

Polk County
Community Plan
2016

February 2016

Polk County Community Plan

What Is a Community Plan?

This plan is formally known as the Polk County Criminal Justice Community Plan, the purpose of which is to identify gaps in services regarding criminal justice issues. The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office (CJD) requires that each county in Texas have a Criminal Justice Community Plan.

The document that is represented here reflects the efforts of many in Polk County that are concerned with assuring that any gaps in services that are identified are closed in a way that will both solve the problem and provide as great a benefit to the community as possible. It is with grateful acknowledgement that the names of those involved in the process of developing this plan are listed in the following page(s) under Part II (Community Planning Group).

Though the final draft of this plan was completed in February of 2016, this is a work in progress. New criminal justice goals are identified, the Planning Group changes as a result of individual and agency circumstances, and requirements concerning the makeup of the Plan are subject to change from year to year. Thus, Polk County is interested in keeping up with these changes, and including such in updates that will be posted from time to time.

If you are reading this Plan and have not been involved in its development, you are invited to join in this ongoing effort. Any questions you may have can be addressed to either Earnest Jackson, Community Plan Coordinator for Polk County, or to the Criminal Justice Program of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments. Contact information is provided within this document.

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

Areas Represented

Incorporated Communities:

City of Corrigan
City of Goodrich City of Onalaska
City of Livingston City of Seven Oaks

Unincorporated Communities:

Alabama-Coushatta Blanchard Leggett
Indian Reservation
East Tempe Camden Moscow
Dallardsville West Livingston

School Districts:

Big Sandy Independent School District Leggett Independent School District
Corrigan Independent School District Livingston Independent School District
Goodrich Independent School District Onalaska Independent School District

Brief description and history of Polk County:

Polk County is a county located in the U.S. state of Texas. As of the 2010 census, the population was 45,413, which is a 10.41% increase from 2000. Its county seat is Livingston. Polk County is named for James Knox Polk, the eleventh president of the United States. The Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation is located in Eastern Polk County. The County has a total area of 1110 square miles of which 1,057 miles is land and 53 square miles is water. It is bordered on the north by Angelina County, on the east by Tyler County, on the southeast by Hardin County, the southwest by San Jacinto County and the northwest by Trinity County.

Of the population in 2010, 5.75% of this population is under 5 years of age, 15.34% percent is under 18 years of age, and 19.04% is age 65 or older. Compared to state and national data, Polk County is a low income county. The median household income is \$35,957. The percent of population living below poverty level is 17.4 percent, compared to the state average of 17.1 percent. The per capita income for the county is \$15,834. There are 21,177 housing units in the county. The county's racial makeup is 77.25% White, 11.47% Black or African American, 1.94% Native American, 0.41% Asian, 1.68% reporting two or more races, 7.22% some other race along and Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Native Along .02% and 13.12% Hispanic or Latino origin.

Community Planning Team

Community Plan Coordinator for Polk County:

Earnest Jackson / Director / Polk County Juvenile Probation Department

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

Government:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Jan Shandley	Polk County Judge's Office

Juvenile Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Earnest Jackson	Polk County Juvenile Probation Department

Victim Services:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Susie Adams	Childrenz Haven
<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Sherry Sprayberry	Victim Assistance Coordinator
<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Megan Knighton	Victim Assistance Coordinator

Law Enforcement:

Name

Agency

Matt Parrish

Livingston Police Department

Name

Agency

J.R. Jones

Polk County Sheriff Department

Name

Agency

Terry White

Polk County Sheriff Department

Mental Health:

Name

Agency

David Martinez

Burke

Identification of Community Problems

General Public Safety Needs and Issues

Advanced Education Programs/Vocational Training
Advocacy Center
After-school Programs
Alcohol Detection Kits
Assisted Living
Body Cameras for Law Enforcement
Career Counseling
Case Managers for JP/Municipal Courts
Community Resources Management
Continuing Education
Counseling
Daycare for Adults
Daycare for Children
Elder Advocacy
Employment
Evaluation Services for Mentally Ill Children
Family Violence Services
Foster Homes
Individual and Family Counseling
Inter-Optical Equipment & Capabilities
Job Training
Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment (In and Out Patient)
Legal Advocacy
Legal Aid Services
Life Skills
Mentoring Programs
Nutrition Programs
Parent Child Advocates
Parenting Programs
Prescription Assistance
Protective Equipment
Protective Restraints for Mentally Ill Individuals
Psychological Testing
Public Awareness Education (Abuse & Neglect, Substance Abuse, Career Choices & Opportunities, Lifeskills, Consequences, Child Safety, Mental Health)
Residential Treatment
Resource Management
Respite Care Services
SANE Nurses
School Resource Officer for County Schools
Services for Unsupervised Youth

Sexual Abuse Services
 Software, Software Upgrades and Technology Funding
 Specialized Officers
 Specialized Training (Mental Illness, Sexual Abuse, Family Violence, Child Abuse, etc.)
 Substance Abuse Program (Education & Treatment)
 Support Groups
 Technical Equipment and Training
 Technology Funding
 Teen Pregnancy Programs, Day Care, Education Assistance
 Theatre Arts
 Training Funds
 Transportation
 Tutoring Programs
 Victims Services (adults & children) location for supervised visitation with families
 Video upgrade to equipment from courthouse to county jail.
 Volunteer Programs

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 Polk County. Below is a discussion of the problems, the manner in which the problems are being addressed, and strategically how responses to these community problems could be improved.

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

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
1. Mental Health Services (non-residential & residential)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In FY 2014-2015 21% of the 267 juveniles referred to the Juvenile Probation Department had or received a mental health diagnosis. Most of the juveniles have never or were not currently receiving mental health services when they were referred to juvenile probation.
<p>Juveniles and their families are being referred to Burke and private License Professional Counselors (LPC) to meet the juveniles and/or families mental health needs. When juveniles mental health needs are exhausted within the community juveniles are referred to residential placements outside the community. Reduction in funding could result in juveniles who may benefit from residential placement not being placed in appropriate mental health facilities.</p>	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
2. Transportation Services for juveniles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35% of juveniles referred to the Juvenile Probation Department have transportation issues getting to counseling, community service sites, psychological assessments, and other required appointments. • Transportation to services is a crucial issue for juveniles to succeed during and after supervision.
<p>Families with transportation but do not have enough money for gas are provided with gas cards for the juvenile and family to attend required appointments for juvenile probation. Families who either do not have transportation or reliable transportation are encouraged to find a relative or friend who is willing to assist with transportation. Gas cards are then made available to the relative or friend who provides assistance with transportation. Families with no available transportation are not able to get their child to required services. Families with Medicaid eligible children are referred to Medicaid Transportation for doctor visits.</p>	

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
3. Substance Abuse (non-residential & residential)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.2 % of juveniles referred to Juvenile Probation Department were for drug related offenses in 2014-2015. • Of the juveniles under supervision during 2014-2015 24.7% tested positive for marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamines, or synthetic marijuana.
<p>During 2014 there was no out-patient substances abuse treatment available for juveniles in the community. Funding was made available to the Juvenile Probation Department in January 2015 for out-patient substance abuse individual and group counseling. The Juvenile Probation Department partnered with the Alcohol Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) to offer the Cannabis Youth Treatment (CYT) Program. Funding for CYT lasted until August 31, 2015. ADAC has received funding to continue the program. Local resources must be supported by making referrals so service can be expanded to address substance abuse issues with juveniles.</p>	

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

Identified Problem

Data Collection

<p>1. Support Service for adult and children who are victims of abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1049 misdemeanor and 766 felony cases were filed with the Polk County District Attorneys' Office in 2013. • In 2013, 120 Protective Orders were requested with 30 ex parte orders granted, 34 were denied and 56 applications were never completed. • The Uniform Crime Report of 2013 show that Texas violent crimes have decreased by 2%. • The Texas Council of Family Violence statistics for 2013 report 185,453 family violence incidents with 119 women being killed by their intimate partner. • 13 Final Orders were granted in 2013. • Polk County District Attorney's Office filed 1052 misdemeanor and 900 felony cases in 2014. • Polk County saw a husband kill his wife in the nursing home and then turned the gun on himself in 2014 and the loss of an 18 year old male, in separate incidents, which were both domestic related. • In 2014, 142 Protective Orders were requested with 41 ex parte orders granted, 43 were denied and 58 applications were never completed. • 17 Final Orders were granted while 3 were rolled into divorce. • In 2015 the Polk County District Attorney's Office filed 1365 misdemeanor cases and 1404 felony cases. Two of the felony cases in 2015 involved domestic assault that resulted in deaths. • 164 Protective Orders were requested. 41 Temporary Ex Parte Orders were granted and 15 Final Orders granted in 2015. 48 requests never returned to court.
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Service which include:

- Emergency Shelter Services for abused women and children.
- Current facility does not adequately serve males and females in the same facility.
- Counseling with a License Professional Counselor.
- Legal Assistance for victims that includes court accompaniment and education

of the criminal justice procedures associated with the victim's case.

- Case managers to monitor that all needs of the clients are met.
- Victim education needed to inform victims of their legal rights.
- Job training programs to assist victims in becoming self-sufficient.
- Providing more resources for child victims.
- Providing more resources for victims of rape and sexual assault.
- Victim Advocacy programs for victims of violent crimes.

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>2. Specialized Law Enforcement Officer Dealing with Special Victims</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childrenz Haven conducted 62 forensic interviews in 2013, resulting in 21 sexual assault charges being filed as well as 10 physical abuse charges. • 115 forensic interviews were conducted by Childrenz Haven in 2014, resulting in 30 sexual assault charges and 8 physical abuse charges. • According to the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), in 2014 Polk County had 557 incidents of family violence and sexual assaults reported to law enforcement.

This project will employ a TCOLE certified peace officer, specifically trained in the investigation of crimes against women and children. That specialized investigator will respond to all victims who report a crime of domestic and/or child violence within 24 hours. The investigator will be accompanied by a Victims Coordinator trained in victim rights. This team will ensure the safety of the woman and children, address their immediate needs for services. The investigator will speak to the victim in a professional, nonjudgmental fashion to secure the chance for a better prosecution. The investigator may also take pictures of the victim and the scene which would corroborate the victim's story.

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

Identified Problem

Data Collection

<p>1. The City of Livingston has need for additional resources for law enforcement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Livingston is a major retail hub for Polk County and additionally serves surrounding counties such as San Jacinto and Tyler counties. • The City of Livingston’s population due to retail, government and school district grows to 10,000 plus during the day. • The City of Livingston has State Highway 59 (soon to be Interstate 69) US Highway 190 (to be Interstate 14 in the future) and State Highway 146 running through it. These major traffic corridors increase the population and are many times used by criminals in illegal drug trafficking and other acts of crime including murder, theft, robbery and aggravated robbery. • The City of Livingston Police Department responded to 12, 666 calls for service in 2015 resulting in 2357 criminal investigation and 934 arrests. This does not include traffic crashes and other duties assigned to officers. • The City of Livingston also has located in it CHI St. Lukes Hospital which is the only Hospital /Emergency Room in the county. The hospital receives patients from several counties and the Police Department is many times called for disturbances or mentally ill patients who have become violent. The Livingston Police Department is then tasked with watching these patients until they can be transferred which has sometimes taken several days. • The City of Livingston has located in it the Burke Center (Mental Health) which also serves the surrounding counties. Officers are often called to the Burke Center to assist with violent patients from other jurisdictions.

Needs for various resources identified to better respond to and investigate crimes within the city.

- Additional equipment for law enforcement – equipment and protective gear for officers, technology upgrades.
- Better quality training for officers.
- Additional Officers to better protect and serve the citizens and visitors of Livingston.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

<p>2. Polk County is need of a school resource officer to cover Big Sandy, Goodrich and Leggett ISDs.</p>	<p>The Polk County Sheriff's Office is the law enforcement agency charged with investigating crimes that occur at the Big Sandy, Goodrich and Leggett ISD campuses.</p> <p>The Polk County Sheriff's Office responded to 311 calls for service at the Big Sandy ISD campus in 2015.</p> <p>The Polk County Sheriff's Office responded to 215 calls for service at the Goodrich ISD campus in 2015.</p> <p>The Polk County Sheriff's Office responded to 272 calls for service at the Leggett ISD campus in 2015.</p> <p>The calls for service include patrolling school zones, investigating criminal offenses, completing welfare checks, making traffic stops and completing building checks.</p> <p>Violence in schools is at a critical level in today's society. Children with mental illness, drug/alcohol dependency and negative role models in their home environment are less likely to act out in a violent manner with the presence of a school resource officer according to the National Association of School Resource Officers.</p> <p>School resource officers will not be tasked with investigating school rule violations unless the rule violation is also a criminal offense. It is important to note that the school resource officer is not a school disciplinarian.</p> <p>School resource officers have three major roles: law enforcement officer, law-related counselor and law-related educator.</p>
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Polk County is in need of a school resource officer to serve the following needs to the Big Sandy, Goodrich and Leggett ISDs:

- Assist school administrators in maintaining a safe and secure environment.
- Investigate crimes that occur on campus or following up on crimes that occur off campus.

- Assist with patrolling school zones.
- Develop positive interaction with law enforcement and children/young adults.
- Being an example of good moral character, upright conduct and use of sound judgement while being a positive role model.

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

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
1. Polk County has a need of financial assistance in helping individuals with Mental Health issues procure their medications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of Polk county residents with Mental Health issues served by Burke 2014-2015: 1714 • Served in Outpatient clinic: 930 • Served in Crisis: 877 • Served in Expansion program: 234 <p>Percentage of Burke population with Medicaid: ~42%</p>

In the past 4 years, Burke has expanded our services to residents of Polk county with Mental Health issues beyond the traditional scope of Texas MHMR services. From January 2014 through December 2015, Burke served 1714 unique Polk county residents in our outpatient clinic, crisis services, and expansion programs. Of those, 234 individuals were in our expansion program. Through General Revenue funding from the Department of State Health Services, Burke is able to provide medications to indigent individuals in our traditional outpatient and crisis services. While Burke is able to provide prescriber, counseling, peer, and other services to individuals in the expansion program, Burke does not have the funding to provide medications to individuals without insurance. Financial Assistance in this area would allow Burke to greatly improve the services offered to these residents of Polk County.

Identified Problem

Data Collection

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
2. Lack of Public Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total number of Polk county residents with Mental Health issues served by Burke 2014-2015: 1714• Served in Outpatient clinic: 930• Served in Crisis: 877• Served in Expansion program: 234 Percentage of Burke population with Medicaid: ~42%
<p>Many Burke clients report being unable to attend appointments due to a lack of transportation. Clients with Medicaid can access Medicaid Transportation, though this in itself can sometimes be a hardship due to the process by which appointments must be set up in advance. The true difficulty lies in the fact that the majority of individuals that Burke serves do not have Medicaid or any type of health insurance that provides a transportation benefit. Polk county residents would greatly benefit from some type of financial assistance for the county that would aid residents without Medicaid in attending medical and mental health appointments.</p>	

Resources Available

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

Juvenile Justice:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Polk County Juvenile Probation Dept.	Juvenile Probation	Supervise juveniles (10-18 years old) who are referred for Delinquent Conduct or Child in Need of Supervision (CINS) offenses. Refer juveniles and families to non-residential & residential services to decrease the juvenile's likelihood to violate re-offend.
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council (ADAC)	Substance Abuse	ADAC conducts substance abuse assessment to juveniles referred to the Polk County Juvenile Probation. ADAC offers outpatient substance classes to juveniles. When needed ADAC also assist with locating inpatient treatment for juveniles in need. Aftercare treatment is provided when the juvenile returns to the community from inpatient treatment.
<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Burke	Mental Health	Polk County Juvenile Probation and Burke partner together to offer juveniles under supervision the TCCOOMI Program. The TCCOOMI Program serves juveniles who have a mental health diagnosis and are on supervision with juvenile probation. Juveniles and their families receive medication management, skills development, case management and referrals to outside resources.

Law Enforcement:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Polk County Sheriff Department	Law Enforcement	Serve warrants, investigate alleged misdemeanor and felony offenses, make arrest, transport, court division and serve civil papers.
Livingston Police Department Corrigan Police Department Onalaska Police Department Alabama-Coushatta Tribe Police Department.	Law Enforcement	Serve warrants, investigate alleged misdemeanor and felony offenses, make arrest, and serve civil papers.

Victim Services:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Childrenz Haven	Child Advocacy Center	Childrenz Haven offers support to child victims of sexual and physical abuse. Childrenz Haven provides a child-friendly environment for its child clients and non-accused family members. Children are provided Forensic Interview, and referred to necessary social services. Children are referred to Childrenz Haven by law enforcement officials, CPS investigators, and medical professionals.
Polk County District Attorney Office	Victim Assistance Coordinator	Victims are encouraged to keep in contact with the Crime Victim's Coordinator. The coordinator provide the victims with docket dates, jail status, case disposition, information about available social services and agencies, and assistance in completing the Crime Victim's Compensation application and the Victim Impact Statement, and help to understand courtroom procedure and policies. The coordinator also provide courtroom accompaniment as needed during court proceedings. Other agencies, such as MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), CASA and SAAFE House may provide court accompaniment as well. The Victim/Witness Assistance Division provides a comfortable waiting area, away from the courts and media, where victims and/or their families can relax and feel secure during trials.

SAAFE House

Services for victims of domestic and sexual violence

SAAFE House helps victims of family violence and sexual assaults obtain the necessary skills to live abuse free. SAAFE House offers a safe, supportive environment to victims and their children, provides support services to the abusive family member, and helps families find non-violent ways of coping with stresses that might lead to abuse.

Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:

Name of Agency

Agency Type

Description

Burke

Mental Health, Early Childhood Intervention, and Intellectual & Developmental Disability Services

Burke provides complete mental health services to adults and children in Polk County. A 24 Hour Crisis Line, counseling and therapy are provided to adult and children in need. Burke has the facilities, resources, and staff to help any East Texan in need.

Burke provides access to substance abuse services through a partnership with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Deep East Texas (ADAC).

Burke developmental disabilities services are tailored for each client's personal and unique needs. Burke works with each client and family member to develop the most appropriate course of care that will help achieve individual goals.

Early Childhood Intervention services are available for children up to three (3) years of age that have developmental delay or a disability.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (ADAC)

Substance Abuse

ADAC conducts substance abuse assessment for clients referred to their agency. ADAC offers outpatient substance classes to clients. When needed ADAC also assist with locating inpatient treatment for clients. Aftercare treatment is available when the client returns to the community from inpatient treatment.

Prevention / Intervention:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Det-Star Program	Counseling	Provide service to at-risk juveniles 0-17 years old. Services include school truancy, runaway, severe family conflict, and juvenile delinquent behavior.

Interagency Cooperation

In the space below write a description of how the various resources listed in the previous pages could cooperatively work together to accomplish the goal of closing identified gaps in services:

The Polk County Community Planning Team is a community collaboration that was developed to meet the unique needs of our communities. We are committed to improving the quality of life for our youth, families and improving the quality of the services provided to our communities by the different service agencies. We realize the needs of our community are better met when we work as a team: thus placing our specific agencies needs as secondary to the overall needs of our community. Although all the agencies involved in the collaboration have not been mentioned by name, core representatives are identified by name. Our community partnership acknowledges that many of the services being provided to families and our communities at large often overlap and are duplicated by various agencies: thus resulting in many of the same families receiving duplicate services. As reflected in the numerous services that we previously identified, we have not prescribed to any particular model for addressing these needs, but have used a hands on approach based on situational needs of our community. As a collaborative team we will seek to close identified gaps in the services provided by our many service agencies.

It is the intent of the Polk County Community Planning Group to continue to improve services and outcomes for all of our families and communities. Efforts will continue to be made by the Polk County Planning Team in collaboration with the community at large and other Polk County agencies and organizations to systematically and economically address the identified problems and needs as previously discussed in this plan.

Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Polk County Community Planning Team works in conjunction with other planning groups in the county to ensure a regular exchange of ideas. Individuals active in the planning process generally serve on many of these committees and share mutual concerns.

The Polk County Community Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the plan and make necessary additions and deletions. At least one formal meeting of the entire group is held each fall, but agency and community representatives typically submit suggestions and changes via telephone and e-mail throughout the year to the Community Planning Coordinator.

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

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

Contact Information

Polk County Community Planning Coordinator

Earnest Jackson, Director- Polk County Juvenile Probation Department
936-327-6850

Polk County Community Planning Liaison from Deep East Texas Council of Governments

Danielle Sells, Criminal Justice Director from Deep East Texas Council of Governments
409-384-5704 ext. 5255

This Plan is available on-line at detcog.org

Polk County Community Plan is accepted and adopted on this 23rd day of
February, 2016 in a regular meeting of the Polk County Commissioners Court.

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Sydney Murphy, Polk County Judge