



# **Karnes County Community Plan 2010 - 2012**

**Date approved by Karnes County Commissioner's Court:  
October 29, 2010**

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**Mission Statement**

For Karnes County as a community to foster cooperation with the agencies, public, and any other resource to improve and expand gaps in services to better serve the citizens of our community as a whole.

**Goal Statement**

Identify, expand, and restore resources to best serve our community as a whole.

**Geographic Areas Represented**

**Incorporated Communities:**

Falls City	Kenedy
Karnes City	Runge

**Unincorporated Communities:**

Gillette	Hobson	Panna Maria
Helena	Lens	

**Independent School Districts:**

Falls City	Kenedy
Karnes City	Runge

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**County Demographics:**

Karnes County Community Members have been working in cooperation to develop comprehensive planning for the county since 1997. Originally the plan focused on the criminal justice system and mental health field, but has since expanded its cooperation to the city government(s), economic development, and all community members through the local church organizations. Annually surveys are conducted to hear from the public their needs, the gaps in service, and current services available through organizations. Karnes County’s population as estimated in 2009 is 15,029. 48.7% of the population is Hispanic, 38.2% White, 11.7% Black, 0.9% Native American, and 0.5% Asian and 20.6% of the population is under the age of 18.

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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 Chair Person:**

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
Neva Schmidt	Karnes/Wilson Juvenile Probation Dept.	101 N. Panna Maria Karnes City, TX 78118	<a href="mailto:n-schmidt@kwjpd.com">n-schmidt@kwjpd.com</a>	830-780-2228

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**Juvenile Services:**

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
Neva Schmidt	Karnes/Wilson Juvenile Probation Dept.	101 N Panna Maria Karnes City, TX 78118	<a href="mailto:n-schmidt@kwjpd.com">n-schmidt@kwjpd.com</a>	830-780-2228
Julie Lloyd	Connections	1010 Zanderson Jourdanton, Texas 78026	<a href="mailto:jllloyd@connectionsnonprofit.org">jllloyd@connectionsnonprofit.org</a>	830-769-3225
Carolyn McDonald	Kenedy Chamber	205 S. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Kenedy, TX 78119	<a href="mailto:kenedycc@sbcglobal.net">kenedycc@sbcglobal.net</a>	830-583-5929
Ronnie Mitchell	Karnes/Wilson Juvenile Probation Dept	337 Alternative Lane, Floresville, Texas 78114	<a href="mailto:r-mitchell@kwjpd.com">r-mitchell@kwjpd.com</a>	830-393-5758
Deanne Pape	Camino Real	1005 B Street Floresville, TX 78114	<a href="mailto:deanep@caminorealmhmr.org">deanep@caminorealmhmr.org</a>	830-216-4326
Jeanette Winn	Karnes City ISD	Hwy 123 Karnes City, TX 78118	<a href="mailto:jwinn@kcisd.net">jwinn@kcisd.net</a>	830-780-2321

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**Victim Services:**

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
Kellie Stallings	Connections Individual & Family Services, Inc.	1414 W. San Antonio New Braunfels, TX 78130	<a href="mailto:kstallings@connectionsnonprofit.org">kstallings@connectionsnonprofit.org</a>	830-629-6571
Tracy Krech	Guadalupe Valley Battered Womens Shelter	P.O. Box 1302 Seguin, TX 78155	<a href="mailto:Tracy@safesequin.org">Tracy@safesequin.org</a>	830-372-2780
Julie Lloyd	Connections Individual & Family Services, Inc.	1010 Zanderson Jourdanton, TX 78026	<a href="mailto:jllloyd@connectionsnonprofit.org">jllloyd@connectionsnonprofit.org</a>	830-769-3225

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

Name	Agency	Address	E-mail	Phone
Duane DuBose	Kenedy Police Department	303 W. Main Kenedy, TX 78119	<a href="mailto:ddkcc@yahoo.com">ddkcc@yahoo.com</a>	830-583-2225
Eddie Salas	Karnes City Police Department	211 E. Calvert Karnes City, TX 78118	<a href="mailto:resalas@sbcglobal.net">resalas@sbcglobal.net</a>	830-623-2807

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**Alamo Area Council of Governments County Community Planning Liaisons**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Marcela Medina	Alamo Area Council of Governments	8700 Tesoro, Suite 700 San Antonio, TX 78217	<a href="mailto:mmedina@aacog.com">mmedina@aacog.com</a>	210-362-5250
Veronica Avalos	Alamo Area Council of Governments	8700 Tesoro, Suite 700 San Antonio, TX 78217	<a href="mailto:vavalos@aacog.com">vavalos@aacog.com</a>	210-362-5290
Nancy Gibbons	Alamo Area Council of Governments	8700 Tesoro, Suite 700 San Antonio, TX 78217	<a href="mailto:ngibbons@aacog.com">ngibbons@aacog.com</a>	210-362-5242

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

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## Identification of Community Problems

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

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

#### Priority 1:

Substance Abuse

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#### Supporting Data:

In the spring of 2010, the PRIDE Survey was administered at the four school districts in Karnes County. Surveys have been administered annually in Karnes County since 2004 to determine the needs of the community and the impact of existing services. The results of the 2010 surveys indicate the reduction of prevention services across the county over the past two years as funding has decrease is having some effect. When compared to 2009 PRIDE results, student perception of parent and peer disapproval of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana have decreased. For five years the county had seen improvements in this area and for the first time since 2004, a decrease has occurred. Additionally, and even more alarming is the increase in use of marijuana in the past 30 days. This is alarming as only recently did alcohol use in Karnes County move within range of the national average where as before it had exceeded this average significantly. According to the most recent PRIDE Survey, the following risk factors exist in Karnes County:

Of secondary school students, 22% indicated use of tobacco in the past year and 13.1% indicated use in the past month. Alcohol use is much higher than tobacco as 40.1% indicated use in the past year while 18.3% indicated use in the past month. Drug use is the most alarming as it increase significantly in the past year with 18.0% indicating use of an illicit drug in the past year and 10.7% indicating use in the past month. Marijuana use, as indicated is on the rise as it increased by 63% over the past survey results for the percentage of students indicating use in the past month. In 2010, 15.2% indicated past year use of marijuana while, 9.3% indicated use in the past month. Of illicit drugs indicated, marijuana was the most commonly used with prescription drug abuse being second highest.

On the positive side, PRIDE indicates that the age of first use of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana continues to rise. In 2010 the average age of first use for alcohol was 13.2; for tobacco it was 13.2, and for marijuana it was 13.3. This is an improvement over the original PRIDE Surveys of almost 12 months in age for the average age of first use and these all increased by an average of 1.8 months in the past year. However, other significant protective factors for students seem to be decreasing as 34.7% of students indicated no perception of peer disapproval of tobacco use, 44.3% of students indicated no perception of peer disapproval of alcohol use, and 27.5% of students indicated no perception of peer disapproval of marijuana use. This is an alarming change for all who work with your services

in Karnes County as this is a decrease compared to recent years in an area that had for so long made improvements. Perceptions of parent disapproval of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use had had also been an area of on-going and annual improvement as each year positive change had occurred, however, in 2010 no improvements were made in the area of parental disapproval of use. This is concerning as the positive momentum seems to have stalled. As a result 10.6% of students indicate no perception of parental disapproval of tobacco use, 20% of students indicate no perception of parental disapproval of alcohol use, and 7.3% of students indicate no perception of parental disapproval of marijuana use. This perception may be accurate as students largely indicate that alcohol and marijuana use occurs in the home or in the home of peers.

There are other concerning risk factors in Karnes County that are highlighted by the 2010 PRIDE survey. School safety is most notable as 19.2% of secondary students indicate they have been threatened at school with physical assault and 17.4% of students indicate they have threatened other students. At the same time 11.9% of students indicate they have been afraid they would be hurt while at school by another student and 10.2% of students indicate they have been hurt or injured by another student assaulting them. Based on this it is not surprising that 24.1% of students indicate they have been in trouble with the police in the past year. Coupled with these risk factors it is important to note that in the past year, 4.7% of Karnes County students have contemplated suicide.

Additional risk factors identified indicate that 23.2% of Karnes County students are not achieving success academically, as they indicate they are not making good grades. Church and school activity involvement is considered to be a strong protective factor for youth, however in Karnes County 44.6% of students do not attend church or synagogue and 44.5% do not participate in school activities. Finally, one of the most profound decreases and reductions in PRIDE data results in the past 2 years is the percentage of students indicating teachers and parents talk to them about the dangers of drug and alcohol use. In 2010, only 40.4% indicated teachers and 42.4% indicated parents discussed the harm of alcohol and drug use.

Connections Individual & Family Services, Inc., provided Substance Abuse Prevention life skills to 287 youth. 583 youth/59 adults participated in a total of 28 substance abuse presentations and 1228 youth/ 290 adults participated in Alternative Activities. 38 youth and 17 adults participated in at-risk youth (STAR) counseling program for family conflict. One additional youth who was at risk of becoming a “runaway/homeless” who did not qualify for STAR was also served.

**Priority 2:**

Family Preservation Services

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Supporting Data:

In 2008, according to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, there were 201 allegations of child abuse. Of these alleged incidents of abuse, 145 were assigned for investigation. With no Child Protective Case Workers working specifically in Karnes County, 31% of priority one investigations, those mandated to be investigated within 24-hours of the time the report is made, were not investigated in the 24 hour window in 2008. Of the 201 allegations made only a total of 49 youth received any services from Child Protective Services. In 2009 there were 207 alleged victims of abuse in Karnes County; however, only 36 children in Karnes County received any services from Child Protective Services. This indicates that 171 children who were alleged victims of abuse received no services beyond investigation although the situation warranted a report of child abuse.

Clearly, Child Protective Services is overwhelmed and is limited in its ability to intervene in cases of abuse and effectively preserve families, especially in cases with older teens. This is an issue across the state. The problem is the result of family court judges who do not act upon their recommendations and a lack of fiscal resources to provide adequate services to families or children in abusive situations.

**Mental Health Data**

According to the most current projections from the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Administration (MHMRA) in Texas, Karnes County have a high population of youth who are suffering from Emotional Disturbance or Mental Health Issues. As with Child Protective Services, MHMR in Karnes County lack the fiscal resources to address the needs of these children or teens, and can only provide services to the most extreme cases. Often, the families do not participate in services, and due to the nature of their mental health issues these youth often do not receive assistance until they are brought into the system by Juvenile Probation or Child Protective Services. According to MHMRA, which indicates the population of these youth grows annually, in 2008, there were a total of 96 severely emotionally disturbed youth in the county. These are the youth most likely to receive services from MHMRA as they fall into the priority category. MHMRA also projected that the county also has a population of 450 youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance; however these youth are not priorities for MHMRA based on their statewide mandated protocols. These youth typically receive services from the schools or community groups, or after they have offended and are served by probation. Often, these are the youth who are detained or placed outside of the home through the courts. Beyond this, MHMRA indicates that there are 765 youth with mental health issues in the county. In total there are more than 1,311 youth, as these numbers are based on 2008 projections in the county that are in need of mental health services. These youth are at greatest risk of dropping out, engaging in anti-social behaviors, or becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

**Proposed Objectives:**

- Create and/or expand family preservation services to include but not limit the counseling services to be more intensive.
- Collaborate with mental health agencies to improve dysfunction and congruency of services, so that counseling is more consistent.

- Create a day care program so that teen parents do not drop out of school and provide counseling, education, support, and further prevention services.

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**Priority 3:**

Aftercare Services

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**Supporting Data:**

The KWCJPD is charged with providing supervision for youth referred to them via the Juvenile Courts. All of the students served by the KWCJPD are considered "at-risk". According to the 2008 Texas Juvenile Probation Commission Statistics by County Annual Report; most recent statistical report available, Karnes County has been consistently improving. In 2008, there were a total of 55 Karnes County Youth who were placed on cautionary supervision, modified probation, or adjudicated to probation. There were a total of 3 Karnes County youth adjudicated to the Texas Youth Commission. This is a small reduction when compared to 2006 with 59 Karnes County youth being placed on cautionary supervision, modified probation or adjudicated to probation. Additionally in 2006 TYC adjudications totaled six which indicates a 50% reduction in two years. Much of the reduction has been the impact of grant funded programs in Karnes County as the Karnes Probation Department had provided CJD prevention and intervention programs for the past five years. However, as the new school year and fiscal year begins, community stake holders prepare for many changes. Karnes County has limited resources and stakeholders are concerned that as with substance abuse, the reduction of funding will have an impact on youth involvement in the judicial system. Currently juvenile probation, schools and the community prepares for the impact of reduced services in the community for its most at-risk youth.

Karnes County stakeholders and community members are concerned with a decline in the gains made through grant funding and projects. Although sustainability efforts have been made and many services are sustained, the level and intensity has been reduced and generally the result of decreased funding. The community is unable to sustain many projects as the local resources are just unavailable in the rural community. This is unfortunate as so many positive gains were made since 2004. However, the community will continue to seek solutions to the substance abuse related problems and the risk-factors that perpetuate substance abuse in Karnes County.

**Proposed Objectives:**

- To provide the availability of aftercare services to a child or family upon completion of a service, counseling, or general program as a support so that the original service can hold it's continuity with less recidivism.

**Priority 4:**

Recreational Activities

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**Supporting Data:**

The existence of the Karnes County 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Program in two communities, Karnes City and Runge, provides youth with after-school, summer and weekend activities including: youth development (recreation, fine arts, arts and crafts, etc.), homework assistance and tutoring.

Student results from the PRIDE Survey indicate that youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> who participate in community activities “often” or “a lot” are 22.1% protected from using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD). Other protective factors in the community include: youth who attend a church or synagogue “often” or “a lot” are 59.1% protected; youth who participate in school sports teams “often” or “a lot” are 54.8% protected; and youth who join in school activities “often” or “a lot” are 44.3% protected

**Proposed Objectives:**

- Increase and collaborate recreational activities with the local school districts, Camino Real MHMR, Connections, and surrounding Juvenile Probation Departments to enhance current programs available.
- Improve and enhance after school and summer recreational activities cooperatively.

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

Juvenile populations and crimes fluctuate throughout the year. We are noticing more substance users although their crimes are not attached to substance abuse. More parental involvement and quest for services is occurring while realizing the children are substance abusers. We need more services available to our communities that can address substance abuse and the mental health issues that come along with the usage, or visa verse. Camino Real MHMR has a local office in the community and continues to build rapport and services for the community.

Our school districts continue to suffering from loss of funds that they have previously to maintain a social/emotional well being for learning.

Juvenile Probation has lost funding for the prevention programs that they have provided over the years and seeking additional assistance from the local schools and county government to maintain services.

Overall, the families have transportation issues that cause them to delay accessing services that are available.

Teen pregnancy continues to be a concern within our community and there are no services available to move towards education or prevention.

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**Identify Achievements:**

Karnes County Juvenile Probation has continued to provide services to youth and families through behavior management, substance abuse education, and ROPES activities. For the fiscal year 2010 the department has obtained an “earmark” which will enhance ROPES activities in the form of prevention. Although there was a loss of funds, the department will continue to provide services through the day program, and has added a family component and aftercare services.

Although no direct funding available, Connections Individual and Family Services continues to provide STAR services as well as other counseling services to children and families within the county. Connections I.F.S. is also able to provide substance abuse and life skills education through curriculum based support groups, presentations and alternative activities to the schools and other community agencies.

Runge, Kenedy, Falls City, and Karnes City School Districts will continue to provide on campus services to improve the social and emotional well-being of their students while encouraging academics, attendance, and zero tolerance of bullying and substance use.

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

**Priority 1:**

Legal Advocacy

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**Supporting Data:**

Guadalupe Valley Family Violence Shelter notes that 30% of their adult clients do not have a G.E.D. or High School Diploma. The agency also notes that over 75% of their adult clients are living below poverty. In addition, most clients do not have transportation or the resources to continue with education goals.

Services were provided to 5 survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse.

379 individuals attended 11 presentations on bullying, domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, victim’s services, prevention and dynamics of the above.

**Proposed Objectives:**

- Offer more survivors services/advocacy that empower them and enable them to acquire higher education and employment that raises their economic level.
- Provide more community awareness of the crime of domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse. Provision of public knowledge of Protective orders and Emergency Protective Order that have the consequences of offenders' behavior and why it is so important for safety for the survivors and their families. This advocacy and awareness allows survivors to go forward with their and their children's lives.

**Priority 2:**  
Referral Source.

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**Supporting Data:**  
100 hotline calls received referring to other social services

- Proposed Objectives:**
- Assist more survivors with referrals to other social service agencies to assist with their ability to be self sufficient and with the ability to live without the constant threat of violence.
  - Produce more Public Service announcements and media coverage to get more volunteers to assist with services and information to victims of crime.

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**Priority 3:**  
Transportation

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**Proposed Objectives:**  
Advocate for public transportation that will be available to residents and non residents that gives survivors more confidence to be self sufficient.

**Priority 4:**  
SANE nurse

**Supporting Data:**

In 2006, Karnes County experienced a significant increase in the number of reported cases of sexual assault. There were seven reported cases of sexual assault of a child and two reported cases of sexual assault of an adult. This represents an 80% increase in reported sexual assaults in Karnes County since 2005

**Proposed Objectives:**

Need SANE nurse available for sexual assault victim’s examinations.

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

Karnes County residents must travel for any type of victim services i.e. Emergency shelters, examinations for sexual assault, or individual counseling services. Guadalupe Valley Family Violence Shelter provides outreach and primary prevention services for domestic violence and prevention to our area.

Even though funding for the Victims of Crime Advocacy program was not renewed, Connections continues to provide support services. There is no office for either program within a 30 mile radius to provide direct services and these agencies must borrow space when in the community for referrals, thus also limiting immediate confidential crisis intervention access.

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**Identify Achievements:**

The Prevention Outreach Specialist has provided dating violence presentations throughout the county in accordance with HB121. The shelter promotes a purple ribbon campaign during October for Domestic Violence Awareness month. The advocate meets with clients in the county.

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

(listed in order of priority, greatest need first)

**Priority 1:**

Equipment

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Supporting Data:

According to the Texas Crime Report for the year 2008, Crime is still on the rise in Karnes County. In fact, when compared to 2001, murder has increased by 100% and rape has increased by 500%. Additionally, robbery increased by 200%, aggravated assault increased by 200% and burglary had increased from 3 reported incidents in 2001 to 104 in 2008. This jump in crime is alarming and frustrating for the community members and its law enforcement. For this reason, the equipment needed to effectively reduce crime in Karnes County is the highest priority in the community plan.

Proposed Objectives:

- Fund equipment to improve prosecution through chain of custody presentation for court.
- Improve In house required documentation for racial profiling and review of officer's performance.
- Protect and promote officer safety.
- Ability to access information more efficiently.

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**Priority 2**

Specialized personnel

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Supporting Data:

In 1989, a study completed by Carroll Buraker and Associates for the Seattle Police Department found a direct correlation between crime rates and the number of law enforcement in a jurisdiction. Essentially, the study found that areas with at least a ratio of 3 officers per 1,000 had significantly lower crime rates than areas that had ratios below 3 per 1,000. Presently the ratio in Karnes County is below 1.5 per 1,000. Over the past decade the population has grown by more than 24%, however, law enforcement personnel has increased by less than 10%. Furthermore, there are no investigators in Karnes County, thus reducing the abilities of the divisions of law enforcement in the county to effectively investigate reported crimes. Based on this data, it is evident that the insufficient number of law enforcement officers per 1,000 residents, as well as lack of investigators plays an important role in the dramatic increase of criminal activity within Karnes County.

Currently the county lacks the personnel it requires for effective law enforcement. To adequately handle critical incidents throughout the county and the region, it must develop funds to add personnel.

**Proposed Objectives:**

Hire and/or train employee(s) to respond to critical incidents throughout the county and region.

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**Priority 3:**

Training

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**Supporting Data:**

Arrests continue to climb in Karnes County, as does the crime rate. This is largely due to the lack of equipment necessary for all departments to more effectively fight crime. The fact that arrests have increased indicates competent departments, but also a greater need for adequate equipment. From 2000 to 2004, according to the DSHS, and the most current data available, all drug arrests in Karnes County have increased by 233%. Arrests for violent crimes have increased by 166%, and arrests for drug trafficking have increased by 400%. These increases clearly indicate an increase in criminal behavior or at the very least an increased response to crime by law enforcement due to improvements made.

**Proposed Objectives:**

- Fund a training program to assist in the identity of drug use, manufacturing, distribution, and trafficking throughout the county.
- Fund training for identification, handling, and disposing of items dealing with Hazmat/WMD.

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

Gaps or problems: Local law enforcement needs to continue to improve its technology. Newer and better technology is more advanced than the county and cities budgets are able to provide to stay up with changes.

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**Identify Achievements:**

Each year the City or County has applied for funding; the agencies have been successful in obtaining request and successfully implementing the equipment both in the field and courtroom.

Over the years, through collaboration the agencies have obtained a speed trailer and video capability in the cars. Communication has improved by increasing radio channels through inner city and car to car. This was a mandate that was capable through funding. Standardized programming and portable radios has been funded as well as installation of VHF digital channels. The departments also purchased digital verses analog mobile hand held radios.

## **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:

### **Alamo Area Council of Governments**

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Address: 8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 700  
San Antonio, Texas 78217-6228  
(210) 362-5200

Website: [www.aacog.com](http://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.

### **Connections Individual and Family Services Inc.**

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Address: 1010 Zanderson  
Jourdanton, Texas 78026

Phone: (830) 769-3225

Hotline: 1-800-532-8192

Website: [www.connectionsnonprofit.org](http://www.connectionsnonprofit.org)

Counties Served: Atascosa, Frio, Wilson, Karnes, Zavala, Comal, Bastrop, Caldwell, Gonzales, Lee, Guadalupe, Goliad, Bee, Live Oak, McMullen, San Patricio, Refugio, and Aransas

Services: Counseling services-short term, solution focused; Residential Services-Emergency Youth Shelters in New Braunfels and Portland for youth ages 5-17 who are in crisis, homeless or have been abused; Transitional Living Program-in New Braunfels for homeless youth ages 16-21; Life Skills Training-presentations and /or groups on a variety of topics; Prevention Programs-curriculum based support groups, after school programs, presentations, alternative activities, community activities; and Referral Services-if you need services we don't provide.

Eligibility: Youth ages 0 to 17 years and their families. (Intakes and assessments are done by appointment.)

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

**Guadalupe Valley Family Violence Shelter**

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Address: P.O. Box 1302  
Seguin, Texas 78156-1302  
Phone: 830-372-2780 / Crisis Line 800-834-2033 / Office 830-372-5970  
Fax: 830-401-4500  
Website: [www.seguinviolenceshelter.org](http://www.seguinviolenceshelter.org)

Counties Served: Karnes, Wilson, Guadalupe

Services: Emergency Shelter and Counseling services to victims. Legal aid services and training to law enforcement and schools.

Eligibility: Victim

Hours: Monday-Friday; 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Advocates and hotline are available 24/7. Hotline for emergencies.

**Karnes County Community Health Center**

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Address: 302 N Butler  
Karnes City, Texas 78119

Counties Served: Karnes, Wilson, Atascosa

Services: Offers primary and preventative healthcare services, behavioral health and in 2009 will provide dental

Eligibility: Anyone

Hours: Monday-Friday; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Karnes/Wilson Juvenile Probation Department**

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Address: 101 N Panna Maria  
Karnes City, Texas 78118  
Phone: (830) 780-2228  
Fax: (830) 780-3591

Counties Served: Karnes, Wilson, Atascosa

Services: Provide JJAEP services to Karnes and Wilson counties. We have combined the program to one location rather than maintaining two campuses. Provide

Substance Abuse education and crisis intervention counseling services to Karnes, Wilson, and Atascosa utilizing Project Success. Provide ROPES activities to all three counties to improve team building and communication skills. Through an ear mark award, we provide more opportunities to the schools as a means of team building, communication skills, and prevention through ROPES activities. KWJPD added a family component but with loss of funds will be down sizing this year. Will continue to provide Too Good for Drugs to the youth and “WHY TRY” to parents and youth. Lost funds for the “Aftercare Program” however will continue to provide service to those in Karnes and Wilson Counties to the best of our ability.

Eligibility: Ages: 10 to 17

Hours: Monday – Friday; 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

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### **Interagency Cooperation**

Most of the agency’s that service children and families within Karnes County make efforts to communicate, staff, and serve referrals to the best of their ability. AACOG representatives have started an Interagency Meeting that is held monthly, concentrating on the elderly within the community. The children are staffed and cared for through the CRCG of Karnes, Wilson, Atascosa, McMullen, and Frio County.

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### **Historical Information**

Historically, Karnes County has been a community of minimal services. In 1999, the Juvenile Department began applying for funds to provide services to youth and families within the community. It was about the same time that Connections started to provide STAR services to our area. Several years later the county began expanding into the school systems to provide prevention services. Then the hurricane and the war occurred and services have slowly been decreasing. Now Karnes County is hoping on an economic increase with the findings of oil in our community. Although the state and federal dollars are decreasing, which provided services to our children and families, the county is looking forward to an increase in revenue with the hope to continue to care for the social emotional needs of our citizens.

The county lacks victims services in that they are not directly located within the County. Guadalupe Valley provides out reach services to us as well as Connections, but there is no local office. The citizens have communication and transportation issues and having satellite offices for mental health and victim’s cause’s difficulty in accessing the service.

Law Enforcement historically has done their best to provide protection to the public. They have achieved their goals to improve the communication systems to collaborate, however with changing times the need continues to change as well. They need more training opportunities that can keep their officers on the street yet informed. The county would benefit from Crime Stoppers and/or community neighborhood watch programs. Recently attempts have been made to begin the process. Law enforcement is going to the citizens to see the willingness to make it successful.

The County has begun to build the new offices needed to provide additional space for Courthouse employees while the original courthouse is renovated to protect the citizens by making it safe. The new building will become to new home for some courthouse offices after the courthouse is restored to it's original beauty.

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