



# **Kerr County Community Plan 2008 - 2009**

**Approved by Kerr County Commissioner's Court on October 27, 2008**



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 8.3% in the past six years from 43,653 in 2000 to 47,254 in 2006. 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 to meet 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 moved 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 45 sworn deputies, 32 jailers, 10 dispatchers and 10 clerk/secretary positions. There are 7 deputies in the Criminal Investigations Division and three in the Special Crimes 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 5 officers in the Criminal Investigations Division and three 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 4 active part-time deputies. One deputy is a full-time investigator. 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. One Texas Ranger also is based in Kerr County.

The county is served by three prosecutor offices. The Kerr County Attorney's Office has the county attorney plus two assistant county attorneys and four administrative and clerical staff. The 216<sup>th</sup> Judicial District that also covers Kendall, Bandera and Gillespie counties has one district attorney and two assistant DAs, and 3 administrative/clerical positions. The 198<sup>th</sup> Judicial District which also serves Kimble, Mason, Menard, and McCullough counties has an two assistant DAs and a satellite office in Kerrville, one additional assistant DA based in Junction, plus 4 administrative/clerical positions. Both the 216<sup>th</sup> and 198<sup>th</sup> district attorney offices also have commissioned special investigators in their offices.

In 2007 the Kerr County Court at Law disposed of 2,383 misdemeanor cases, down slightly from the previous year and but up almost 300 cases from five years ago. The first nine months of 2008 the CCL disposed of 1,605 cases but have 2,448 cases pending, showing the increased number of misdemeanor cases filed in the court since the beginning of the year. The 216<sup>th</sup> and 198<sup>th</sup> district courts disposed of 697 cases in 2007, up slightly from 589 cases in 2006 but the numbers of cases indicted in the district courts is continuing to increase. As of Oct. 1, 2008, they have disposed of 475 cases in 2008 (down from 547 at the same time last year), but have 866 cases still pending down from 1097 cases in 2007) in the two district 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 second year for Gillespie County to have a designated person in the county attorney's office who works with misdemeanor victims.

Within the county there are 17 public school campuses in five school districts plus 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 2008 totaled 6,929 students, up slightly from 6,925 in the fall of 2007. The largest school district is Kerrville ISD with an enrollment of 4,808 students, up from 4,774 students in the fall of 2007. The smallest, Divide ISD, began the 2008-2009 school year with 16 students. All of the Kerr County public school campuses are rated either "Academically Acceptable" "Recognized" or "Exemplary" by the Texas Education Agency. The latest available (Class of 2007) school dropout rates, according to the TEA website, for Kerrville ISD was 4.5% (13 of 300 students), Ingram ISD was 14.5% (15 of 104 students) and Center Point ISD was 10.8% (4 of 37 students). Statewide dropout rates for the Class of 2007 were 13.1%.

Kerr County has three hospitals and several retirement, nursing and assisted living facilities. The three hospitals are Peterson Regional Medical Center, the Kerrville State Hospital and the Veterans Administration Medical Center, a part of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. Peterson Regional Medical Center opened its new state-of-the art 125 bed, 250,000

square foot facility built on a 36-acre tract of land south of the downtown area in early 2008. The \$75 million dollar hospital facility was the largest construction project in Kerr County history. Many new doctors' offices and other support facilities have been built in the area around the new medical center also.

The City of Kerrville provides countywide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) plus designated fire services on a contract basis with the county. The county has an active First Responder Program that supports the EMS program in the rural areas. A total of 10 rural volunteer fire departments also provide fire and first responder services in various parts of the county. Two emergency service districts (ESDs) in the western part of Kerr County (Ingram and Mountain Home) have been approved and have taxing authority to help support the costs of the respective fire departments.

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 the state average but the unemployment rate is also low, currently at 4.3% (September 2008).

A Workforce Solutions Alamo office and training 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. Both the Christian Women's Job Corps and Christian Men's Job Corps have active programs in Kerr County helping adults upgrade their job skills, work ethic and prepare them for jobs in the community. Both programs also provide job placement services for their graduates. The Kerrville Independent School District through its Club Ed program provides a wide-ranging variety of community education classes that enhance job skills in many areas in Kerr and several surrounding counties. The vocational nursing program at Schreiner University also provides job training for Hill Country residents. Several groups in the community are working to identify educational needs of the unemployed and are working to address those needs in the future.

There is no significant heavy industry in Kerr County. Several small corporations such as Mooney Airplane Company, Vintage Granite and Millworks, Acrotech Industries and James Avery Craftsmen have larger numbers of employees. Agriculture is still a notable part of the county's

economic base but tourism, the summer camping industry and hunting are also significant parts of the economy in the county.

# QuickFacts from U.S. Census Bureau

## People QuickFacts Kerr County

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Population, 2006 estimate.....	47,254
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006.....	8.3%
Population, 2000.....	43,653
Persons, under 5 years old, percent, 2005.....	5.6%
Persons, under 18 years old, percent, 2005.....	21.6%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2005.....	24.5%
Female persons, percent, 2005.....	52%
White persons, percent, 2005.....	95.9%
Black persons, percent, 2005.....	2%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2005.....	0.6%
Asian persons, percent, 2005.....	0.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2005.....	0.0%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2005.....	0.8%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2005.....	21.9%
White persons, not Hispanic, percent, 2005.....	74.7%
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
Housing Units, 2005.....	21,192
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, 2004.....	\$37,217
Persons below poverty, percent, 2004.....	13.2%

**Business QuickFacts** **Kerr County**

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Private non-farm establishments, 2005.....	1,428
Private non-farm employment, 2005.....	15,226
Private non-farm employment, percent change 2000-2005.....	6.4%
Non-employer establishments, 2005.....	4,351
Manufacturers shipments, 2002 (\$1000).....	111,136
Retail sales, 2002 (\$1000).....	528,960
Retail sales per capita, 2002.....	\$11,801
Hispanic-owned firms, percent of total, 2002.....	8.4%
Women-owned firms, percent of total, 2002.....	23.0%
Federal spending, 2004 (\$1000).....	343,932

**Geography QuickFacts** **Kerr County**

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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

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In developing this Community Plan, members of the team were divided into four major taskforces for the purpose of narrowing the scope of research and data that are incorporated into the Plan. Some members served in multiple capacities and categories.

### Community Planning Chair Person:

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**The Kerr County Community Plan is available on-line at [www.aacog.com](http://www.aacog.com)**

## 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: To provided transitional services to youth ages 15-21. These services include life skills training, case management, college prep, job skills and training, and housing.**

#### Supporting Data:

Since February 2007, the Kerrville Transition Center has served 283 youth from the Kerr County area. Kerr County has a high concentration of youth who are no longer under the supervision of a public system. There are too few community resources available to support their transition to independence. Many of these young adults must secure a place to live, support themselves, and continue their education and training on an average salary of \$14560. Many are unable to cope and manage their money and end up homeless. They resort to “couch surfing” or cohabitating in unsafe homes which places them at risk of substance abuse, pregnancy, and abuse. Housing instability quickly undermines their ability to maintain employment, complete their education, and transition into a productive adulthood. Statistics have shown that fewer than 50% have completed high school and nearly 50% had been homeless at some point after leaving public supervision. Nationally, only 2% of foster youth will receive a bachelors degree or higher. Approximately 95% had been diagnosed with one or more mental health disorders. The Child Welfare League of America has found that 84% percent of foster youth will have a child within 2 years of emancipating from care. The OJJDP maintains statistics that nearly 80% of females 15-19 in the juvenile justice system in 2004 had a child. In Kerr County, 85% percent of females who have aged out of care have children or are pregnant. Many youth do not have a stable support system to help them with everyday tasks such as managing money, securing stable housing, and dealing with emergency expenses. Many lack positive role models which are key to their social and emotional development.

#### Proposed Objectives:

Creating a one-stop location where youth can receive education and case management in key life skills areas such as: education, employment, housing, money management, and accessing community resources.

To provide person centered plans to youth based on a wraparound model. These are youth oriented meetings where the youth’s support system and community resources are brought to

the table to help the youth accomplish their goals.

To provide case management to youth who have little support to help them be successful independent adults.

Provide a safety net for young adults who have little support and do not have a family to help them transition to adulthood.

**Priority 2: Juveniles in Kerr County who have exhibited delinquent behavior need a tool to help in the assessment of their assets and needs which will then be used in the development of a plan of response by the Juvenile Probation Department.**

Supporting Data: Adolescents with delinquent behavior seldom have adequate perspective on the facets of their lives—family, school, friends, work. The Search Institute over fifty years has developed an instrument, “The Forty Basic Developmental Assets,” as a way to help an adolescent look at the presence and number of assets (or strengths) in his or her life. Used in over six hundred communities around the country, over three million adolescents have taken the survey which leads to the report on the forty assets. From April 1, 2007, to April 1, 2008, juveniles in Kerr County committed forty three felonies, two hundred and nineteen Class A & B misdemeanors, and six Class C misdemeanors. In developing a response plan for each of these adolescents, “The Forty Basic Developmental Assets” details specific strengths already in the adolescent’s life as well showing where critical work is needed for him/her to thrive.

This will be a public/private collaboration with a local nonprofit organization that is coordinating a six year emphasis on the youth of this county using the Search Institute research, trainers, and materials. This nonprofit has put together a steering committee involving the schools, the churches, other nonprofit organizations, law enforcement, and area businesses.

Proposed Objectives: The grant will pay for training and materials to equip the staff of the Juvenile Probation Department to use the research and materials of the Search Institute to (1) assess the developmental assets and needs of the adolescent and to (2) develop a plan to build on the assets and address the needs of the adolescent. The grant will provide for the costs of training of the staff by certified trainers and for the costs of materials to be used both by staff and probationers.

**Identify all trends, problems, and gaps in resources not mentioned in this section:**

Lack of public services in a rural area lead to a lack of positive alternatives for youth. As with

most juvenile justice agencies across the State, the Kerr County Juvenile Probation Department has seen a slight decrease in the number of referred cases. However, the Department reports a great number of petitions being filed with the juvenile court. This indicates a higher level and degree of offense.

Additionally, misdemeanor offenders are no longer available for placement in Texas Youth Commission facilities. This severely limits opportunities for habitual offenders and at risk youth.

Finally, reductions of federal funds previously provided by the federal government through the Title 4E Program have been drastically reduced. This cut the Probation Department's budget by almost 10%. A significant percentage of these funds provided mental health services, counseling, assessments, testing, clothing, education, transportation, placement and other services to at risk youth. The department must now seek other sources for these basic needs.

**Identify Achievements:**

Kerr County has initiated numerous programs with the assistance of state and federal aid. These programs include unconventional partnerships and proven techniques aimed at reducing recidivism and providing alternatives to detention. Such programs provide services to at risk youth and families and children with mental health concerns.

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

**Priority 1:** Continue to provide crime victims with information and services to aid in the recovery from the crime and trauma-related effects of victimization, with special emphasis in rural (outside of census reporting areas) locations.

**Supporting Data:** Victim information is compiled through the victim services providers and the 2007 Uniform Crime Report data which shows 17 rapes (11% drop over 2006), 69 assaults (up 77%), 13 robberies, 282 burglaries, and 318 family violence reports (a 17% increase over 2006) in Kerr County. No murders were reported in Kerr County in 2007. The County Victims Coordinator reports 407 crime victims were served this past year, up from 383 victims in FY 2006. The Hill Country Cares reports 1337 crime victims served in 2007 (a 114% increase), including victims of family violence, sexual assault, child and elder abuse/neglect. Hill Country CASA served 182 children in 87 Kerr County cases from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. Kids' Advocacy Place reports 327 victims were served, providing 193 forensic interviews of children, and 134 non-offending family members received one or more of our client services which include case management, counseling referrals, crisis counseling, crime victim information, court preparation and accompaniment. Adult Protective Services

had 134 confirmed investigations of abuse/neglect and served 194 Kerr County residents in 2007. Child Protective Services confirmed 181 cases of child abuse/neglect (a rate of 18.9 per 1,000 children, considerably above the state rate of 11.2 victims) out of 710 allegations of child abuse/neglect. K-Star served 49 Kerr County kids in the shelter and provided counseling for an additional 221 kids in 2007.

**Proposed Objectives:**

1. To continue existing services for victims through the county's Victims Services Department, Peterson Regional Medical Center, Hill Country Cares, Kids' Advocacy Place, K'Star, Hill Country CASA, Adult Protective Services, 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 Center for Disease Control guidelines for primary prevention (of intimate partner violence and sexual violence) initiatives in sexual assault, and Texas-based research on family violence programs.
4. To engage in community-wide initiatives for child abuse/neglect prevention.
5. To develop prevention programs for elder abuse/neglect/exploitation.

**Priority 2:** Address increasing problem of child abuse in Kerr County with the goal to reduce incidence of abuse through prevention activities, to provide more intervention for child victims and their families where abuse or neglect has occurred, and to provide services to at risk families for more family preservation and fewer child removals.

**Proposed Objectives:**

1. Initiate study into the likely causes of and/or factors encouraging abuse and neglect in children through consultation with local law enforcement and service providers.
2. Target awareness campaigns to the causes/factors identified.
3. Identify model programs and foster/encourage local development of such programs to support families at risk
4. Encourage non-profit organizations to engage in cooperative ventures to most efficiently provide prevention and intervention services.

**Supporting Data:** Number of crimes against children (child abuse and neglect) have continued to rise. Hill Country CASA served 182 children in 87 Kerr County cases up from 163 children in 84 cases in FY 2006. Kids' Advocacy Place also saw a slight increase in numbers reporting 327 victims were served, with 193 forensic interviews of children and 134 non offending family members receiving referrals, crisis counseling, etc. K'Star housed 49 Kerr County children for a total of 1541 days in 2007 and provided non-residential counseling services for 221 children for 1135 hours in Kerr County in 2007. Child Protective Services

confirmed 181 cases of child abuse/neglect (a rate of 18.9 per 1,000 children, considerably above the state rate of 11.2 victims per 1,000 children) out of 710 allegations of child abuse/neglect made in 2007.

**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 victims. The delay often frustrates victims and can put them further at risk. Also, a delay 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.

**Proposed Objectives:**

1. More training initiatives with assistance from AACOG.
2. Establish an interagency task force to meet monthly to coordinate criminal justice system 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 long waiting lists and narrow eligibility criteria (disability, age, income) Hill Country CARES reports that residents in the emergency shelter often have no safe alternative to returning to the abuser or becoming homeless. (National statistics show that 50% of all homeless women and women with dependant children in their custody are homeless due to domestic violence.)

**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.

**Priority 5:** Increase support services designed specifically for the Kerr County senior and disabled populations who are at high risk for crime victimization.

**Supporting Data:** As a popular retirement destination, Kerr County has experienced growth in senior population--from 11,975 in 2006, to 12,175 in 2007 (a 1.5% annual growth and almost 12% since 2000)--and these seniors are largely imports to the area, lacking the family and social supports which can help prevent problems of senior abuse, neglect and self neglect, as well as early intervention and assistance following crime victimization. (**Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2007 Data Book**) Similarly, the population (between 18 and 64 years of age) with a disability has risen, up from 3,167 in 2006 to 3,431 in 2007 (an 8% increase). Of particular concern are persons disabled by serious and persistent psychiatric and/or substance abuse disorders.

**Proposed Objectives:**

1. Increase awareness of risk factors and prevention activities.
2. Coordinate planning and service delivery with AACOG's Alamo Area on Aging division and the Hill Country Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center.
3. Develop a social drop-in center for adults with serious and persistent mental illness, with daily availability to and support services for eligible participants.

**Identify all trends, problems, and gaps in resources not mentioned in this section:**

**Trends** - The important trends for Kerr County include overall population growth; the growth in crime victimization, especially family violence, sexual assault and abuse crimes against women and children; the growth in the senior population and in the population of adults with disabilities under 65.

**Problems-** Primary problems include insufficient funding to fully address these crime victim needs, which is exacerbated by the fact that rural service delivery can be considerably more expensive compared to metropolitan areas; insufficient resources to implement effective prevention programs, including funds to engage research on causes and effective prevention strategies; insufficient coordination among service providers and between service providers and the criminal justice system; and limited affordable housing/subsidized housing offering crime victims (primarily adult women and their dependent children) housing options safe from violence and abuse.

**Service Gaps-** Emergency shelter for crime victims is restricted to specific

populations and limited in scope; transitional housing and permanent supportive housing is needed for at risk populations to avoid new victimizations; Kerr County lacks lead agency/organizations for key issues: homelessness, child abuse prevention, elder abuse/neglect prevention, elder abuse/neglect intervention, abuse/neglect of disabled populations, leading to less efficient services delivery; more clinical services are needed to address the trauma-related effects of crime victimization.

**Identify Achievements:** From FY 07 compared to FY 06, more CVC funds have been distributed for crime victims, more crime victims received intervention and restorative services, more prevention services were provided especially among school age population, service providers have stepped up the discussions and planning for coordinated services, and various providers have been collaborating for 18 months to increase housing options for crime victims. More primary and secondary prevention services are being offered to area children.

**Criminal Justice Issues (law enforcement, courts, corrections)  
(listed in order of priority, greatest need first)**

**Priority #1:** The purchase of reliable interoperable communications equipment, to include vehicle and hand-held radios, 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 and the Kerrville Fire Department has achieved narrow banding and started its migration to P-25 Standards based 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 P-25 Standards Based communications system.

**Proposed Objectives:** Secure funding to purchase equipment for all local Emergency Service Agencies to achieve the goal of narrow banding by early 2009; and, over several years, to upgrade these agencies to P-25 Standards Based equipment 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 2008 the Kerrville Police Department had 53 commissioned officers, the Kerr County Sheriff's Department had 45 commissioned officers and the Ingram Marshal's Department had 10 commissioned officers. The 2007 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:** 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 a 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.

**Criminal Justice (law enforcement, courts, corrections) Summary:**  
As the population of Kerr County increases there will be more demand on law enforcement agencies and other emergency services to provide the necessary services to the community.  
The current problem with 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 will increase both the effectiveness of law enforcement and officer safety.  
Additional training programs by the AACOG academy will strengthen the entire community’s law enforcement program. The use of the newly installed AACOG academy virtual classroom at the Kerr County Sheriff’s Department will support this initiative.

**Identify Trends:**  
Kerr County and the City of Kerrville continue to grow in population and consequently there has been a steady increase in “calls for service.” This population growth and call increase impacts our Police and Sheriff’s Departments, Fire, EMS, courts, prosecutors and all other areas of our judicial /public safety system. With finite budgets, judicial/public safety entities will have to seek alternative funding sources for needed equipment and personnel to meet the growing service demands.

**Identify Problems:**  
Communications and information sharing systems are the areas needing upgrades. Through comprehensive planning and consensus execution, these areas can be improved. Funding will be the greatest hurdle.

**Identify Service Gaps:**

As service requests have increased steadily, judicial/public safety organizations will need additional personnel to process the increased call volume. Today, we are seeing the beginnings of the personnel staffing shortfall and the need for additional professional and support staff positions in the different organizations that comprise our public safety organizations.

**Identify Achievements:**

Kerr county law enforcement/judicial/public safety agencies continue to provide excellent service response to the community despite the lack of additional personnel and equipment to meet the growing demand.

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

**Priority 1:**

Establish funding to provide Intervention Parenting/Child Intervention Education and Adult Outpatient Treatment programs to prevent Child Maltreatment in Kerr County.

**Supporting Data:** According to childtrends.org, “National statistics show children in the U.S. are suffering because of an epidemic of child abuse and neglect. While three million reports of child abuse are given every year, experts estimate that the actual number of incidences of abuse and neglect is three times greater than reported. Moreover, children who have been sexually abused are 2.5 times more likely to abuse alcohol later in life and 3.5 times more likely to become addicted to drugs. One-third of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children, continuing the horrible cycle of abuse.” There are 9,571 children residing in Kerr County and 307 of those children were referred to the Kerrville Child Protective Services (CPS) during Fy’07. In addition CPS received 601 Calls, Reports, Intakes or Investigations during ’07. Kerr County has one adult outpatient substance abuse program funded by a federal grant provided by the Hill Country Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (HCCADA) which also utilizes these dollars to provide outpatient treatment to four other counties. These federal dollars are “stretched” with this nonprofit agency expending approximately \$40,000 of their funds to provide this service.

The courts who handle truancy cases in Kerr County referred 137 youth to HCCADA in 2007 for mental health/substance abuse assessments. HCCADA’s Licensed Professional Counselor, has performed 166 assessments since September 2007, and 145 are on the waiting list or have moved. Of the 166 assessments, 23% will be referred to HCCADA’s “Youth in Crisis” Counseling Program with parents ordered to attend as well. Approximately 80-85% of these adolescents report living with parents who are substance abusers and many live with grandparents. According to 2000 Census, there are 1,018 households in Kerr County where grandparents live in a home with their grandchildren and in 62.5% of those 1,018

households (or 636 of them) the grandparents are the primary caregivers of their grandchildren.

- a need exists to increase parenting skills that foster positive methods of discipline and parenting, assist parents to work closely with their home/school/community partnerships, increases time for parents and children to read together, improves communication skills and English language proficiency and increases self esteem;
- a need exists to provide adult outpatient treatment for families involved in the Child Protective system to assist parents who use, abuse or chemically dependent to maintain sobriety therefore maintaining healthy families and work environments.

**Proposed Objectives:**

# 1. The Strengthening Families Program (SFP)- needed for Kerr County CPS clients is a 14-session family skills training program designed to increase resilience and reduce risk factors for substance abuse, depression, violence and aggression, delinquency, and school failure in high-risk, 6-12 year old children and their parents and is culturally appropriate. This behavioral and cognitive skills training program is an exemplary, researched-based family model. The program is delivered within parent, youth, and family sessions using narrated videos that portray typical youth and parent situations.

The SFP Curriculum includes three courses (Parent Skills Training, Children’s Skills Training and Family Life Skills Training) taught in fourteen-two hour periods. In the first hour, parents and children participate in separate classes, each class led by certified instructors. Parents learn to increase desired behaviors in children by using attention and rewards, clear communication, effective discipline, substance use education, problem solving, and limit setting.

Positive results from over 15 independent researcher replications demonstrated that the program is robust and effective in increasing assets and protective factors by improving family relationships, parenting skills, and improving youth’s social and life skills. Although originally developed for children of substance abusers, SFP is effective and widely used with non-substance abusing parents in many settings: schools, churches, mental health centers, housing projects, homeless shelters recreation centers, and family centers. Funding is needed for adult outpatient treatment and the development of the “Strengthening Families” program for Kerr County.

#2. Adult Substance Abuse Outpatient Treatment - With the annual completion of a 4-month outpatient treatment program, adults will have achieved a 67% successful completion of their treatment episode and goals as listed in their treatment plans. These objections are designed to assist patient in maintaining a healthy family, community environments and attainment of sobriety, employment and stable home environments to measure objective’s success.

**Priority 2: Address the shortage of Primary Care Physicians and**

**Obstetricians in the community.**

Supporting Data:

The medical professionals in Kerr County serve a percentage of the residents of 6 surrounding counties in addition to Kerr County:

- Four of these counties are designated as Medically Underserved Areas.
- One county is designated as a Whole County Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), and one is a partial HPSA.

Many physicians practices are full:

- The area PHO physician hotline currently reports that only two Internal Medicine and one Family Practice Physician in the community are accepting new patients. This information is updated quarterly.
- Some physicians are forced to limit the types of patients they can accept, in order to prevent one payer type from becoming too large a percentage of their practice.
- In the last 12 months, several primary care physicians have closed their practices, for various reasons (death, retirement, moved from the area).
- In the last 12 months, several obstetricians have stopped delivering babies.

Community residents who are unable to find an accepting physician are forced to travel 30-60 minutes to neighboring counties/towns to seek primary health care. These physicians do not have privileges at Peterson Regional Medical Center (PRMC). Therefore, if acute health care services are required, Kerr County community residents must be hospitalized away from home. Their families must drive back and forth to out-of-town hospitals for the duration of the hospitalization.

Pregnant residents who are not established with a local obstetrician are forced to travel to neighboring communities to see an obstetrician for prenatal care. These obstetricians do not have privileges at Peterson Regional Medical Center. Therefore, when the woman delivers, she and her family must travel 30-60 minutes from home for the delivery. In addition, anecdotally, the PRMC Emergency Department has seen an increase in the number visits of pregnant residents who have Medicaid, who are unable to find a local obstetrician who is able to take another Medicaid patient.

Proposed Objectives:

Develop a community-wide plan to recruit, incentivize and retain primary care physicians and obstetricians.

**Priority 3: Improve the access to health care and mental health care for unfunded, uninsured, underfunded and underinsured residents.**

Supporting Data:

Six of the 7 Counties served by the local health care community are designated as Mental Health HPSA.

In the most recent data available from the Texas Dept of State Health Services at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/cfs/cshdpa04.shtm> , there were 20 deaths attributed to suicides in the 7 county region, 13 of those in Kerr County.

Mental Health Services are difficult to access:

- In 2007, the Emergency Department (ED) at Peterson Regional Medical Center (PRMC) saw 135 people who had inflicted intentional self harm, and 100 people year-to-date in 2008.
- This places a burden on local ED: each patient who has attempted suicide must receive one-on-one care for the duration of their stay in the ED.
- On average, screening and placement of those who have attempted suicide takes up to 10 hours, increasing the wait times and length of stay for other patients in the ED as well.
- Often, no services can be obtained. 45-51% of the patients who present to the ED after having inflicted self harm are discharged home.
- 3 patients in 2007 and 3 patients in 2008 were seen more than once in the ED for repeated intentional self harm

Difficult to obtain Dental Services for unfunded patients

- In the last 12 months, the Salvation Army clinic that provided dental services for unfunded residents has discontinued that service.
- Anecdotally, the number of people seeking care for dental issues has increased in the local ED.

No low cost Family Planning services in the County.

- Several years ago, the Family Planning Clinic Closed. The local Obstetrical group reports that the majority of women they see with new pregnancies report that their pregnancy is unplanned.
- There is not a Medicaid Pregnancy clinic in town. The local OB group currently limits the number of MD patients in order to prevent this payer type from becoming too large a percentage of their practice

One of the local Low Income clinics in town has recently changed its practice model and appointment process, reducing the number of low income patients they see on a daily basis.

Proposed Objectives:

Develop a community-wide plan to recruit, incentivize and retain mental health care workers, medical professionals and programs.  
Seek funding for, develop and implement a plan to provide dental services for unfunded residents.  
Seek funding for and implement a Family Planning Clinic in the community.  
Seek funding for and open a low income medical clinic.

**Identify all trends, problems, and gaps in resources not mentioned in this section:**  
The Hill Country Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (only State/Federally funded) adult outpatient treatment program in Kerr County is experiencing an alarming rate increase in CPS referrals during 2007. HCCADA has to place CPS adults on waiting list due to lack of treatment funding. Peterson Regional Medical Center is the only hospital in Kerr County and the only major hospital serving a large geographic area to the west of Kerr County. The age of the population in Kerr County is older than average and that age group naturally has more medical needs. The need for both primary care physicians to serve the general population and obstetricians to deliver babies and the reestablishment of a family planning clinic will continue to be an important part of the overall health care requirements of this county for the foreseeable future.

**Identify Achievements:**  
The Hill Country Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse a nonprofit community-based organization, has provided substance abuse adult and youth prevention/intervention services for the past 17 years to over 2,000 Kerr County residents annually. Over the agency's existence, eleven viable programs have been developed and have remained to addressing the needs to the entire Kerr County population. With the opening of the new state-of-the-art hospital in early 2008, patient care in Kerr County has been greatly improved. No longer do area residents have to travel to San Antonio for most procedures. A good hospital with exceptional health care professionals that serve the needs of its patients draws business to the community and makes Kerr County more desirable to people all over the United States looking for a place to retire in the future.

## Resources Available

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

### Juvenile Services:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Address	Phone	E-mail/Agency Website
Kerr County Juvenile Probation Dept.	Juvenile Probation	CPO Jason Davis 700 Main, Suite BA100, Kerrville	830-896-9013	<a href="mailto:jdavis@co.kerr.tx.us">jdavis@co.kerr.tx.us</a>
Kerr County Juvenile Detention Facility	Short-term Residential	Kevin Stanton 3501 Legion Dr., Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-6110	<a href="mailto:kcjf@ktc.com">kcjf@ktc.com</a>
Baptist Child & Family Services	Intervention	Jeremy Taylor 1105 E. Main, Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-896-0993	<a href="mailto:jeremy@bcfs.net">jeremy@bcfs.net</a>
Young Life	Prevention/Intervention	Kristi Foerster P.O. Box 2110 Kerrville, Tx 78029	830-896-7565	<a href="mailto:younglife@ktc.com">younglife@ktc.com</a>
Kerr 4-H Programs	Prevention/Intervention	Larinda Boyd 5001 San Antonio Hwy, Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-6568	<a href="mailto:Lboyd@ag.tamu.edu">Lboyd@ag.tamu.edu</a>
YMCA Kerr County	Prevention/Intervention	Brenda Chapman Exec. Director 200 Sidney Baker So. Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-896-8000	<a href="mailto:Brenda@kerrymca.org">Brenda@kerrymca.org</a>

### Victim Services:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Address	Phone	E-mail/Agency Website
Hill Country Cares	Victim/Children /Elder Services	Sheryl Howard, ED P.O. Box 291817 Kerrville, Tx 78029	830-257-7088	<a href="mailto:sherylhoward@hccares.com">sherylhoward@hccares.com</a>
Hill Country CASA	Legal Advocacy	Diane Oehler, ED P.O. Box 290493 Kerrville, Tx 78029	830-896-2272	<a href="mailto:jccasa@ktc.com">jccasa@ktc.com</a>
Kids' Advocacy Place	Victims Services	Judy Sullivan, ED P.O. Box 291722 Kerrville, Tx 78029	830-895-4527	<a href="mailto:KAP@ktc.com">KAP@ktc.com</a>
K'Star	Emergency Children's Shelter	Vicki Barron, ED P.O. Box 290962 Kerrville, Tx 78029	830-896-5437	<a href="mailto:kstar@ktc.com">kstar@ktc.com</a>

Kerr County Victims Services Department	Legal Advocacy, Support and Referral Services	Rosa Lavender, 700 Main Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-792-2297	<a href="mailto:rlavender@co.kerr.tx.us">rlavender@co.kerr.tx.us</a>
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program	Intervention/ Investigation	Janeth Del Toro PRMC 515 Hill Country Dr. Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-258-6464 Pgr-258-5083	<a href="mailto:jdeltoro@petersonrmc.com">jdeltoro@petersonrmc.com</a>

**Criminal Justice (law enforcement, courts, corrections):**

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Address	Phone	E-mail/Agency Website
Kerr County Sheriff's Department	Law Enforcement	Sheriff Rusty Hierholzer 400 Clearwater Paseo, Kerrville, Tx. 78028	830-896-1216	<a href="mailto:sheriff@co.kerr.tx.us">sheriff@co.kerr.tx.us</a>
Kerrville Police Department	Law Enforcement	Chief John Young 429 Sidney Baker Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-8181	<a href="mailto:john.young@kerrvilletx.gov">john.young@kerrvilletx.gov</a>
Ingram City Marshal's Department	Law Enforcement	Marshal Rowan Zachry 226 Hwy 39 Ingram, Tx 78025	830-367-2636	<a href="mailto:rzachry@ingramtx.com">rzachry@ingramtx.com</a>
Texas Dept. of Public Safety	Law Enforcement	Sgt. Chris LaLonde 311 Sidney Baker So. Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-7876	<a href="mailto:Chris.lalonde@txdps.state.tx.us">Chris.lalonde@txdps.state.tx.us</a>
Kerr County Court at Law	Misdemeanor Court	County Attorney Rex Emerson 700 Main St BA103 Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-792-2220	<a href="mailto:remerson@co.kerr.tx.us">remerson@co.kerr.tx.us</a>
Justice of the Peace Pcts 1,2,3 and 4	Misdemeanor Courts	County Attorney Rex Emerson 700 Main St. BA103 Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-792-2220	<a href="mailto:remerson@co.kerr.tx.us">remerson@co.kerr.tx.us</a>
198 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Felony Court	DA Ron Sutton Kerrville office 717 Sidney Baker Kerrville, Tx. 78028	830-895-4480	<a href="mailto:da198@kctc.com">da198@kctc.com</a>
216 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Felony Court	DA Bruce Curry 521 Earl Garrett Kerrville, Tx. 78028	830-896-4744	<a href="mailto:216thda@bizstxrr.com">216thda@bizstxrr.com</a>
Kerr County Jail	Corrections Facility	Sheriff Rusty Hierholzer 400 Clearwater Paseo, Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-896-1216 (office) 830-896-1257 (jail)	<a href="mailto:sheriff@co.kerr.tx.us">sheriff@co.kerr.tx.us</a>

**Health / Mental Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:**

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Address	Phone	E-mail/Agency Website
Any Baby Can	Intervention	Chuck Del Toro, ED	830-792-4222	<a href="mailto:chuckabc@omniglobal.net">chuckabc@omniglobal.net</a>

		624 Earl Garrett Kerrville, Tx 78028		
Hill Country Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse	Intervention & Treatment	Jeannie Stevens, ED 102 Business Dr Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-896-8884	<a href="mailto:jstevens@hccada.org">jstevens@hccada.org</a>
La Hacienda Treatment Center	Substance Abuse Treatment	Art Vandiver, ED P.O. Box 1, 145 La Hacienda Way, Hunt, Tx 78024	830-238-4222	<a href="mailto:avandiver@lahacienda.com">avandiver@lahacienda.com</a>
Starlight Treatment Center	Substance Abuse Treatment	Kirk Kureska, ED P.O. Box 317 Center Point, Tx 78010	830-634-2212	<a href="mailto:kkureska@crchealth.com">kkureska@crchealth.com</a>
Villa Del Sol	Mental Health	Janine Etter, Director 520 Witt Rd. Center Point, Tx 78010	830-634-3370	<a href="mailto:jetter@hillcountry.org">jetter@hillcountry.org</a>
Kerrville State Hospital	Mental Health	Stephen Anfinson 721 Thompson Dr. Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-896-2211	<a href="mailto:Stephen.anfinson@dshs.state.tx.us">Stephen.anfinson@dshs.state.tx.us</a>
Kerr County Mental Health Center	Mental Health	Peter Steeghs, Dir 500 Thompson Dr. Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-6553	<a href="mailto:psteeghs@hillcountry.org">psteeghs@hillcountry.org</a>
Hill Country Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center	Mental Health/ Mental Retardation	Linda Parker Werlein, ED 819 Water Suite 300 Kerrville, Tx. 78028	830-896-0400	<a href="mailto:lparker@hillcountry.org">lparker@hillcountry.org</a>
Special Opportunity Center	Mental Health/Special Needs	Mark Paddock, Dir 200 Francisco Lemos, Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-896-4606	<a href="mailto:mpaddock@hillcountry.org">mpaddock@hillcountry.org</a>
Peterson Hospice	Health	Liz Murray, Vol. Services Coord. 1121 Broadway Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-258-7799	<a href="mailto:lmurray@prmc.com">lmurray@prmc.com</a>
Vista Care Hospice	Health	Alex Mares, ED 1001 Water St, Suite B-100 Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-792-6200	<a href="mailto:a.mares@vistacare.com">a.mares@vistacare.com</a>
Peterson Regional Medical Center	Health	Pat Murray, Admin 551 Hill Country Dr. Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-896-4200	<a href="mailto:pmurray@prmc.com">pmurray@prmc.com</a>
Raphael Free Community Clinic	Health	Sister Marge Novak, Director 1807 Water St. Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-895-4201	
Texas Dept. of Health	Health	Vicki Lebleu 819 Water St. Suite 290 Kerrville, Tx. 78028	830-896-5515	<a href="mailto:Vicki.lebleu@dshs.state.tx.us">Vicki.lebleu@dshs.state.tx.us</a>
City of Kerrville EMS	Emergency Intervention	Eric Maloney, EMS Coordinator	830-257-5333	<a href="mailto:eric.maloney@kerrvilletx.gov">eric.maloney@kerrvilletx.gov</a>

		87 Coronado Dr, Suite 200 Kerrville, Tx. 78028		
Kerr County Indigent Health Program	Intervention	700 Main Kerrville, Tx. 78028	830-792-2239	<a href="mailto:dlantz@co.kerr.tx.us">dlantz@co.kerr.tx.us</a>

### Faith Based Organizations:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Address	Phone	E-mail/Agency Website
Christian Assistance Ministry	Intervention	624 Clay St. Kerrville, Tx. 78028	830-257-4222	
Salvation Army	Intervention	Judy Johnston, case manager 855 Hays St. Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-3620	<a href="mailto:Judy_Johnston@salvationarmy.org">Judy_Johnston@salvationarmy.org</a>
Salvation Army Lodge	Intervention/ Shelter	855 Hays St. Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-3620	
YMCA-Kerr County	Prevention/ Intervention	Brenda Chapman ED 200 Sidney Baker So Kerrville, Tx. 78028	830-896-8000	<a href="mailto:Brenda@kerrymca.org">Brenda@kerrymca.org</a>
New Hope Christian Counseling Center	Prevention/ Intervention	616 Barnett Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-3009	
Partners in Ministry	Intervention	Dr. Bill Blackburn, ED 301 Junction Hwy Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-792-3131	<a href="mailto:bill@partnersinministry.com">bill@partnersinministry.com</a>
Habitat for Humanity Kerr County	Intervention	Steve Hamilton ED P.O. Box 292104 Kerrville, Tx. 78029	830-792-4844	<a href="mailto:steve@habitatkerr.org">steve@habitatkerr.org</a>
Christian Women's Job Corps	Intervention/ Education	Kathleen Maxwell, ED 1140 Broadway Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-895-3660	<a href="mailto:cwjc@ktc.com">cwjc@ktc.com</a>
Christian Men's Job Corps	Intervention/ Education	Tom Jones, ED 110 W. Barnett Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-3545	<a href="mailto:tjones@thechristianhunter.com">tjones@thechristianhunter.com</a>
Young Life	Prevention/ Intervention	Kristi Foerster 600 Peterson Dr. P.O. Box 2110 Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-896-7565	<a href="mailto:younglife@ktc.com">younglife@ktc.com</a>
Kerr County 4-H Programs	Prevention/ Intervention	Larinda Boyd, Texas Cooperative Extension Center, 5001 San Antonio Hwy. Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-6568	<a href="mailto:Lboyd@ag.tamu.edu">Lboyd@ag.tamu.edu</a>

### Other:

Name of Agency	Agency Type	Address	Phone	E-mail/Agency Website
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Kerrville Area Rural Firefighters Association (KARFA)	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention and Disaster Preparedness	Mike Heath, KARFA Chairman 2181 Goat Creek Rd Kerrville, Tx. 78028	830-367-3800	<a href="mailto:mheath@michaelaustinindustries.com">mheath@michaelaustinindustries.com</a>
Kerr County CERT/CARRT	Disaster Preparedness and Rescue of Animals (especially companion pets)	Christine McEntyre 700 Main BA103 Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-792-2226	<a href="mailto:cmcentyre@co.kerr.tx.us">cmcentyre@co.kerr.tx.us</a>
Kerrville Fire Department	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness	Robert Ojeda 87 Coronado Suite 200 Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-8449	<a href="mailto:Robert.ojeda@kerrvilletx.gov">Robert.ojeda@kerrvilletx.gov</a>
Hunt Fire Department	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness	Kirk L. Griffin Hunt VFD Chief P.O. Box 362 Hunt, Tx 78024		
Ingram Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness	Ray Lynch Ingram VFD P.O. Box 271 Ingram, Tx 78025		
Center Point Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness	David Sullivan Center Point VFD P.O. Box 294 Center Point, Tx 78010		
Mountain Home Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness	Rex C. Brand Mountain Home VFD P.O. Box 191 Mountain Home, Tx. 78058		
Divide Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness	James Dreiss Divide VFD P.O. Box 259 Mountain Home, Tx 78058		
Tierra Linda Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness	Ed Marker Tierra Linda VFD 406 Oak Alley Kerrville, Tx 78028		
Elm Pass Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness	Mark Keeney Elm Pass VFD 1247 Elm Pass Rd Center Point, Tx 78010		
Turtle Creek Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness	J. Scott Arrington Turtle Creek VFD 651 Upper Turtle Creek Rd.		

		Kerrville, Tx 78028		
Castle Lake Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness	James McCarley Castle Lake VFD P.O. Box 63742 Pipe Creek, Tx 78063		
Comfort Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Suppression, Safety and Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness	Steven Bohnert Comfort VFD 224 West Hwy 473 Comfort, Tx 78013		
Families & Literacy	Intervention/ Education	Carrie Arrington ED 110 W. Barnett Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-896-8787	<a href="mailto:kerrlit@yahoo.com">kerrlit@yahoo.com</a>
Art2Heart	Children Intervention/Education	Lorraine LeMon ED 110 W. Barnett Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-459-4590	<a href="mailto:Art2heartcamp@aol.com">Art2heartcamp@aol.com</a>
Center Point ISD	Education, Prevention, Intervention	Dr. Donna Smith, Superintendent P.O. Box 377 Center Point, Tx 78010	830-634-2171	<a href="mailto:d.smith@cpisd.net">d.smith@cpisd.net</a>
Dietert Senior Center	Senior Services/Intervention	Tina Woods ED 451Guadalupe Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-792-4044	<a href="mailto:execdir@ktc.com">execdir@ktc.com</a>
Divide ISD	Education/Prevention/ Intervention	Bill Bacon, Supt. 120 Divide School Rd. Mountain Home, Tx 78054	830-640-3322	<a href="mailto:bill.bacon@divide.k12.tx.us">bill.bacon@divide.k12.tx.us</a>
Doyle School Community Center	Prevention/Education Intervention	Sherry Mikeska 110 W. Barnett Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-4446	<a href="mailto:doyleschoolcomcntr@stx.rr.com">doyleschoolcomcntr@stx.rr.com</a>
Hunt ISD	Education/Prevention Intervention	David Kelm, Supt 115 School Lane Hunt, Tx 78024	830-238-4893	<a href="mailto:david.kelm@huntk12.tx.us">david.kelm@huntk12.tx.us</a>
Ingram ISD	Education/Prevention Intervention	Bruce Faust, Supt 510 College St Ingram, Tx 78025	830-367-5517	<a href="mailto:bruce.faust@ingramisd.net">bruce.faust@ingramisd.net</a>
Kerr County Child Services Board	Intervention	Kathy Banik 700 Main CB101 Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-792-2295	<a href="mailto:kbanik@co.kerr.tx.us">kbanik@co.kerr.tx.us</a>
Kerrville ISD	Education/Prevention Intervention	Dr. Dan Troxell, Supt. 1009 Barnett Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-2201	<a href="mailto:dan.troxell@kerrvilleisd.net">dan.troxell@kerrvilleisd.net</a>

Texas Dept of Family & Protective Services	Legal Services	Tom Molnar 819 Water St Suite204 Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-792-4303	<a href="mailto:thomas.molnar@dps.state.tx.us">thomas.molnar@dps.state.tx.us</a>
Texas Dept of Family & Protective Services	Family Based Safety Services	Allison Abascal-Roemer 819 Water St. Suite 204 Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-792-4303	<a href="mailto:a.abascal-roemer@dps.state.tx.us">a.abascal-roemer@dps.state.tx.us</a>
Texas Dept of Family & Protective Services	Investigations	Debbie Austin 819 Water St. Suite 204 Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-792-4303	<a href="mailto:deborah.austin@dps.state.tx.us">deborah.austin@dps.state.tx.us</a>
Texas Rehabilitation Commission	Education/Prevention Intervention	Anna Mendoza, LOCRST 516 Sidney Baker Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-7556	<a href="mailto:Anna.mendoza@dars.state.tx.us">Anna.mendoza@dars.state.tx.us</a>
Texas Rio Grande Rural Legal Aid	Legal Advocacy/Intervention	Steve Bartels, TRLA Attorney 4920 N. IH 35 Austin, Tx 78751	512-374-2700	<a href="mailto:sbartels@trla.org">sbartels@trla.org</a>
Workforce Solutions Alamo	Intervention/ Employment Services	Gaylyn Dieringer, Sr. Mgr 819 Water St. Suite 116 Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-3171	<a href="mailto:Gaylyn.dieringer@twc.state.tx.us">Gaylyn.dieringer@twc.state.tx.us</a>
American Red Cross	Prevention/ Intervention/ Disaster Relief	Hill Country Chapter ARC 333 Earl Garrett Kerrville, Tx 78028	830-257-4677	<a href="mailto:hccarc@ktc.com">hccarc@ktc.com</a>
Kerr County Crime Stoppers and Campus Crime Stoppers	Crime Prevention and rewards for crime information	Brian Hardin, Board President P.O. Box 290772 Kerrville, Tx 78029 George McHorse Coordinator	830-896-1216	<a href="mailto:bhard@ktc.com">bhard@ktc.com</a> <a href="mailto:gmchorse@co.kerr.tx.us">gmchorse@co.kerr.tx.us</a>

## **Interagency Cooperation**

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The Kerr County Juvenile Probation Department works with law enforcement, prosecutors, and all of the school districts to identify and monitor juvenile offenders in school environments and in the community. Once a month meetings between law enforcement representatives, school administrators, victim services, Crime Stoppers, and prosecutors are held to discuss problems in the community related to juvenile activity, identification of gang activity and what can be done to prevent juvenile problems from developing.

Victims Services organizations work closely together to provide crime victims with quick and complete intervention when needed. The Hill Country Cares provides counseling, shelter and other services to both adults and children in crisis. K'Star provides shelter for children who have been displaced by criminal incidents or other events that create a dysfunctional family environment. Kids' Advocacy Place provides law enforcement a one-stop location for investigating crimes perpetrated against children and provides support for child victims and their non-offending family members. Hill Country CASA provides legal advocacy for children during the court process both for children who are victims and children who have been removed from their homes for other reasons. The Kerr County Victims Services Department works with all of the programs listed above and provides additional legal advocacy, support and referral for adult victims of crime. Included in the program is the filing of Crime Victim Compensation claims for victims, if needed, plus preparation of the Victim Impact Statement for the courts and working with both law enforcement and prosecutors to see that the rights of victims are protected during the process from the criminal incident through the adjudication of the case in a court of law.

The Kerr County Sheriff's Department and the Kerrville Police Department have a multi-agency Special Operations Unit to respond to critical incident events. Members of the SOU are trained negotiators in addition to other special training to defuse such situation. The two departments also have a combined drug task force (Special Crimes Unit) that was formed after the 216<sup>th</sup> Judicial District lost grant funding. The task force has been very successful in taking narcotics off the streets of Kerr County and in collaboration with local prosecutors, successfully prosecuting several high-profile drug cases in recent years. Kerr County Crime Stoppers has also worked closely with law enforcement to provide funding for tips that have led to several large drug busts in the community.

Kerr County Crime Stoppers also works with the Kerrville, Ingram and Center Point school districts to sponsor very effective Campus Crime Stoppers Programs on all of the secondary campuses in the districts. In 2007 Kerr County Crime Stoppers paid out \$4,605 for rewards in the campus programs and \$20,450 in rewards in the adult program. Crime Stoppers receives funding from a Crime Stoppers fee paid by persons adjudicated in the County Court at Law and both district courts in Kerr County. The money is used for rewards for both the adult and school programs plus in recent years, Kerr County Crime Stoppers has

purchased over \$50,000 worth of radio equipment, computers, video surveillance equipment, and other items for local law enforcement agencies through their Excess Funds Account.

The Kerrville Area Rural Firefighters Association is made up of all of the volunteer fire departments. They meet monthly to discuss common issues. The county includes some funding for the VFDs in their annual budget but the VFDs must depend on donations and fundraisers to pay for most of their expenses. They cooperate with each other actual responses to fires but also in training, equipment purchases and other cooperative efforts.

The Doyle School Community Center provides after-school mentoring to at-risk children in a community primarily of Hispanic and Black residents. The DSCC also provides office space and classroom space for the Christian Mens Job Corps, Families in Literacy, Art2Heart and works closely with several other organizations to provide help and assistance to the families in that area and in the community as a whole.

The Kerr County Child Services Board uses funds provided by the county and from donors to purchase birthday gifts, school supplies and Christmas gifts for children who are in foster homes under Child Protective Services placements in Kerr County.

Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid provides legal advocacy and intervention to victims of crime identified through Hill Country Cares and the Kerr County Victims Services Department. TRLA attorneys have been a great asset to help deserving families, not only crime victims, in this community for many years.

## **Historical Information (optional)**

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A complete description of Kerr County and its rich history can be found on the county's official website. Go to [www.co.kerr.tx.us/historical](http://www.co.kerr.tx.us/historical)

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 included a category for Health and Family issues again. 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 2007-2008 Community Plan and have done so again this year. 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 2008. 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 2008-2009 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 Kerr County Community Plan.....Page 36

county departments, other governmental entities within Kerr County as well as community organizations that address gaps in services identified in the Community Plan.