

# Colorado County Criminal Justice Community Plan 2014



Fall, 2014

# Colorado County Criminal Justice Community Plan

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## **What Is a Community Plan?**

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This plan is formally known as the Colorado 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 Criminal Justice Community Plans be developed and maintained by counties and regions throughout Texas.

The document that is represented here reflects the efforts of many in Colorado County that are concerned with assuring that any gaps in services are closed, thus making our communities safer places in which to live and work. It is with grateful acknowledgement that the names of those involved in the process of developing this Plan are listed in the section entitled Community Planning Team.

Though the final draft of this Plan was completed in December of 2013, 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, Colorado County is interested in keeping up with these changes, and including them 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 Mr. Lyle Anderson, Community Plan Coordinator for Colorado County, or to a Criminal Justice Program staff member of the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments. Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

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

## Areas Represented

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### Incorporated Communities: (per 2010 US Census)

1% decrease from 2000 to 2010 vs State increase of 18%.

	1970 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population
Columbus	3,440	3,889	3,655
Eagle Lake	3,653	3,662	3,630
Weimar	2,059	1,976	2,145
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,152</b>	<b>9,527</b>	<b>9,430</b>

### Unincorporated Communities:

Alleyton	Altair	Bernando	Borden
Chesterville	Frelsburg	Garwood	Glidden
Mentz	Nada	Oakland	Provident City
Rock Island	Sheridan	Boedecker	Hillcrest
Matthews	Holfner		
<b>Total Rural Population:</b>	<b>11,444</b>		

**Total County Population per 2010 Census: 20,874.**

## Population by Age Group, Gender & Ethnicity:

Population	2009	Percent Change 2008 - 2009	Percent of Total Population
TOTAL	20,650	-0.1%	
Under age 5	1,401	1.1%	6.8%
Under age 20	5,492	-0.8%	26.6%
65 and over	3,831	0.1%	18.6%
85 and over	610	-2.7%	3.0%
Male	10,125	-0.1%	49.0%
Female	10,525	-0.2%	51.0%
<b>White</b>	12,343	-1.2%	<b>59.8%</b>
<b>Black</b>	2,798	0.3%	<b>13.5%</b>
Asian / Pacific Islander	83	7.8%	0.4%
<b>Hispanic / Latino</b>	5,218	2.3%	<b>25.3%</b>

## Brief description and history of Colorado County:

### Description:

Colorado County is located approximately sixty miles due west of Houston, sixty miles due north of the Gulf of Mexico, 120 miles due east of San Antonio and about 80 miles southeast of Austin. The county is bisected by the Colorado River and is a mixture of rural agricultural, ranching and sand and gravel mining flat lands combined with gently rolling terrain. Total area is 973.7 square miles. The 2010 US Census places its **population at 20,874**; relatively unchanged from the year 2000 Census record of 20,390. From a historical perspective, the County's population in 1900 was 22,203.

Today, approximately **55%** of the County's population live in **rural** unincorporated areas with **45%** living in three incorporated areas. Population density per sq. mile is 21.7 persons.

US Department of Labor estimates **County employed at 6,967 persons (33% of County Ttl. Population)**. Further research however estimates actual total County workforce available at **+11,520 (+65% higher than DOL's estimates)**. ( See pg 17). Neighboring Wharton County is estimated by DOL as having 49% of total population participating in the workforce.

**Summary:** County's employment vs actual available is +-65% and unemployed are +- 35%.

**Employment Summary:** 14.6% growth in number of employed since 2003. Avg an. growth: 1.3% for 9 yr period. Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor ... Data extracted: January 9, 2014 ... <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost>

Year	Annual
2003	6,078
2004	6,133
2005	6,326
2006	6,734
2007	6,662
2008	6,874
2009	6,402
2010	6,259
2011	6,750
2012	6,967
June - 2013	7,239 est.

County official **unemployment** during the latest quarter of 2013 has fallen to an estimated 4.9% vs 2010's rate of 7.5% and 2011 of 7.3%. This is contrasted to 3.6% and 4.0% for 2007 and 2008.

The 2010 US Census finds County **median household income of \$41,395.**

**Local Sales Tax Allocation History for the County: 2009 – 2013**

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
\$1.1 Million	\$839,899	\$1.2 Million	\$1.64 Million	\$1.3 Million

**Sales tax per Capita:** There is significant variance in sales per capita between the two largest towns of virtually equal population. At \$337 per capita, Columbus collects 4.8x the amount of sales tax per capita as does Eagle Lake with equal population and similar history.

	Population – 2010 Census	Sales tax allocation To Municipalities	Per Capita Sales Tax
<b>Columbus</b>	3,655	\$1,233,401	<b>\$337.</b>
<b>Eagle Lake</b>	3,630	\$254,190	<b>\$ 70.</b>
<b>Weimar</b>	2,145	\$486,129	<b>\$226.</b>

**Poverty Levels:** The 2010 Census puts 17.3% of families and 27.6% of children in Colorado County living at or below the poverty level. **Further research has shown that disposable incomes in Eagle Lake are not only lagging its two counter part municipalities in the County but significantly lagging behind most other municipalities within a 40 mile radius.** This is symptomatic of endemic poverty in that community and this level and mindset of poverty results in significant pressure on all educational, social and economic systems in that community.



**History:** (Source – Texas State Historical Association)

Long before the first European investigation in 1687, earliest records indicate two Indian tribes, the Coco branch of the Karankawa and the Tonkawa hunted and ranged this area. The first record of Europeans crossing the ‘county’ was on January 20, 1687 when the Sieur de la Salle’s expedition party camped on Skull Creek.

In 1718, Martin de Alarcon crossed the area in route to La Bahia del Espiritu Santo and in 1766, the Marques de Rubi crossed the Colorado River near the site of present day Columbus while on an inspection tour of East Texas.

In 1819, a member of Moses Austin’s colonists arrived and by 1821 there were enough of Stephen F. Austin’s ‘Old Three Hundred’ colonists to form a company to march to the mouth of the Colorado River and investigate the robbery of a sailing vessel. In 1823, a skirmish was fought between local militia and a band of Cocos along Skull Creek. Between 1824 and 1834, sixty one individuals received land grants from the Mexican government. In 1836, Texas won its independence from Mexico.

In the mid 1800’s an old Mexican map found at the Alamo indicated a place known as ‘Montezuma’ at the site of today’s County seat of Columbus. As there is no evidence of a prior Spanish or Mexican settlement at this location it is presumed this site served a local Indian village along the banks of the Colorado River. A number of small Indian burial grounds of unknown antiquity have also been discovered two miles east of Alleyton and quite close to Columbus.

In 1836, Colorado County became one of the original counties of the Republic of Texas in 1836 and was organized in 1837. The first district court being held under a still standing ancient live oak tree on Columbus’ city square. In 1850, the County had a population of 2,257. Following the Civil War (1865), the County became a leader in encouraging German and Czech immigration and many immigrants soon followed.

**Historic Population Chart:** (source: Texas State Historical Association)

1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1900	1910
249 families 319 slaves	1,613 and 644 slaves	4,326 and 3,559 slaves	8,326 Including 25% immigrants	16,673	22,203	18,897

1930	1950	1970	1990	2000	2010
19,129	17,519	17,638	18,383	20,390	20,874

## **Community Planning Team**

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Community Plan Coordinator for Colorado County: Mr. Lyle Anderson, BBA, MBA

In developing this Community Plan, some 39 local members of the team attended the planning meeting. In total, over 55 citizens have provided input into four focus areas for the purpose of narrowing the scope of research and priorities that are incorporated into the 2014 Plan. It is noted that some members serve in one or more categories.

### **Juvenile Services:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Jay Johannes	Colorado County Attorney
Trenessa Sewell	Colorado County – Juvenile Probation
Kara Janecek	Texana, Clinic Manager
Pamela Algar	Texana, Case Manager
Twyla Dodson	Colorado County Y.F.S.
Beverly Howe	Dept. of State Health Services
Valerie Steffeck	Colorado County Juvenile Probation Dept.
Jerry Carpenter	Weimar UCC
Don McCarn	Child Protective Services
Rebecca Cole	Child Welfare Board
Lyle Anderson	Lighthouse of Eagle Lake
Laura Hernandez	Texas State Health Services
Elisa Hood Waddle	Colorado Valley Transit
Tony Salazar, Jr.	Colorado Valley Transit
Patrick Mascheck	Colorado Valley Transit
Katherine Williams	Colorado Valley Transit
C.W. Huffman	Head Start teacher

## **Victim Services:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Willie Mae Williams	Colorado County HGAC Alt. Rep.
Maria Rangel	Family Crisis Center, Bastrop
Augustine Asante	St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Pastor
Elma Rodriguez	Maximus, Representative
Dana Anderson	Lighthouse of Eagle Lake
Margaret Boswell	CASA, Director

## **Law Enforcement:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Sheriff R.H. Wied	Colorado County Sheriff's Office
Chief David Freeman	Eagle Lake Police Department
Jay Johannes	Colorado County Attorney
Linda Smith	Colorado County Probation Dept.
Richard Wessels	Colorado County Probation Dept. – Director

## **Education:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
<i>Co-Chair, Robert O'Conner</i>	<i>Columbus ISD – Superintendent</i>
<i>Co-Chair, Ty Prause</i>	<i>Colorado County Judge</i>
Bill Hefner	Rice CISD – Superintendent
Melody Grigar	Rice CISD – Special Program Curriculum
Eric Grogan	Rice CISD – Principal
Gwen Knight	Rice CISD – Principal
Leroy Stavinoha	Rice CISD – Principal
Mike Keenon	Rice CISD – Principal

Veronica Curry	Rice CISD
Ester Chandler	Columbus ISD – Asst. Superintendent
Shawn Hagel	Columbus ISD
Dorothy Wostarch	Columbus ISD
Janice Pfeffer	Texas Agri-Life
Cyndi Koehn	Boys & Girls Club – Champion Valley
Joel Usher	Boys & Girls Club - Columbus
Rebekah Shimek	Region 3 - Representative
Dorothy Westerok	Columbus ISD
Gary Leopold	Columbus ISD - Principal
Shawn Hagel	Columbus ISD – Asst. Principal
Lyle Anderson	Lighthouse of Eagle lake
LaDell Wilson	Next Level Christian Church - Pastor
Brandon Wilson	Columbus Police Dept. - Officer
Brenda Wilson	Next Level Christian Congregation

## **Demographic Overview:**

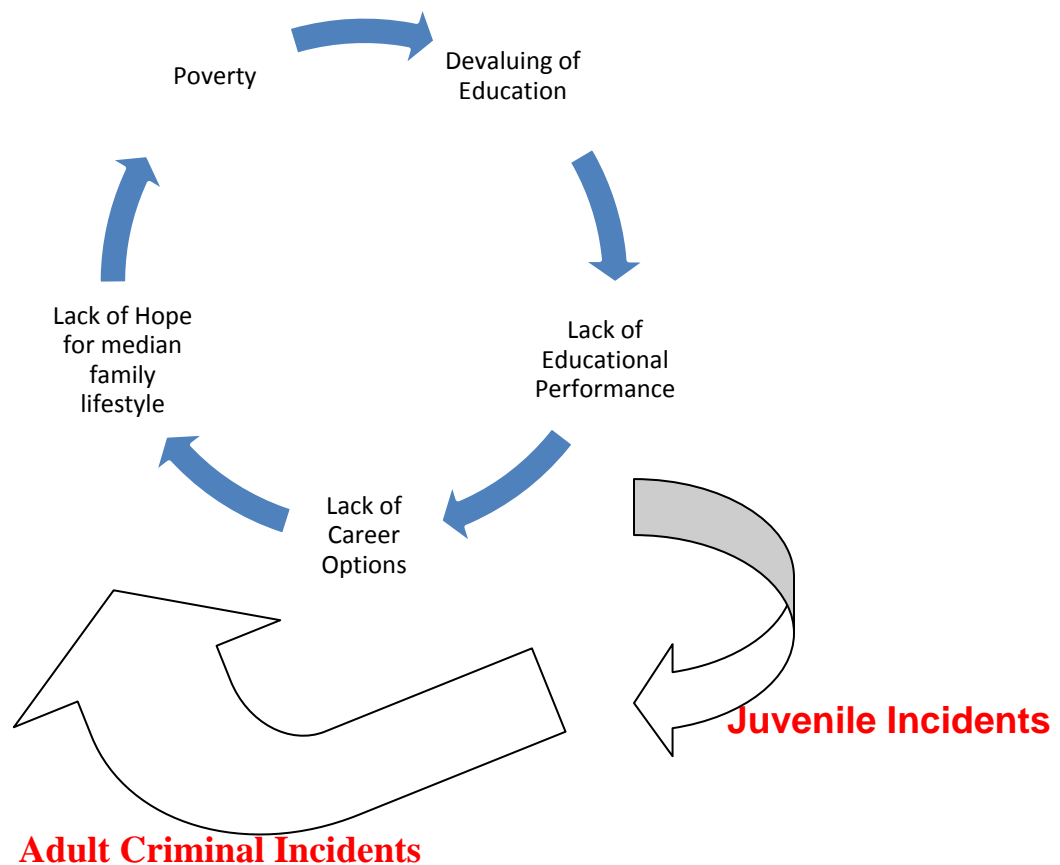
The Plan coordinator has conducted extensive data collection on the County's criminal justice, juvenile probation and public education districts as well as utilization of direct county citizens input on high value quality of life issues.

This database of information represents a significant milestone in allowing County and community leaders direct access to facts and issues having direct bearing on, and affecting, not only the County's criminal justice system, but all facets of life in Colorado County.

This data is accessible from the Colorado County's web site at [www.co.colorado.tx.us](http://www.co.colorado.tx.us).

**Poverty, Juveniles & Law Enforcement:** (Source: Annie B. Casey Foundation)

- The **linkage between poverty, poor educational performance and the criminal justice system is undeniable and absolutely systemic** in our culture today. This linkage is depicted in the diagram below.
- To wit, underperformance of students in the education cycle of Colorado County does not bode well for sustaining historic county and local quality of life components.
- Underperformance in the education cycle in Colorado County may create a difficult strain upon County law enforcement personnel and local criminal justice systems.
- Failure to remedy **family issues** and underperformance in the education cycle is trending toward unsustainable mitigation costs at County and Municipal levels.
- This linkage holds as true for rural as urban settings. In short, any area of chronic (>3yrs) underperformance in any of our County’s education system is a true ‘Achilles heel’ to the cultural and economic well being of the citizens and socio – economic systems of Colorado County.
- Today, significant attention by all ISD’s leadership and citizens is being paid to mitigating any area of systemic academic underperformance. See **Education Dashboard** (pg 26) In addition, it is critical that local township and educational objectives be reexamined to the end that current financial and social pressures be eased. For civic leaders this means creating an environment where job creation can flourish and young persons have hope of sustainable employment.



## Critical Education Facts: U.S. Statistics (Source: Annie B. Casey Foundation)

- If a child is not reading at grade level by the end of third grade: **16 percent** will drop out or fail to finish high school on time vs 4 percent of proficient readers
- If a child lives in poverty for a single year: **22 percent will not graduate vs 6 percent who never lived in poverty.**
- If a child is not reading at grade level **and** lives a single year or more in poverty: **26% will not graduate.**
- If a child is Hispanic or African American and is not reading at grade level and lives a single year or more in poverty: **31% and 33% will not graduate respectively.**

## Poverty's Impact on Education: Colorado County

- Over **88%** of elementary students in Eagle Lake qualify for free or reduced cost school lunch.
- In 2005 vs 2010, 57% vs **65% of all county elementary and junior high youth were eligible for the free or reduced cost school lunch program of the Federal Government.**
- In 2010, **37%** of all children in Colorado County qualified for WIC,
  - **33%** for Medicaid and
  - **21%** for Food Stamps.
- There is continued upward pressure on each of these government aid categories indicating increasing societal economic pressure on families with young children.
- One indicator of such economic pressure may be the decreased number of young children age (0-5) in Colorado County from 2009 to 2010 of 14%. (1,821 vs 1,575)
- It is noted however that the total number of children in Colorado County (age 0-17) has remained relatively constant since 2005 (4,937) vs 2010 (4,968).

**POVERTY (All Ages)** Source: Center for Public Policy Priorities

Location	Data Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Colorado County	Number	2,942	3,559	3,163	3,544	3,437
	Percent	14.9%	17.9%	16.0%	17.3%	16.8%

In December 2013, the US economy added only 74,000 jobs but over 347,000 citizens left the workforce. For every one job added, nearly 5 people left the workforce entirely. 91 million eligible Americans are not participating in the U.S. workforce as of December 2013.

**DEFINITIONS & SOURCES**

**Definitions:** For 1989 and 1999, actual count and percent of the total population with incomes below the official federal poverty threshold. For all other years, estimated numbers of the total population with incomes below the official federal poverty threshold.

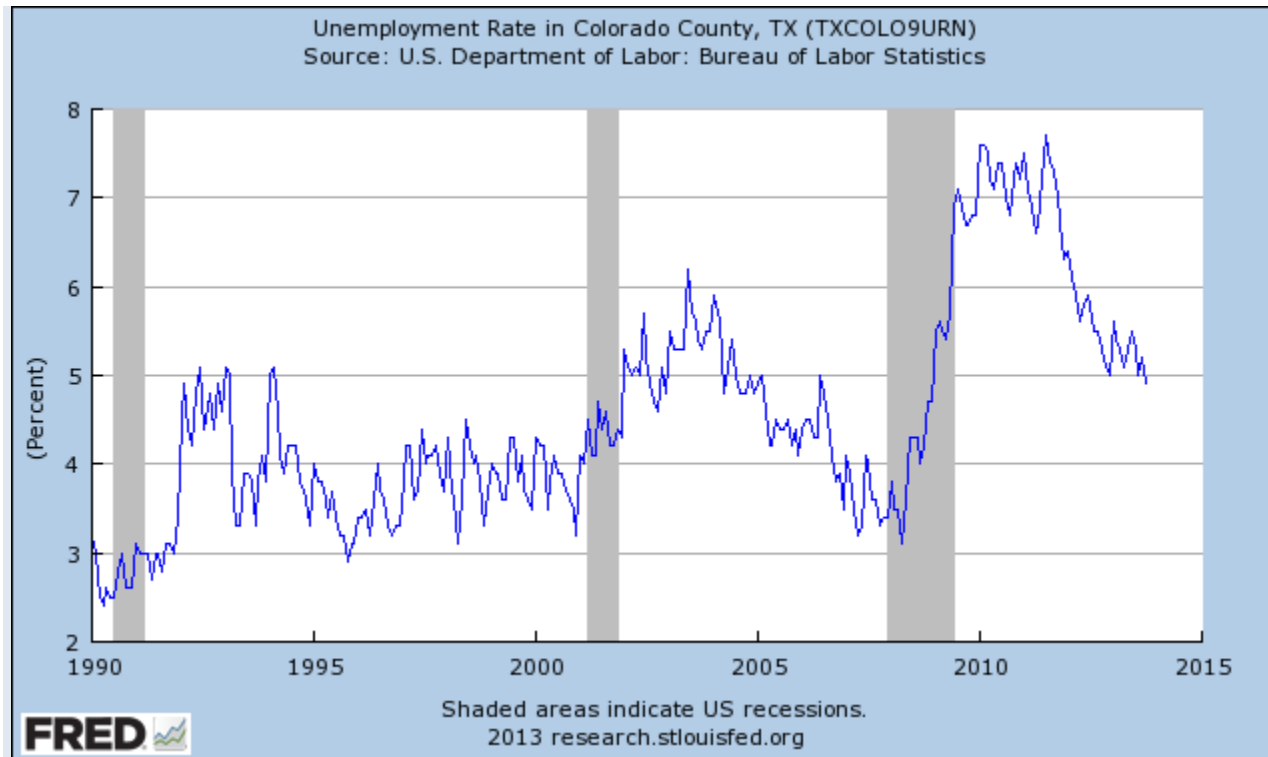
**Data Source:** This indicator has two sources: actual population counts from the U.S. Census Bureau (1989 & 1999), and U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (SAIPE) for all other years.



## Unemployment & Citizens Not Participating in Work Force: 1990 - October 2013:

Officially 4.9% vs 37% of eligible workers not participating in the County Workforce.

Source: St. Louis Federal Reserve & U.S. Dept of Labor

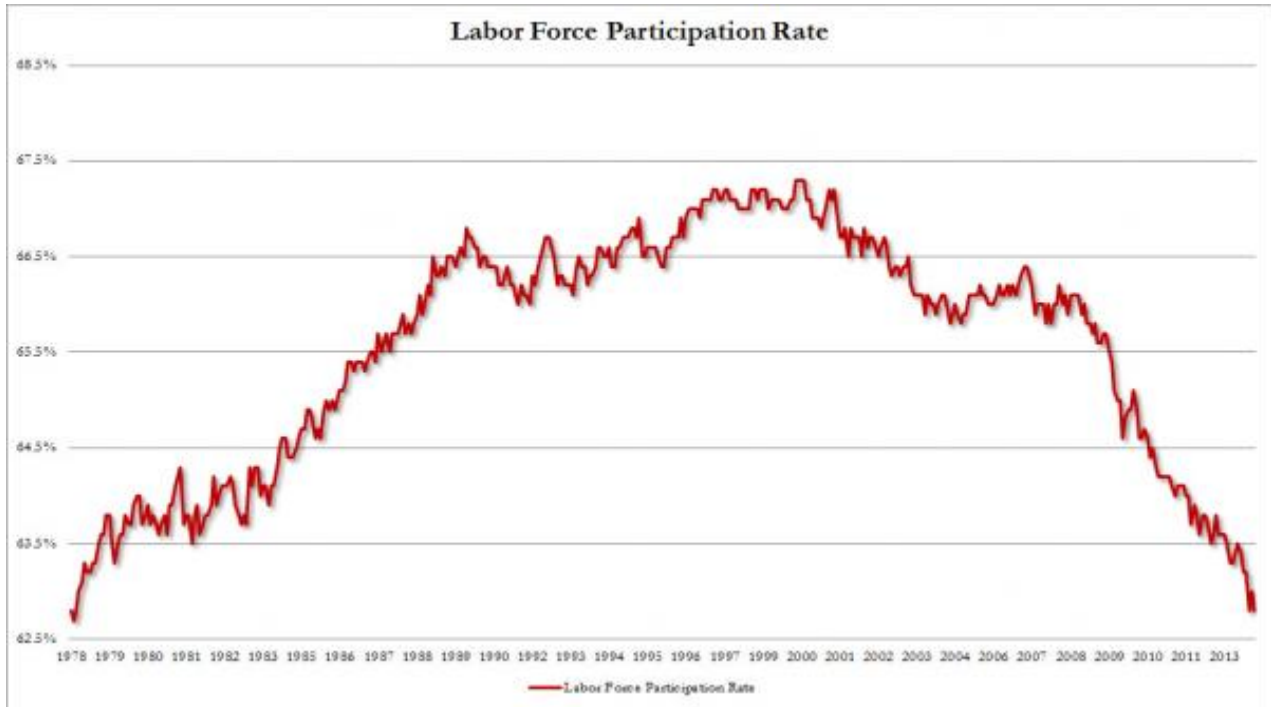


### Refined Calculation of Unemployment Rate in Colorado County:

Using census, school district enrollment and Dept Of Labor statistics the following estimate of unemployment is calculated:

<b>Age Groups</b>		
<b>Total County Population</b>	<b>20,874</b>	2010 Census
<b>Less: Excluded Groups</b>		
Age: 0-5	1,401	2010 Census
Age: 5-18 – School Age	3,465	2012 ISD Enrollments - TEA
Ave: Over 65	4,488	2010 Census
Total Excluded from Workforce	<b>9,354</b>	
Total Avail. For Workforce	<b>11,520</b>	Total Population less Ttl Excluded
June 2013 Workforce #	7,239	Dept. of Labor latest estimate avail.
Unemployed Persons in County	<b>4,281</b>	
<b>Unemployed as a % of Ttl Avail Workforce</b>	<b>37.1%</b>	Although a high percentage this rate exactly matches US rates of Dec 2013.

As compared to the US civilian labor force, in December, the civilian labor force dropped from 155.3 million to 154.9 million, a 35 year low, hitting levels not seen since 1978, at 62.8% down from 63.0%. Thus, 37% of available citizens in the U.S. are not presently participating in the labor force a percentage that exactly matches our calculations for Colorado County.

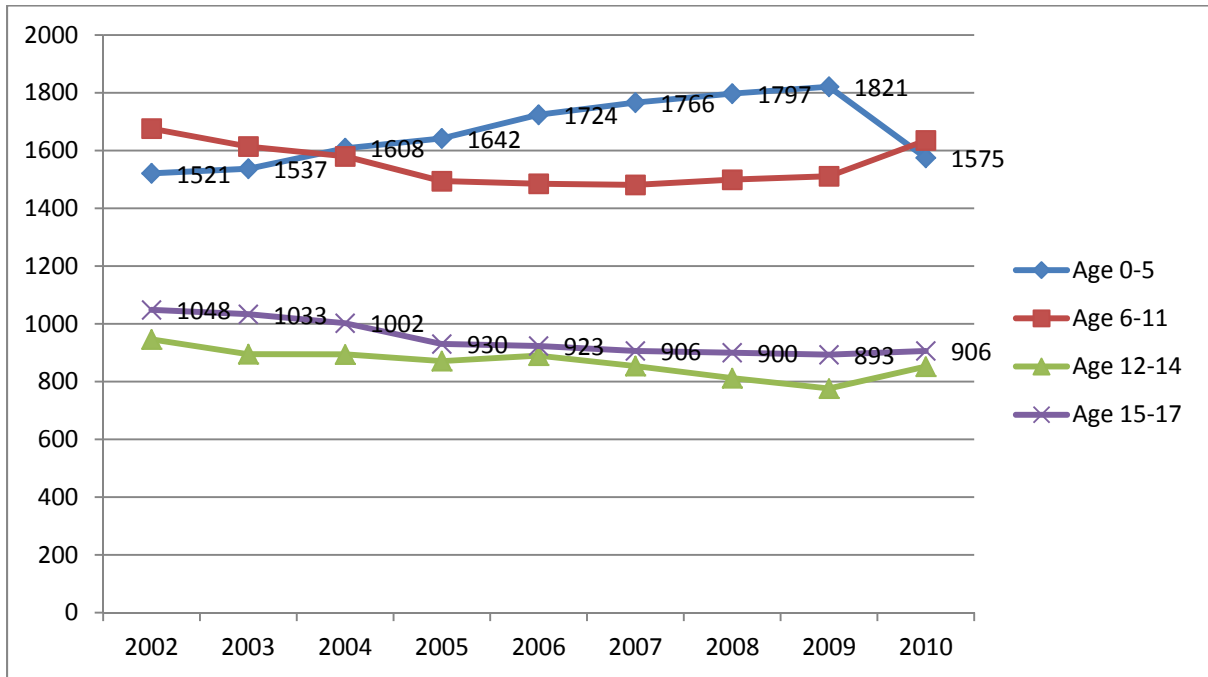


**Americans not in the labor force** exploded higher by 535,000 in December 2013 to a **new all time high of 91.8 million** persons.

## Colorado County Child Population by Age: 0 – 17.

(Source: www.datacenter.kidscount.org)

Finding: High School Age 15-17 – was 1048 in 2002 and 906 in 2010. Net decrease of 13.5%.



Age	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0-5	1642	1724	1766	1797	1821	1575	Unavail.
6-11	1494	1485	1481	1499	1511	1635	
12-14	871	890	854	812	776	852	
15-17	930	923	906	900	893	906	
Total	4937	5022	5007	5008	5001	4968	

## CHILD POPULATION (0-17) BY ETHNICITY: 2007-2011

Source: Center for Public Policy Priorities

County		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Change
	Anglo	2,380	2,323	2,272	2,170	2,050	(14%)
	Hispanic	1,709	1,758	1,793	1,997	2,050	20%
	Afr. Am	889	898	909	764	698	(21%)
	Other	29	29	27	12	112	386%

## Child Population by Ethnicity – Trends for Colorado County

(Source: [www.datacenter.kidscount.org](http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org)) Child Age: 0-17.

*Finding: Total number of children age 0 – 17: slight decreasing trend from 2002.*

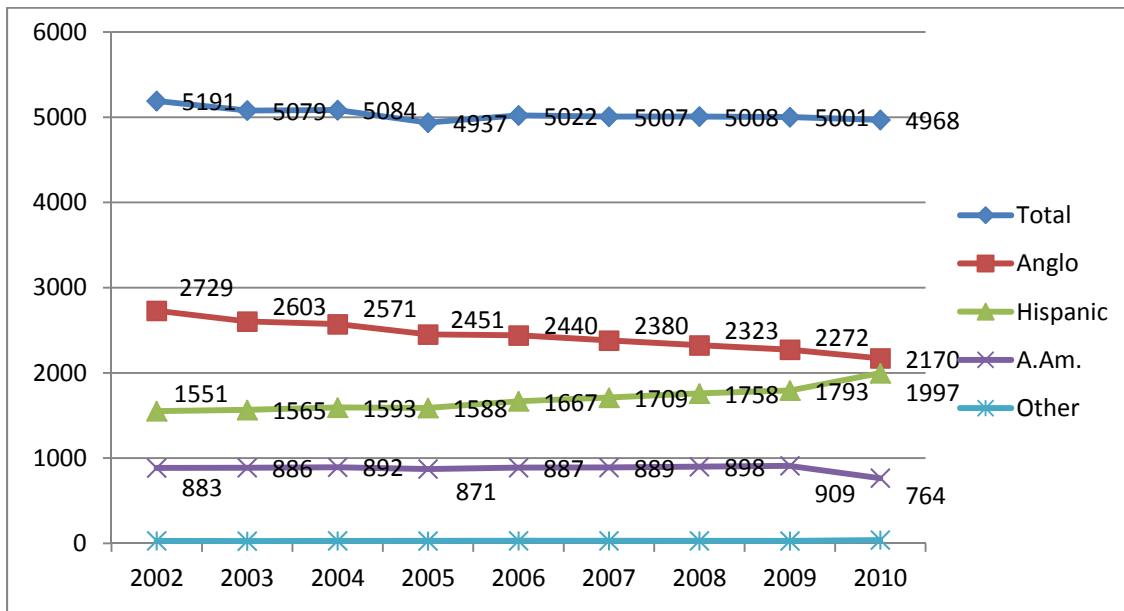
*Finding: Anglo children were 52.6% of all children in 2002 and 43.7% in 2010. **Net loss of 559.***

*Hypothesis: Anglo families with children may be finding it difficult to provide the type of quality of life expected.*

*Hypothesis: Most children of Anglo families, once graduated from high school, leave Colorado County and have a tendency not to return when their children are school age.*

*Finding: Hispanic children were 29.9% of all children in 2002 and 40.2% in 2010. **New gain of 446.***

*Finding: African American children were 17% of all children in 2002 and 15.4% in 2010.*



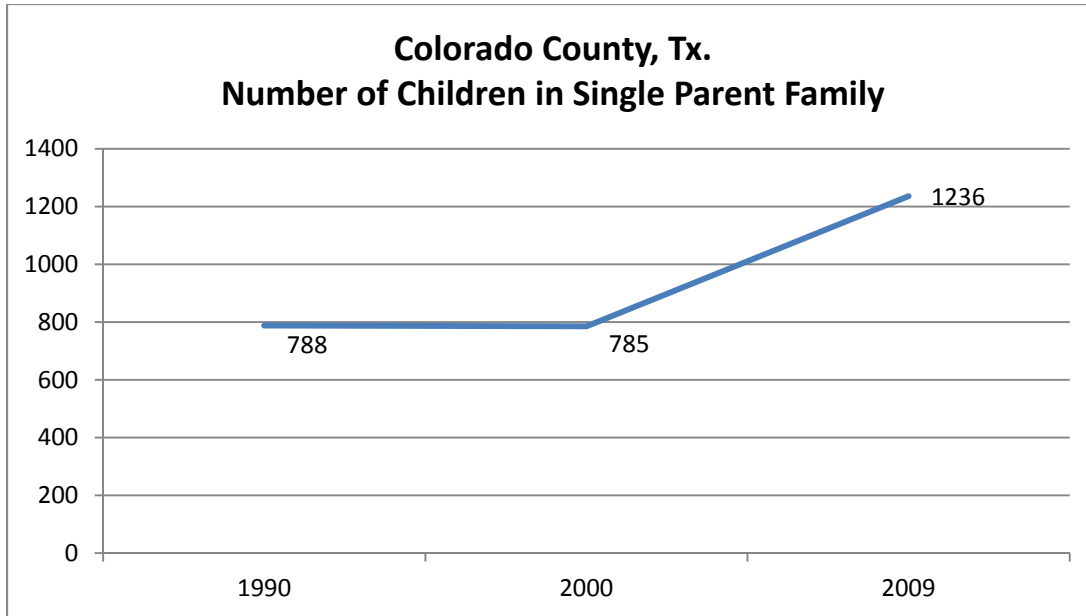
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Anglo	2451	2440	2380	2323	2272	2170
Hispanic	1588	1667	1709	1758	1793	1997
African Am.	871	887	889	898	909	764
Other	27	28	29	29	27	37
Total	4,937	5,022	5,007	5,008	5,001	4,968

## Children in Single Parent Families – Colorado County, Tx.

Source: Family demographic data for all counties is only collected in the decennial (10 yr.) US Census.  
Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count U.S. Database, Colorado County, Tx.

*Finding: The percent of children in single parent families has risen by 57.5% from the year 2000 to 2009.*

*Finding: The number of children in single parent families has risen by 448 from the year 2000 to 2009.*



### Percent of Children in Colorado County in Single Parent Family:

*Finding: From 17.6% in 1990 to 30.1% in 2009.*

	1990	2000	2009
<b>Children</b>	17.6%	17.1%	30.1%

### Births to Teens Age 13 – 19: 1990 – 2008 – 865 Children born to Teenage Girls

*Finding: Since 1990, an average of 48 children were born in Colorado County to teenage girls.*

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008
<b>Children</b>	41	44	58	36	53

## HEAD START ENROLLMENT (AGES 3-4)

Data Provided by: Center for Public Policy Priorities

Since 2008 all Districts have worked to establish a more effective early child development strategy.

Results tracked **are Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Retention which has over the last five years lingered at +- 6-8% of K & 1<sup>st</sup> Graders being retained** and not ready to move to next grade level.

This compares with the State of Texas avg of +-4% retention.

Location	Data Type	2000 - 2001	2001 - 2002	2004 - 2005	2008
Colorado County	Number	66	66	85	85
	Percent	13.0%	13.9%	15.9%	14.4%

### DEFINITIONS & SOURCES

**Definitions:** Number and percentage of the children ages 3-4 enrolled in the Head Start program.

**Data Source:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

**Footnotes:** Data for Early Head Start (children under 3) and Head Start for handicapped children 5 years and older are not included here.

**School Districts Enrollment:** (Source: TEA AEIS, District Record, Section II)

Summary: Columbus continues to see a slight but steady increase in student enrollment. Rice and Weimar continue to experience a slight but steady decrease in enrollment.

	<b>2010 Enrollment</b>	<b>2011 Enrollment</b>	<b>2012 Enrolled</b>
<b>Columbus ISD</b>	1,538	1,573	1,646
<b>Rice Consolidated ISD</b>	1,324	1,293	1,269
<b>Weimar ISD</b>	602	558	550
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,464</b>	<b>3,424</b>	<b>3,465</b>



## Education Dashboard

School Year (Aug- May 2012)

Note STARR Data not available for 2012

(Source: TEA AEIS District Report 2011-2012)

Background	Columbus ISD	Weimar ISD	Rice CISD
Free or Reduced Lunch %	54.4%	59.3%	76.1%
Anglo– Hispanic– African Am %	50%-34%-14%	36%-44%-16%	25%-53%-19%
Total District Expenditures per Student – 2010/2011	\$9,506	\$11,814	\$13,995
Major Objectives – (2011 Results)	% In Need	% in Need	% in Need
1. <b>4 yr olds</b> – 100% ready for Kindergarten.	33.6%	51%	32%
2. <b>3<sup>rd</sup> graders</b> – 100% reading at grade level by yr end.	5%	10%	18%
3. <b>3<sup>rd</sup> graders</b> – 100% at grade level math.	7%	13%	22%
4. <b>4<sup>th</sup> graders</b> – 100% reading at grade level by year end.	17%	12%	18%
5. <b>4<sup>th</sup> graders</b> – 100% at grade level math by year end.	13%	25%	11%
6. <b>8<sup>th</sup> graders</b> – 100% at grade level reading by year end.	20%	8%	20%
7. <b>8<sup>th</sup> graders</b> – 100% at grade level math by year end.	23%	21%	27%
8. <b>Identify &amp; Program for the +-10% (non Spec. Ed.) students with specific learning disabilities.</b>	153 est. 11 per grade	56 est. 4 per grade	132 est. 10 per grade
9. <b>Recommended Program - 2010 - 80%+ of graduating class.</b>	15%	0%	19%

Colorado County - Education Dashboard Continued...

Objectives Continued	Columbus ISD	Weimar ISD	Rice CISD
	% or # in Need	% or # in Need	% or # in Need
10. <b>Career Path - 100% of Freshman 2012 class in Min. Program enrolled in three years of vocational training.</b> See 2011 - 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade class # for 2012 #. 2010 % Grad Min. Program = Need %.	30%	4%	45%
11. <b>Career Path - 2012 9<sup>th</sup> grade students</b> - 100% 'tested' for best career paths and this info shared w/student and parents. (Better at 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	100%	100%	100%
12. <b>Graduation Drop Out Test</b> – 2008- 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade class size vs 2011 Graduating class size. <b>Outstanding Results by all three ISDs!</b>	13%	14.5%	12.6%
13. <b>2Minimum Grad Plan % = &lt;20%</b> <b>Good Results for CISD.</b>	6%	12%	19%
14. <b>Attrition % + Min. Program Grad %</b> to be less than 30% of Graduating Class	13% +26% = 9%	14% + 32% = 16%	12% +39% = 21%
15. <b>2010 graduating students</b> – Min 70% testing college ready in reading & math. % under 70% = need.	Reading: 13% Math: 1%	0%	Reading: 19% Math: 7%
16. <b>Graduating Special Ed %</b> (2011) vs Tx. Avg of 10%. Need = % >10%	3%	0%	11.1%
17. <b>Graduation Alternative Program</b> - for high risk/ dropped out youth – ages 16 - 21.	Available Age 16-21.	Not Avail. 23%	Not Available 22%
18. <b>Career Options</b> – H.S. Counselors identify two 'relevant' entry level jobs for each student graduating Min. or Alternative Program. <b>Workforce Solutions Coordination Needed.</b>	Attn Needed	Attn Needed	Attn Needed

## Education Dashboard - Calculation Methods:

**‘Methodology used to closely approximate actual number of students in need and determine scope of action needed.’**

1. **Objective:** 100% of 4 year olds ready for kindergarten
  - a. Use avg class 9-12 high school for basic number of 4 yr olds. Check against 2011 Kindergarten class size to approximate/adjust given private schools in Columbus & Weimar. Use AEIS District Report pg 9.
  - b. % Goal: 100%
  - c. Use number enrolled in Pre Kindergarten in ISD – AEIS, pg 9.
  - d. # in Need or Failing: Use (a) above Avg Class Size minus (c) local pre school or Head Start enrollment.
- 2-7 **Objective:** 100% of students performing critical functions at critical grades. Use AEIS Report.  
Secondary Objective: Elimination of ethnic disparity in performance.
8. **Objective:** Graduating Class has 80% graduating under Recommended Program. 2011 AEIS report. Pg 9 or 10. Graduating Class % Graduating Recommended Program.
9. **Objective:** Graduating Class reflects and generally should not exceed Texas’ avg of 10% of Special Ed students. 2010 AEIS report. % of Class Graduating Special Ed.
10. **Objective:** Students with Specific Learning Difficulties identified and learning plan identified. 2011 AEIS report. Estimated 10% of total student body (this does not include Special Ed students.)
11. **Objective:** 100% of Minimum Program students enrolled in Vocational Ed path. 2011 AEIS report. See pg 9 or 10 for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Size to Yield 2012 Freshman Class Size. See also 2010 Graduation program type and use this number to estimate total need for vocational training in high school classes. Exact number can also be supplied by each high school counselor’s office.
12. **Objective:** 100% of Minimum Program students (8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> Grade) tested for best career path. 2011 AEIS report. See 2011 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class # for 2012 est of 9<sup>th</sup> grade #. Recommend HGAC career profile track.
13. **Objective:** Attrition. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Class attrition 10% or less. For 2010 Grad Class Attrition – Use 2007 9<sup>th</sup> grade class size in AEIS campus report to compare with 2010 graduation class size. For 2011 Grad Class Attrition – Use 2008 9<sup>th</sup> grade class size and compare with 2011 graduating class size to determine estimated attrition number.
14. **Objective:** 20% of less graduating under Minimum Plan. 2011 AEIS report. See number of students graduating minimum program in 2010 for est. (Check to verify that this number includes S. Ed. and define more exactly what is included and being measured.
15. **Objective:** Total not to exceed 30% of graduating class size. See 2010 AEIS report. Add above Item 13 Attrition % plus Item 14 Minimum Program %. Compare total number to total graduates.
16. **Objective:** 70% of Recommended Program graduates college ready in reading and math. See AEIS 2011 report. 2010 graduating students college ready in reading and math.
17. **Objective:** Each ISD have a **local** alternative graduation option (diploma and or GED) available to youth who have not graduated high school?
18. **Objective:** Career Options: Each high school counselor work with county Work Force to identify two entry level jobs for each student graduating minimum program.

## Identification of Community Problems

### General Public Safety Needs and Issues

In the following section problems are identified and data is included that supports both the existence and severity of gaps as they are found in Colorado County.

The description and data are a brief discussion of the prioritized issues, 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)**

<b>Priority #1</b>																			
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>																		
<p><b>Impact of Systemic Poverty Upon Educational Performance and the Juvenile Justice System</b></p> <p>Well Documented across local ISD's and across the U.S.</p> <p>Two of Multiple Examples possible Presented in Data Section.</p>	<p>1990: 212 Unemployed vs 2011: 805 Unemployed Percent of County Households below poverty level by Ethnicity</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Failure</b> (<i>US Census 2010 &amp; TEA AEIS Campus Reports by District</i>).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2009/ 2010</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;"><b>County Poverty %</b></th> <th style="width: 50%;"><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Failure %</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Anglo: 4.9%</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Hispanic: 25.7%</b></td> <td><b>16% CISD &amp; RCISD</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1% WISD (PAT/SWIFT) Outstanding Results</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Af. Amer: 26.9%</b></td> <td><b>25% County</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math Failure:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2009/ 2010</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;"><b>County Poverty %</b></th> <th style="width: 50%;"><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math Failure %</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Anglo: 4.9%</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hispanic: <b>25.7%</b></td> <td>12% CISD <b>35% RCISD</b> <u>10% WISD</u> <b>20.4% County</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Af. Amer: 26.9%</b></td> <td>36% CISD 20% RCISD <u>50% WISD</u> <b>32.1% County</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Percent of Households with children in Primary School that qualify for Federal lunch assistance programs in Eagle Lake is +-88%.</p>	<b>County Poverty %</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Failure %</b>	Anglo: 4.9%	4%	<b>Hispanic: 25.7%</b>	<b>16% CISD &amp; RCISD</b>		1% WISD (PAT/SWIFT) Outstanding Results	<b>Af. Amer: 26.9%</b>	<b>25% County</b>	<b>County Poverty %</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math Failure %</b>	Anglo: 4.9%	4%	Hispanic: <b>25.7%</b>	12% CISD <b>35% RCISD</b> <u>10% WISD</u> <b>20.4% County</b>	<b>Af. Amer: 26.9%</b>	36% CISD 20% RCISD <u>50% WISD</u> <b>32.1% County</b>
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<i>County Response to Problem</i>																			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership of each ISD is very aware of performance gaps between at risk students as well as cultural issues that affect student performance. Each ISD has implemented and is monitoring very active programs to close student performance gaps.</li> <li>• Graduating students need the realistic hope of sustainable income and this has been particularly lacking in the community of Eagle Lake for many years. This issue is being very actively addressed by Civic Leaders and today the community of Eagle Lake is on track to have several new businesses open 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2014. These new businesses are expected to generate +-125 new jobs albeit relatively low paying jobs. By 2014 year end, a total of +-200 jobs are expected for the year which represents very significant improvement for the community.</li> <li>• Currently RCISD &amp; CISD <b>are actively studying expanding vocational and technical preparation curriculum.</b> By offering vocational courses relevant to meet County and near by County job openings it is likely that graduating students will have a credible option to continue to make their homes in the County.</li> </ul>																			

## Priority #2

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

**Need for Improved Parental Skills as to Educational Priorities & Opportunities**

*Schools are designed to educate children not raise children.*

*All parties benefit from effective communication.*

In some sectors communication ranges from useful to nonexistent. It is clear that some percentage of cultural groups will only be reached with **culturally based and culturally relevant programs.**

- An average of 48 children are born each year to teenage girls in Colorado County.
  - It is clear from a variety of indicators that there is a need to strengthen parenting skills affecting approximately 30% of the youth of Colorado County.
  - Statistics from the oldest after school program in the County report that of over 1000 local children served in the last ten years less than 80 parents have ever visited the premises a single time and less than 15 parents have requested educational assistance for their child.
  - This issue is also evidenced by a well publicized event in October 2011 where over 20 area support agencies were represented and ready to offer information and assistance to local residents and less than 10 parents attended.
- There is very little in County counseling available to parents in need.

*Potential Response to Problem*

- *To increase effectiveness, some element of every program should be offered by accepted and respected members of that cultural group.*
- Four years of data supports the finding that The ***Parents as Teachers*** organization in Weimar embodies an effective research based program that directly helps over 130 family units in Weimar ISD. This program has yielded significant benefit in closing academic performance gaps between ethnic groups. It is recommended that RCISD and CISD investigate a more cost effective method that duplicates this model using 1-2 trained District staff.
- The three Colorado County Justices of the Peace and County Judge might investigate establishing a **County family guidance program utilizing Colorado County Youth & Family Services organization** for offenses related to family issues.
- Each of the three county **after school programs should investigate and consistently offer an effective Parenting Course** for local residents with school age children.
- Local ISD's are encouraged to **revisit internal District and Parent communication protocols** to ensure every parent knows there is an open door to discuss their child's educational progress during the school year. If current protocols do not include culturally relevant components it is highly likely that there are significant communication gaps existing between the District and some percentage of parents.
- Culturally based **nonprofit organizations and after school programs** are also strongly encouraged to **offer information on improving parenting skills and resource information** to assist parents.



### Priority #3

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

**Adult in home use of alcohol and narcotics**

*Children in these homes look for the first opportunity to get out and away from a living nightmare. Nightmares that can turn a loving father into a violent abuser after he's 'had a few'.*

The old saying of "Children excuse in excess what their parents excuse in moderation" has born out a painful reality in today's society. **Research of familial lines painfully proves that 'hurting and abusive people create hurting and abused people'.**

- The largest after school program director in the eastern part of Colorado County reports that **over 30% of children** attending answer yes to following survey question, **'Is alcohol or drugs a problem in your house?'**
- This percentage corresponds very closely to the high school youth drop out rate of 30% in that Colorado County community.
- Law enforcement representatives report that alcohol alone accounts for up to **30-40% of all enforcement calls.** Associated law enforcement costs and risks **are extremely high.**
- The abuse of alcohol and drugs in local homes sucks the oxygen out of the environment of any child in that home.
- The abuse of alcohol and drugs in local homes creates a systemic environment of despair, hopelessness and poverty. This environment leads youth to 'self medicate' in an attempt to ease their pain they experience every day due to dysfunctional adult family members.

*Potential Response to Problem*

- **Core human needs** addressed: **care, love, opportunity and hope.** Many homes in our society are missing all four of these elements. Local **organizations** that play a consistent role in addressing these four components should be strengthened as they play a huge part in breaking addiction cycles and helping others help themselves.
- **Spousal counseling programs** offering assistance and options should be strengthened and made much more readily available throughout the County.
- **The County judicial system and local law enforcement and judicial systems must continue to meet out serious consequences of violation that match the County's and Society's costs of alcohol and drug abuse.**
- **At the local and county level, liquor license costs to sell alcoholic beverages should reflect and recoup the associated law enforcement cost of the abuse of alcohol.**
- After school programs focusing on the four core human needs are essential but all programs are under intense resourcing pressures.
- **Two short term shelters for youth aged 10-21 are desperately needed and should be established: (1st) in Eagle Lake and (2nd) in Columbus, where data indicates these two areas have by far the biggest need. Primary goals are to provide a safe haven for at risk youth,**



*strengthen the family, reunify the family, strengthen family relationships and provide improved communication options.*

- *The Bridge Way and Fairway programs offered in Montgomery County offer a model for such a program. These programs are best administered by a small community cohort of chief of police, local JP, County CPS representative, local Catholic priest, local Hispanic representative, local African American representative and local director of after school program. Services would include 24/7 crisis intervention hotline and emergency assistance services of safety, security, support and shelter. Licensed counselors would meet with family and youth to discuss the crisis, create a plan of action to alleviate family stress and tension and reunite the family where possible.*
- *Local AA and NA programs provide vital help to those adults and youth already addicted.*

***All of these programs should be supported and strengthened as all are an integral part of the solution.***

## Priority #4

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

### Lack of Early Childhood Educational Development

Kids that ‘start behind, stay behind’.

Under preparedness for 1<sup>st</sup> Grade tracks out in underperforming high school graduates.

Note Minimum Plan Graduation Rates in CISD and RCISD provide little opportunity for post high school learning and speak to the **need of a strong vocational career program in both districts.**

**Note: 85% of Colorado County adults have not graduated from college.**

### Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment % of total 3-4 Yr Olds:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
25%	22%	21%	25.5%	36%

Thus, **64-75% of 3&4 yr olds in Colorado County have little to no Pre-K training.** This puts additional pressure on teaching staffs when children enter 1<sup>st</sup> grade unprepared.

See 3<sup>rd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Performance Gaps by Ethnicity.

Grade retention in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade is sig. above avg that of the State avg at RCISD and 4<sup>th</sup> grade retention is above avg in CISD.

In High School the lack of early Childhood development is a likely contributor to the percent of students graduating minimum plan vs recommended plan.

In 2011:	Min. Plan Graduates
Texas State Average:	17.5%
Columbus:	35%
Rice CISD:	38%
Weimar:	4% (Excellent)

Impact: Less well-educated graduates must first attend junior college, if college-bound and most find it very difficult entering/staying at a 4-yr University.

*Potential Response to Problem*

- **County ISD Superintendents might consider creating a small task force of themselves to personally review the effectiveness of existing Head Start or District programs by conducting a brief survey of Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teachers.**
- **Use this survey’s results to better inform each District’s strategies related to Head Start or other District run pre-school programs to better assist all eligible young students.**
- **Encourage active participation in all County Head Start programs, all pre school programs and actively incorporate and promote the principles promulgated by Search Institute’s: 40 Developmental Assets for Early Childhood (ages 3-5).**
- **ISD Superintendent Task Force on County Wide Early Child Development consider strategies to assimilate as many Parents as Teachers principles as possible into all local early Child Development programs.**

## Priority #5

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

**Failure to Graduate in District**

*Failure to graduate in District rates are improving at each District but remain a challenge for RCISD and WISD.*

**% Adults over age 25 without HS Diploma per 2010 U.S. Census:**

- Columbus – 30%,
- Eagle Lake – 43%,
- Weimar – 27%
- Often creates need for education for ex-offenders.

**Grad. Class vs Corresponding TEA AEIS 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Enrollment: Percent of each Freshman Class not Graduating in the District.**

Grad. Class of	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Columbus –	11%	25%	7%	6%	13%	13%	4%
Eagle Lake –	41%	39%	33%	28%	22%	13%	26%
Weimar –	23%	24%	14%	29%	23%	15%	23%

Columbus is doing an exceeding good job in reducing attrition. Rice is showing substantial progress. Weimar is slightly better than the State attrition avg of 29% and is doing an outstanding job of over 90% of these graduates graduating Recommended program. (TEA AEIS Reports)

**Hispanic Leaver Rate:**

**Hispanic Student Population: Colorado County**  
[www.kidscount.org](http://www.kidscount.org)  
 1999 – 2010 ‘Leaver’ Rate: **46.4%**

**African American Rate:**

**African American Student Population: Colorado County**  
[www.kidscount.org](http://www.kidscount.org)  
 1999 – 2010 ‘Leaver’ Rate: 25.4%  
 RCISD Grad Class of 2012: 42% AA Attrition

**Impact:** Untrained workforce, under-educated populous eligible for only low-paying jobs, require costly remedial course work at Jr. College or begin (return to) criminal activity.

*Potential Response to Problem*

- Foster a “Culture of Learning within Family Units”
- Trained tutors in all elementary schools to keep students up with their peers, with emphasis on students leaving 3<sup>rd</sup> grade as proficient readers.
- Volunteer tutors in all after school programs to assist students with homework.
- It is absolutely **critical** that research based **high quality career planning programs be introduced into junior high classrooms and all minimum program students enter a vocational training program at 9<sup>th</sup> grade and continue thru high school.** Proven sources: Birkman International and Workforce Solutions.

- Bring a variety of successful speakers to speak to students and give them a vision of what's possible when they graduate.
- Require career day be mandatory attendance for all 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Implement an effective transition program for 8<sup>th</sup>s Graders entering 9<sup>th</sup> Grade.
- Tutoring for low-performing students throughout K-12 to build self-esteem and a grasp that personal success is possible.
- For school 'leavers' or dropouts, more GED and Financial Literacy classes/Transition into workforce training.
- Goodwill Houston recruiting for workforce training.
- Organizations/schools offer GED courses and tutors for GED test.
- **Local ISD Counselors work directly with local Workforce Solutions office to identify a minimum of 2 jobs that each student graduating minimum program can be trained and qualify for upon graduation.**

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

<b>Priority #1</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Abuse &amp; Issues Associated with Alcohol &amp; Illegal Substances</b></p>	<p>Research: The National Institute of Corrections, U.S. Dept. of Justice and Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in their published “Tools of the Trade: A Guide to Incorporating Science into Practice’ states that <b><u>substance abuse of alcohol and drugs is one of the eight major causal risk factors significantly contributing to criminal behavior and involvement in the criminal justice system.</u></b></p> <p>Data point: law enforcement officers report that approximately <b><u>one-half of all officer calls involve alcohol.</u></b></p> <p>Data point: Over <b><u>40% of all offenders under County probation or supervision have offenses directly related to alcohol or drug related offenses.</u></b></p> <p>Data point: The <b><u>connection of alcohol or drug related domestic violence cases involving both female and male victims is estimated to be in excess of 60% in Colorado County.</u></b></p> <p>Data point: it is estimated by several knowledgeable sources that, among the African American adult male population in the <b><u>second largest municipality in the County, the level of illegal drugs and alcohol use now exceeds epidemic levels of greater than 60%.</u></b></p> <p>Data point: it is estimated by knowledgeable sources and actual surveys <b><u>that over 30% of all Hispanic and African American households in the second largest municipality in the County use drugs and or alcohol on a regular basis.</u></b></p> <p>Data point: it is extremely difficult for any school age child to live in any home where there is alcohol or illegal substance abuse. Yet, <b><u>for over 25% of the entire youth population in Colorado County there is no safe and secure and properly supervised place.</u></b></p>

1. A much greater and **consistent (Quarterly) educational effort** conducted that truly warns all school age youth of the dangers associated with alcohol and drug abuse.
2. **Education** should be done in the three **County after school programs** in Weimar, Eagle Lake and Columbus.
3. It is critical that the **County and municipalities** clearly communicate **their intent to impose the severest penalties allowed under law** on any adult convicted of providing alcohol or illegal substances to a juvenile.
4. It is critical that the County judicial system communicate its intent to and in fact imposes the severest penalties under law on any adult convicted of domestic violence where alcohol has been consumed by the offending party.
5. The County leadership should carefully consider **referring any case of a non U.S. citizen in this County that involves domestic violence and alcohol to U.S. Immigration Bureau with recommendation to be deported to country of origin.**
6. County leadership should consider incorporating a **geographic boundary restraining order for any adult convicted of their 2<sup>nd</sup> or greater domestic violence and alcohol offense to be prohibited from entering Colorado County,** except to report to their probation officer, for a period of three years or more at the judge's discretion.

**Priority #2**

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

**Lack of Safe House for Victims of Threatened or Actual Assault**

**Family Violence Statistics:**

	Rural	Columbus	Eagle Lake	Weimar	Total
2004	60	20	17	9	<b>106</b>
2005	70	32	35	6	<b>143</b>
2006	55	21	35	10	<b>121</b>
2007	57	21	20	13	<b>111</b>
2008	99	17	20	13	<b>149</b>
2009	63	22	31	8	<b>124</b>
Total	404	133	158	59	754
Avg. An.	67	22	26	10	126
Avg/ Mth.	5.6	1.8	2.2	.83	10.5

These reported statistics are consistent at almost exactly 50% of the estimated total incidents of family violence in Colorado County.

Because victims have so few perceived options the number of reported incidents is drastically under reported in every locality and rural region.

*Potential Response to Problem*

**A small 3 bedroom local safe house for teenage - adult women is needed in Columbus and Eagle Lake. These two houses could serve the monthly needs of the entire County. If located near local PD stations the house would not need additional personnel. Basic food provision could be provided by each community's local food pantry.**

**Priority #3**

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

**Domestic Violence**

**U.S. Fact Citation:** Dec. 15, 2011.  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**  
 Supported by Natl. Institute of Justice and Dept. of Defense.  
 Survey in 2010 of over 16,500 adults.  
 ‘More than **one in three women** have experienced sexual assault, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime.’

**Fact Citation:** Dec. 15, 2011.  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**  
**Over 25% of men** have also experienced assault or physical violence by an intimate partner. National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey.

**Colorado County Annual Impact:**

**Colorado County Impact:**  
**Annual Impact: Estimate from national survey.**  
 Female Population:  
 Fact: 7.9% of Females in the U.S. experience a sexual assault or threat annually.  
 Estimated No. of female citizens of Colorado County experiencing a sexual assault or threat annually: 250/annually. Monthly: +-21 female citizens.

**Reported Incidents:**

Colorado County Impact: Reported Incidents of Family Violence:

	Rural	Columbus	Eagle Lake	Weimar	Total
2004	60	20	17	9	106
2005	70	32	35	6	143
2006	55	21	35	10	121
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These reported statistics are consistent at almost exactly 50% of the estimated total incidents of family violence in Colorado County.





<p><b>80% experience first rape before age 25</b></p>	<p><b>least one day of work or school.</b></p> <p>As far as <b>sexual violence</b>, nearly one in five women -- translating to nearly 22 million women in the United States -- reported having been raped or the target of an attempted rape during their lifetime, according to the survey. More than half of them, 51%, said they were raped by an intimate partner and nearly 41% by an acquaintance.</p> <p>Of the victims of completed rapes, nearly 80% said they experienced their first rape before the age of 25 and 42% before the age of 18.</p> <p>About one in five white and African-American women and one in seven Hispanic women reported being raped at some point.</p> <p>One in 71 men also reported being raped during their lifetime; of those, more than one-fourth, or nearly 28%, experienced their first rape when they were 10 or younger. More than half the men, or 52%, said they were raped by an acquaintance.</p> <p>Victimization by stalking was reported by one in six women and one in 19 men, to the point where "they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed," the survey report said.</p> <p>Two-thirds of women reported their stalker was an intimate partner, while 80% of men said the stalker was an intimate partner or acquaintance.</p>
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p>	
<p><b>Prevention:</b> "The health problems caused by violence remind us of the importance of prevention," said Howard Spivak, director of the CDC's Injury Center Division of Violence Prevention, in a statement. "In addition to intervening and providing services, <b>prevention efforts need to start earlier in life, with the ultimate goal of preventing all of these types of violence before they start.</b>"</p> <p><b>Prevention Strategies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important to consistently and boldly address beliefs, attitudes and messages that create a climate that condones sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence."</li> </ul>	

- Dedicated spousal abuse hotline number.
- Spousal abuse hotline number provided to children in school such that they might be able to contact help to prevent or minimize spousal abuse at home.
- Every school district should make a spousal abuse flyer available and mandatory reading for every child in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and above.
- Police officer patrol units should carry information flyers informing victims of abuse of their rights and options and put this information into the hands of every such situation they encounter.
- *Help can also be offered via a dedicated web site resource for Colorado County parents.*
- Prevention efforts must focus on families, particularly on fostering healthy relationships between parents and children and emotionally supportive environments.

**Victim Strategies:**

Victims need coordinated services to ensure healing and prevent a recurrence including strengthening the response of the health care system.

**Training of Healthcare professionals:** The CDC states: "One way to strengthen the response to survivors is through increased training of healthcare professionals."

**Legal Resources Availability:** Victims of crimes need to know that the Colorado County Victim Services Office has critically important information relative to legal, housing, mental health and other services and resources available and accessible to victims."

**Housing Resources Availability:** There is a significant need for three small transition safe houses in both Eagle Lake and Columbus. One for male youth 10-17. One for female youth 10-17. The other for women 18 and over. Residents would receive both family reuniting counseling if possible and or counseling as to other safe alternatives. Residents would be allowed to stay up to 3 months.

**Hold Perpetrators Accountable:** In 90% of domestic violence cases it is impossible for the victim to hold the perpetrator accountable and there is usually significant need for local law enforcement authorities to relocate one or both of the parties depending upon circumstances. Having a safe interim place to assist victims locally immediately after the incident is critical to getting victims the help and information they need to make informed decisions regarding their personal and family safety and well being.

**Victim Mentality:**

**Survivors of sexual violence are often reluctant to report the behavior because of fear of breaking up the family, shame, embarrassment, fear of retribution or a belief that authorities may not support them. Officers need annual training in handling these constant matters affecting over 25% of the entire population.**

## Priority #4

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

### Child Neglect

When measured by the Search Institute's research based report on '40 Developmental Assets' needed by all children it is estimated that **up to 40% of all youth in the County are failing to receive vital life skills and experiences** they will need to be fully functional adults.

Children in rural areas who are victims of neglect usually only have the local school experience to rely upon for assistance.

*Potential Response to Problem*

- With this number of youth in need it is **essential that each community have a very well established youth and learning center that serves local youth and their families.**
- Utilize these **centers**, Champion Valley Boys and Girls Club, Columbus Boys & Girls Club and the Lighthouse in Eagle Lake as a **platform to focus on creating developmental options for youth of all ages.**
- Each school district conduct annual surveys of all children with the goal of ascertaining whether a child is suffering from any area of neglect.
- School districts will find it advantageous to work with local youth and learning centers to help ensure that every child has an opportunity to receive adequate food, shelter, clothing necessities as well as instruction, guidance and mentoring where needed.

**Priority #5**

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

**Grief / Emotional  
Counseling for Suicide &  
Crime Victims**

**There are hundreds of victims of violent crime including domestic violence and sexual assault in Colorado County each year.**

**Although infrequent, the immediate families and close friends of suicide victims also often need emotional counseling following such an event.**

*Potential Response to Problem*

**The County might negotiate for a constant fee of \$2,000/mth to engage the Colorado County Youth & Family Services organization to provide a counseling and victim of violent crime assistance service. This would be a tremendous service for the County citizens in times of tremendous need.**

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

<b>Priority #1</b>	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p><b>Illegal Substance Trafficking</b></p>	<p>Fact: From 2002-2012, <b>over 60% of all felony and misdemeanor cases</b> filed by the Colorado County Attorney's office were <b>drug or DWI related</b>.</p> <p>Fact: From 2002 – 2012, Colorado County has prosecuted an average of 53 Felony Drug related cases annually.</p> <p>Fact: From 2002 – 2012, Colorado County has prosecuted an average of 140 Misdemeanor Drug related cases annually.</p> <p>Fact: Research from one local after school program reports <b>over 30% of attending children households have a problem with alcohol or narcotics</b>.</p> <p>Data point: It is estimated that over 30% of crimes committed in Colorado County are committed by <b>non-residents</b> of the County.</p> <p>Data point: Officers report that it is <u>common for illegal substance transport as well as construction or agricultural equipment thefts to occur in Colorado County and for the equipment to be transported immediately out of the County. This sort of event requires 24 hour road way electronic surveillance in order to limit its impact.</u></p> <p>Data point: <b>each police component in Colorado County uses a different radio frequency</b> and all coordination in real time occurs thru police dispatch functions.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) There is a substantive need for <b>an <u>Inter Agency Computer System</u></b> that links all law enforcement <b>communications</b> in Colorado County.</li> <li>2) There is a substantive need for <b><u>police vehicle and stationary cameras and license plate recognition</u></b> at 7-8 strategic intersections in the County.</li> <li>3) <b>Offense Tracking &amp; Reporting Systems</b>                      Each enforcement group in the County has a separate and distinct offense tracking and reporting system and none of these systems communicate with each other. Even County DPS incident reports stay in the county and are not centralized in a statewide database. This is inefficient in analyzing incidents in real time. In</li> </ol>	

addition, assessing trends in criminal activity across jurisdictions is very difficult with today's various systems.

- 4) Adults convicted of distributing or dealing illegal substances in Colorado County should be dealt the most severe sentences under the law for every convicted offense.
- 5) Creative sentencing under the law should be examined regarding **Adults found guilty of using juveniles for distribution** or dealing of illegal substances in Colorado County. Sentencing should be the most severe under the law and should, where allowable, receive, under the terms of probation, a restraining order prohibiting their physical presence from making contact or being within the maximum distance allowable by law with the juvenile involved in the case.
- 6) Juveniles found guilty of distributing or dealing illegal substances in Colorado County should undergo a minimum of 10 hours of rigorous psychological examination and counsel by competent examiner, spend a minimum of 60 hours community service in a substance abuse treatment facility and other creative sentencing options available.

## Priority #2

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

### **Lack of Juvenile Enforcement Options**

County has over 3,300 school age juveniles.

Over 50% of County youth are classified by the Federal Govt. as economically disadvantaged

Colorado County currently is very limited in its ability to discipline or incarcerate juveniles.

County law enforcement has very few practical options at hand to help rehabilitate and or mentor a youth in trouble.

Juveniles and adults continue to 'work' the juvenile system in using juveniles for illegal drug trafficking.

*Potential Response to Problem*

- 1) Eagle Lake and Weimar have found that the lowest cost solution per dollars and manpower is the effective operation of an after school program. These programs have proven statistically viable in lowering community crime rates significantly in Eagle Lake. Unfortunately, this is one area where resourcing at all levels is in critical shortfall.
- 2) It is recognized that this issue is too large to be effectively met by educators, law enforcement and after school administrators working in their respective 'silos'.
- 3) Law enforcement, Educators and After School Program Administrators working together are a very productive force in dealing with a wide variety of aberrant juvenile behavior.



### Priority #3

*Problem Identified*

*Data*

**Lack of Mental Health  
Options for Law  
Enforcement**

**Colorado County Facts:**

The following Table reflects the percent of youth graduating from each ISD under the Special Education classification in Colorado County. The disparity between the State average and that exemplified by RCISD is not typical and bears further examination as to determining factors.

	<b>CISD</b>	<b>RCISD</b>	<b>WISD</b>
2002	5.1%	12.0%	12.5%
2003	5.1%	21.1%	17.7%
2004	14.4%	32.0%	14.8%
2005	16.2%	14.4%	13.1%
2006	13.3%	31.3%	15.7%
2007	13%	27.3%	9.1%
2008	13.4%	18.8%	4.3%
2009	14.4%	23.0%	10.7%
Avg.	11.86%	22.5%	12.2%

Fact: Over the eight year time period of 2002 – 2009 graduating classes, Colorado County’s public schools have graduated 322 persons entering society as mentally disadvantaged.

Fact: Over the last thirty years, County schools have graduated approximately 1,200 persons as mentally disadvantaged.

Fact: Law enforcement personnel spend four to six hours with each person potentially requiring mental health evaluation and or assistance.

Fact: Colorado County does not have a pre-booking screening facility to establish medical clearance under State of Texas criteria for suspects. Such a facility would provide adequate segregation of mentally disadvantaged persons being booked into jail on charges as required by the Texas Health and Safety Code.

Fact: Colorado County uses pre-booking assessment services of the local MHMR provider (Texana) but no local residential

	<p>facility is available for stability treatment for that citizen. To compound the problem, medical screening may occur at one of the county hospital's emergency rooms which are not at all staffed to provide this level of service.</p> <p>Fact: Law enforcement agencies are generally not adequately funded to provide escort or transportation services of persons to mental health treatment locations over 50-90 miles outside Colorado County.</p> <p>Fact: With these financial and logistical limitations, some persons who might be previously diverted for treatment are incarcerated pending assessment and booking.</p>
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. County Judges of Colorado, Wharton, Matagorda, Austin, Fayette Counties take up the matter of establishing a centralized pre-booking screening facility to establish medical clearance under State of Texas criteria for suspects with potential mental impairment. Such a facility might also provide adequate segregation of mentally disadvantaged persons being booked into jail on charges as required by the Texas Health and Safety Code.</li> <li>2. Use this centralized pre-booking assessment facility and one rotating staff from the local MHMR provider (Texana) or contracted by MEHOP of Matagorda County to conduct timely mental health screening and housing for booked suspects.</li> <li>3. Colorado County has the opportunity to conduct a joint training program for enforcement officers with the officers from Wharton and Matagorda Counties.</li> <li>4. Recommended that every enforcement officer in the County have a minimum of four hours of training each year in handling mentally disadvantaged citizens.</li> <li>5. Law enforcement and county prosecutor staff have the opportunity to receive input regarding a subject's basic family history from several nonprofit service organizations in the County to assist in the data processing and assessment phase of a potentially mentally disadvantaged citizen.</li> </ol>	

## Priority #4

### *Problem Identified*

### *Data*

**Lack of Municipal Resources to Fund anything but basic policing activities.**

The County tax base peaked and leveled out in 2009.

The three municipalities and County Sheriff's office each have very real budget constraints and this is **particularly true for Eagle Lake** which is the anchor municipality in the eastern section of the County.

Eagle Lake P.D. has **significant budget limitations** compared to Columbus or Weimar in that sales tax allocations in E.L. are 20% of what is collected in Columbus. (**\$250k vs \$1.4Mil**). There are simply far less funds in Eagle Lake available for local policing than are needed.

### *Potential Response to Problem*

- *Municipal and County leaders community interests would be served by **coordinating local resources to focus on preventative measures and strategies to help limit the strain on local policing activities.***
- **Preventative strategies involve partnering with local after school organizations** in particular which provide a wide variety of opportunity and issue handling capabilities to help prevent particularly juvenile crime before it happens.
- **Eagle Lake and the County Sheriff's Department are particularly encouraged to apply for much needed grant assistance wherever possible.**

## **Mental Health Issues & Strategies:**

**Mental Health**

**Background**

**Colorado County**

**Data Collection**

<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Average % of Students Graduating Special Ed.</p> <p>RCISD: 22.5%</p> <p>Since 2002 over 300 persons entering Colorado County diagnosed as mentally impaired.</p>	<p><b>State of Texas Fact:</b></p> <p>The average Special Ed. graduation percentage rate in Texas ranges between 9.8% - 11.1% from 2001-2009.</p> <p><b>Colorado County Facts:</b></p> <p>The following Table reflects the percent of youth graduating from each ISD under the Special Education classification in Colorado County. The disparity between the State average and that exemplified by RCISD is not typical and bears further examination as to determining factors.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>CISD</b></th> <th><b>RCISD</b></th> <th><b>WISD</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2002</td> <td>5.1%</td> <td>12.0%</td> <td>12.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2003</td> <td>5.1%</td> <td>21.1%</td> <td>17.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>14.4%</td> <td>32.0%</td> <td>14.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>16.2%</td> <td>14.4%</td> <td>13.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>13.3%</td> <td>31.3%</td> <td>15.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>13%</td> <td>27.3%</td> <td>9.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>13.4%</td> <td>18.8%</td> <td>4.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>14.4%</td> <td>23.0%</td> <td>10.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Avg.</td> <td>11.86%</td> <td>22.5%</td> <td>12.2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Fact: Over the eight year time period of 2002 – 2009 graduating classes, Colorado County’s public schools have graduated 322 persons entering society as mentally disadvantaged.</p> <p>Fact: Over the last thirty years, County schools have graduated approximately 1,200 persons as mentally disadvantaged.</p> <p>Fact: Law enforcement personnel spend four to six hours with each person potentially requiring mental health evaluation and or assistance.</p> <p>Fact: Colorado County does not have a pre-booking screening facility to establish medical clearance under State of Texas criteria for suspects. Such a facility would provide adequate segregation of mentally disadvantaged persons being booked into jail on charges as required by the Texas Health and</p>		<b>CISD</b>	<b>RCISD</b>	<b>WISD</b>	2002	5.1%	12.0%	12.5%	2003	5.1%	21.1%	17.7%	2004	14.4%	32.0%	14.8%	2005	16.2%	14.4%	13.1%	2006	13.3%	31.3%	15.7%	2007	13%	27.3%	9.1%	2008	13.4%	18.8%	4.3%	2009	14.4%	23.0%	10.7%					Avg.	11.86%	22.5%	12.2%
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**Priority #1**

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<b>Lack of Resources &amp; Training to conduct Mental Health Assessments within the County.</b>	<p>National percentages of the population with a mental impairment is approximately 9%.</p> <p>Using this rate, there would be over 1,800 mentally handicapped residents of Colorado County.</p> <p>County incarceration facilities and staff are generally not well equipped to handle a mentally impaired suspect.</p>
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>HGAC member County Judges of Colorado, Wharton, Matagorda, Ft. Bend, Austin, Fayette Counties might task a committee to take up the matter of establishing a <b>centralized pre-booking screening facility to establish medical clearance</b> under State of Texas criteria for suspects with potential mental impairment. Such a facility might also provide adequate segregation of mentally disadvantaged persons being booked into jail on charges as required by the Texas Health and Safety Code.</i></li><li>• <i>Such a facility would need to be easily accessible by all participating counties.</i></li><li>• <i>Such a facility would need to be in compliance with State requirements.</i></li><li>• <i>An existing facility known as the Colorado County Juvenile Detention Center might be examined as to feasibility in this regard.</i></li></ul>	

<b>Priority #2</b>	
<i><b>Identified Problem</b></i>	<i><b>Data</b></i>
<i><b>No Mental Health Facilities to House Residents within Area</b></i>	<p>County incarceration facilities and staff are generally not well equipped to handle a mentally impaired suspect.</p> <p>Local budgets do not generally provide for long distance transportation and escort for mentally impaired suspects.</p> <p>It is not uncommon for numerous mentally impaired individuals who live in poverty to be living lives of quiet and some not so quiet desperation.</p>
<p><i><b>Potential Response to Problem:</b></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>County Judges of Colorado, Wharton, Matagorda, Austin, Fayette Counties take up the matter of establishing a centralized pre-booking screening and residential facility to establish medical clearance under State of Texas criteria for suspects with potential mental impairment. Such a facility might also provide adequate segregation of mentally disadvantaged persons being booked into jail on charges as required by the Texas Health and Safety Code.</i></li> <li>• <i>Use this centralized pre-booking assessment facility and one rotating staff from the local MHMR provider (Texana) or contracted by MEHOP of Matagorda County to conduct timely mental health screening and housing for booked suspects.</i></li> <li>• <i>Recommended that every enforcement officer in the County have a minimum of four hours of training each year in handling mentally disadvantaged citizens.</i></li> </ul>	



## Resources Available:

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

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### Juvenile Issues:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Proactive Sector</b>		
'Colorado County Parents'	Non agency	Approximately 2,550 adults in two parent homes + approximately 785 adults in single parent homes = approximately 3,336 parents of school age children in Colorado County.
Columbus I.S.D.	School District	Serves 1,538 children in the Columbus & Rock Island area
Rice Consolidated I.S.D.	School District	Serves 1,324 children in the Eagle Lake, Garwood & Sheridan area.
Weimar I.S.D.	School District	Serves 560 children in the Weimar area.
Tri-County Coalition for Literacy & Community Service	United Way Sponsored Affiliate	Provides planning, coordination and implementation services to over 70 nonprofit organizations in Colorado, Wharton and Matagorda Counties.
Champion Valley Boys & Girls Club	Nonprofit	After school program that serves 50-90 children per school day in Weimar.
S.W.I.F.T.	Nonprofit	Grade 1 – 6 academic development that serves 150 children per school day in Weimar.
Parents as Teachers	Nonprofit	Early childhood development program that serves over 140 families in Weimar.
Lighthouse of Eagle Lake	Nonprofit	Since 2003, youth care and after school program in Eagle Lake.
Winterman Library	Nonprofit	Library serving literary needs of youth and families in Eagle Lake.
Colorado County Y.F.S.	Nonprofit	Youth and Family drug and alcohol prevention and intervention services.
Texas Health Steps	Service Agency	Provides health information to improve health of eligible children age 0-20.

U.S.D.A. – Rural Development	Government Agency	Provides multiple levels of assistance to rural areas to improve quality of life in: housing, utilities, schools, fire stations, libraries, energy development, etc.
First United Methodist Church of Columbus	Nonprofit	Serving food, clothing and children’s needs to those in Columbus during the month of December.
Next Level Christian Church, Columbus	Nonprofit	Offering youth and family counseling services and on site volunteers to residents of Columbus and the after school program in Eagle Lake.
First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake	Nonprofit	Offering local food pantry services to residents of Eagle Lake and offering a variety of volunteer assistance to Eagle Lake’s after school program.
Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce	Service Entity	Offers information assistance to local residents.
<b>Mitigation Sector</b>		
Colorado County Y.F.S.	Nonprofit	Youth and Family drug and alcohol prevention and intervention services.
Colorado County Child Protective Services	County Department	Services designed to protect children from neglect and abuse.
Colorado County Juvenile Probation	Law Enforcement	Supervises probation terms of juvenile offenders.
Columbus Police Dept.	Law Enforcement	Jurisdiction over incorporated area of Columbus, Texas.
Eagle Lake Police Dept.	Law Enforcement	Jurisdiction over incorporated area of Eagle Lake, Texas.
Weimar Police Dept.	Law Enforcement	Jurisdiction over incorporated area of Weimar, Texas.
Rice Medical Center	Healthcare	Multi-faceted hospital care serving Eagle Lake area.
Fayette/Colorado County Medical Center	Healthcare	Multi-faceted hospital and physician care serving Colorado County.
Texana Center	Mental and Behavior Healthcare	Outpatient behavioral healthcare assisting those with a mental illness.
Crime Stoppers	Service Organization	Assists local law enforcement agencies in solving criminal incidents.
Community Service Function	Nonprofit Sector	Nonprofit organizations offering various opportunities for offenders to repay their debt to society in a positive environment that benefits the entire community.

## Juvenile Justice:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Colorado County Juvenile Probation	Law Enforcement	Supervises probation terms of juvenile offenders.
Columbus Police Dept.	Law Enforcement	Jurisdiction over incorporated area of Columbus, Texas.
Eagle Lake Police Dept.	Law Enforcement	Jurisdiction over incorporated area of Eagle Lake, Texas.
Weimar Police Dept.	Law Enforcement	Jurisdiction over incorporated area of Weimar, Texas.
County Justice of the Peace Offices	Law Enforcement	Four county officers covering the entire County enforcing a wide variety of non felony offenses.

## Law Enforcement:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Colorado County Sheriff's Department	Law Enforcement	Jurisdiction over all unincorporated areas of Colorado County.
Columbus Police Dept.	Law Enforcement	Jurisdiction over incorporated area of Columbus, Texas.
Eagle Lake Police Dept.	Law Enforcement	Jurisdiction over incorporated area of Eagle Lake, Texas.
Weimar Police Dept.	Law Enforcement	Jurisdiction over incorporated area of Weimar, Texas.
County Justice of the Peace Offices	Law Enforcement	Four county officers covering the entire County enforcing non felony offenses.

## Victim Services:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
CASA for Kids	Nonprofit	Child advocate service.
Children's Advocate Center	Nonprofit	Child advocate service.
Guardian	Nonprofit	Child advocate service.

## Adult Issues:

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Parents as Teachers	Nonprofit	Mentors parents in parenting skills. Serves over 140 families in Weimar.
Texas Home Health	Agency	Home health care agency providing skilled nursing and therapies in the home.
Combined Action Committee	Service Entity	Assists residents toward the goal of independence and self sufficiency. Weatherization program, utility assistance, appliance assistance, air and heat assistance.
Colorado County Y.F.S.	Nonprofit	Youth and Family drug and alcohol prevention and intervention services.
American Cancer Society	Nonprofit	Provides patient service and education information.
Alzheimer's Association of Houston & Southeast Chapter	Nonprofit	Provides patient information to increase care and support of Alzheimer patients.

## Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Colorado-Fayette Medical Center	Hospital	Physician Based Health Services
Rice Medical Center	Hospital	Physician Based Health Services
Columbus Hospital	Hospital	Physician Based Health Services
Texas Department of Health	Government Agency	Assists local health care providers and provides leadership assistance and input into regional quality of life issues.
Maximus – Texas Health Steps	Service Agency	Assists those who qualify for Medicaid and CHIP.

## Interagency Cooperation

The following is 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:

1. Colorado County's law enforcement community is fortunate to have very good working relationships between its County Sheriff's Office and the three municipal police departments and their leadership. The effectiveness of this relationship would be enhanced by a **County wide law enforcement communication and information records system** designed to link all County police departments.
2. Colorado County Community Plan effort will **continue to encourage all local nonprofit service organizations to better coordinate sourcing and implementing of local resources to meet local needs and identified gaps**. This alliance has already provided the most thorough documentation of the county's education and criminal justice system ever assembled and allows for a much more substantive examination of trends, needs, gaps and impact assessments.
3. Colorado County Community Plan leadership actively examines effective practices and strategies used in other rural neighboring Counties and seeks to implement innovative and tested strategies that might be effectively applied in Colorado County.
4. The Colorado County Community Plan effort also strongly supports the creation of a **County-wide license plate recognition capability** to serve the mission of all law enforcement agencies in the County and neighboring Counties.
5. The Colorado County Community Plan is significantly indebted to and offers its thanks to every citizen, whether elected representative or serving citizen, that has given of their time and input to make this plan, and more importantly its implementation, possible. This plan would also not be possible without the support of Colorado County's Judge and Commissioners and appreciation is expressed to them accordingly.

## List of Elected and Appointed Officials

As of September 1, 2013

County Judge	Ty Prause
Commissioners	
Precinct No. 1	Doug Wessels
Precinct No. 2	Darrell Kubesch
Precinct No. 3	Tommy Hahn
Precinct No. 4	Darrell Gertson
25 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge	Dwight Peschel
2 <sup>nd</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge	W.C. Kirkendall
Tax Assessor-Collector	Mary Jane Poenitzsch
County Clerk	Darlene Hayek
County District Attorney	Jay Johannes
District Clerk	Harvey Vornsand
County Treasurer	Joyce Stancik
County Sheriff	R.H. 'Curly' Wied, III
Justices of Peace	
Precinct No. 1	William Hefner, III
Precinct No. 2	James Maddux
Precinct No. 3	Francis Truchard
Precinct No. 4	George Cason
Constables	
No. 1	Lawrence Berger
No. 2	Lonnie Hinze
No. 3	Ivan Menke
No. 4	Darrell Stancik
County Surveyor	Matt Loessin

## **Long-Range Plan Development, Monitoring and Evaluation**

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The Colorado 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 Colorado 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. Wherever 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 Colorado County families struggling with problems described in the Plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many Colorado 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 encourage agencies to provide programming that addresses the outlined focus areas.



## Contact Information

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Plan Input and Corrections are welcomed. Please contact: Colorado County Community Planning Coordinator

**Mr. Lyle Anderson – Email: [lander001@aol.com](mailto:lander001@aol.com)**

Criminal Justice Community Planning Liaison from HGAC:

**Mr. Jim Mahood**

This Plan is available on-line at the following URL address:

[www.co.colorado.tx.us](http://www.co.colorado.tx.us).