency lead for the Jail Diversion Task Force (JDTF) whose emphasis is to divert inappropriate and cost prohibitive incarcerations of individuals suffering from behavioral health issues. The goal is to serve individuals in the most cost effective, most appropriate, and least restrictive settings possible. PBCC also partners with Child Protective Services (CPS) and serves as a regular member of Community Resource Coordination and Collaboration Group (CRCG) whose role is to work with other agencies to find solutions for children and adolescents suffering from Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI). The Center maintains representation on Adult Protective Services (APS) Special Task Force Unit (STU), and is an active supporter for local chapters of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). PBCC is a standing member of the Permian Basin Family Health Coalition, coordinates with local health departments and maintains constant communication with parole and probation entities in the Center's catchment area. Additional examples of collaboration include, but are not limited, participation in Mental Health Courts, local and statewide suicide prevention efforts and participation on the Permian Basin Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC).

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The Permian Basin Region Planning Team works in conjunction with other planning groups in the region 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 Permian Basin Region Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the Plan and make necessary additions and deletions. At least one formal meeting of the entire group is held each fall, but agency and community representatives typically submit suggestions and changes via telephone and e-mail throughout the year to the Criminal Justice Director.

Drafts and annual updates of the Regional Strategic Plan are circulated by e-mail with requests for comments, changes, etc. Wherever possible, e-mail is used to reduce the need for meetings, printing, postage, etc.

It is the intent of the Regional Planning Group to improve outcomes for Permian Basin Region families struggling with problems described in the Plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Permian Basin Region agencies and organizations to address problems with local funds as well as grant funds from multiple state and federal sources. To the extent that these funds are available, the Regional Planning Team will continue to encourage agencies to provide programming that addresses the outlined focus areas.

Participants in the Strategic Planning meetings are committed to continuing to seek out opportunities to close gaps in the Region. The Planning Team will meet at least annually to determine additional next steps that can be taken.



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This Plan is available online at:

www.pbrpc.org