

Kerr County Community Plan

2006 - 2007

October 2006

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

- Kerrville
- Ingram

Unincorporated Communities:

- Center Point
- Mountain Home
- Hunt

School Districts:

- Kerrville ISD
- Ingram ISD
- Center Point ISD
- Hunt ISD
- Divide ISD

County Demographics:

Kerr County is located in the South Central area of Texas and includes the cities of Kerrville and Ingram and unincorporated areas of Center Point, Hunt and Mountain Home. Kerr County celebrated their Sesquicentennial in 2006. The county's geographic area measures 1,106 square miles and includes rich farmlands along creeks and the Guadalupe River in the eastern part of the county and more rugged ranchlands in the western part. The 2005 population estimate according to the U.S. Census Bureau was 46,496 residents with almost 97% of the population made up of Caucasian and Hispanic residents. Because undocumented workers and families are not likely to be counted by the Census, the number Hispanics living in the county is probably higher than recorded.

Growth in Kerr County has been steady over the past decade. Population has grown 6.5% in the past five years from 43,653 in 2000 to 46,496 in 2005. Kerr County is a retirement community drawing people from all over the United States to move here each year. The community's three hospitals, several retirement homes, assisted living facilities and nursing homes plus a strong medical community, the climate and location, and organizations and services centered around the needs of retirees lead to the projection that this growth will continue.

The Dietert Senior Center which coordinates the Meals on Wheels program countywide and many other activities that appeal to seniors will move into a new state-of-the-art facility in early 2007.

Kerr County has three local law enforcement agencies. The Kerr County Sheriff's Department has 46 sworn deputies, 32 jailers, 10 dispatchers and 8 clerk/secretary positions. There are 7 deputies in the criminal investigations division and five in the special narcotics unit. One deputy serves as the D.A.R.E. officer for the county school districts. The Kerrville Police Department has 53 sworn officers including 7 officers in the criminal investigations division and 3 officers in a special crimes unit. The department has one SRO assigned to the Kerrville School District, 11 dispatchers and 6 people in the administrative and clerical support category. The Ingram Marshal's Department employs 5 full-time deputies and 6 active part-time deputies. One deputy is a full-time investigator and one part-time deputy teaches the pre-law enforcement program at Ingram Tom Moore High School. The department has one full-time person who is their dispatcher and administrative aid on weekdays. The Sheriff's department dispatches for the department on weekends and nights. Additionally there are 4 constables and 2 deputy constables, 7 Department of Public Safety troopers, 2 game wardens in Kerr County and the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission agent for this region is based in Kerr County.

The county is served by three prosecutor's offices. The Kerr County Attorney's Office has the county attorney plus one assistant county attorney and four administrative and clerical staff. The 216th Judicial District that also covers Kendall, Bandera and Gillespie counties has one district attorney and two assistant DAs, and 3 administrative/clerical positions. The 198th Judicial District which also serves Kimble, Mason, Menard, and McCullough counties has an assistant DA and a satellite office in Kerrville. Both the 216th and 198th now have special investigators in their offices.

In 2005 the Kerr County Court at Law disposed of 2,603 misdemeanor cases, an increase of about 100 cases from the previous year and up almost 300 cases from five years ago. The 216th and 198th district courts disposed of 674 cases in 2005, up slightly from 668 cases in 2004. The case load in the district courts is continuing to increase. As of Oct. 10, 2006, they have disposed of 406 cases in 2006, but have 907 cases still pending in the two courts in Kerr County. (statistics according to reports submitted to the Texas Office of Court Administration)

Kerr County has one Crime Victims Coordinator funded by a federal Victims of Crime Act Grant. The coordinator maintains an office in the courthouse and works with victims referred by all of the law enforcement agencies and the prosecutors' offices. The coordinator has also worked with felony victims in selected felony cases this year in Bandera and Gillespie counties at the request of the prosecutor. Bandera County currently has no CVC and this is the first year for Gillespie County to have a designated person in the county attorney's office.

Within the county there are 17 public school campuses and several smaller parochial and private schools. Growth in the county's school population is slower because of the demographics of people moving to Kerr County, many of which do not have school-age children. School enrollment in the public schools in Kerr County in the fall of 2006 totaled 7,089 students. The largest school district is Kerrville ISD with an enrollment of 4,869 students. The smallest, Divide ISD, began the 2006-2007 school year with 20 students. All of the districts reported some growth in school population over 2005 figures. All of the Kerr County public school campuses are rated either "Academically Acceptable" "Recognized" or "Exemplary" by the Texas Education Agency. The latest available (2003-2004) school dropout rates, according to the TEA website, for Kerrville ISD was 1.1%, Ingram ISD was .5% and Center Point ISD was .7%. Statewide dropout rates for 2003-2004 were .9%. Dropout rates for 2004-2005 will be posted in late November 2006 on the TEA website.

Kerr County has three hospitals and several retirement, nursing and assisted living facilities. The three hospitals are Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital, the Kerrville State Hospital and the Veterans Administration Medical Center, a part of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. Sid Peterson Hospital will become Peterson Regional Medical Center when it opens its new 125 bed, 250,000 square foot facility built on a 36-acre tract of land south of the downtown area in 2008. The \$75 million dollar hospital facility is the largest construction project in Kerr County history.

The employment base in Kerr County is based on the growing healthcare industry and businesses that support healthcare services, a mixture of government jobs, retail businesses, service industry jobs, some manufacturing and the construction trades. The county's wage scale is lower than average but the unemployment rate is also low, currently below 3%.

An Alamo Worksource Center is located in Kerrville which draws persons from Kendall, Bandera, Gillespie and Kerr counties. The center provides information and guidance to persons who are looking for work or training to improve themselves in the job market.

There is no significant heavy industry in Kerr County. Several small corporations such as Mooney Airplane Company and James Avery Craftsmen have larger numbers of employees. Agriculture is still a notable part of the county's economic base but tourism is the most significant single industry in the county.

QuickFacts from U.S. Census Bureau

People QuickFacts

Kerr County

Population, 2005 estimate.....	46,496
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005.....	6.5%
Population, 2000.....	43,653
Population, percent change, 1990 to 2000.....	20.2%
Persons, under 5 years old, percent, 2004.....	5.5%
Persons, under 18 years old, percent, 2004.....	21.9%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2004.....	24.4%
Female persons, percent, 2004.....	51.8%
White persons, percent, 2004.....	96%
Black persons, percent, 2004.....	1.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2004.....	0.6%
Asian persons, percent, 2004.....	0.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2004.....	0.0%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2004.....	0.8%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2004.....	21.6%
White persons, not Hispanic, percent, 2004.....	75.1%
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000, pct age 5+, 2000.....	51.6%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2000.....	6.6%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2000.....	18.2%
High School graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000.....	81.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000.....	23.3%
Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000.....	10,156
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000.....	18.3
<u>Housing Units, 2004.....</u>	<u>21,074</u>

Homeownership rate, 2000.....	73.3%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2000.....	13.0%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000.....	\$96,600
Households, 2000.....	17,813
Persons per household, 2000.....	2.35
Per capita money income, 1999.....	\$19,767
Median household income, 2003.....	\$35,871
Persons below poverty, percent, 2003.....	13.7%

Business QuickFacts **Kerr County**

Private non-farm establishments, 2003.....	1,399
Private non-farm employment, 2003.....	14,922
Private non-farm employment, percent change 2000-2003.....	4.2%
Non-employer establishments, 2003.....	4,203
Manufacturers shipments, 2002 (\$1000).....	111,136
Retail sales, 2002 (\$1000).....	528,960
Retail sales per capita, 2002.....	\$11,801
Minority-owned firms, percent of total, 1997.....	17.2%
Women-owned firms, percent of total, 1997.....	23.2%
Housing units authorized by building permits, 2004.....	104
Federal spending, 2004 (\$1000).....	343,932

Geography QuickFacts **Kerr County**

Land area, 2000 (square miles).....	1,106
Persons per square mile, 2000.....	39.5
FIPS Code.....	265
Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	Kerrville, TX

Micro Area

Community Planning Team

In developing this Community 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.

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Identification of Community Problems

In each of the areas below, problems are identified and data is included that supports both the existence and severity of the problems as they are found in the County. Below is a discussion of the prioritized problems, data and statistics that explain the manner in which the problems are being reported, and strategically how responses to these community problems could be improved.

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

Priority #1:

Secure funding for a specialized Juvenile Probation Officer who is trained to work with children and adolescents with mental health or mental retardation problems.

Supporting Data:

Diminishing resources are available due to budget cuts within the agency and statewide for mental health services. The Texas Legislature removed mental health benefits from children served by the CHIPS program in the 2005 Legislative session.

There are limited community resources for treatment of mentally ill children and, specifically, mentally ill children and adolescents who enter the juvenile justice system. Anticipated cuts in funding and staff at the local MHMR center have occurred at a time when the population of Kerr County is increasing. Hill Country Community MHMR will only be able to provide services for the most severe mentally ill children while others may not receive the mental health care they need. In 2005 Hill Country Community MHMR screened 37 children and 11 were admitted to their program for services. A total of 25 juveniles received services throughout the year. In the first eight months of 2006 HCMHMR screened 57 children and 26 were admitted to services. Despite growing referral numbers, resources remain limited. Mentally ill juvenile offenders who go untreated and lack specialized supervision are at increased risk for re-offending which leads to an issue of community safety. Early intervention can be an alternative to punishment later in life. Currently there are few psychiatric inpatient resources available for children or adolescents and there are a limited number of Texas Council of Offenders with Mental Impairments (TCOMI) slots for adolescent treatment. The Hill Country Community MHMR TCOMI Phase II Juvenile Program case manager is not partnered with a designated Juvenile Probation Officer in Kerr County. TCOMI has indicated this program is in jeopardy of being discontinued if a case manager is not paired with a Juvenile Probation Officer. Pairing these professionals will allow Hill Country Community MHMR to upgrade their program to Phase III which will provide an elevated level of care designed to be a family based, multi-service approach to meet the mental health needs of juvenile offenders. Funding is currently not available for this specialized juvenile probation officer.

Proposed Objectives:

Secure funding for a designated Mental Health Juvenile Probation Officer for Kerr County. This officer will then be paired with the MHMR TCOMI Phase II Juvenile Program case manager. This will allow the Hill Country Community MHMR and MHMR's TCOMI Program will be upgraded to better provide mental health resources for children and adolescents who are juvenile offenders in Kerr County.

Priority #2:

Secure funding to continue and expand the year-round mentoring and youth activity program jointly sponsored by the Kerrville Independent School District and the Doyle School Community Center.

Supporting Data:

The existing mentoring and youth activity program keeps children off the streets in a safe, constructive environment, improves academic performance and builds self-esteem through the use of mentors from all segments of the community. The program also offers an ongoing and consistent drug prevention education program for the participants. The Kerrville Independent School District identified 2,045 students during the 2005-2006 school year who could be considered "at risk" students who need community support. During that school year 140 students were enrolled in the Doyle School Community Center programs and approximately 1,200 hours were spent working with mentors. During the summer of 2006 enrollment in the community center programs increased to 172 children and adolescents and over 500 hours were dedicated to mentoring students. The center began the 2006-2007 school year with enrollment at 185 children and adolescents. Most of the children live within an area around the center that allows them to walk to the center from their homes.

Proposed Objectives:

Develop an ongoing motivational and educational reward program to encourage and retain children in year-round mentoring programs. To create liaisons with existing community, non-profit and county programs to benefit low income families and children and to develop programs to reach parents and grandparents of low income children to improve nutrition, crime prevention, anti-drug education, medical needs and education issues.

Priority #3:

Development of a program to integrate first-time and less serious juvenile offenders into existing community-based youth programs.

Supporting Data:

Although the numbers of persons under the age of 18, as a part of the overall population of the county, has slightly decreased since the 2000 Census (23.7% in 2000 compared to an estimated 21.9% in 2004) the problems facing the youth in this community with drugs, alcohol, and other challenges have not declined. Juvenile crime rates in Kerr County for calendar year 2005 were: 293 referrals to the Juvenile Probation Department

142 juveniles placed on probation by the courts
256 juveniles referred for delinquent behavior
37 C.I.N.S. referrals to the Juvenile Probation Department
221 children were detained for delinquent behavior
31 were detained for C.I.N.S. behavior
According to school officials, 2045 students enrolled in the Kerrville school district in 2005 were considered at-risk students. Ingram schools report 839 at-risk students for the year and Center Point schools identified 262 students. Many of the at-risk students also find themselves becoming a part of the juvenile justice system during their lifetime.

Proposed Objectives:

Several existing youth programs exist in the community outside the Juvenile Probation Department's programs. Involving first-time and less serious offenders in these programs will provide the children and adolescents with positive peer role models doing positive activities. A collaboration has already begun with the local 4H youth programs and the plan is to extend the collaboration to other youth programs in the community. These offenders will be offered life-skills training through their involvement with these programs. The goal is to involve between 30 and 50 of these "at risk" juvenile offenders in the program, which already has funding. The program will also give participants in the 4H and other programs the opportunity to peer mentor and use their leadership skills to help other youth in the community.

Juvenile Issues Summary (Identify trends, problems, service gaps and achievements):

The growing number of Kerr County youth with mental health or mental retardation make up a significant underserved population within the juvenile justice system and that trend is expected to continue. The lack of a juvenile probation officer who can be paired with a mental health professional to address the needs of those children and adolescents better is a problem. More and more children and adolescents in our community need additional help with school work, behavior modification help and positive redirecting of their goals and objectives for life. A significant number of them live in one geographic area of Kerrville and are having their needs met by the programs at Doyle School Community Center and the Kerrville Independent School District. More support is needed for that program. Juvenile justice leaders also have identified the need for at-risk youth who are first offenders or less serious offenders to have options outside the Juvenile Probation program to find success and modify their behaviors. Expanding the collaboration with other community youth programs to achieve this goal will be needed.

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

Priority #1:

Continue to provide Crime victims with information and services to recover from the crime and

trauma-related effects of victimization, with special emphasis on victims in rural (outside of Census Reporting Areas) locations.

Supporting Data:

In 2005, Kerr County Sheriff Rusty Hierholzer reported a slight drop in total calls for services, from 11,985 in 2004 down to 11,397 in 2005, and a decrease in adult jail bookings from 3,424 in 2004 to 3,252 in 2005, but in two areas crime increased. Family violence incidents rose from 251 in 2004 to 258 in 2005 and rape increased from 10 in 2004 to 26 in 2005 (**Texas Department of Public Safety, 2005 Crime in Texas**). The Kerr County Office of Special Prosecutor for Crimes Against Women mirrored these numbers in FY 2005. The target for this formerly VAWA funded project had been projected to dispose of 182 domestic violence cases when in fact some 266 cases were disposed in this period. The number of felony and misdemeanor assault cases of Assault—Family Violence were five to six times more than any other crime category including other types of assaults, criminal mischief, failure to appear, or theft in Kerr County. The Special Prosecutors office also reports that crimes against children are even greater than those with adult victims.

The County Victims Coordinator reports 351 crime victims were served during the grant period from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. Since the program only began in October of 2004 on a part-time basis the data for the first nine months of the program is not a valid comparison. Over 75 applications for CVC funds were processed during the grant year with over 90% of the claims approved. Medical providers who treated those victims received almost \$200,000 in Crime Victims Compensation Funds during the grant year. Several victims also received loss of wages benefits and also relocation benefits. About 60% of the victims completed written Victim Impact Statements and several made oral Victim Impact Statements during the sentencing phase of cases during the grant year. 2006 statistics provided by the district clerk's office on Oct. 10 show there are 86 Attempted Murder or Aggravated Assault cases pending in Kerr County district courts, 15 Adult Sexual Assault and 37 Indecency with a Child or Sexual Assault cases pending. Additionally cases with victims pending include 57 Robbery cases and 2 Arson cases. Victims are being referred to Hill Country Crisis Council and other local agencies that provide support for victims and to Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid for legal help through the CVC program. Other Victims Services programs locally showed similar high numbers. In 2005, Hill Country Crisis Council served 142 Kerr County clients, providing 2,897 client days in the emergency shelter, and screened for 55 Protective Orders. Kids' Advocacy Place reported 125 forensic interviews in suspected cases of child abuse or neglect in the county. The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) Program at Sid Peterson Hospital released statistics on exams for sexual assault for 2005 showing a total of 41 exams for the year. Age breakdown shows 12 of those exams were on child victims age 5 or younger, a total of 25 cases with victims age 18 or younger, and 14 adult exams. From January 1, 2006, through August 31, statistics show a total of

34 SANE exams, with 11 cases with child victims age 5 or younger, a total of 23 cases with victims age 18 or younger, and 11 exams on adult victims. In 2005 a total of 61% of the SANE exams were on child victims and to date in 2006 over one-third of the SANE exams have been on child victims.

Domestic violence is also a growing problem countywide. In 2005 a total of 141 misdemeanor assault cases were filed by the Kerr County Attorney and 85 were adjudicated in the Kerr County Court at Law. An overwhelming majority of those cases are Assault-Family Violence cases. Rural residents are heavily represented in the statistics with 43% domestic violence incidents were in the county outside the incorporated cities of Kerrville and Ingram, and 23% of the rapes were in the rural county areas. HCCC reports that rural victims are disproportionately underrepresented in those seeking and receiving services, and research shows rural areas have additional barriers to victims being aware of and accessing services and rural victims have additional risk factors for being victimized due to their isolation.

Proposed Objectives:

1. To continue existing services for victims through the county's Victims Services Department, Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital, HCCC, KAP, K'Star and other private or religious based service organizations, including information, referral, personal and legal advocacy, counseling, emergency shelter and support.
2. To implement special outreach programs for rural residents and, if possible, address the transportation needs of residents to receive services offered.
3. To accelerate prevention activities based on the CDC directives for primary prevention initiatives in sexual assault, and Texas-based research on family violence programs.

Priority #2:

Caseloads in the 198th and 216th judicial districts plus the county court at a law are large, with cases involving intimate violence and assaults, especially towards women and their dependent children, encountering burdensome delays in prosecution.

Supporting Data:

The county data cited in Priority #1 (as repeated below*) explains the sheer volume of family violence cases presented to and handled by the former VAWA funded special prosecutor. In fact, the FY 2005 grant application had projected about 15 cases per month, yet by October 2005, the actual disposition rate consistently ran above this, with the single exception of the month of and then exploded during the months of April through August, with a high of 55 cases in June. Kerr County prosecutors, courts, victims services and the community at large expect a major gap to be created for victims of intimate violence—especially women and children—due to the loss of funding for the special prosecutor's position in FY 2006.

* In 2005, Kerr County Sheriff Rusty Hierholzer reported a slight drop in total calls for services, from 11,985 in 2004 down to 11,397 in 2005, and a decrease in adult jail

bookings from 3,424 in 2004 to 3,252 in 2005, but two areas crime increased. Family violence incidents rose from 251 in 2004 to 258 in 2005 and rape increased from 10 in 2004 to 26 in 2005 (**Texas Department of Public Safety, 2005 Crime in Texas**). The Kerr County Office of Special Prosecutor for Crimes Against Women mirrored these numbers in FY 2005. The target for this formerly VAWA funded project had been projected to dispose of 182 domestic violence cases when in fact some 266 cases were disposed in this period. The number of felony and misdemeanor assault cases of Assault—Family Violence were five to six times more than any other crime category including other types of assaults, criminal mischief, failure to appear, or theft in Kerr County. The Special Prosecutor’s office also reports that crimes against children are even greater than those against adult victims. Crime analysis reports from all three law enforcement agencies further confirm that conclusion. A total of 17 cases of Sexual Assault of a Child or Indecency with a Child were adjudicated in the district courts in Kerr County in 2005 and 54 cases of Sexual Assault of a Child or Indecency with a Child were pending at the end of 2005. Other prosecutors are overburdened with other felony cases including the crimes against children.

Proposed Objectives:

1. Fund the Special Prosecutor for Crimes Against Women to handle both misdemeanor and felony crimes against women.

Priority #3:

Training for law enforcement, judicial and victims’ service providers. Improved coordination of services for faster more effective response to crime victims.

Supporting Data:

Ongoing training is justified for multiple reasons: 1. our small, rural law enforcement agencies experience turnover as many seasoned officers are attracted to higher salaries elsewhere or retire, and thus, continual training is required for new staff; 2. the ability to prosecute perpetrators and assist victims depends on first having more complete data collection in incident reports and such improved collection can occur with more training; and 3. victim services providers and their partners in the criminal justice system (CJS) report inconsistent responses to crime victims within and across agencies. Improved coordination is needed to address these issues that result in delays in services to the victims. The delay often frustrates victims and can put them further at risk. Also, delays in prosecuting increases the chances victims and other significant parties will move. Once contact is lost, prosecution is stymied, which not only wastes time and resources on the case, but also raises the possibility that those who would have been prosecuted are free to offend more victims in the future. Finally, victim service providers outside of government report barriers to receiving timely information from law enforcement about offenses, which inhibits the providers’ ability to reach and offer services to victims.

Proposed Objectives:

1. More training initiatives with assistance from AACOG.
2. Provide a more seamless network of CJS and service providers by removing barriers to information about crime victimization and improving communication between all entities.
3. Establish an interagency task force to meet monthly to coordinate CJS and service provider activities in domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

Priority #4:

Seek a solution to address the lack of housing alternatives for victims of intimate violence who feel they have no choice but to return to the abusive living environment where they may be at risk for re-victimization.

Supporting Data:

Kerr County has only 72 subsidized housing units, with a 3-4 year waiting list for admission. HCCC reports extraordinary lengths of stay for some shelter clients in the 3 and sometimes even 5 month range. Many do not need the safety and security of a 24-hour staffed shelter, but remain because no alternative housing is available. The HCCC shelter has operated at or near capacity for most of the last 12 months resulting in having to refer to other shelters within a 100-mile radius or deny admission to other victims needing shelter.

Proposed Objectives:

1. Develop a transitional housing program for crime victims where the lack of alternate housing options exposes them to additional risks for re-victimization.
2. Couple the transitional housing with a case management program to better ensure the successful reintegration of such client/victims into independent living.

Victim Issues Summary (Identify trends, problems, service gaps and achievements):

The volume of crimes involving family violence, sexual assault and child abuse/neglect are growing, and with more outreach by the victim services community, more victims are surfacing and needing services. The demands on the criminal justice system mirror this trend, and without an aggressively responsive CJS—law enforcement, prosecutors and courts—the problems facing crime victims are compounded. Kerrville and Ingram police departments and the Kerr County Sheriff's Office work hard to protect and defend county residents, but with too few resources at their disposal, they are hard pressed to impact the growing crime trends in the county along with the overall increasing demands generated by rapidly expanding population and development in the area. The access to additional training, more and state-of-the-art communications equipment and systems (discussed in the Law Enforcement Priorities of this plan), and coordination efforts are expected to help stretch those limited resources so that more victims' needs are met. Finally, as a predominantly rural county, Kerr County has special needs to reach and serve its rural residents outside of Kerrville and Ingram, and to supplement important basic needs, such as housing alternatives, in order that victims can escape abusive and/or high risk situations, recover from the trauma of past victimization, and have the support and resources to be successful.

Together, these identify the need for more services, with increased distribution across the county; a restoration of the county prosecutor's position focused on family violence cases; a continuation of the county's victims' coordinator position, more education of and cross training and coordination between law enforcement, courts and victims services organizations, and accelerate attention to the needs of—including lack of public transportation for--residents outside of the two major towns in the county.

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

Priority #1:

The purchase of reliable interoperable communications equipment, to include vehicle and hand-held radios, that will allow different Emergency Services Agencies involved in a critical incident to communicate effectively with each other.

Supporting Data:

After each critical incident in recent history, the most glaring indication of success or failure by various Emergency Services Agencies has been their ability to effectively communicate with each other. If an agency waits until a critical incident occurs to consider how it will manage voice and data communications during that time, the odds of failure are greatly magnified. The importance of redundant and scalable communications solutions cannot be overemphasized. At the present time, inter-agency communications are limited due to the lack of sufficient number of equipment and the lack of technology specific equipment in place with all countywide policing agencies. The Kerrville Police Department has achieved narrow banding and started its migration to digital communications but the Kerr County Sheriff's Department, Ingram Marshal's Department, Kerrville Fire Department and all county volunteer fire departments do not have total compatibility. Emergency Service Agencies, specifically Public Safety, are mandated by the State to achieve narrow banding by January 1, 2007. The State and Federal governments by 2011 mandate the migration to a digital communications system.

Proposed Objectives:

Secure funding to purchase equipment for all local Emergency Service Agencies to achieve the goal of narrow banding by early 2007 and, over several years, to upgrade the equipment to the standards required by 2011.

Priority #2:

Establishing of a countywide computer information system for all law enforcement agencies to give the agencies the ability to seamlessly share information via a common computer system.

Supporting Data:

At the present time, a fully integrated information system does not exist between the county's Criminal Justice agencies. In 2005 the Kerrville Police Department had 52 commissioned officers, the Kerr County Sheriff's Department had 46 commissioned officers and the Ingram Marshal's Department had 6 commissioned officers. The

Uniform Crime Report shows the three agencies investigated 1,298 cases where UCR crimes were alleged but the UCR does not reflect misdemeanor assault cases and family violence cases and does not differentiate sexual assault from aggravated sexual assault and indecency with a child. Also there is no category for injury to a child statistics. Enhanced Criminal Justice information integration and sharing is essential to improving the quality and effectiveness of local, county and state criminal justice information sharing systems. Integrated information technology can significantly diminish the unknowns that threaten officer safety. Access to criminal history records has proven to enhance officer and public safety. No access can create a potentially ineffective, even dangerous situation. Jurisdictions with fully integrated information systems can dramatically expand their ability to make better-informed and timelier decisions; more effectively pursue criminal investigations, and execute a more efficient level of command and control during critical incidents.

Proposed Objectives:

Secure funding to purchase the equipment to create a countywide computer information system for all law enforcement agencies.

Priority #3:

Secure funding for a School Resource Officer for the Ingram Tom Moore High School campus and its adjoining Ingram Middle School campus.

Supporting Data:

Ingram Tom Moore High School and Ingram Middle School were annexed by the City of Ingram in 2003. Until that time the sheriff's department provided a part-time SRO for the schools. Now that the Ingram's Marshal's Department is the law enforcement agency designated to respond to the two campuses the need for an SRO has become a major priority for the department. They have, at most, two officers on duty at a time and their resources, both financial and manpower, have been stretched beyond their available resources. Enrollment at the two campuses has continued to increase over the past two years and expected to continue to increase proportion to the county's population increase. In 2005 there were more than 50 calls for service for major incidents on the high school campus alone. Police presence on campus is statistically proven to reduce school crime. The SRO also will be able to act as a liaison between school officials and law enforcement and work with the existing Campus Crime Stoppers program to make it more effective.

Proposed Objectives:

Secure grant funding to pay for a full-time School Resource Officer through the Ingram Marshal's Department to fill the gap in services on the Ingram secondary school campuses.

Priority #4:

Creation of a multi-jurisdictional, specialized law enforcement unit, whose primary objective will be the investigation, arrest and prosecution of persons engaged in organized criminal activity in

Kerr County.

Supporting Data:

With the dissolution of Federally funded drug task forces, Kerr County communities lost the specialized law enforcement unit dedicated to control of organized crime activities in the county. When the 216th Judicial District task force funds were lost the Kerrville Police Department and the Kerr County Sheriff's Department created Special Crime Units, but they are unable to fill the void created by the loss of the 216th task force. The investigation and/or disruption of local impact crimes requires personnel, time and specialized equipment. Resources are not available to adequately provide that type of law enforcement on a full-time basis and the City of Ingram has no resources for a special unit at all. A new multi-jurisdictional unit would give each agency the opportunity to assign officers and would improve the investigative effectiveness against organized criminal activity in all of Kerr County.

Proposed Objectives:

Secure funding through grants or matching grants to set up a multi-jurisdictional specialized law enforcement unit to control organized crime activities in Kerr County.

Priority #5:

Provide more agency training for law enforcement to meet mandated and specialized training requirements.

Supporting Data:

A well-trained, better educated officer will not only better serve the public but will also enjoy a safer career in law enforcement. Because we are rural community training opportunities are limited and some local agencies cannot afford to send their officers across the state to attend courses. Support of local instruction is key to officer education.

Proposed Objectives:

Offer more training opportunities in Kerrville through the Alamo Area Council of Government's existing training program, or other accredited training programs and encourage more sponsorship of training for local officers and support personnel when available.

Law Enforcement / Public Safety Summary (Identify trends, problems, service gaps and achievements):

As the population of Kerr County increases there will be more demand on law enforcement agencies and other emergency services providers to provide the necessary services to the community. The current problem with no interoperability of the department radio systems makes coordination of critical incident responses very difficult. These providers can work very well together and have in past critical incidents but the upgrade to interoperability will enhance the safety of all Kerr County residents and visitors. Likewise providing computer interoperability will allow all law enforcement agencies to share information and which will increase both the effectiveness of law enforcement and, in some incidents, increase officer safety.

A service gap exists in the Ingram Independent School District with no SRO on the secondary campuses and funding for that position will be sought. Because of the trend toward more drug activity in rural areas the creation of a multi-jurisdictional special crimes unit to address organized crime is needed and offering more training for officers locally will strengthen the entire community's law enforcement program.

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

Homeland Security Issues

Priority #1:

1. Interoperable Wireless Communications for Volunteer Fire Departments & First Responders; Specialized Training for Volunteer Fire Departments & First Responders.

Supporting Data:

Public Safety is a core function for local governments. Adequate wireless communications are essential to executing the Public Safety function promptly, effectively, and cost efficiently. Today our local jurisdictions face major problems in public safety wireless communications. There is a general lack of interoperability between radio systems, between agencies, and between jurisdictions. In the interest of maintaining our regional emergency response systems, it is no longer practical for individual public safety agencies to build communications systems that do not communicate with each other. To be effective before, during and after an emergency response, public safety officials at all levels of government must be able to communicate with each other. This problem can be solved. The solution requires state funding to assist local governments as they buy much needed new equipment and rearrange existing equipment. Currently, public safety agencies have limited budgets and face challenges in keeping pace with advances in technology. Kerr County is serviced by nine rural / volunteer fire departments and dozens of individual first responders. Most if not all of their wireless communication gears is obsolete or compromised from excessive use and exposure. This equipment is for the most part interoperable with other local, state and federal public safety agencies.

Agency Data: Kerr County is served by 9 volunteer fire departments, 220+ volunteer firefighters and 45 EMT trained first responders. Though many departments are well equipped with wireless communication gears many are in dire need of new equipment.

Equipments Needs:

- **Hand-held Radios: 20**
- **Vehicle Radios: 5**
- **Base-unit Radios: 4**
- **Text Pagers: 55**

Note: This equipment replaces obsolete or in some cases non-existence wireless equipment.

America's volunteer fire service has faithfully served our nation for more than 300 years. Volunteer firefighters serve their communities with dedication and enthusiasm. Across our nation, volunteer fire departments and first responders

save local communities billions-of-dollars per year—money that can be reinvested to improve local infrastructure, social programs and minimize the local tax burden. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, America has learned that local emergency responders are the community’s FIRST line of response, regardless of the event. Community protection and well-being depends on the experience, expertise and tenure of local emergency service providers. The volunteer fire service faces significant challenges in overcoming a basic lack of resources—both financial and in human capital. Only by aggressively confronting both of these issues will we create the necessary atmosphere of stability that will allow volunteer fire and rescue departments to meet the new expectations and challenges of the 21st century. Unfortunately, there are few programs at the local, state or national level to assist fire chiefs and volunteer managers in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for effective management and response to extraordinary circumstances. Support from the local, state and federal levels is necessary to ensure that the volunteer fire service continues to be a full partner with all facets of homeland security response and effectively functions as the first line of defense within local communities. Volunteer fire departments in our area are in dire need of **specialized training**. It does very little good to have volunteer departments and equipment in place, if due to a lack of training they cannot respond to the type of extraordinary emergencies that they’re most likely to face.

Agency Data: Based on our population demographic and the geographic challenges of Kerr County the following types of specialized training are needed (In order of priority):

- **First Responder EMT Training:** From 1 January to 31 August of 2006 there have been “728” 9-1-1 calls in the rural areas of Kerr County that required first Responder EMTs. Unfortunately only 75% of those calls had trained EMTs in the area to respond in a time matter. Some of our volunteer fire departments have too few or none of their responders EMT certified. This must be corrected – each of our geographic fire districts should have 10% of their volunteers firefighters EMT trained. (Available through the Kerrville Fire Department.)
- **Swift water rescue:** This course for "flowing" water is designed to provide individuals and agencies with the basic information on techniques and equipment for responding to river and flood rescues. Topics cover such subjects as how to use low-to-high risk and shore-based rescues, and how to evaluate and protect the scene. (Available from Rescue3 Intl.)
- **High angle rope rescue:** Students are trained in pre-planning and size-up of rope rescue operations; knots, hitches and anchor systems; belay operations; ascending and descending; raising and lowering systems; and, patient packaging and litter attending. This course will also cover advanced problem solving and highline systems. (Available from Rescue3 Intl.)
- **HAZMAT:** This training is intended to train first responders to respond to hazardous materials incidents. Discussions include classifications, labeling, and how to initiate an emergency incident response. And how

to decontaminate an individual and gives a detailed overview of different types of personal protective equipment; understanding defensive tactical operations to divert or contain hazardous materials; provide familiarization with hazmat equipment and operational procedures; provide training on the four types of decontamination procedures in a hazardous materials incident, and ; explanation of how first responders may respond to a hazmat incident caused by terrorism or WMDs. (Available from multiple vendors.)

- **Trench Rescue:** Across the nation about 100 people each year die in trenching accidents. Thousands more are injured. Trench Rescue Training teaches students how to respond to these emergencies and perform organized, systematic rescues from collapsed trenches and excavations. (Available from TEEEX.)

Training Needs (numbers of individuals/firefighters needing training):

- **EMT First Responders: 20**
- **Swift Water Rescue Training: 20**
- **High Angle Rope Rescue: 15**
- **HAZMAT: 15**
- **Trench Rescue: 15**

Proposed Objectives:

Re-equip all volunteer fire departments and emergency medical first responders with new, interoperable-capable, wireless end-users radios (hand-held, vehicle based, and communication center base-units) and text/voice pager systems.

At the local level, we must emphasize the importance of local and state support for this basic community service and provide appropriate levels of funding for basic and specialized training for our volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical first responders.

Priority #2:

Reverse Telephone Emergency Notification System

Supporting Data:

The Texas Homeland Security Plan 2005-2010, dated 1 November 2005, established the following objective: “9. Strategic Objective 3.9: Maintain effective ways to alert local leaders and the public about all hazards in their communities.” Specifically, “3.9.4. Establish a reverse telephone public alert system for hazard information.”

Public officials statewide fight a constant battle against time to get the right message to the public during emergency events. The ability to notify affected citizens in the event of an emergency is a public safety imperative, and can minimize loss of life in a dangerous situation. A reverse telephone notification system would provide Kerr County officials with an effective and efficient tool to provide rapid notification to citizen in the event of an emergency or disaster. The transmission of information to the public and local leaders during an emergency is of utmost importance.

To that end, Kerr County and all inclusive public safety jurisdictions desire to establish a reverse telephone emergency notification system.

Proposed Objectives:

Kerr County does not have an automated, time-sensitive method of notifying citizens of hazardous situations or disaster-related incidents. The current method of door-to-door or loud speaker broadcast fall short of what is required to notify tens of thousands of citizens of time-sensitive information vital to their individual response or reaction to large scale public disasters. Several commercial offerings/technologies are currently available to address this imperative need. The generic characteristics of a reverse telephone emergency notification system are:

1. Compatibility with the 9-1-1 district's GIS Mapping System.
2. Enhanced 9-1-1 Data Ready – the capability to import existing E9-1-1 telephone database into the reverse telephone emergency notification system.
3. Support for multiple technologies/devices - In addition to sending recorded voice messages, the system should be able to deliver text message to wireless receivers, such as digital pages.
4. Geo-dimensional calling - Allows for the creation of custom geographic areas, such as "polygons, azimuth radiuses, threat spheres, etc. " shapes, that are defined by known factors, such as distance radius and directional progression.
5. Hosted on customer premise equipment and/or as an internet based service.
6. Remote Launching Capability - The need to rapidly send messages can occur at any hour of the day or night. We must have the ability to launch a call session from anywhere we have touch-tone telephone or computer/internet access.
7. TTY/TDD Calling - This optional protocol lets us send text messages to the hearing impaired that have the required equipment installed.

Population of Kerr County, Texas is 46,496 as of 2004 census.

Geographic Area: 1106 square miles.

Public telephony access lines as of August 2006: 31,051

Other data:

1. Forty Three miles of Interstate Highway 10 traverses Kerr County. This is the main East/West corridor of commercial semi-trailer traffic through our area. Much of this traffic transports hazardous materials. Accidents involving this type of hazardous material would potentially affect thousands of Kerr County residents.
2. Kerr County has several flash-flood prone water ways; most notably the Guadalupe River and 17 named creeks. When these tributaries flood they have the potential to affect thousands of Kerr County's citizens and their properties.
3. Potential reverse telephone emergency notification system users:
 - a. Law enforcement agencies
 - i. Kerrville Police Department
 - ii. Kerr County Sheriff
 - iii. Kerr County Constables
 - iv. City of Ingram Marshal
 - v. Texas Department of Public Safety
 - b. Fire Fighting agencies
 - i. Kerrville Fire Department
 - ii. Eleven Volunteer Fire Departments
 - c. Other state, county and city officials
 - d. Texas Department of Public Health
 - e. Appropriate river authorities such as the Guadalupe River Authority

- f. Kerr County CERT Team
 - g. Public utility companies
4. If funded, a Reverse Telephone Emergency Notification System has obvious tangible dividends:
- a. Prevent the needless loss of human life and property, and
 - b. Timely emergency information dissemination to targeted/affected citizens.

Priority #3:

Community Emergency Response Team – Companion Animal Rescue & Response Team

Supporting Data:

Developed by Homeland Security to enhance emergency response to a local incident utilizing NIMS & ICS systems, the CERT program was developed to assist communities and neighborhoods to assist in light search & rescue, first aid and other functions on a minimal level until emergency services are available to respond. Funded, maintained, and utilized, CERT teams would greatly assist to respond to the immediate needs of individuals and citizens impacted by a major incident. By encouraging and educating the public regarding preparedness efforts, hazard identification and mitigation, CERT members can minimize the effects of a disaster and facilitate recovery in a community. House Bill 3858 and Senate Bill 2548 (PETS Act) passed unanimously and requires local and state emergency preparedness authorities to include in their emergency plans how they will accommodate household pets and service animals in case of a disaster. Local and state authorities MUST submit these plans in order to qualify for grants from FEMA and allows the provision of essential assistance for individuals with household pets and service animals, and the animals themselves, following a major incident. Individuals with pets cannot be denied evacuation or transportation.

Proposed Objectives:

Kerr County currently has CERT and CARRT teams currently going through training in ICS, NIMS, mitigation, evacuation, sheltering, search and rescue, emergency first aid, response, recovery, animal handling, education and preparedness. These teams are not funded and require equipment, additional training, and the resources to obtain necessary tools, supplies and educational brochures, in order to be prepared for an emergency as well as to educate the public about how to be prepared in case of emergencies and disasters. Prepared citizens would help to ease the burden on first responders.

Population of Kerr County, Texas is 46,496 as of 2004 census.

Humane Society of the United States updated percentages of people in the U.S. owning companion animals is 63% (as of 3/06).

$46,496 \times 63\% = 29,292.48$ approximately, own at least one companion animal - of those 29,292.48 people:

43.5% own at least one dog (most own more than one) which is: 12,742 dogs

37.7% own at least one cat (again, most own more than one) which is 11,043 cats

2.4% own at least one horse = 703 horses

14.7% own fish = 4,305 fish

6.4% own birds = 1,874 birds

5.7% own pocket pets = 1,669 pocket pets

4.4% own reptiles = 1,288 reptiles

In cases of emergency or disaster, there is a huge potential for emotional and behavior related problems involving potentially over 29,000 people that own companion animals in our county alone. The emergency managers would need to make plans to be able to assess a worst case scenario involving approximately 33,624 animals, their safe evacuation, transport, shelter care and return to their owners after the event has concluded. Keep in mind that the estimates are based on if a family has only one pet, not multiple, which is more often the case. Of course, hopefully, most of these animals: 1). would be in unaffected areas, 2). their owners would evacuate with their pets, 3). their owners will have other arrangements for their care and housing. Even if the number of animals affected would be only 1/4 of the estimated totals, the numbers would still be staggering (8,406 if they have only one pet each). Imagine 1/4 of the pet owners in Kerr County attempting to make it home to their pets - affecting our first responder's ability to keep the public safe and continue to maintain their highest level of quality response. The local CARRT'S mission, if funded, is to provide fully trained aid and assistance to domestic companion animals during natural and man-made disasters.

Priority #4:

GIS Tools for Select Public Safety Agencies

Supporting Data:

In a world increasingly beset by natural and man-made disasters, it is hard to imagine a more striking or beneficial use of GIS than in matters of Homeland Security and public safety. GIS tools are “decomplicating,” they organize, analyze, and display geo-specific data – in all kinds of situations and environments, from a volunteer fire fighting vehicles approaching a wildfire to rescuers retrieving trapped flood victims. GIS tools work effectively in all four phases of the disaster management cycle: preparation, mitigation, response and recovery. Whether analyzing consequences; projecting and predicting; disseminating information; allocating personnel, equipment, and resources; getting from A to B; or post disaster recovery in ways that help rather than hinder stricken citizens, businesses, and regions, “GIS” technology/data are the tools of choice.

Proposed Objectives:

Kerr County proposes the purchase, configuration with available GIS data, the training of selected first responder/public safety agencies and the fielding of hardened laptops and their associated GIS software. There are numerous GIS software suites, but any selected system must be able to display and manipulate ESRI based GIS data. Minimally, these systems would host centerline road files, USGS aerial data, stream/water features, topographic data, fire district boundaries, other jurisdictional boundaries, and property boundaries.

Population of Kerr County, Texas is 46,496 as of 2004 census.

Geographic Area: 1106 square miles.

Other pertinent facts:

1. Targeted GIS system users:
 - a. Law enforcement agencies
 - i. Kerrville Police Department
 - ii. Kerr County Sheriff
 - iii. City of Ingram Marshal
 - b. Fire Fighting agencies
 - i. Kerrville Fire Department

- ii. Eleven Volunteer Fire Departments
- 2. If funded, mobile GIS systems have obvious tangible dividends:
 - a. Facilitate public safety agency planning.
 - b. Improve response time and allocation of resources.
 - c. Inoperability and data sharing - All of the above mentioned agencies will use the same tool and databases.
 - d. Prevent the needless loss of human life and property.

Homeland Security Issues:

America’s first line of defense in any large-scale disaster is the "first responder" community – local police, firefighters, and emergency medical professionals. Properly trained and equipped first responders have the greatest potential to save lives and limit casualties. Currently, our capabilities for responding to large-scale disasters vary widely across our county. Some of our rural areas have little or no capability to respond due to lack of funding, training, and equipment. Our initiatives, if they realize fruition, will provide our first responder community with much-needed equipment, training and experience to respond to a full spectrum of man-made and natural disasters. Instrumental in that process is planning, exercises, purchases of equipment, and training of personnel.

Planning. Our priorities will support State, county, local governments and citizen response teams in developing comprehensive plans to prepare for and respond to a terrorist attack or natural disaster.

Equipment. Our priorities will allow county and local first responder agencies to purchase a wide range of interoperable communications gear, CERT support equipment, emergency notification capability and GIS tools to respond effectively to regional disasters.

Training. Our first responder and CERT training initiative will provide for specialized training for volunteer firefighters, first responders and CERT members. And finally, to training GIS and emergency notification system end users on the proper and timely use of their systems.

The benefits of building first responder and CERT capability are immediate and widespread – making our region safer from terrorist attacks, improving our collective emergency response to large-scale natural disasters as well as bolstering everyday response capabilities.

Homeland Security Issues Summary (Identify trends, problems, service gaps and achievements):

Growth in population in Kerr County presents the same challenges in the area of homeland security as it does in many of the other services. Emergency responders need a way to communicate with one another on a common radio frequency and equipment available for all emergency responders. The ability of law enforcement to share information about suspects more readily will provide a safer place to live for residents and added safety for the officers as they go about their work of protecting the citizens. As the population continues to grow in the more remote areas of the county, more and more residents must depend on volunteer fire departments for their first responder needs both in fire protection and emergency medical situations. Training for those persons is very important and the cost of training cannot be borne by the departments or the individuals. Other sources of funding must be sought. In disasters the evacuation of people

and their animals is a priority. As the country watched in the Katrina and Rita stories in 2005, many people will not evacuate if they have to leave behind their beloved pets...planning for that possibility is very important in Kerr County also because of the potential for floods and tornados. For many of those same reasons the addition of a reverse 9-1-1 system will provide better protection for persons living in all areas of the county, but especially those areas prone to river flooding.

Health & Family Issues (listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

Priority #1

Provide more medical options for county residents who do not require emergent care but require medical attention.

Supporting Data:

The only current community health center is the Raphael Clinic. The Raphael Clinic is a volunteer, non-profit organization that provides services to a large population of indigent individuals in Kerr and surrounding counties. Clients that have Medicare or Medicaid are not eligible for the clinic’s services. Many Kerr County residents use the Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital Emergency Room as their primary provider for non-emergent healthcare needs. There is limited availability of physicians in Kerr County. Individuals have a difficult time getting appointments if the individual is on Medicare, Medicaid, or has limited financial resources.

Proposed Objectives:

Establishment of a Rural Health Clinic that could address the needs of persons living in Kerr County who are unserved or underserved by the current medical community.

Priority #2

Sexual and Reproductive Health – Kerr County currently does not have a resource to address sexual and reproductive health needs of our community.

Supporting Data:

The Community Council of South Central Texas (Family Planning) clinic was recently closed (August 30, 2006). The Community Council of South Central Texas clinic provided pregnancy testing, pap smears, birth control, pelvic and breast exams, screening for anemia, sexually transmitted diseases, cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and education and counseling related to sexual health.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Kerr County			
STD	Number of Positive Cases		
	2005	2006 (Jan – July)	
Chlamydia	77	37	
Gonorrhea	21	3	
Syphilis	2	2	

HIV	2	1
AIDS	1	

STD Testing per facility Jan – July 2006

Month	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea		HIV		Syphilis	
	S	D	S	D	S	D	S	D
	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S
	M	H	M	H	M	H	M	H
	H	S	H	S	H	S	H	S
JAN	22		22		71	41	90	32
FEB	23		21		71	40	90	36
MAR	31		31		72	18	90	9
APR	21		21		47	24	63	20
MAY	37		39		54	30	78	22
JUNE	36		36		64	32	77	28
JULY	26		25		56	25	83	17

Education and Counseling related to sexual health is done for every person receiving testing at the Department of State Health Services. The Department of State Health Services has also provided 13 programs related to sexual health in Kerrville and Center Point from January thru September 2006.

Teen Pregnancies:

	2005	2006
KISD	31	19
IISD	7	4
CPIISD	2	3

Pregnancy testing done by one facility serving Kerr, Gillespie, Kendall, and Bandera counties reported 362 tests performed January thru July of 2006. The Community Council of South Central Texas provides testing for sexually transmitted diseases, birth control, mammograms, pregnancy testing, pelvic exams, screening for anemia, diabetes, cancer and hypertension for Kerr and surrounding counties. In 2005 they were open full time and saw approximately 165 clients per month. In 2006 they were only open part time and therefore only saw 50 clients per month.

Proposed Objectives:

- Screening and Assessment Tools
- Student/Teen Parent/ Parent Education Classes
- Family Planning Education
- Sexual Health Education/Counseling

Family Based Services/ STD clinic
Health Care Assistance

Priority #3

Mental Health – Kerr County has a need for increased mental health services.

Supporting Data:

Juveniles with mental health problems are initially referred to San Antonio for treatment. Hill Country Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR) are able to follow Kerr county residents for their mental health needs after their initial treatment. During the fiscal year ending August 31, 2006, 126 Kerr County residents were admitted to Kerrville State Hospital for suicide attempts. Between January 1 and July 31, 2006, 61 patients were seen in SPMH Emergency Department for suicide attempts, and 16 patients were admitted for a total of 77 attempted suicides during this time frame. During this same time frame, patients were seen with a total of 1657 different mental health diagnoses. In a survey conducted in June 2006, Kerr County residents expressed a need for drug and alcohol abuse programs.

Proposed Objectives:

Develop a step-by-step guide for health care providers and community when assisting individuals with a mental health issue (suicidal ideation, depression, etc)
Education for the community regarding mental health.

Priority #4

Dental Services – Kerr County currently has very limited dental services available for the indigent population.

Supporting Data:

The Salvation Army performs tooth extraction for our community. In some cases, the individual will be referred to a dental practice and Salvation Army will pay the cost. Between October 1, 2005 and September 20, 2006, the Salvation Army saw 220 dental patients. The Kerrville Independent School District has a program called “Create a Smile.” Through this program, school nurses can refer children in need to a dentist. The Ingram Independent School District does not offer any kind of similar program. The Center Point Independent School District does not offer the create a smile program.

Proposed Objectives:

Provide Dental Education and Affordable Dental Services for Kerr County residents.

Priority #5

Find solutions to housing needs of homeless and transient individuals and a subgroup of children who need long term housing.

Supporting Data:

Kerr County has a large number of homeless and transient individuals. The Salvation Army can house 8 females and 20 males at a time but no other shelters are available in the community.

Foster homes for children, especially for African American children, are very limited in Kerr County.

Proposed Objectives:

Work with social service agencies to seek funding for expansion of current shelter facilities for homeless and transient individuals and seek solutions to provide services for children in need of long term housing in foster homes or possibly through establishment of a group home.

Health and Family Service Issues Summary (Identify trends, problems, service gaps and achievements):

With the closing of the local Family Planning Clinic, and the dissolution of the Narcotics Task Force, and the limited number of acute care beds at the Kerrville State Hospital, there are limited resources for people in need of reproductive health, mental health, drug and alcohol counseling, and health care in general. Currently, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) offers sexually transmitted disease testing for HIV, Hepatitis C, and Syphilis. Family planning services/STD testing provided for Kerr county residents are offered through private physicians and the local emergency room. The Alpha-Omega Life Center offers pregnancy testing, post abortion counseling, adoption services, and parenting classes. The closest family planning clinic is located in Fredericksburg. There are local MHMR facilities to assist individuals with mental health issues and suicidal ideation. Yet, many individuals end up in the Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital Emergency Department for help.

In response to the growing number of healthcare issues in the Kerrville Community, a Community Assessment Team was formed with individuals from various local businesses and organizations. Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital partnered with AHEC/UTHSC to conduct a healthcare needs assessment for Kerrville. The Number One program of interest for the community is drug and alcohol abuse programs. Other programs included financial help for health needs, affordable, quality day care, and free/low cost medical and dental care. Depression and financial help for health services was expressed on the surveys. Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital would like to work in collaboration with agencies to address the issues of concern for Kerr County. The top concerns Kerr County residents expressed in the survey include our five priorities.

A potential solution for the listed problems is a rural health clinic that would provide affordable services for mental/sexual health needs, family planning, non-emergent care, immunizations/well child exams, dental, general health, and education.

The numbers of homeless individuals who need short-term shelter help and other services is growing. Providing the most basic needs of those persons has become a challenge for the community. Another subgroup identified with a special need is the number of African-American children who need long-term alternative family placement.

Resources Available

Included below are resources identified by the County Community Planning Team that are available to provide services that could potentially help in closing criminal justice gaps:

Juvenile Services:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Contact Information: Name,</i>
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		<i>Address, Phone, E-mail</i>
Kerr County Juvenile Probation Department	Juvenile Probation	Jason Davis, Chief Probation Officer 700 Main Suite BA100 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-9013, jdavis@co.kerr.tx.us
Kerr County Juvenile Detention Facility	Short-term Residential Treatment	Kevin Stanton, Director 3501 Legion Dr. Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-6110 kcjk@kctc.com

Law Enforcement / Public Safety:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Contact Information: Name, Address, Phone, E-mail</i>
Kerr County Sheriff's Dept	Law Enforcement	Sheriff Rusty Hierholzer 400 Clearwater Paseo Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-1216 sheriff@co.kerr.tx.us
Kerrville Police Dept	Law Enforcement	Police Chief John Young 429 Sidney Baker Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-8181 JohnY@kerrville.org
Ingram City Marshal's Dept	Law Enforcement	Ingram City Marshal Rowan Zachry, 226 Hwy 39 Ingram, Texas 78025 830-367-2636 rzachry@ingramtx.com
Texas Dept. of Public Safety	Law Enforcement	Sgt. Todd Cummins 311 Sidney Baker So. Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-7876 todd.cummins@txdps.state.tx.us

Victim Services:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Contact Information: Name, Address, Phone, E-mail</i>
Hill Country Crisis Council	Victim/Children Services	Sheryl Howard, Exec. Director P.O. Box 291817 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-7088 sherylhoward@hillcountrycrisiscouncil.org
Hill Country CASA	Legal Advocacy	

Kids' Advocacy Place	Victims Services	Diane Oehler, Exec. Director, P.O. Box 290493, Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-2272 jccasa@ktc.com
K'Star	Emergency Childrens Shelter	Judy Sullivan, Exec. Director, P.O. Box 291722 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-895-4527 KAP2@ktc.com
Kerr County Victims Services Department	Support and Referral Services	Vicki Barron, Exec. Director, P.O. Box 290962 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-5437 kstar@ktc.com Rosa Lavender, Victims Services, 700 Main Suite CB103 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-792-2297 rlavender@co.kerr.tx.us

Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Contact Information: Name, Address, Phone, E-mail</i>
Any Baby Can	Health	Chuck Del Toro, Exec. Director 624 Earl Garrett Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-792-4222 chuckabc@omniglobal.net
Hill Country Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse	Substance Abuse Treatment	Jeannie Stevens, Exec. Director 1456 Sidney Baker N. Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-8884 jstevens@hccada.org
La Hacienda Treatment Center	Substance Abuse Treatment	Art Vandiver, Exec. Director P.O. Box 1, 145 La Hacienda Way, Hunt, Texas 78028 830-238-4222 avandiver@lahacienda.com
Starlight Treatment Center	Substance Abuse Treatment	Kirk Kureska, Exec. Director P.O. Box 317 Center Point, Texas 78010 830-634-2212 kkureska@crchealth.com

Villa Del Sol	Mental Health	Janine Etter, Director 520 Witt Rd Center Point, Texas 78010 830-634-3370 jetter@hillcountry.org
Kerrville State Hospital	Mental Health	Stephen Anfinson 721 Thompson Dr. Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-2211 stephen.anfinson@dshs.state.tx.us
Kerr County Mental Health Center	Mental Health	Peter Steeghs, Director, 500 Thompson Drive Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-6553 psteeghs@hillcountry.org
Hill Country Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center	Mental Health/Mental Retardation	Linda Parker-Werlein, Exec. Director 819 Water St , Suite 300 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-0400 lparker@hillcountry.org
Special Opportunity Center	Mental Health/Special Needs	Mark Paddock, Director 200 Francisco Lemos Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-4606 mpaddock@hillcountry.org
Peterson Hospice	Health	Liz Murray, Volunteer Services Dir. 1121 Broadway Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-258-7799 lmurray@spmh.com
VistaCare Hospice	Health	Alex Mares, Exec. Director 1001 Water St. Suite B-100 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-792-6200 a.mares@vistacare.com
Peterson Regional Health Center	Health	Pat Murray, Administrator 710 Water Street Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-4200 pmurray@spmh.com
Raphael Free Community Clinic	Health	Sister Marge Novak, Director 1807 Water St. Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-895-4201
Salvation Army Medical Clinic	Health-open Wednesdays only from	

Department of State Health Services	8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Health	Judy Johnston 855 Hayes St. Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-3620 judy_johnston@salvationarmy.org
City of Kerrville EMS	Emergency Intervention	Elizabeth Leicht 819 Water St. Suite 290 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-5515 elizabeth.leicht@dshs.state.tx.us Eric Maloney, EMS Coordinator 87 Coronado Dr. Suite 200 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-5333 EricM@Kerrville.org

Faith Based Organizations:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Contact Information: Name, Address, Phone, E-mail</i>
Christian Assistance Ministry	Intervention	624 Clay St. Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-4222
Salvation Army	Intervention	Judy Johnston, Case Manager 855 Hays Street Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-3620 judy_johnston@salvationarmy.org
Salvation Army Lodge	Intervention/Shelter	(See Salvation Army)
YMCA-Kerr County	Prevention/Intervention	Brenda Chapman, Exec. Director 200 Sidney Baker So Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-8000 brendac@ymcasatx.org
New Hope Christian Counseling Center	Prevention/Intervention	616 Barnett Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-3009
Partners in Ministry	Intervention	Dr. Bill Blackburn, Exec. Director 301 Junction Hwy Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-792-3131 bill@partnersinministry.com
Habitat for Humanity-Kerr County	Intervention	Mike Lundy, Board President

Christian Women's Job Corps	Intervention/Education	P.O. Box 292104 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-794-4844 Kathleen Maxwell, Exec. Director 1840 Junction Hwy Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-895-3660 cwjc@ktc.com
Christian Men's Job Corps	Intervention/Education	Tom Jones, Exec. Director 110 W. Barnett St Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-3545 tjones@thechristianhunter.com
Young Life	Prevention/Intervention	Kristi Foerster 600 Peterson Dr. P.O. Box 2110 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-7565 younglife@ktc.com
Kerr County 4-H programs	Prevention/Intervention	Larinda Boyd Texas Cooperative Extension Service 5001 San Antonio Hwy Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-6568 lboyd@ag.tamu.edu

Other:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Contact Information: Name, Address, Phone, E-mail</i>
Families & Literacy	Intervention/Education	Cindy Duncan, Exec. Director 110 W. Barnett St Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-8787 crane@aggienetwork.com
Art2Heart	Children-Intervention/Prevention	Lorraine LeMon, Exec. Director 110 W. Barnett Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-459-4590 art2heartcamp@aol.com
WIC	Intervention/Health	838-F Sidney Baker Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-4400
Center Point ISD	Education/Prevention/Intervention	Dr. Lee Ann Ray, Superintendent P.O. Box 377

		Center Point, Texas 78010 830-634-2171 lee_ray@centerpoint.k12.tx.us
Dietert Senior Center	Senior Services/Intervention	Tina Woods, Exec. Director 617 Jefferson (451 Guadalupe St after Jan.15, 2007) Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-792-4044 execdir@ktc.com
Divide ISD	Education/Prevention/Intervention	Bill Bacon, Superintendent 120 Divide School Rd. Mountain Home, Texas 78054 830-640-3322 bill.bacon@divide.k12.tx.us
Doyle School Community Center	Prevention/Intervention/Education	Pat Cass, Exec. Director 110 W. Barnett Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-4446 patrice@ktc.com
Hunt ISD	Education/Prevention/Intervention	David Kelm, Superintendent 115 School Lane Hunt, Texas 78024 830-238-4893 david.kelm@huntk12.tx.us
Ingram ISD	Education/Prevention/Intervention	Bruce Faust, Superintendent 510 College St Ingram, Texas 78025 830-367-5517 bruce.faust@ingramisd.net
Kerr County Child Services Board	Intervention	Kathy Banik 700 Main CB101 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-792-2295 kbanik@co.kerr.tx.us
Kerrville ISD	Education/Prevention/Intervention	Dr. Dan Troxell, Superintendent 1009 Barnett St Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-2201 dan.troxell@kerrvilleisd.net
Texas Dept of Family & Protective Services	Legal Services	Allison Abascal-Roemer 819 Water St Suite 204 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-792-4303 a.abascal-roemer@dpsps.state.tx.us
Texas Dept. of Family & Protective	Investigations	

Services		Debbie Austin 819 Water St Suite 204 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-792-4303 deborah.austin@dps.state.tx.us
Texas Rehabilitation Commission	Education/Prevention/Intervention	Anna Mendoza, LOCRST 516 Sidney Baker Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-896-3144 anna.mendoza@dars.state.tx.us
Texas Rio Grande Rural Legal Aid	Legal Advocacy/Intervention	Steve Bartels, TRLA Attorney 4920 N. IH-35 Austin, Texas 78751 512-374-2700 sbartels@trla.org
Texas Workforce Center	Intervention/Employment Services	Gaylyn Deringer, Exec. Director 819 Water St. Suite 116 Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-3171 gaylyn.deringer@twc.state.tx.us
American Red Cross	Prevention/Intervention/Disaster Relief	Daletta Andreas, Exec. Director 333 Earl Garrett Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-4677 hccarc@kcc.com
Kerr County Crime Stoppers and Campus Crime Stoppers	Crime prevention and rewards for crime information	Brad Alford, Board President P.O. Box 290772 Kerrville, Texas 78028 balford@co.kerr.tx.us George McHorse, Coordinator 830-896-1216 gmchorse@co.kerr.tx.us

Interagency Cooperation

The creation of this Community Plan lends itself to interagency cooperation in order to gather the data necessary to establish priorities for the county and to meet the future needs of its growing population.

Collaboration of juvenile services, law enforcement and social services agencies to meet the needs of both victims and perpetrators are necessary to address the problems created by the changes in the demographics of this county. Faith-based agencies, schools and other groups supplement or provide services to persons not served under the other programs.

This year we also identified several health issues and family issues in our community that need to be addressed within the overall plan to improve our criminal justice system. We chose to separate those issues from the others and hope that the process of identifying will also lead to more cooperation between agencies to find solutions to the problems, perhaps through grants outside the criminal justice venue.

Kerr County, like other counties surrounding San Antonio metro area, is experiencing growth in numbers that strain our limited resources. From financial needs to law enforcement needs to the very basic need to conserve water and provide for the future of our beautiful Hill Country environment and lifestyle.

All of the governmental agencies, social service agencies, the community of faith-based organizations and churches, the health care industry, and most important, all the residents of Kerr County must bear the responsibility to work together to make this a better place to live.

Cooperation with other counties in this area has been important for many years. Our ability to work together with our neighbors in identifying and finding solutions to common problems in the future can make a difference for all of us.

Through the process of creating this Community Plan, 42 individuals from both the public and private sectors have joined together to identify both problems and solutions. We have established the goals for solving those problems.

We will continue to work together to make this a worthwhile undertaking and, in partnership with the Alamo Area Council of Governments, look for ways to make this plan can be implemented.

Historical Information

This plan is formally known as the Kerr County Criminal Justice Community Plan, the purpose of which is to identify gaps in services regarding criminal justice issues and other related issues that impact the lives of the people of our county. The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office (CJD) requires that each county in Texas have a Criminal Justice Community Plan and that it be updated on an annual basis with community input.

The document represented here reflects the efforts of many people and organizations in Kerr County that are concerned with assuring that any gaps in services that are identified are closed in a way that will solve the problem and provide as great a benefit to the community as possible.

This year we have made Law Enforcement and Homeland Security two different categories in the plan and added a category for Health and Family issues. So many times both health issues and family issues are entwined with the criminal justice issues in a community therefore we elected to integrate those issues with goals into our 2006-2007 Community Plan. We know funding for many of those issues is not available from CJ sources but hope to seek grants through other resources to address those needs and gaps in services.

The final draft of this plan was completed for Kerr County in the fall of 2006. This plan is a work in progress. New criminal justice goals have been identified and changes in the participants in the planning group are reflected by this year's goals. The makeup of any county plan must change from year to year to reflect the changes in the county demographics and the needs of these people within the scope of criminal justice.

The 2006-2007 Kerr County Community Planning Committee welcomes anyone interested to join in this ongoing effort to address the needs of the residents of Kerr County and those who may seek help who do not reside here on a permanent basis. Any questions you may have can be addressed to either Rosa Lavender, Community Plan Coordinator for Kerr County, or to the Criminal Justice Program of the Alamo Area Council of Governments. Contact information is provided in this document.

The Kerr County Commissioners' Court supports the concept of community planning by providing staff support and resources for development and implementation of the Kerr County Community Plan. Additionally the Commissioners' Court supports grant applications from county departments, other governmental entities within Kerr County as well as community organizations that address gaps in services identified in the Community Plan.

Contact Information

County Community Planning Chair Person

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Rosa Lavender	Kerr County/ Victims Services Dept.	700 Main, Suite CB103, Kerrville, Texas 78028	rlavender@co.kerr.tx.us	830-792-2297 Cell: 830-329-6402

County Community Planning Liaison from Alamo Area Council of Governments

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Stephen Ramirez	Alamo Area Council of Governments	8700 Tesoro, Suite 700, San Antonio, Texas, 78217	sramirez@aacog.com	210-362-5250

This Plan is available on-line at www.AACOG.com