Comal County Community Plan

2010 - 2012

Date approved by Comal County Commissioner's Court:
November 4, 2010

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Comal County Community Planning Committee is to identify the gaps in services available in the county through collaboration and coordination of agencies.

Goal Statement

The goals of the Comal County Community Planning Committee are to implement a plan that will expand the availability of resources to suit the needs of the residents of Comal County.

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Geographic Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

City of Bulverde
City of Garden Ridge
City of New Braunfels
City of Fair Oaks Ranch

Unincorporated Communities:

Canyon Lake
Fischer
Spring Branch

Independent School Districts:

Comal
New Braunfels

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County Demographics:

Comal County is one of Texas' fastest growing counties in the state and covers 567 square miles with a population of approximately 78,021 per the 2000 census. Current population estimate is 114,525, with the population percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009 being 46.8% (see ***State & County Quick Facts*** *below*). Its seat is New Braunfels.

Comal County, Texas (from State & County Quick Facts)

	People QuickFacts	Comal County	Texas
	Population, 2009 estimate	114,525	24,782,302
	Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009	46.8%	18.8%
	Population estimates base (April 1) 2000	78,021	20,851,818
	Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2008	6.9%	8.3%
	Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2008	24.3%	27.6%
	Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2008	13.8%	10.2%
	Female persons, percent, 2008	50.5%	50.1%
	White persons, percent, 2008 (a)	95.0%	82.4%
	Black persons, percent, 2008 (a)	2.4%	11.9%
	American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2008 (a)	0.6%	0.8%

Asian persons, percent, 2008 (a)	0.9%	3.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2008 (a)	Z	0.1%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2008	1.1%	1.3%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2008 (b)	25.1%	36.5%
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2008	70.6%	47.4%
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000, pct 5 yrs old & over	51.5%	49.6%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2000	4.8%	13.9%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2000	19.6%	31.2%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000	83.9%	75.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000	26.2%	23.2%
Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	12,937	3,605,542
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000	28.2	25.4
Housing units, 2008	46,322	9,598,579
Homeownership rate, 2000	77.2%	63.8%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2000	10.9%	24.2%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	$117,000	$82,500
Households, 2000	29,066	7,393,354
Persons per household, 2000	2.64	2.74
Median household income, 2008	$61,393	$50,049
Per capita money income, 1999	$21,914	$19,617
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2008	8.5%	15.8%

Business QuickFacts	**Comal County**	**Texas**
Private nonfarm establishments, 2007	2,784	521,408[1]
Private nonfarm employment, 2007	33,416	9,041,030[1]
Private nonfarm employment, percent change 2000-2007	33.8%	12.6%[1]
Nonemployer establishments, 2007	10,596	1,819,963
Total number of firms, 2002	9,370	1,734,509
Black-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	5.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.9%
Asian-owned firms, percent, 2002	S	4.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.1%
Hispanic-owned firms, percent, 2002	7.6%	18.4%
Women-owned firms, percent, 2002	18.9%	27.0%
Manufacturers shipments, 2002 ($1000)	611,249	310,815,965
Wholesale trade sales, 2002 ($1000)	423,694	397,405,111
Retail sales, 2002 ($1000)	954,987	228,694,755
Retail sales per capita, 2002	$11,271	$10,528
Accommodation and foodservices sales, 2002 ($1000)	109,868	29,914,774
Building permits, 2008	1,221	129,523
Federal spending, 2008	540,381	210,004,633[1]

Geography QuickFacts	Comal County	Texas
Land area, 2000 (square miles)	561.45	261,797.12
Persons per square mile, 2000	139.1	79.6
FIPS Code	091	48
Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	San Antonio, TX Metro Area	

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Community Planning Team

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 Chairperson:

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
Carol J. Edgett	Comal County Emergency Management Coordinator	1297 Church Hill Drive New Braunfels, TX 78130	cctcje@co.comal.tx.us	830-221-1108
Gloria A. Zepeda	Comal County Emergency Management	1297 Church Hill Drive New Braunfels, TX 78130	hls@co.comal.tx.us	830-221-1108

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Juvenile Services:

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
David Ricker (Lead)	Communities in Schools	161 S. Castell New Braunfels, TX 78130	david@cissouthcentraltexas.org	830-620-4247
Elaine Brandon	Connections Individual and Family Services, Inc.	1414 W. San Antonio New Braunfels, TX 78130	ebrandon@connectionsnonprofit.org	830-629-6571
Mauricio Banuelos	JP Courts 1,2,3,4 Juvenile Case Manager	3079 W. San Antonio New Braunfels, TX 78130	Banuem@co.comal.tx.us	830-643-5858
Kimberly Chavis	St. Jude's Ranch for Children-Emergency Shelter, Inc.	652 Bear Creek Road New Braunfels, TX 78132	kchavis@stjudesranch.org	830-629-0659
Angela DeLeon	Public Health	178 E. Mill Street New Braunfels, TX 78130	deleoan@co.comal.tx.us	830-221-1100
Suzie Dionne	Options for Women - Abstinence Resource Council	785 N. Loop 337 New Braunfels, TX 78130	abstinence@sbcglobal.net	830-643-4162
Shannon Dixon	Big Brothers and Big Sisters	202 Baltimore Avenue San Antonio, TX 78215	sdixon@bigmentor.org	830-832-6806
Gwen Mills	Public Health	178 E. Mill Street New Braunfels, TX 78130	millsg@co.comal.tx.us	830-221-1100
Byron (Ron) Mueller	Juvenile Probation	171 E. Mill New Braunfels, TX 78130	pbjbam@co.comal.tx.us	830-221-1290
Meliss Oehler	YMCA, CCCWB	710 Landa Street New Braunfels, TX 78130-7026	melisso@ymcasatx.org	830-832-6017
David Paulos	YMCA – ED	710 Landa Street New Braunfels, TX 78130	davidp@ymcasatx.org	830-237-6526

Betty Provost	Connections Individual and Family Services, Inc.	1414 W. San Antonio New Braunfels, TX 78130	bprovost@connectionsnonprofit.org	830-629-6571
Jennifer Sanders	Juvenile Probation	171 E. Mill New Braunfels, TX 78130	sandej@co.comal.tx.us	830-221-1290
Mary Alice Smallbone	New Braunfels Community Teen Court	1486 S. Seguin Avenue New Braunfels, TX 78130	masmallbone@nbtexas.org	830-221-4185
Debbie Mault	C.I.S.D., Truancy Officer	1404 IH 35 North New Braunfels, TX 78130	debbie.mault@comalisd.org	830-221-2444
Gloria A. Zepeda	Comal County Emergency Management	1297 Church Hill Drive New Braunfels, TX 78130	hls@co.comal.tx.us	830-221-1108
Darin Zumwalt	Community Resource and Recreation Center, Inc. of Canyon Lake	1917 FM 2873 Canyon Lake, TX 78133	dazumwalt@gvtc.com	830-964-2324

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Victim Services:

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
Daniel A. Perez (Lead)	Crisis Center of Comal County	1547 Common Street New Braunfels, TX 78130	dperez@ccccnbtx.org	830-620-7520
Elaine Brandon	Connections Individual and Family Services, Inc.	1414 W. San Antonio New Braunfels, TX 78130	ebrandon@connectionsnonprofit.org	830-629-6571
Kimberly Chavis	St. Jude's Ranch for Children-Emergency Shelter, Inc.	652 Bear Creek Road New Braunfels, TX 78132	kchavis@stjudesranch.org	830-629-0659
Shannon Francis	SART Foundation of Comal County, Inc.	P.O. Box 310078 New Braunfels, TX 78131	francs@co.comal.tx.us	830-221-1300
Monica Hendrich	St. Jude's Ranch for Children-Emergency Shelter, Inc.	652 Bear Creek Road New Braunfels, TX 78132		830-629-0659
Sean Hiler	CASA of Central Texas	1619 E. Common Suite 301 New Braunfels, TX 78130	shiler@casacentex.org	830-626-2272
Betty Provost	Connections Individual and Family Services, Inc.	1414 W. San Antonio New Braunfels, TX 78130	bprovost@connectionsnonprofit.org	830-629-6571
Terry Robinson	United Way of Comal County	468 S. Seguin Avenue New Braunfels, TX 78131	unitedway@uwcomal.org	830-620-7760
Kay Scott	Family Life Center	5513 IH 35 South New Braunfels, TX 78132	kays@tolcmail.org kays@flcnb.org	830-625-1700

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

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
Joe Vargas (Lead)	New Braunfels Police Department	1488 S. Seguin Avenue New Braunfels, TX 78130	jvargas@nbtxas.org	830-221-4100
Carol Edgett	Comal County Emergency Management	199 Main Plaza New Braunfels, TX 78130	cctcje@co.comal.tx.us	830-221-1108
Eddie Lozoya	Adult Probation	160 E. Bridge Street New Braunfels, TX 78130	eddie@comal.caldwellcscd.org	830-221-1160
Jeff Paullus	Comal County Sheriff's Department	3005 W. San Antonio New Braunfels, TX 78130	soajsp@co.comal.tx.us	830-620-3474
Gloria A. Zepeda	Comal County Emergency Management	1297 Church Hill Drive New Braunfels, TX 78130	hls@co.comal.tx.us	830-221-1108

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Mental Health Services:

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
Danielle Huntley	Comal County Mental Health Clinic	358 Landa Street, # 300 New Braunfels, TX 78130	dhuntley@hillcountry.org	830-620-6221
Daniel A. Perez	Crisis Center of Comal County	1547 Common Street New Braunfels, TX 78130	dperez@ccccnbtx.org	830-620-7520
Gloria A. Zepeda	Comal County Emergency Management	1297 Church Hill Drive New Braunfels, TX 78130	hls@co.comal.tx.us	830-221-1108

Alamo Area Council of Governments Community Planning Liaisons:

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
Marcela Medina	Alamo Area Council of Governments	8700 Tesoro, Suite 700 San Antonio, TX 78217	mmedina@aacog.com	210-362-5250
Veronica Avalos	Alamo Area Council of Governments	8700 Tesoro, Suite 700 San Antonio, TX 78217	vavalos@aacog.com	210-362-5290
Nancy Gibbons	Alamo Area Council of Governments	8700 Tesoro, Suite 700 San Antonio, TX 78217	ngibbons@aacog.com	210-362-5242

The Comal County Community Plan is available on-line at **www.aacog.com**

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Identification of Community Priorities
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:

DRUG USE AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

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Supporting Data:

- Increase in number of youth involved in criminal activity that is drug related.
- Limited available resources and activities for youth and families.
- Community knowledge and education provided by agency resources.

A review of Chart 01- Juvenile Referral Activity, over the last three-one year periods, shows an overall decrease of approximately 37% in the total Juvenile Referrals. However, remaining consistent with last year (2008-2009) is the total number of Unique Juveniles referred to the Juvenile Probation Department. Overall, the data suggests a reduction in the incidents of recidivism, but not the overall number of juveniles entering the juvenile criminal justice system.

Chart 01-Juvenile Referral Activity 2007-2010

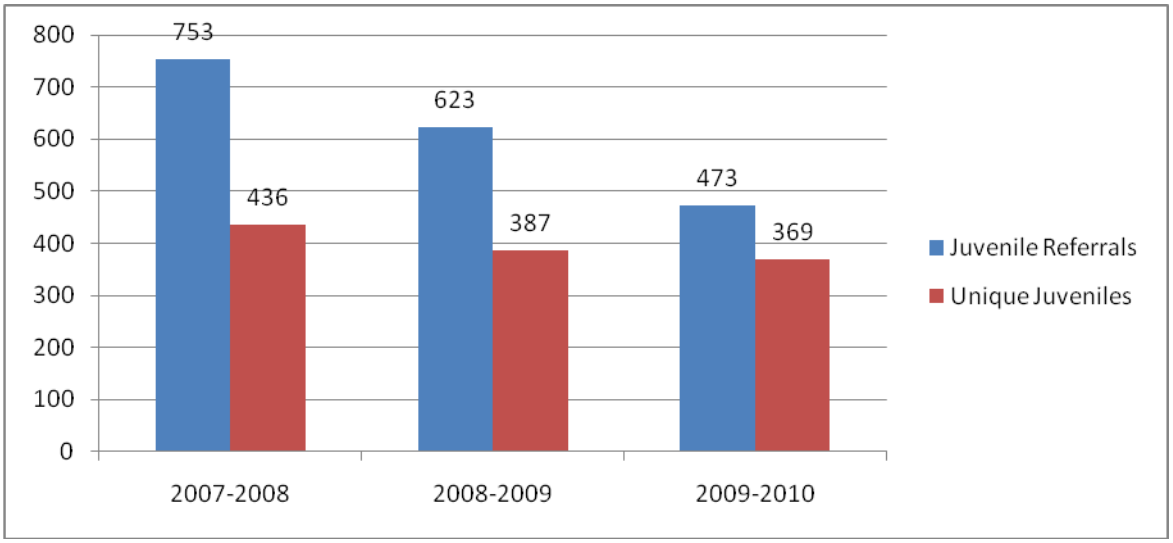
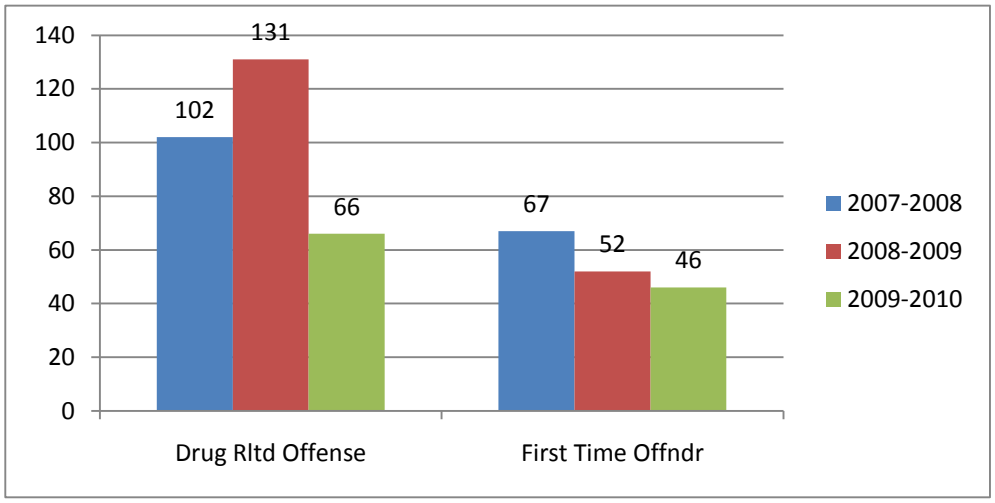


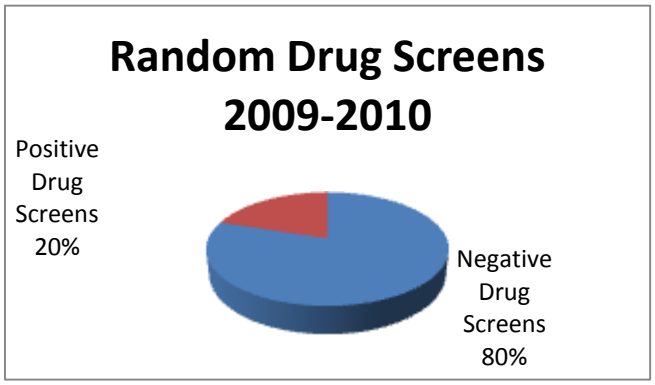
Chart 02-Overall Drug Related Offenses 2007-2010



Of the reported Drug Related Offenses (*see above Chart 02*), there was a total of 66 for year 2009-2010, of which approximately 70% of those referrals were first time offenders; for a total of 46 reported first time offenders. Along the same lines, first time offenders accounted for about 66% of the total 102 drug related offenses during reporting period 2007-2008. During reporting period 2008-2009, the reported first time offenders made up approximately 40% of the total Drug Related Offenses. The overall increase in percentage of first time offenders from 2007-2010, while marginal at only 4%, does suggest the problem of juvenile drug use and drug related offense exists in our community and is consistent with the trend being observed by professionals in this field. This number does not include referrals for violations of probation for juveniles who tested positive for illegal substances on random drug screens.

Compared with last year, recorded random drug screens of all juveniles on probation, conducted by Juvenile Probation Officers, decreased approximately 13%, or about 112 units/tests, to an approximate total of 779. During the period from 2009-2010, an approximate total of 156, or approximately 20% (*see Figure 1*), drug screens showed a positive result for some illegal substance; as compared to 24% for reporting period 2008-2009. Positive drug screen results remained consistent.

Figure 1

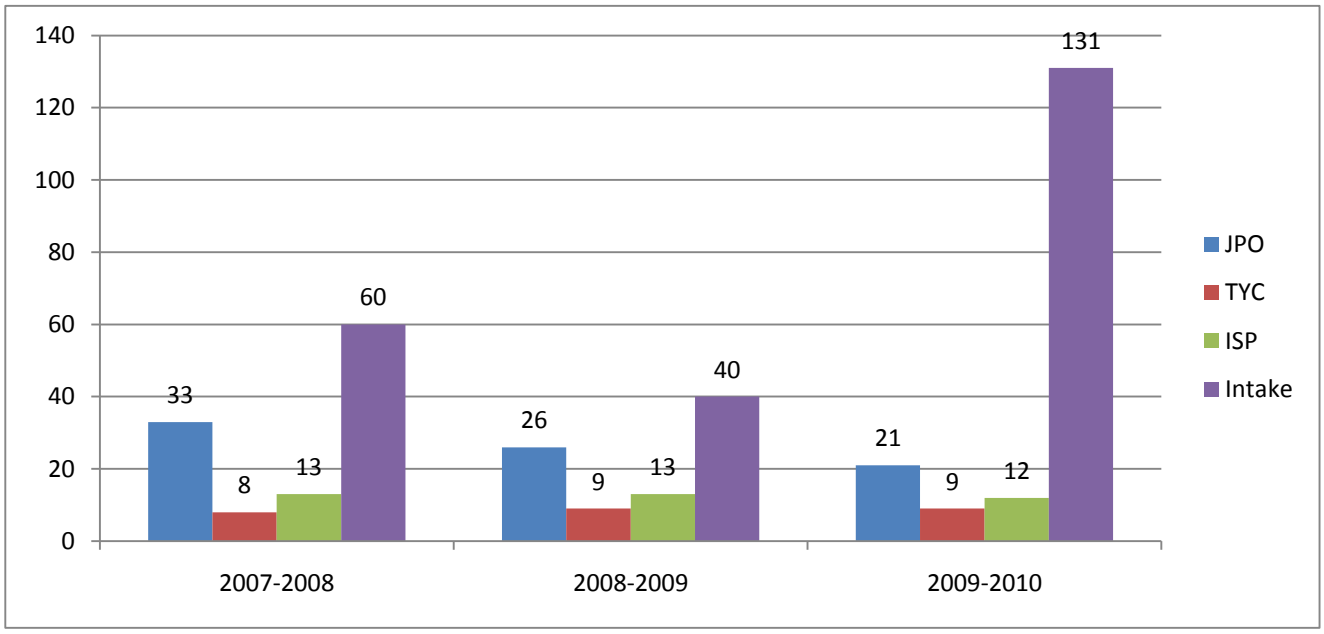


Funding for programs and services such as education, prevention, intervention, residential placement, treatment, various outpatient services, mental health and other services provided through the Juvenile Probation Department is often hard to come by as budgets get tighter and funding sources decrease or become more competitive.

The previously funded Safe Schools Healthy Students, a collaborative grant with the New Braunfels ISD, no longer exists as of May 2009; due to lack of funds for sustainability. However, the Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant, collaborated with Comal ISD is still funded as of this report. Similarly, as of August 2010, the Phase III Juvenile Probation Program in Comal County, previously funded by Texas Correctional Office on Medical & Medical Impairments (TCOOMMI) was cut in anticipation of future budget cuts by a local provider. The Comal County Sheriff's Office and their Community Resource Team is one of the limited resources in our county.

The average daily caseload handled by the four (6) field supervision Juvenile Probation Officers, for the most recent year 2009-2010, was slightly below the previous two years of 30 and 26 (*see Chart 03*), at 21, respectively. Youth supervised by both the Texas Youth Commission Contracted Parole Officer and the Intensive Supervision Officer stayed consistent. The number of youth assigned to our Pre-Court/Intake Officer during the 2009-2010 year, at 131, is higher than any other year. However, a review of the actual caseload can attribute approximately 60% of those pending referrals to multiple offenses for any one youth as well as cases pending in the court system for various reasons. It is estimated the average daily 'working' caseload for the Pre-Court/Intake Officer remains average with previous years at/about 50 cases.

Chart 03-Average Daily Caseload by Juvenile Officer Position 2007-2010



It is expected there will be an increased need for services and activities for youth and families referred to Juvenile Probation and other community agencies for drug related services and programs. All services and programs should be made available to all youth in Comal County

regardless of location. With the increase in youth population estimated for the coming years, the average daily caseloads are expected to increase for both first time referrals and repeat offenders. Along the same lines, recent legislative changes have made committing a youth to the Texas Youth Commission less frequent, thus keeping those youth in our community on supervision for a longer duration.

The number of juvenile cases filed and disposed of in JP Courts 1, 2, 3 and 4 are as follows:

Aug, 2009 - March, 2010 (6 months)

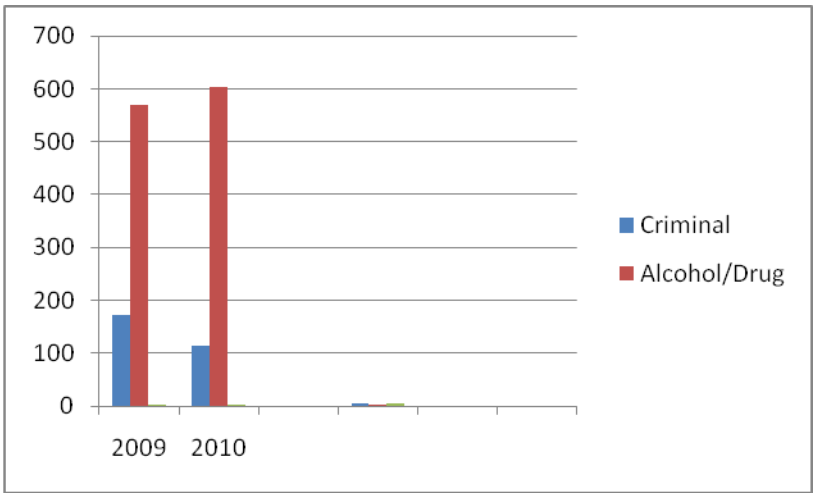
No. of Cases Filed ---- 296
No. of Cases finalized ---- 201

Dispositions -

Dismissed - 33
Deferred (on probation) - 96
Warrant Issued - 1
Community Service (conv.) - 37
Transferred Juvenile Probation - 23
Final conviction - 7
Jail - over 17 and did not pay fine – 3

The New Braunfels Municipal Court reports the following regarding juvenile and minor alcohol/drug and criminal offenses that are processed through their court:

New Braunfels Municipal Court
Juvenile and Minor Alcohol/Drug and Criminal Offenses
2009-2010



Juveniles and Minors received 569 alcohol/drug related citations during 2009 and 604 alcohol/drug related citations from January 2010 through October 2010.

Juveniles and Minors received 172 criminal citations during 2009 and 113 criminal citations from January 2010 through October 2010.

This data reflects an increase in alcohol/drug related citations for 2010 and indicates a need for intervention and prevention programs to address the special concerns of the juvenile and minor age group.

Communities in Schools (CIS), Connections Individual & Family Services, Inc. (Connections), and the local school districts provide substance abuse prevention, education, and awareness programs during Red Ribbon Week.

Connections has served through the Basic Center direct services of the Substance Abuse Prevention Program to include individual counseling and group counseling to 436 “at risk” non-residential, runaway homeless and 100 “at risk” non-residential transitional living individuals. Connections has provided outreach to over 4,000 individuals including classes and presentations.

Connections has also provided information and referrals to 3089 including calls through the Crisis Hot Line.

Connections provided Substance Abuse Prevention life skills to 378 youth, and 219 participated in Substance Abuse Presentations and Alternative Activities.

Connections and the Crisis Center of Comal County (Crisis Center) were also both recently funded through the Texas Department of State Health Services to provide additional substance abuse prevention education, but more help is needed than there are available funds to provide.

The New Braunfels Community Teen Court program serves youth ages 10-18 in the Comal County area who receive various Class C Misdemeanors. Teen Court provides an alternative to the criminal justice system by allowing teens to make restitution for their offense through community service, jury returns and various life skills opportunities. Teen Court served 172 youth in 2010 who contributed over 3,300 community service hours and 450 jury returns.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children (St. Jude’s) provides therapeutic preventative services to at risk youth who are admitted into our program. Substance abuse therapy is given to youth who come from an environment with drug abuse, have experimented with drugs, or could be at risk for substance abuse. St. Jude's has provided treatment to 12 youth over our FY 2010; this more than half of our physical capacity of 16 youth.

According to the Texas School Survey of Substance Abuse: Grades 7-12 in the Spring of 2008, alcohol continues to be the most widely used substance among secondary school students with 63% in 2008 reporting they had used alcohol at some point in their lives. Past-month alcohol use was reported by 30.4%. 20% of students in grades 7-12 reported binge drinking. Over one-fifth of the binge drinkers, almost one in twenty secondary students, were frequent binge drinkers; that is, they binged six or more days in the past month. Past-month use of tobacco fell again from 15.2% in 2006 to 12.9% in 2008. Lifetime inhalant use in 2008 was 9.3% and the past month use was .7%. Unlike other substances, younger students

reported higher use of inhalants than older students. Marijuana remained the most commonly used illegal drug among 7-12 graders (about 25%). A 35% increase from 2006 was reported for the use of over-the-counter or prescription-type drugs. According to the Texas School Survey of Substance Abuse: Grades 4-6, in the Spring of 2008, among students in grades 4-6, 23% had never drunk alcohol, and 15% had drunk alcohol in the past school year. Lifetime use of alcohol increased 4 percent and past-year use increased 12% between 2006 and 2008. 11% of fourth graders had used alcohol in the school year, compared with 21% of sixth graders.

Proposed Objectives:

The Juvenile Probation Department will continue to serve those youth that have been referred for all types of offenses, and address all areas of need for the family and the youth.

The Juvenile Probation Department will increase staff supervision and access to staff within Comal County and other community agencies to provide diversionary services to first time offenders, status offenders, and families in rural areas within our county.

There is a community coalition to improve the community wide effort toward drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention education. The coalition includes The Institute for Public Health and Education Research (TIPHER), Connections, CIS, NBISD, the juvenile court system, law enforcement, the media and community citizens. Connections will continue to increase Substance Abuse Prevention services to Comal County.

United Way Comal County (United Way) has also convened many organizations and groups that focus on youth so that there can be a combined effort to address at-risk youth in the community. A major focus of this group is reduction of alcohol and drug use of young people.

Law Enforcement will continue to do “stings” on package stores where alcohol is being sold to minors to try to reduce these numbers. This is working!

There is a need for drug rehabilitation facilities for youth in Comal County. Youth currently must go to surrounding counties to receive treatment.

Priority 2:

TEEN PREGNANCY AND STD’s

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Supporting Data:

Even though the national statistics show that teen pregnancy is on the decline, with approximately 55,000 births to teenage mothers annually, Texas leads the nation in both the percentage of teenage mothers and in the number of repeat births among girls ages 15-19. An analysis from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy shows that teen childbearing in Texas costs at least $1 billion in 2006. Statistics by “Kids Count” ranks Texas

as 49th in teen pregnancy. Comal County ranks 52% in the Texas abortion percentage by county, 1999-2003. In Texas, 77,811 abortions took place in 2007. Comal County had 187 abortions in 2007 which is a reduction from the previous year of 203.
The recently released Comal County Needs Assessment completed by the University of Texas Health Science Center found that rates of births to teens age 13 to 19 in Comal County were comparable to the rates in the State as a whole. In comparison to the six surrounding counties, Comal County has had among the third and fourth highest percentage of teen births depending on the year.

According to the CDC, 1 out of 4 sexually active teens will contact an STD before graduating from high school.

Reportable STD's in Comal County rank in the 20th percentile for teens in Texas. Non-reportable STD's are estimated to be among the most commonly diagnosed in Comal County. (These include HPV and herpes which are the most common STD's in our country.)
The younger a teenaged girl is when she has sex for the first time, the more likely she is to have had unwanted or non-voluntary sex. Close to four in ten girls who had first intercourse at 13 or 14 report it was either non-voluntary or unwanted. (The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy)

Proposed Objectives:

Options for Women (Options) provides free confidential pregnancy testing and first trimester limited ultrasound along with information about pregnancy, abortion and positive alternatives to abortion so that women can make healthy choices. They offer "Earn While You Learn" classes which provide training on pre-natal care, child development, and parenting skills. Options is also in the process of utilizing the National Fatherhood Initiative, which is a program to teach young men fathering skills and parenting responsibilities. They also provide informational programs that promote abstinence as a healthy choice for singles including education about the risks of STD's. They are researching into the possibility of providing STI testing in the future, along with life style counseling with peer counselors.

Scott & White "Worth the Wait" program is an abstinence based program taught in both public school districts in Comal County. Education on STD's and teenage pregnancy are the focal points of this program. The program is collaboration between county physicians, educators, Crisis Center, Options, the Comal County District Attorneys' office and Abstinence Resource Council, who coordinates the program in this community.

Precious Minds, New Connections (PMNC) parenting program is a collaboration led by the McKenna Healthcare Foundation, The Kronkosky Charitable Foundation, Safe Schools Healthy Students. They offer free parenting education and support for families throughout pregnancy until age 3. They also offer young mothers a solid education in early childhood issues, needs, and appropriate parenting resources for effectively managing the welfare of infants and toddlers.

The Pregnancy, Education, and Parenting Program in both school districts offers an outlet for young mothers to enroll their babies so that they can attend regular classes, receive special

services, and give them a chance for a higher success rate to graduate from high school.

CIS staff works with students at the schools where they are located, to encourage healthy and appropriate relationships and behavior choices.

St. Jude's Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program provided therapeutic intervention services to 14 youth during our FY 2010. SJRC allows "at-risk" mothers ages 10-17 years old the opportunity to receive parenting, job and life skills training, social, academic and independent skill development and individualized and group therapy, while focusing on their health care needs throughout their pregnancy. SJRC Therapeutic Model of Care, allows teens to develop an adequate generalization of social, independent, and academic skills needed to become productive citizens and provide proper nurturing care for their children. Teen mothers are also trained in the "Nurturing Parenting" curriculum as a therapeutic and effective way to teach appropriate skills to their children.

There are numerous resources that provide youth with teen pregnancy prevention, as well as pregnancy and parenting education. These resources include, but are not limited to: Options, McKenna HealthLink, Head Start, Women Infants and Children (WIC), Abstinence Resource Council as well as resources previously mentioned above.

Priority 3:

AT RISK YOUTH, TRUANCY AND DROP OUT RATES
- LACK OF RESOURCES

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Supporting Data:

There are noticeable gaps in resources in rural parts of the county, or for those children whose parents do not have adequate transportation. The recently released Comal County Needs Assessment conducted by the University of Texas Health Science Center determined that this was a significant problem facing the county at this time and into the coming years. It was recently voted as the number one problem by government leaders, United Way members, and nonprofit organizations involved in the Needs Assessment.

The Texas Education Agency has determined that there are more than 7,190 students in Comal County that are at-risk of dropping out of school. There are insufficient services available to provide to these at-risk students with existing social service agencies and special programs through the school districts.

The Student Enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year is:

Comal ISD: **17,149** (over an 11% increase in the past two years)

New Braunfels ISD: **7,871** (3.2% increase over last year)

Annual Dropout Rates, by Grade Span,
2008-09,
Comal ISD, District Number 046902,
Comal County

Grade span	Dropouts	Students	Rate (%)
Grades 7-8	-	<2,800	0.1
Grades 9-12	-	<5,100	1.0
Grades 7-12	53	7,752	0.7

Annual Dropout Rates, by Grade Span,
2008-09,
New Braunfels ISD, District Number 046901,
Comal County

Grade span	Dropouts	Students	Rate (%)
Grades 7-8	-	<1,200	0.1
Grades 9-12	-	<2,400	2.3
Grades 7-12	57	3,579	1.6

The Comal County Needs Assessment conducted in 2008 by the University of Texas Health Science Center determined that there are risk behaviors that exist in Comal County youth that are of concern. These include: alcohol use, rate of youth deaths related to alcohol ranging from 17.7 to 29.1 per 100,000 in the period from 2001 to 2004. Youth mortality is also a concern. For the years 1991 to 2005, Comal County had a higher number of teen violent deaths than the State average for 4 out of the 15 years.

Proposed Objectives:

The West Side Community Center and New Braunfels Parks and Recreation Department offer some after-school and summer activities for youth, some of which focus on “at risk” youth. Some activities are specifically for youth referred by NBISD, while others are offered to the community at large. Further, New Braunfit operates a gym that is open for youth and there is increased youth programming at its new gym site.

CIS provides very successful school based social services that address the needs of approximately 3,000 youth in Comal County in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade. However, the need is significantly higher (TEA at-risk rates) and additional services are needed. Recently released independent evaluations of the CIS program reveals that it is one of only three model programs successful in reducing dropouts in Texas. Expansion of CIS to provide services to additional at-risk students is critically needed and achievable with additional funding.

There are several local after-school and summer programs offered at free or reduced rates: Connections offers an after-school and summer program in several subsidized housing projects, New Braunfels Parks and Recreation offers a subsidized summer program for New Braunfels residents and has added a free skate park for youth; Community Resource and Recreation Center of Canyon Lake (CRRC) offers after-school and summer activities for youth living in or near the Canyon Lake area. Additionally, New Braunfels and Comal Independent School Districts have both operated after-school programs at a few school locations in the past, although these programs have been significantly reduced and do have a fee for service. CIS has received a grant from United Way to start three after school programs in three middle schools in order to provide free, accessible positive activities for teens. The schools are New Braunfels Middle, Oak Run and Canyon Middle schools. Each campus will have 60 students participating in the afterschool program Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 6:30pm. The goal is that these programs will provide enriching activities and academic support for those students. Students will receive a meal before leaving and transportation home.

There are several programs that offer after-school and summer diversion activities for a fee, some of which are offered on a sliding scale: CRRC, YMCA at several school locations throughout the county, New Braunfels Parks and Recreation's Camp Minnehaha, local daycare centers, local little league and other youth sports and scouts activities, RavenStar education programs, local private day camp summer programs (such as offered by T Bar M Tennis Ranch, Texas Ski Ranch, etc.).

If other after school programs were made available at no cost and were creative enough to draw in the teen population (such as in the CIS program at New Braunfels Middle School), these programs could provide tutoring, homework help, character building activities, post high school and career exploration, and many other viable activities. Programs such as this could provide a safe environment for older teens who typically spend time alone at home or with friends as determined by the recently released Comal County Needs Assessment referenced previously.

Priority 4:

INAPPROPRIATE TEEN SOCIAL NETWORKING
- SEXTING, INTERNET, BULLYING ISSUES WITH YOUTH

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Supporting Data:

Reports from local law enforcement, school resource officers and school administrators have identified concerns of local youth sending and receiving inappropriate messaging and pictures either by cell phone or by internet use. There is a need to educate students, parents and school personnel of the impact and legal consequences related to these issues.

Proposed Objectives:

The Comal County Sheriff's Department is offering presentations and information about Sexting at local schools. Parents and students can learn the laws related to illegal sending of pornographic pictures and messaging.

Priority 5:

LACK OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

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Supporting Data:

There is an increase in health and nutrition needs for school-aged children, and a greater need for services for immunizations and education. For example, there is a greater need for childhood immunizations, health and nutrition education, and for programs that help curb the rising numbers of obesity among youth.

Proposed Objectives:

The County Public Health and Extension Office will continue to offer health and nutrition classes to the school districts for PE classes, health fairs, and any other programs that the schools request, along with school districts' participation that offer health education either in formal classes or on computer programs as part of each district's health and nutrition education curriculum.

McKenna Health System has offered the CATCH Program to help increase nutrition education for school-aged children. They have also offered after-school or weekend programs to increase fitness and improve nutritious eating habits. Further, they have opened their gym for a nominal annual fee that youth can use for health or fitness purposes.

St. Jude's will continue to offer training to the community (local daycares, foster parents, general public) on USDA training from team nutritionist throughout the year.

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

1. Increased caseloads, inadequate funding, minimal staffing to conduct programs
2. Lack of funding to adequately manage programs
3. Programs to service the needs of juveniles.

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Identify Achievements:

We have identified needs via the Comal County Community Needs Assessment that need to be addressed through collaborative efforts of all youth serving organizations in the county. We are currently in discussion to determine a universal plan for addressing identified needs.

Comal ISD has received a five year federal grant to provide much needed counseling services in Comal ISD schools through partnerships with local organizations.

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

Priority 1:

FAMILY VIOLENCE

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Supporting Data:

Family violence is defined as physical, emotional or psychological violence, abuse or control of one person over another who are related through blood, marriage or have an established relationship. This definition includes abuse and neglect between adults, adults and children and individuals in a dating relationship including those who are under 18 years of age.

Family violence continues to be a major threat to the safety and well-being of families who live in Comal County. This problem affects individuals within the City of New Braunfels as well as the residents of the county who live in a rural setting. There were 1,302 family violence calls in Comal County during 2007. With 908 of those calls coming from within the city limits. This number represents double the average number of calls for 100,000 citizens in the state of Texas. The Crisis Center provided 3,121 nights of shelter to 198 individuals during the calendar year 2009. The agency also provided non-resident services to an additional 1,573 clients during the same time period. The agency processed 216 protective order applications in 2009.

Connections provides a 24-hour emergency hotline, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, case management, information/referral and other support services for youth (for ages 5-21) who are victims of family violence. Connections also provides services for families and adults. In 2009/2010 Connections provided shelter for 27 Comal County residents with 578 shelter days.

In 2009, the Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County (CACCC) provided interviews and other support services for over 210 children, many of whom were witnesses of domestic violence in the home.

Texas Department of Public Safety statistics also show a 41% growth of incidents of family violence between 1999 and 2006 (774 to 1,302).

Data supports the fact that family members conduct most elderly abuse and that the victims have a tendency not to report the incident. As a consequence, this points out the need to promote the availability of existing resources as well as raising public awareness through education. As the availability of financial resources dwindles, the problem becomes more hidden and promotes a reactive stance to the problem rather than a pro-active stance.

During 2006, Adult Protective Services provided assistance to 228 individuals and confirmed 158 investigations.

Proposed Objectives:

The Crisis Center provides a 24-hour emergency crisis line, 24-hour emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis response, individual and group counseling, legal advocacy, case-management, information/referral, emergency financial assistance, emergency transportation, employment assistance and community prevention education. The Crisis Center is the only county facility that provides shelter to families who have been victims of domestic violence.

St. Jude's provides emergency shelter, assessment, play therapy and case management for children up to 13 to 17 years of age who are separated from their parents.

Connections provides a 24-hour emergency hotline, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, case-management, information/referral and other support services for youth who are victims of family violence and for families and adults as needed.

CASA of Central Texas (CASA) provides court appointed special advocates for children who have been abused and/or neglected and have cases in the court system. CASA has the responsibility of representing the best interest of the child and to advocate for a permanent home for the child.

The CACCC provides forensic interviews and other support services for children who have been neglected, abused or may have been assaulted. In the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year the CACCC provided interviews for over 210 children.

The Family Life Center of New Braunfels (Family Life Center) provides a clearinghouse and a referral center to assist the under-resourced residents of the county with the following services: utilities, rent, food, fuel, medical, used furniture, appliances, budgeting classes and other programs.

Law enforcement agencies work closely with the District Attorney's office, Probation officials and Adult Protective Services to identify and assist victims. Initial investigations are conducted in a timely manner and clients are referred to support services such as the Crisis Center.

The District Attorney's Victim Assistance office is striving to ensure that appropriate victim assistance programs are used, as needed, in all cases. The District Attorney provides legal representation for victims of domestic violence who are seeking protective orders. The

magistrate presiding at the Comal County Jail can provide an Emergency Magistrate's Order of Protection. Otherwise an Order of Protection will be secured through the normal process.

Another area involves cross training and updating information for service providers. This action will occur over a period of time and will be the result of the regular process. This is essential in order to render more efficient and effective services.

Resources development is another crucial component. A process must be established whereby organizations work together to leverage resources including financial and in-kind, such as volunteer hours.

The remaining area is advocacy of services for clients. Clients are forced to deal with a variety of service systems and agencies. Collaboration of the community's education efforts regarding issues and the need for additional resources must take place. A comprehensive, educational effort that focuses on changing the public perception of victims and that helps society better understand the victims' problems and needs is recommended. Providers should collaborate in educating the city, county, state and federal governments, encouraging them to reassess laws, policies and procedures in order to ensure that victims receive a continuum of service.

Solutions:

1. Reduce the incidence of family violence crimes in Comal County.
2. Insure that each eligible client is aware of and has access to available services through continued funding of existing services at current or expanded levels of funding.
3. Funding for affordable legal assistance.
4. Funding for affordable permanent housing and childcare.
5. Funding for a transitional housing program.
6. Funding for community education regarding spousal abuse, dynamics involved and the availability of protective services for adults.
7. Funding for prevention education to all age groups, including school age children.
8. Develop, improve and maintain cooperative working relationships between service providers, including law enforcement, medical, and other social service agencies.
9. Increase media awareness to educate the public about family violence and the services available to those who experience it.
10. Funding for domestic violence facilities in rural areas of the County.
11. Funding for expansion of current shelter facilities.
12. There is a real need for continued funding for crisis intervention and emergency shelter services for victims of all ages in Comal County.

Priority 2:

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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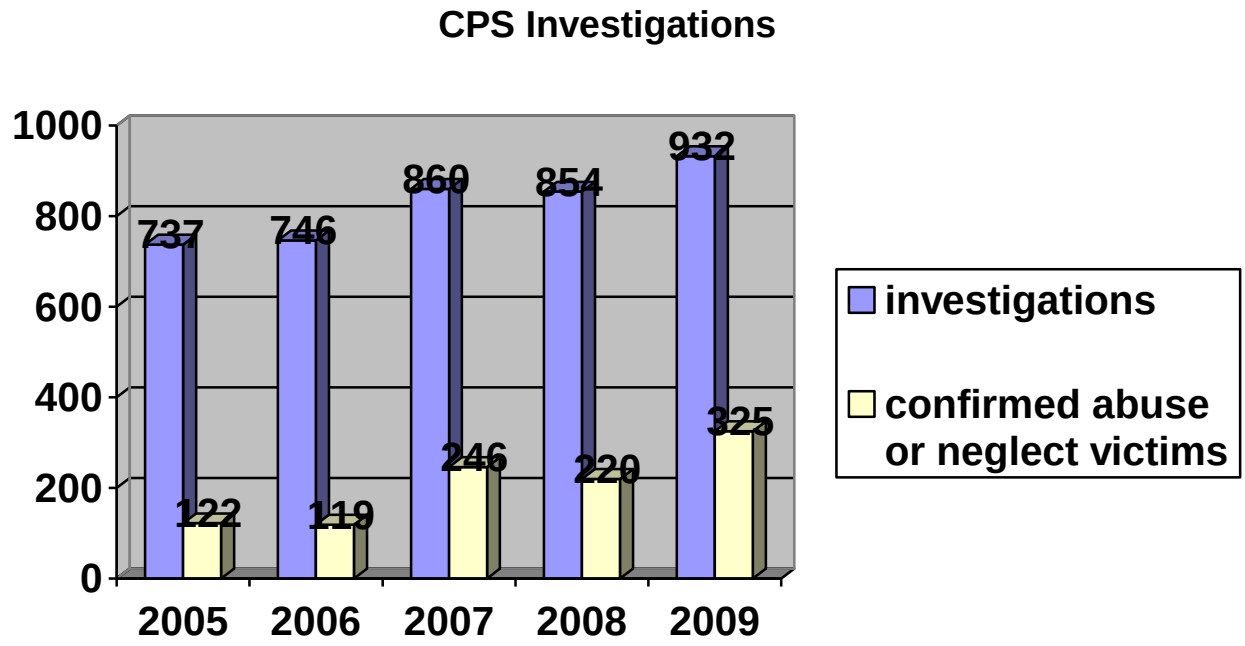
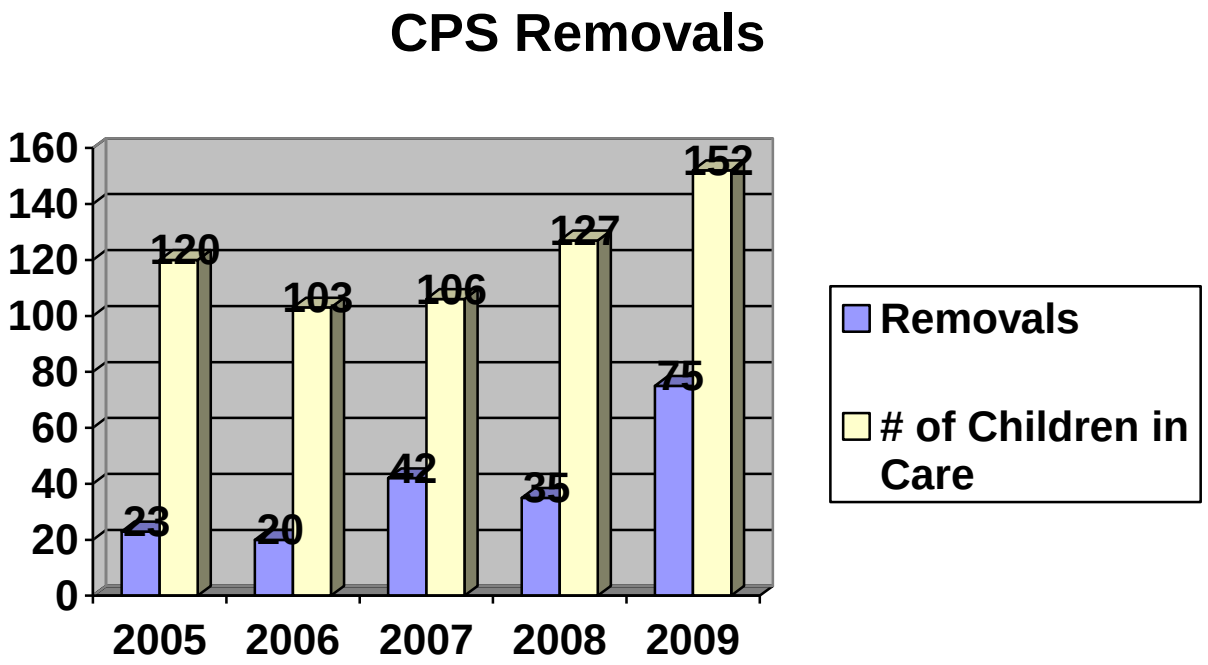
Supporting Data:

Child Abuse and Neglect allegations in Comal County remain consistently high. Although there has been a slight decrease over the past years, there have been no substantial gains in this area. Thus, adults involved in child abuse or family violence continue to remain a concern.

In 2009, there were 1,192 referrals of child abuse in Comal County. During 2009, the number of investigations assigned to Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations units was 932 with 591 completed investigations and a total of 75 cases resulted in children removed from their homes. This is more than double the number of 35 cases resulted in children removed in 2008. There were 325 confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect in Comal County during 2009. This equates to 14 out of every 1000 children in the county being victims of abuse or neglect compared to 10 out of every 1000 children in 2008. In Comal County, there were 154 children in Texas Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS) legal responsibility and 152 children in substitute care in 2009. There were 131 children in DFPS legal responsibility and 127 children in substitute care in 2008. CPS spent $818,876.68 in foster care expenditures in Comal County during 2009. There were 20 children waiting for adoption in Comal County during 2009.

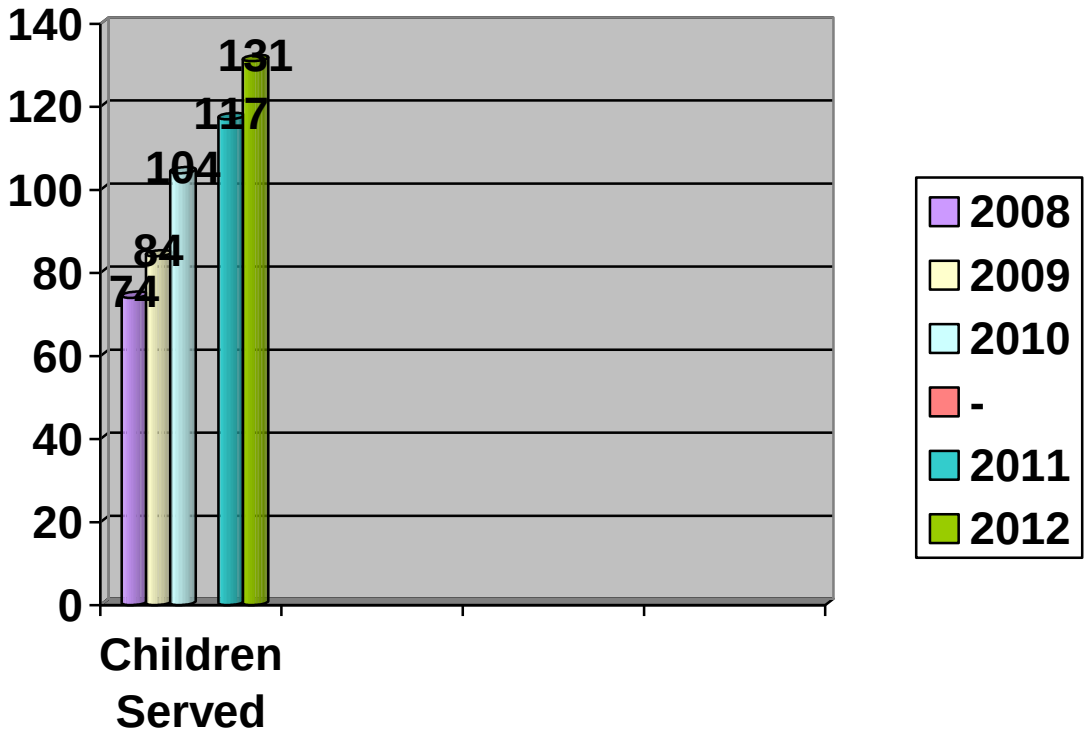




Approximately 30% of the child abuse cases referred to TDFPS received services beyond the investigation phase. The other 70% were either referred to local agencies, such as Connections or did not receive any service at all. This statistic indicates the importance of child abuse prevention efforts to reach as many children as possible in the county rather than waiting for the state system to intervene once suspected abuses have already occurred.

First opened in 2005, the CACCC has provided forensic interviews for over 650 children in Comal County. In the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year alone, the CACCC provided interviews for over 210 children. The CACCC provides DVD recordings of those interviews to law enforcement and CPS to aid in the investigation and prosecution of abuse cases. Over 70% of all of the cases that come through the CACCC involve allegations of sexual assault. The CACCC facilitates monthly Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Meetings where all cases are staffed to ensure appropriate referrals to families and to aid in interagency collaboration. In the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year, the CACCC facilitated case staffings in over 250 cases.

In 2008, CASA provided court appointed special advocates to 74 children who had cases in the court system as a result of abuse and/or neglect. In 2009, CASA was appointed as Guardian Ad Litem for 84 children in Comal County. To date in 2010, CASA has been appointed as Guardian Ad Litem for 104 children in Comal County. CASA expects there to be a 12% increase in the number of cases CASA is appointed to and the number of children served per year in the foreseeable future.



Connections Kids Exchange in New Braunfels provides a local, safe and neutral environment for supervision of visitations and transfer of children between parties. Connections Kids Exchange served over 18 families with supervised visits, exchanges, crisis intervention and referrals during fiscal year 2009. Connections provided shelter for 38 Comal County residents with 578 shelter days.

St. Jude's has served the following: St. Jude's, provided 350 days of service to 9 clients ages newborn to 17 years from Comal County for fiscal year 2009.

The number of Comal County children in substitute care grew by 12% from 2000 to 2004 (from 95 to 108).
Existing resources available through DFPS are inadequate to meet the ongoing need in the state and in this county, which results in overwhelming caseloads for a minimal number of workers. In 2007, there were a total of 3 CPS workers assigned to 578 cases assigned for investigation in this county.

Many adult offenders or perpetrators of child abuse and neglect could be ordered into more services and education if better coordination existed between DFPS and the Judicial System. The majority of cases handled by CPS do not result in criminal charges brought upon the abusing parent or adult. This places full responsibility for cooperation on CPS who is unable to enforce recommendations. Ultimately, the child will remain in the home with the offender, with no changes being made in the home setting.

The statistics for alleged incidents of abuse over the past two years illustrates the need for additional services to address this community-wide problem. With the high number of

referrals and low number of investigators, the problem will remain on-going in Comal County until greater steps towards effective early intervention are taken. Additionally, as state funding decreases, it is possible that the severity and frequency of child abuse will increase.

Proposed Objectives:

The community presently has a variety of resources. However, these existing resources cannot fully meet the needs of the community, particularly in light of the growing population in the area. Programs and agencies like CIS, Connections, CPS, the Crisis Center, CASA, St. Jude's, and others typically become involved after abuse or conflict is significant and/or work with children who are at risk. Additionally, McKenna Health Care System and other agencies in the community have collaborated to implement a parenting program for parents and their young children. The program is designed to teach the new parent how to care for and nurture the young child. As a result of recent statewide budget cuts and the county's growing population, local non-profit agencies are being required to provide more services with diminishing funds. Texas Department Protective and Regulatory Services charged Connections with providing Child Abuse Prevention Education throughout the county without additional funds, while other local non-profit organizations lost state funding altogether.

Solutions:

The community must develop a proactive strategy to address the consistent problem of child abuse and neglect. The community has effective programs for youth who are being abused and those who have been victims in the past; however, there continues to be a growing need to prevent child abuse and neglect by working more closely with adult parents of children. Closer coordination between CPS, law enforcement and the judicial system may streamline services and ensure adults who offend are held accountable and also ensure offenders receive services to address their offenses.

The state legislature recently funded additional caseworkers across the state (including Comal County) due to statewide concern about the adequacy of the CPS, which had previously been extremely underfunded. Thus more CPS workers will be hired for this area. Additionally the legislature increased funding for child abuse prevention efforts (including work is currently funded to do). The CACCC has helped to streamline the child abuse investigation process and reduced the trauma to child abuse victims.

CASA continues to recruit and train volunteers to serve as court appointed special advocates for children in the court system as result of child abuse and/or neglect.

The Family Life Center provides a clearinghouse and a referral center to assist the under-resourced residents of the county with the following services: utilities, rent, food, fuel, medical, used furniture, appliances, budgeting classes and other programs.

Priority 3:

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

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Supporting Data:

During 2007, in Comal County, there were 82 reported sexual assaults of which 26 involved child victims. During the same period, the Crisis Center provided services to 448 clients who were primary or secondary victims of sexual assault. This number is more than double from 201 in 2002. In calendar year 2008, the Crisis Center provided 1,103 nights of shelter to 34 individuals who were victims of sexual assault. The Crisis Center also provided non-resident services to an additional 526 clients for a total of 2,103 non-resident days of service. In calendar year 2009, the Crisis Center served 265 adults and 276 children who reported some type of sexual assault. The Crisis Center had an average case load of 117 sexual assault clients per month. As more victims become aware of the availability of resources within the community, they are more likely to report the incident and seek services.

First opened in 2005, the CACCC has provided forensic interviews for over 650 children in Comal County. In the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year alone, the CACCC provided interviews for 257 children. The CACCC provides DVD recordings of those interviews to law enforcement and CPS to aid in the investigation and prosecution of abuse cases. Over 70% of all of the cases that come through the CACCC involve allegations of sexual assault. The CACCC facilitates monthly Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings where all cases are staffed by representatives of all agencies involved in the investigation and prosecution of child sex crimes to ensure appropriate referrals to families and to aid in interagency collaboration. In the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year, the CACCC facilitated case staffings in over 212 cases.

Created in 2005, the SART Foundation of Comal County, Inc. (SART) has provided forensic sexual assault exams to victims of sex crimes in Comal County and surrounding communities. These sexual assault exams, called SANE exams, are utilized to collect valuable evidence to aid law enforcement and the District Attorney's Office in successfully investigating and prosecuting sex crimes in our community. In 2008, SART performed 28 exams, and, in 2009, SART performed 34 exams. As of the end of September 2010, SART has already performed 36 exams. For the 2010 exams to date, over 70% of the exams were performed on child victims and almost 90% of the exams were performed on female victims.

Proposed Objectives:

The Crisis Center provides a 24-hour emergency hotline, 24-hour emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis response, individual and group counseling, legal advocacy, case-management, information/referral, emergency financial assistance, emergency transportation, employment assistance and community prevention education. The Crisis Center is the only county facility that provides shelter to adults who have been victims of sexual assault. Additionally, the Crisis Center can provide shelter to the immediate family members of the victim if necessary.

SART provides certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) to Comal County to perform the forensic SANE exams locally. Additionally, SART coordinates the multiple agencies involved in the investigation of sex crimes, such as law enforcement, prosecution, and victim advocates to make the response of these agencies "victim centered" while also working to ensure that the investigation is done as accurately and efficiently as possible so that the offender may be successfully prosecuted. Further, SART strives to work proactively by providing community outreach and education to adults and children regarding sex crimes, including the development of such programs as the CAP (Child Abuse Prevention) Program.

Christus Santa Rosa New Braunfels Hospital (Christus) provides a site for the SANE exams when authorized for victims of sexual assault.

St. Jude's provides emergency shelter, assessment, play therapy and case management for children up to 13 years of age who are separated from their parents.

Connections provides emergency shelter, counseling, case-management, information/referral and other support services for youth 5 to 17 years of age who are victims of sexual assault and are separated from their parents.

CASA provides court appointed special advocates for abused and neglected children who are in the court system.

The CACCC provides forensic interviews and other support services for children who may have been neglected, abused or sexually assaulted.

The Family Life Center provides a clearinghouse and a referral center to assist the under-resourced residents of the county with the following services: utilities, rent, food, fuel, medical, used furniture, appliances, budgeting classes and other programs.

Law enforcement agencies work closely with the District Attorney's office, Probation officials and CPS to identify and assist victims. Initial investigations are conducted in a timely manner and clients are referred to support services such as the Crisis Center. The District Attorney's Victim Assistance Coordinator strives to ensure that appropriate victim assistance programs are used, as needed, in all cases. The District Attorney evaluates and prosecutes all sexual assault cases in Comal County.

In an effort to ensure complementary, non-duplicative services, local non-profit Executive Directors meet each month to discuss current services being provided and trends seen in the community.

Resource development is another crucial component. A process must be established whereby organizations work together to leverage resources including financial and in-kind, such as volunteer hours.

Solutions:

Reduce the incidence of sexual assault in Comal County by:

1. Increasing the number and type of services available to residents of Comal County through expanded levels of funding.
2. Insure that each eligible client has access to available services through continued funding of existing services.
3. Develop, improve, and maintain cooperative working relationships between service providers, including law enforcement, medical, and other social service agencies.
4. Increase prevention education to all youth through funding for an early prevention and structured education programs.
5. Increase prevention education to adults and at-risk groups.
6. Funding for expanded crisis response.
7. Funding for affordable or low cost legal assistance.
8. Funding for education to parents and families of victims.
9. Funding for client notification regarding court action involving the offender.
10. Funding for cross-training and updating information for service providers.

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

Many service providers are experiencing a cut in essential funding. Funds on the State and Federal level are disappearing at an alarming rate. The State has also made new unfunded requirements of many agencies. The lack of funds for basic services in addition to new required services is creating multiple problems for all service providers.

Lack of adequate funding to maintain programs and retaining trained, competent staff. Funding also cannot keep up with the population growth in our area. As the 5th fastest growing county in Texas the demand for services grows each year.

General mental health services for clients who are not yet level 5 and do not fall into any of the other victim's categories. Mental Health prevention programs to keep individuals from reaching a crisis level. No transitional housing in Comal County for any victims or homeless individuals. An adequate transitional housing program and homelessness prevention program could keep individuals from becoming victims of crime and or perpetrators of crime. Limited funds to assist those in need of utility and rental assistance. No public transportation for individuals to use service providers in the community. Few services available to residents in the far west area of the County. Most services are concentrated in the City of New Braunfels, which lies in the far Eastern portion of the County.

Trends for the next 3 years:
The Crisis Center expects to see sheltered clients and days of shelter to increase 2% annually. Non-resident clients served as well as days of service for non-residents will increase by 85 annually. Crisis calls and referrals will increase by 12% over the next three years.

In 2009, SART performed 34 SANE exams. 25 of the exams were female and 9 were male. 24 of the exams were children under the age of 18 and 10 were adults. From January – September 2010, SART has performed 36 SANE exams. 32 of the exams were female and

4 were male. 26 of the exams were children under the age of 10 and 8 were adults. These numbers do not include the number of exams that were refused by the victim or that were sent to another SANE program due to nurse unavailability.

SART anticipates a 1 exam referral increase per month in the coming years. The below numbers include exams actually performed by SART, exams sent out-of-county, exams performed by the hospital for non-reporting victims, and exams refused by the victim.

Year	Exams
2011	75
2012	87
2013	99

In 2008, SART had 1 SANE to perform exams. Currently, the program has 3 certified nurses and 2 nurses who are beginning the certification process. The goal for the program is to have 1 nurse on call 24/7, and, while SART is still working towards this goal, the progress made during the past year has significantly helped the program achieve this in the near future.

St. Jude's expects to see an increase in days of service but decline in number of clients served; with the addition of our Long Term Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program starting this winter, we anticipate fewer clients but longer days in care. Our emergency shelter is experiencing fewer number of clients due to the Gates decision which does not allow DFPS to remove children on an emergency basis unless immediate risk is warranted. This has made a significant change in the amount of clients admitted into our shelter; instead of the state using emergency shelters to place children on a short term basis until a more appropriate placement is found the state has a longer timeline to find a foster home or kinship placement at the time of the child's removal. St. Jude's provided 350 days of service to 9 clients ages newborn to 17 years from Comal County for fiscal year 2009.

Identify Achievements:

The establishment of a SANE Program in Comal County has increased the level and availability of services to victims. By providing the SANE exams locally, the stress and inconvenience for victims is lessened, while law enforcement is able to more efficiently collect evidence that could be vital to investigating and prosecuting offenders. Additionally, the donation of a dedicated SANE room by Christus in May 2009 creates further privacy for victims and efficiency for the exams. With three certified SANEs, SART's ability to provide these much needed services to victims and law enforcement continues to grow.

The establishment of the CACCC has enhanced the services available to children who require a forensic exam. This service also eliminates duplication of services by multiple services providers. The CACCC also has improved communication between service providers and utilizes numerous agencies to provide a continuum of care to those in need.

Increase collaboration between non-profit service providers in applying for funding and administering programs. Numerous programs have been developed and implemented by 2

or more service providers.

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Criminal Justice Issues (law enforcement, courts, corrections)

(listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

Priority 1:

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS

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Supporting Data:

Radio Communication

In 2000, the City of New Braunfels purchased a new 900 megahertz trunk radio communications system through a Lower Colorado River Authority Grant. Since that time the City of New Braunfels Police, Fire and EMS utilize the LCRA 900 system for radio communications. The LCRA 900 system operates on an EDACS 900 megahertz analog system which is not a public safety channel and is not compatible with most public safety entities within the AACOG region. Prior to 2000, the City of New Braunfels was operating on a VHF system and had the ability to communicate with all agencies in Comal County and the AACOG region.

Comal County agencies, to include Comal County Sheriff's Office, Garden Ridge Police Department, Bulverde Police Department and Comal County Road and Bridge have migrated from a VHF analog system to a VHF digital system during the last five years. The volunteer fire and EMS departments in the county currently operate on an analog VHF system.

The State of Texas and responding state assets, as well as numerous mutual aid partners in the Comal County area operate on a VHF system.

The problem with the radio interoperability therein lies in the fact that:

1. the 900 system is not a public safety channel,
2. does not have the capability to communicate directly to VHF frequencies,
3. does not have interoperable channel capability, and
4. is not even mentioned in the Texas Interoperability Channel Plan.

Radio incompatibility at an emergency response scene makes scene management very difficult for first responders as extra measures have to be made to communicate in order to obtain information, especially when the incident is in a multi-jurisdictional area.

Another factor which complicates the situation is that the City of New Braunfels currently needs to upgrade their 10 year old system and in the fact that the system is not P-25

compliant, is not eligible for grant funding in order to upgrade the system.

A homeland security grant for SHSP 2009 was secured to fund replacement of repeaters, relicensing and narrow banding of current licenses and a small cache of portable and mobile radios for the City of New Braunfels Fire Department. A separate homeland security grant for SHSP 2010 was secured to fund portable radios for the New Braunfels Police SWAT Team. This is a beginning toward the interoperability between New Braunfels and Comal County.

Proposed Objectives:

Continue to procure interoperable communications between the City of New Braunfels and Comal County.

Priority 2:

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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Supporting Data:

There is still a lack of substance abuse and intervention programs available to adults, that have not been placed on community supervision in Comal County, that are approved by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA).

1. No intensive treatment, inpatient treatment services, or detoxification services are available in Comal County for substance abusers.
2. There are no substance abuse outpatient treatment providers for adults in Comal County based on TCADA.
3. There are resources available on the state level to adults seeking intervention and treatment services for substance abuse, if they have transportation to other counties and cities.

Budgetary issues at the state legislative level may mean fewer funds for existing providers of Substance Abuse Intervention Services or dual diagnosis services in Comal County.

Substance abuse is a growing problem in Comal County. Statistics collected by TCADA and the DPS illustrate reasons for alarm at this increasing problem.

In 2009,

- 28% of all clients admitted to publicly funded treatment programs had a primary problem with alcohol
- 24% of all clients admitted to publicly funded treatment programs had a primary problem with Marijuana
- 26% of all the exhibits analyzed by DPS laboratories were identified as Marijuana

The number of arrests for DUI in Texas in 2009, increased by 2.2%. In 2008, it increased by 0.4%.

The 2009 DUI arrest rate for Texas was 388.8 arrests for every 100,000 persons.

Provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the table below reflects the number of substance abuse treatment admissions for individuals in Comal County for the years 2007-2009.

COMAL COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT ADMISSIONS

CAL YR. OF ADM	PRIMARY SUBS-ADM	TOTAL ADM	AVG. AGE	AVG AGE 1ST USE	AVE LAG 1ST USE ADM	% FIRST ADM	% MARRIED	% MALE	% USING NEEDLES	% EMPLOYED	% CRIM JUS. REF'D	AVG. EDU.	% LIVE W/FAMILY	% HOMELESS	AVG INC. AT ADM.
2007	Heroin	12	38	20	18	8	17	92	92	8	0	12	50	50	2667
	Other Opiates	11	28	21	8	36	18	36	27	9	18	13	100	0	4691
	Alcohol	48	36	15	21	44	13	73	8	19	23	12	79	13	6412
	Amphetamines	16	33	18	15	63	13	38	38	25	38	13	50	6	8956
	Cocaine (Powder)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Marijuana/Hash	11	26	14	12	73	27	55	0	73	36	13	82	0	8575
	Downers	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Other Drugs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Crack Cocaine	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2008	Heroin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Other Opiates	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Alcohol	54	40	16	25	48	4	52	6	39	6	13	65	7	7380
	Amphetamines	15	34	18	15	40	13	47	67	27	33	11	53	13	4160
	Cocaine (Powder)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Marijuana/Hash	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Crack Cocaine	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2009	Heroin	12	33	25	11	25	8	75	100	8	17	12	75	17	2500
	Other Opiates	19	30	25	6	47	42	42	11	11	0	13	79	0	1553
	Alcohol	29	38	15	23	59	24	76	7	21	7	13	83	3	7028
	Downers	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Amphetamines	20	29	18	10	45	20	45	35	5	15	12	90	0	3425
	Cocaine (Powder)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Marijuana/Hash	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Provided by Texas Department of State Health Services (DHS).

Due to client confidentiality requirements, any row with a total admissions count of less than 10 must be suppressed with an *.

From 1997 to 2008, arrests in all drug offenses increased by 74.2% and arrests in all substance-related offenses increased by 39.1% in Comal County (obtained from TCADA).

According to DPS, statewide arrests have increased from 2008-2009:

Driving under the influence	+2.2%
Drug Possession	+3.1%
Sale & Manufacturing	+5.3%

The number of drug related case filings in the Comal County Courts at Law and District Courts are as follows:

County Court at Law (Between 02/2008 and 08/2010)

Offense	2008	2009	2010
DWI or DUID	144	349	295
Drug Offenses	115	321	326

District Courts (Between 02/2008 and 08/2010)

Offense	2008	2009	2010
Drug Sale/Manufacturing	22	23	13
Drug Possession	74	69	45
Felony DWI	34	28	12

Although persons placed on Adult Probation have the availability of resources within the Probation Department, the percentage of persons identified as entering State Funded Treatment Programs involved in the Criminal Justice System averages only 21% for the range of primary drugs identified by TCADA.

Proposed Objectives:

The population of Comal County has continued to increase and the estimated growth from April 2000 to July 2009 is expected to be 46.8% according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Presently, treatment services are provided through referral to surrounding areas. Intervention services are available, and some providers provide mental health services, which include dual diagnosis services for those who suffer from mental illness and substance abuse issues. However, there is no existing program specifically providing substance abuse treatment services that is approved by TCADA for adults who are not involved in the criminal justice system.

Comal County has limited existing resources for Adult Substance Abuse. There are four active Alcoholic Anonymous groups holding meetings on a regular basis for those in recovery. Services providing screening and referral are presently provided by Connections and Hill Country Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center (Hill Country MH/MR) through their Outreach Screening and Assessment Referral Program. However, no licensed providers are available in Comal County according to the DSHS. A local provider for substance abuse treatment for those not involved with the Criminal Justice System is needed. There is a need for more comprehensive and targeted drug awareness programs and New Braunfels Police Department advocates a partnership with the Independent School Districts, the purpose of which will be to re-institute and expand an all-level drug education curriculum in the schools. The Comal County Sheriff's Office has a DARE program consisting of two Deputies dedicated to the program that targets the children in the fifth grade in all of the Comal Independent School Districts, educating the children in our schools of the dangers of drugs and violence.

Priority 3:

Dissemination of Public Information

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Supporting Data:

Public information is a vital part of emergency services. The public is essential to effective communications during a time of crisis. Many topics exist which would greatly assist the public in understanding emergency services response. Examples include:

1. Emergency response
2. Disaster response and management
3. Fire Prevention
4. Crime Prevention
5. Sheltering- in-Place
6. 2-1-1 Information Service
7. Victims Services
8. Emergency Notification System (ENS) and telephone mapping database through Bexar Metro

Dissemination of public information such as, fire prevention, arson education, victims' services, disaster preparedness and the United Way 2-1-1 information service are inadequate.

Due to budget shortfalls, many programs have been reduced or eliminated. This has particularly impacted the public school programs. Educating the youth of our community is essential in crime prevention and access to programs to assist youth. Many children extend this education to their home environments and educate their parents and siblings.

Proposed Objectives:

Newspaper and radio public service announcements, office space for distribution of brochures at county and city locations, civic groups, schools, and volunteer organizations.

Solutions:

- Availability of grant funding to implement and sustain programs.
- Acquire educational materials for public education/information programs to include fire prevention, victims' services, disaster preparedness, and the capabilities of the United Way 2-1-1 Program.

Develop new programs for public education as issues and information is available.

Priority 4:

Tourism Safety

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Supporting Data:

Water recreation has become a major draw for tourism in Comal County which has the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers and the Canyon Dam Reservoir. Camping, boating, rafting, tubing, swimming and other water recreational sports have become a major economic source for the area.

The county is also very rich in German heritage and many tourists seek the area for its historical benefits, shopping and ambiance. The Gruene District is a major tourist attraction for the county.

Providing services to protect the residents and tourists to the county is essential in promoting tourism in the county.

Tourism is a major industry for Comal County. As a community with river recreation along two local rivers, the Guadalupe River and the Comal River, along with recreational activities at Canyon Dam Reservoir, Comal County is a community which is very attractive to water enthusiasts. During summer weekends and holidays the community will often have an influx of tourists that numbers well over 100,000.

The Gruene District has become a major attraction and has become a haven for tourists not only during the summer, but throughout the year. With shopping, fine dining, and the Gruene Hall concerts, Gruene remains vibrant, not only during daylight hours, but nighttime hours as well.

Proposed Objectives:

Law enforcement river patrols and additional law enforcement on duty during peak times. Law enforcement officials coordinate with local officials to closely monitor river activities and other community activities, such as those in the Gruene area.

Fire and emergency medical service personnel provide water rescues, emergency medical services and other rescue services.

The District Attorney's Office provides effective prosecution of offenders.

Solutions:

- Additional law enforcement personnel to combat tourism crime along the river and recreational areas and historical attractions.

- Adequate funding for programs and coordination between law enforcement, local government and community volunteers. The Comal County Sheriff's Office has increased its crime prevention program from one Officer to two Officers. With the current trend, a third Officer may need to be proposed. The New Braunfels Police Department has also seen the need for a crime prevention program and identified a pressing need for a forensic latent print processor clerk. New Braunfels Police Department wants to secure funding to procure state of the art equipment such as (Live Scan) fingerprinting/identification system that could be used for fingerprinting special needs seniors as well as children. By having more tools and public contacts; these enhancements to the program would help citizens become more aware of what is going on and reduce the chances of becoming victims of crime.

- The goal is to decrease criminal activity along the Guadalupe and Comal Rivers and in the Canyon Dam Reservoir area.

- Law enforcement participation in the Metro Narcotics Task Force, to further the coordination of all drug operations. The Comal County Sheriff's Office and the New Braunfels Police Department currently have through a cooperative effort, officers assigned to the *Comal County Metro Narcotics Task Force* dedicated to fighting drugs in the community. Most property crimes and persons crimes are linked directly and indirectly to drug use and trafficking.

- Development of new programs to educate the local population and visitors of the community support necessary to protect the local residents and visitors.

- Maintain and increase current levels of service by first responders.

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

1. More drugs available and younger youths being exposed to those drugs.
2. Increased drug related arrests with increase in population.
3. Programs for youth and information for adults are needed.

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Identify Achievements:

Comal County has recently completed a five year radio plan which included narrow banding the frequencies, upgrading the tower sites, upgrading of dispatch equipment, and replacement of subscriber units, both mobile and handheld, for the Comal County Sheriff's Office, Bulverde Police Department, Garden Ridge Police Department and Comal County Road and Bridge.

The City of New Braunfels is currently upgrading their old VHF repeaters for the Police and Fire Departments and purchasing a few handheld radios. They are currently evaluating their radio options.

Funding was secured for replacement of repeaters, relicensing and narrow banding of current licenses and a small cache of portable and mobile radios for the City of New Braunfels Fire Department, as well as, for portable radios for the New Braunfels Police SWAT Team.

The Comal County Sheriff's Office Dare Program is a success story but needs additional funding.

Crime Prevention Programs are successful programs in assisting our citizens in Comal County from being victimized by crime.

The Comal County Sheriff's Department has begun a Junior Deputy camp this past Summer which is open to DARE graduates.

The New Braunfels Police Department has begun a alcohol awareness program at local high schools, entitled Operation Intervention. The program has been in existence for approximately two years, and has been successful.

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Mental Health and Mental Retardation

(listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

Priority 1:

MENTAL HEALTH & MENTAL RETARDATION

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Supporting Data:

As the population of Comal County continues to increase, the demand for mental health and mental retardation services for all age groups will become greater.

We can expect that there will be greater needs for mentally ill and mentally retarded individuals who cycle through the local hospital, county jail, our courts, probation services and local non-profit organizations. Unmet needs often result in a higher number of crisis situations involving the local police, sheriff's office, hospital emergency room and psychiatric hospitalizations. All of which are costly and do not meet the consumer's long-term needs in his/her natural setting or least restrictive environment. Other social service agencies report an increased need for mental health services ranging from general counseling to severe problems such as personality disorders and major depression. The problem is compounded with the lack of insurance coverage for the middle to low income wage range, as well as the recent state and federal budget cuts, which severely impact the level of service provision by the local Hill Country MH/MR and other non-profit organizations.

Individuals who have private insurance can afford to receive assistance from private doctors or area clinicians that accept insurance. Those who do not have insurance must rely on

publicly funded services. While there are less stringent diagnosis requirements for children to receive services, only adult persons suffering from Major Depression coupled with low global assessment of functioning (GAF), Bipolar Disorder and Schizophrenia are eligible for services. This leaves many persons who suffer from less immediate or less severe diagnoses to be referred to other local and surrounding area services.

In an effort to identify individuals with mental illness in the Comal County Jail, daily booking reports are sent to Hill Country MH/MR for manual matching. On average, 15 % of jail inmates have received some mental health treatment in the past.

The Hill Country MH/MR provide psychiatric care, behavioral therapy, rehabilitative services and 24 hour crisis screening and on-call response services to all eligible Comal County residents. Presently the MH clinic and MR center provide services to roughly 600 individuals who are largely indigent, unable to afford insurance, or they do not qualify for or are in the process of qualifying for federal entitlements.

Throughout the past year, Hill Country MH/MR has served over 10,000 individuals, including:

- 6,192 adults with mental illness (1,065 from Comal County)
- 1,307 children with mental illness (223 from Comal County)
- 942 individuals with developmental disabilities (193 from Comal County) and
- 1,742 children (up to 3 years of age) through the Early Childhood Intervention Program (444 from Comal County).

Connections provided therapy to 170 new clients during the 2009-2010 year through its Out Patient program.

Proposed Objectives:

Hill Country MH/MR is focused on providing mental health care and services to the residents of Comal County. The agency provides psychiatric services, counseling, rehabilitation services, referral services and it also coordinates crisis on-call services 24 hrs. per day, seven days per week. The Center will continue to address the major mental health problems for all age groups meeting priority population requirements. In addition the Hill Country MH/MR will continue to contract through the TCOOMMI program and provide mental health services to identified adult probationers. In the '09 fiscal year Comal MH re-established the juvenile TCOOMMI program to serve juveniles with both probation and mental health needs.

Connections provides crisis intervention, evaluation, case management, information/referral and counseling focused on various mental health needs. Connections works with individuals and families in order to assist the entire family unit. Connections accepts Medicaid, Medicare and CHIP and also utilizes a sliding scale fee system based on family income. Connections provided therapy to 170 new clients during their 2009-2010 year.

The Crisis Center provides crisis intervention, case management, information/referral and counseling focused on domestic violence and sexual assault issues. The agency also assists family members of the victims who may have difficulty dealing with the violent crime

or the stressful aftermath the victim is experiencing. In 2009, the Crisis Center provided 1,356 hours of counseling to 359 adults and 201 children.

Solutions:

Improve the quantity of mental health services available to residents of Comal County by:

1. Increasing the number of staff positions dedicated to providing mental health services through increased state funding.
2. Maintain and improve working relationships with other local mental health and social service providers.
3. Maintain and improve local coalition meetings that address client needs before the need becomes life threatening.
4. Improve employee compensation to retain and attract qualified employees through funding of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.
5. Community must develop a proactive strategy to address the consistent problem of child abuse.
6. Hill Country MH/MR's TCOOMMI program will continue to provide the amount of services, which are funded. Comal MH re-launched the juvenile TCOOMMI program.
7. Hill Country MH/MR has and will continue to respond to any psychiatric crisis with residents at the county jail and Christus Hospital. If the resident meets criteria for psychiatric hospitalization. Hill Country MH/MR staff will make recommendations and arrangements for hospitalization. All involuntary hospitalizations must be screened by Hill Country MH/MR, on-call staff.
10. Connections and other local area providers will increase collaboration with Hill Country MH/MR to help minimize the expected gap in services as a result of budget cuts.

Hill Country MH/MR will continue to research any available funding for addressing adult mental health issues, including mentally ill offenders.

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

State and federal budget cuts impact level of service provision by the local Hill Country MH/MR agency and lead to increased costs for jails and emergency rooms.

Comal County is in need of Mental Health prevention programs.

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Identify Achievements:

Comal County has contracted a psychiatrist to help with inmate's psychiatric needs.

In the 2009 fiscal year, Comal MH re-established the juvenile TCOOMMI program to serve juveniles with both probation and mental health needs.

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 gaps:

Abstinence Resource Council (Worth the Wait Program)

Address: 785 N. Loop 337
New Braunfels, Texas 78130
Phone: 830-643-4162

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Health education/risk reduction, HIV prevention education, STD prevention education, hepatitis prevention education, peer education, educational materials, documented, medically accurate information presented in reference to prevention. Community presentations to church groups, organizations, private and public schools.

Eligibility: 6th grade through high school-aged students, parents, teachers, adults, and health care professionals

Hours: vary

Adult Literacy & Education

Address: 430 W. Mill Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-643-5729

Counties Served: Comal

Services: GED, English as a second language (Adult Classes Only) Program supported by New Braunfels ISD.

Eligibility: Must be 18 years or older. At 17 years old need withdrawal from school and parents permission. At 16 years old need court order.

Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Adult Protective Services

Address: 115 Green Valley E. Ste. 200
New Braunfels, Texas 78130
Phone: 830-609-5033

Counties Served: Comal

Services: In-home investigation and services, mental health & retardation investigations, child care licensing, child protective services, and management services.

Eligibility: None

Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Alamo Area Council of Governments

Address: 8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 700
San Antonio, Texas 78217-6228
Phone: 210-362-5200
Fax: 210-225-5937
Website: www.aacog.com

Counties Served: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson

Services: AACOG has active programs for regional planning in the areas of aging services, economic development, 9-1-1 systems, homeland security, criminal justice, resource recovery, air quality, transportation, weatherization, and workforce. We also administer the Bexar Mental Retardation Authority. Technical assistance is provided by the staff to local governments on matters related to a number of other program areas, including census, housing, and human services. In addition, AACOG sponsors special projects in response to local government needs or requests.

Hours: Monday – Friday; 8:00am – 5:00pm.

Alamo Regional Transit

Address: 655 Landa Street
New Braunfels, Texas 78130
Phone: 1-866-889-7433

Counties Served: Atascosa, Bandera, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson

Services: Public transportation in town, San Antonio, Canyon Lake for a small fee.

Eligibility: Must live in Comal County. Must pre-register for services and call at least 24 hours ahead of time to schedule wheelchair accessible vehicle. Not in need of physical assistance. If wheelchair user, need to schedule wheelchair accessible vehicle. If attendant needed, user must provide. Must provide car seat for each child 4 and under.

Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

Address: 1142 Eikel Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-625-0057

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Alcoholics Anonymous meetings to help the individual stop drinking and maintain sobriety.

Eligibility: Must have a desire to stop drinking.

Hours: Call for information

Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Address: 202 Baltimore
San Antonio, TX 78215
Phone: 210-225-6322
Website: www.bigmentor.org

Counties Served: Atascosa, Bexar, Cameron, Comal, Guadalupe, Hidalgo, Kendall, Kerr, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, Webb, and Wilson

Services: Big Brother Big Sister provides mentoring services through professional supported one-to-one relationships, in striving to help children meet their full potential.

Eligibility: Child must live in counties served, be between the ages of 5-17 years old and be assessed to need extra guidance and support. Volunteer big brothers/big sisters must be at least 18 years old, for the Community Based Program, or 16 years old for the School Based Program. Big Brothers and Big Sisters offer volunteers a very flexible commitment depending on their availability, interests, and location.

Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Bulverde Police Department

Address: 30360 Cougar Canyon Bend
Bulverde, TX 78163

Contact: Chief Joe Hamilton
830-438-3112, Ext. 205

Bulverde Senior Center

Address: 30280 Cougar Canyon Bend
Bulverde, TX 78163
830-438-3111

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Variety of programs, including exercise, arts and crafts and various games. Support Home delivered meals in Comal County.

Eligibility: 55 years and older

Hours: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Monday - Friday

CASA Central Texas (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

Address: 1619 E. Common, Suite 301
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-626-2272

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Children Advocacy Services

Eligibility: CASA services are appointed by family court judge

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County

Address: 111 E. Commerce
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-626-2543

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Agency provides a neutral, child-friendly agency that facilitates a multi-disciplinary approach in the prevention, detection, investigation, and treatment of child abuse. The Center performs forensic interviews and coordinates the multi-disciplinary team.

Eligibility: Child in need of forensic interview

Hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

Comal County Extension Service

Address: 325 Resource Drive
New Braunfels, Texas 78132
Phone: 830-620-3440

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Help people help themselves through informal educational activities. Provide information in the program areas of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Community Development, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H and Youth. Educational programs reach Comal County residents through short courses, seminars, meetings, workshops, result demonstrations and personal contact, as well as newsletters, news releases and radio programs. Programs are offered to people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. Offer assistance to Extension Education and 4-H clubs, as well as community groups and organizations. Provide project materials for 4-H in both public and private schools.

Eligibility: None

Hours: Mon-Friday, 8 am to Noon, 1 pm to 5 pm

Comal County Public Health Department

Address: 178 E. Mill Street, Suite 210
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-221-1100, Ext. 612

Counties Served: Comal, Guadalupe, Bexar, Hays, Blanco

Services: Public health promotion, health education, communicable disease investigation and control and disease prevention, children and adult immunizations, TB tests, blood pressure screening, pregnancy testing, Lab-HIV, response to vaccination/titers, routine lab with doctor prescription. Referrals of children to dental service. Sexually transmitted disease education. Since services can vary, call for current information.

Eligibility: Fees vary according to eligibility. Appointments necessary for most services.

Hours: 8:00 am-11:45 am and 1:00 pm-4:45 pm, Monday-Friday

Comal County Senior Citizens Center

Address: 655 Landa Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-629-4547

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Exercise room, pool (low cost); nutrition program Monday-Friday midday congregate meal, home delivered meals for age 60, home bound, or handicapped, and meeting government requirements; thrift shop; social activities; and money management programs

Eligibility: Generally, men and women age 50 and older

Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Comal ISD Keystone Program

Address: 1404 IH 35 North
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-221-2193

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Mental Health/Counseling, Violence Prevention, Reintegration, Substance Abuse Prevention/Intervention, Parenting Skills Training, ESL Classes, GED Classes, Case Management, and Early Childhood Learning Programs

Eligibility: None

Hours: school hours

Communities in Schools

Address: 161 S. Castell Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-620-4247

Counties Served: Comal, Guadalupe

Services: (Students) - Tutoring, mentoring and incentive programs; homework, study and reading clubs; enrichment programs at other academic locations; transportation to needed community services; aid in transition to new campus; coordination with health and human services; pre-employment/employment training and services; supportive guidance and counseling. (Parents) - Newsletter with academic information, home visits to review concerns and determine needs, transportation to special school functions, counseling on nutrition, budgeting and literacy; parenting classes; referrals for needed community services.

Eligibility: Students in Comal, New Braunfels, Marion, and Schertz-Universal City Independent School Districts

Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday –Friday

Community Council of South Central Texas-Aging Program

Address: West Side Community Center
272 S. Krueger Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-625-6268

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Help with rent and utility bills; information and referral; USDA commodities distribution; meal program; home-delivered meals

Eligibility: Comal County resident. Appointment required. Must meet income requirements (no more than $11,075/annually/per person). Migrant seasonal farm workers also helped.

Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm Monday-Friday. Closed from noon until 1:00 pm.

Community Resource and Recreation Center, Inc. of Canyon Lake

Address: 1917 FM 2873
Canyon Lake, TX 78133
Phone: 830-964-2324

Counties Served: Comal (residents of Canyon Lake)

Services: Economic crisis programs – utilities, rent, food pantry, AACOG Alamo Regional Transit van available for transportation, Senior programs/recreation/meals on wheels, Reassurance Program, Durable medical equipment loan program, Voluntary health information/programs, Athletic programs – adult and youth, Thrift Store – provides low cost used clothing furniture and other household items.

Eligibility: Resident of Canyon Lake for six months and living in zip code 78133 and parts of 78132.

Hours: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday (office)

Connections Individual and Family Services, Inc.

Address: 1414 W. San Antonio
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-629-5910

Counties Served: Comal

Services: 24-hour shelter, Outpatient Treatment Program, S.T.A.R. (Services to at risk youth), Shelter Services Assessment Center, and Substance Abuse Prevention skills classes and presentations.

Eligibility: Primarily youth between the ages of 0 and 17, although interventions may be available for those younger or older. The shelter serves boys and girls, ages 10-17. Programs eligibility determined by county of residence.

Hours: 24-hour shelter and hotline

Crisis Center of Comal County

Address: 1547 Common Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-620-7520

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; free counseling: children, teens, and adults; Support groups for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; rape crisis advocacy; assistance with legal services; information and referral to other services; emergency transportation for victims of domestic violence; help in getting emergency care; substance abuse prevention services; community prevention education; and help with seeking or keeping jobs.

Eligibility: Survivors of family/domestic violence and/or sexual abuse/assault.

Hours: 9:00 am-6:00 pm, Monday-Friday; 24-hour emergency shelter; 24-hour hotline

DARE Program (Comal County Sheriff's Office)

Address: 1298 Churchill Drive
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-643-5844

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Teach Drug Awareness Resistance and Education (DARE) Program to 5th grade students (approx. 1,400)

Eligibility: 5th grade students in the Comal ISD only

Hours: school hours

Domestic Violence Prevention Program

Address: P. O. Box 1684
San Marcos, TX 78667-1684
Phone: 512-353-8923

Counties Served: Caldwell, Comal and Hays Community

Services: Domestic Violence Prevention Program and Anger Intervention Program

Eligibility: In need of batterers program. May be referred by CPS, Comal County Adult Probation, or self referral. After calling to enroll in one of the classes, a packet will be sent with a map to location, class policy, dates and times, and how to pay the fee.

Hours: 8:30 am-12:pm and 1:00 pm-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday (office hours)

Family Outreach of Comal County, Inc.

Address: 773 Loop 337
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-620-1299

Counties Served: Comal and Guadalupe Counties

Services: Child abuse prevention programs including: information and referrals; in home services for parenting concerns; parenting classes; community education; and born to learn/parents as teachers

Eligibility: Residents of New Braunfels, Comal County and Guadalupe County

Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon 1:00 pm-5:00 pm., Tues.-Fri; 9:00 am-9:00 pm Monday

Family Life Center of New Braunfels

Address: 5513 IH 35 South
New Braunfels, TX 78132
Phone: 830-625-7100

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Clearinghouse and a referral center to assist the under-resourced residents of the county with the following services: utilities, rent, food, fuel, medical, used furniture, appliances, and other programs. We also have budget classes.

Eligibility: Comal County residents. Appointment required. Must meet income requirements.

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 pm., Wednesday - 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Closed on Fridays.

Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc.

Address: 7911 Broadway
San Antonio, TX 78209
Phone: 210-733-8810

Counties Served: Bexar and surrounding counties

Services: Battered Women's and Children's Shelter, Transitional Housing, Youth Services, Juvenile Violence Intervention Services, Dating Violence Prevention Project, Substance Abuse Intervention Program, Counseling Center, Community Based Counseling Program, Volunteer Program, Providing options with Educational Resources, Batters' Intervention Services

Eligibility: Victims, perpetrators, other family members affected by family violence.

Hours: 24-hour shelter and hotline

Garden Ridge Police Department

Address: 9400 Municipal Pkwy.
San Antonio, TX 78266

Contact: Chief Victor R. Mata
210-651-6441

Hays-Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Address: 1601 Dutton, Suite E
San Marcos, TX 78666
Phone: 512-396-7695

Counties Served: Hays, Caldwell and Comal

Services: Substance abuse services, screening, referral; Outpatient treatment, education; Offender education (Minor in Possession, Nature of Marijuana, Public Intoxication, and Tobacco Awareness)

Eligibility: None

Hours: 8:30 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Hill Country Community MHMR-Center, Inc. Comal Mental Health Clinic

Address: 358 Landa Street, Suite 300
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-620-6221

Counties Served: Comal

Services: 24-hour crisis on-call, hospital screening, psychiatric evaluation and medication, professional counseling for children and their families ONLY; Wellness training to include improving emotional health, supported housing and employment needs, and physical health/medication training and psychiatric rehabilitation; and Child and adolescent psychiatric and wellness services.

Eligibility: Comal County residents (children and adults). Must have diagnosis of schizophrenia, bipolar, or severe major depression.

Hours: 8:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:00 pm-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Hill Country Mental Retardation Center

Address: 511 North Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-625-7539

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Service Coordination, Day Programming, Vocational Assistance, Self-help skills training, Behavioral challenges, Respite, Residential placement, Special medical and health services, Assistance with annual Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARC) meeting with school dated; Assistance with accessing Supplemental Security income (SSI) from Social Security administration; Occupational Therapy; Supported employment services

Eligibility: Comal County residents age 4 and up to 10 with IQ less than 70 and a Adaptive Behavior Level that is below normal.

Hours: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday-Friday

McKenna Health Care System

Address: 801 West San Antonio Street
New Braunfels, Texas 78130
Phone: 830-606-9500

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Two full size gymnasiums, meeting facilities, Classes to promote community health and wellness, educational classes and prescription access

Eligibility: membership fees

Hours: Mon-Thu: 8:00 am-9:00 pm, Fri: 8:00 am- 8:00 pm, Sat: 9:00 am-5:00 pm

New Braunfels Community Teen Court

Address: New Braunfels Municipal Court
1486 S. Seguin Avenue
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-221-4185

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Teen Court is a voluntary program, which assists teenage first offenders in assuming responsibility for their behavior through involvement in the judicial process and work in the community.

Eligibility: Teen Court is a first offenders program for teenagers 10 through 17 years old, and/or who are currently enrolled in a middle or high school and receive a Class C citation in Comal County. Participation in Teen Court is possible after admission of guilt. Before enrolling, teens must appear with a parent or guardian before a Municipal Judge or Justice of the Peace, or present proof of marriage, and enter a plea of guilty or not contest. Participation in Teen Court is an alternative to paying the fine.

Hours: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the Month

New Braunfels Homespun

Address: 1040 N. Walnut Avenue, #F
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-625-1510

Counties Served: Comal

Services: All services are provided in home or at the child's day care location. Staff includes nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, social workers, certified teachers, speech language pathologists, and early intervention specialists for: Occupational therapy and physical therapy, Speech therapy, Home visits, Transitioning, Parental Groups, and service coordination

Eligibility: Comal County children from birth to age 3 with delays in development. These might include, but not limited to prematurity, difficulty in walking or talking and difficulty in playing with others

Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday, Appointment hours vary

New Braunfels Parks & Recreation

Address: 110 Golf Course Road
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: (830) 221-4370

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Youth and Teen Programs (sports, education and entertainment)

Eligibility: None

New Life Children's Treatment Center (Lutheran Social Services)

Address: 650 Scarborough Road
Canyon Lake, TX 78133
Phone: 830-964-4390

Counties Served: Comal

Services: 24-hour therapeutic program in a secure surrounding. Additionally, support is provided by volunteers, a community advisory board, and area congregations.

Eligibility: Severely emotionally disturbed female between the ages of 11 and 17 in need of residential treatment for physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm (Office) 24/265 Shelter

Options for Women

Address: 785 N. Loop 337
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-629-7565

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Abortion Information, Free Pregnancy Tests, Free Limited Obstetrical, Ultrasound, Material Assistance, Adoption Support , Post Abortion Recovery, Support, Parenting Classes, Car Seat Classes, Men's Recovery Support

Eligibility: Accepts clients without regard

Hours: Mon - Thu 9:00am-5:00pm, Fri 9:00am-1:00pm, Sat by appt.

Safe Place

Address: P. O. Box 19343
Austin, TX 78760-9434
Phone: 512-267-7233

Counties Served: Travis and surrounding counties

Services: Emergency shelter for survivors, 24-hour hotline, Intervention and prevention programs, Counseling for adults and children, Therapeutic children's programs; Client, legal and hospital advocacy, Public awareness and education programs, Training for professionals, School-based programs, Supportive housing, Disability services, On-site school and child development center, and Thrift store

Eligibility: Victims/survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

Hours: 8:00 am-9:00 pm, Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Friday, 24/365 (shelter and hotline

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Foundation of Comal County, Inc.

Address: P. O. Box 310078
New Braunfels, TX 78131-0078
Phone: (830) 620-7520
(830) 221-1300 office

Counties Served: Comal and surrounding areas

Services: SANE exams (forensic sexual assault exams) to sexual assault victims, community outreach regarding sexual assault awareness and prevention.

Eligibility: any victim of sexual assault is eligible for an exam; the only requirement is that the exam must be authorized by a law enforcement agency or a hospital.

Hours: 24/7

St. Jude's Ranch For Children-Emergency Shelter, Inc.

Address: 652 Bear Creek Road
New Braunfels, TX 78132
Phone: 830-629-0659

Counties Served: Any county in Texas

Services: Emergency shelter which provides short-term residential care for children. Emergency shelter includes provision of food, shelter, clothing, medical care and formulation of a plan for continuing care outside the shelter.

Eligibility: 3 months to 9 years. From any county in Texas.

Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

Address: Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
4800 N. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78756

DARS Disability Determination Services
P.O. Box 149198
Austin, TX 78714-9198
Phone: 1-800-628-5115 or TTY 1-866-581-9328

Counties Served: Texas Counties

Services: Early childhood intervention services, Rehabilitation services, Services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, Services for people who are blind or visually impaired, Disability determination services

Eligibility: Texans with disabilities and families with children who have developmental delays

Texas Department of Human Services

Address: 1607 E. Common Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-625-8023

Services: Job opportunities and basic skills training; food stamp employments and training; food stamps; aid to dependent children; aged and disabled services

Eligibility: Depends on income, resources, and individual benefits requirements.

Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Texas Department of Family & Protective Services

Address: 115 Green Valley E, Suite 200
Mail Code: 2471
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-609-5033

Counties Served: Comal, Guadalupe, and 8 additional counties in area

Services: Protected services for children and adults who have been abused, neglected or exploited. Investigations are done within 24 hours of receipt of report. Victims receive short-term services such as emergency shelter, home repairs, meals, transportation, help with financial management, home health services, and medical and mental health services. Adoption assistance for those meeting qualifications and willing to adopt a child usually a child 2 years of age or older who have been abused or neglected.

Eligibility: Residents of Comal and Guadalupe County and 8 additional counties in area

Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Texas Rehabilitation Commission New Braunfels

Address: 115 E. Green Valley, Suite 100
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-620-6311

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Medical, psychological and vocational evaluation to determine client's disability and help find clients job capabilities. Hearing impaired service, medical treatment therapy as indicated, assistive devices and rehabilitation services offered. Job skill training, appropriate work behavior training, and job placement assistance and follow-up is available.

Eligibility: An individual with mental or psychological disability that results in substantial problems getting and/or keeping a job.

Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Texas Youth Hotline

Phone No: 1-800-210-2278 (youth hotline) 1-888-580-4357 (runaway hotline)

Counties Served: State of Texas

Services: Trained staff and volunteers provide prevention services to callers who are in need of caring voice and listening ear. After addressing the caller's problems, telephone counselors help them consider options, explore their feelings and develop a sensible plan.

Eligibility: No restrictions, available to youths, their families, schools, law enforcement agencies, and anyone in need of community services.

Hours: 24 hours a day

The Gabriel Project

Address: c/o Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
The Gabriel Project
Phone: 830-481-0258

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Emotional needs, Material needs, Spiritual needs, An "Angel" can be assigned to a person throughout her pregnancy to help her, and Referrals as needed.

Eligibility: Crisis Pregnancy

Hours: 24/7/365

Upstarts, Inc.

Address: P. O. Box 31673
New Braunfels, TX 78131
Phone: 830-237-9212

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Upstarts Entrepreneurial Program, Individual Student Advocacy, Community Awareness Presentations**,** After School Tutoring and Support for Secondary Students, College Visits, Houston Grand Adventure, Trail Clean Ups, Mock Trial, L.A.F. Class (Learning After Four), Summer Recovery Programs, 8th Grade Literacy Leaders Class, Educator Support Initiatives, 9th Grade Academy Support, Sensational Saturdays, Team Tyro Community Partnerships, Team Tyro Teacher Training, and Upstarts Opportunity Center

Westside Community Center

Address: 2932 IH 35 S
New Braunfels, TX 78130-7026
Phone: 830-629-2011

(**TIPHER**) The Institute for Public Health and Education Research
256 S. Krueger Avenue
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Counties Served: Comal

Services: Medical/Dental Services, Tutoring/counseling program for children and teenagers, English as a Second Language classes, Diabetes Education Program, Aging Program, Legal Aid Services, annual community Thanksgiving Day Feast, Noon meal offered Monday-Sunday, and Food-pantry on site

YMCA

Address: 710 Landa Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130-7026
Phone: (830) 606-9622

Counties Served: State of Texas

Services: Health and Wellness, Child Care, Swim Lessons, Swim Team, Group Exercise, Sports, Membership

Eligibility: Open

Hours: Mon.-Thurs, 5 a.-9 p, Fri., 5 a-8 p, Sat. 7a-6p, Sun. 1-5 p

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Interagency Cooperation

Through the Community Planning effort, various agencies have become more aware of the resources available in the community. This has facilitated the ability of agencies to assist one another in a time of need.

Historical Information

Comal County was created by the first Legislature of Texas, in March of 1846. Comal County was the first of 128 counties created from the original Bexar County. The Act by the first Legislature to create the county was approved on March 24, 1846. Comal County gets its name from the Comal Springs and the Comal River that flow through New Braunfels, the county seat.

This Water Recreation Capital of Texas is only 15 minutes from Interstate Highway 35 or from Highway 281, and these two highways are connected by FM 306. Quaint, winding roads will draw you into the natural surroundings. River Road is a destination in itself. River Road runs alongside the Guadalupe River between Canyon Lake and Gruene/New Braunfels, and is lined with beautiful Cypress trees, tubing and rafting outfitters, tent camping, cabins and cottages, and even luxurious, comfortable accommodations; something for everyone! Canyon Lake has 80 miles of shoreline surrounded with nature-rich neighborhoods. There are many accommodations available on the lake, from tent camping in the lake parks to plush bed and breakfasts.

Our Visitor Center offers free maps and lots of friendly information and material on events in the area. Highlights include Dry Comal Creek Vineyards, the Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill County, which is home to over 300 dinosaur tracks, Whitewater Amphitheatre - a live music amphitheatre on the Guadalupe, a lakeside golf course – Canyon Lake Golf Club, a one-of-a-kind gorge – Canyon Gorge, free hiking nature trails, swim beaches, boat rentals and a paddling trail on the Upper Guadalupe. Rainbow trout fishing below Canyon Dam is especially popular during winter and spring months.

Places to visit include Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort, Gruene Historic District – home to Texas' oldest dance hall – Gruene Hall, the Centex Wing of the CAF – Ghost Squadron exhibit, Natural Bridge Caverns – a national natural landmark.

Economic Development - Opportunities just don't grow here - Uniquely cultivated by old world German heritage, industry-diversified business brims with innovation yet remains deeply rooted in the sectors of manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, distribution and aviation. New Braunfels has access to a growing 400,000+ affordable, well-trained labor force and ten colleges and universities within a 30-minute commute. Complimented with a pro-business leadership attitude, competitive incentives, low tax burden and easy access to IH-35 and IH-10, it's easy to understand why companies such as Wal-Mart Distribution Center, The Coleman Company and The Scooter Store have relocated here. Over 300+ days of sunshine a year and nearby rivers, lakes, Schlitterbahn (America's #1 Rated Waterpark) and over 500 acres of outdoor recreation make New Braunfels a desirable destination for work – or play, year round.

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APPROVED on this the 4th day of November, 2010.

COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS

Danny Scheel, County Judge ,

Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct 1

Jay Millikin, Commissioner Pct 2

Gregory Parker, Commissioner Pct 3

Jan Kennady, Commissioner Pct 4

COMMISSIONERS' COURT COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS

Attest:

Joy Streater, County Clerk