



JUVENILE JUSTICE SECTION

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY PLAN

2010

Thank You to our Group Leaders

Leslie Denman	Girls Living Life on Purpose
Paige Flink	The Family Place
Michael Griffiths	Dallas County Juvenile Department
Tina O. Hageman	The Family Place
Marion Harper	Dallas County Juvenile Department
Karen Robison	Dallas County Juvenile Department
Jerry Silhan	Youth Village Foundation
Patrick Turnock	Dallas County Juvenile Department

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Introduction.....	4
Problem I: Family Stability	5
Problem II: Substance Abuse	9
Problem III: Education	11
Problem IV: Disproportionate Minority Contact with Juvenile Justice	14
Problem V: Gangs	16
Problem VI: Juvenile Justice System Vulnerability	18
Recent Studies Regarding Student Issues	20
Key Web Sites on Children’s Issues	22
Juvenile Justice Parent Education & Parent Preparation Programs	23
Programs for Youth Discussed in the Development Process of the Community Plan	25



Overview

On the brink of a new decade, addressing the needs of the 730,000 children in our community is more challenging than ever. These are turbulent times in our nation as we deal with economic insecurity and our leaders deliberate the future of our healthcare system. The recent economic downturn created a difficult environment for many in our community. One-fourth of Dallas County Children lived in poverty in 2007, a 43 percent increase since 2000. Families living in poverty, as well as newly unemployed workers, face significant challenges going forward. (Beyond ABC: Growing up in Dallas County 2009)

Children are the foundation of the future of our community. Therefore, the success of Dallas County is bound to the success of our children. This plan was developed as the result of dedicated community partners that looked at the conditions that threaten the well-being of our children and developed a plan for success. The committee included non-profit agency leaders, program directors, direct service staff, family members, community providers, leaders of grass roots initiatives, and staff from Head Start and the Dallas County Juvenile Department.

Some of the most critically identified needs in the plan are:

- Support programs that provide young people with the opportunities, role models, and incentives they need to stay in school and become successful adults.
- Provide the earliest possible intervention for youth who have emotional disturbances and/or substance abuse issues.
- Support programs to reduce the disproportionate minority contact with the Juvenile Justice System.
- Invest in quality child-care, and out of school programs.
- Offer in community, culturally competent parenting education programs that provide support to parents in assuring a safe and nurturing environment for their children.

Many thanks to our Committee Members:

LaShonda Barnett	Communities in Schools Dallas Region	Tanya McDonald	Dallas After-School Network
		Judith Purcell	Dallas Area Head Start
Alzada Benton	Dallas County Juvenile Department	Charles Mosley	Dominion Neighborhood Services, Inc.
Lon Boyce	Project United Community Development Center	Cheryl Newman	Dallas County Juvenile Department
Peter Chavez	Dallas County Juvenile Department	Monica Ordonez	Communities in Schools Dallas Region
Troy Chiochetti	Youth Villages Intercept	Michael O'Teter	Big Brothers Big Sisters
Vivianne Dumas	Pleasant Grove Community Development Center	LaKerri Owens	Youth Conversion
Janis Evans	Dallas County Juvenile Department	Dana Riley	Dallas County Juvenile Department
Teri Gabourie	Dallas County Juvenile Department	Evy Kay Ritzen	Transitional Resources Action Center
	FBI Violent Gang Task Force		
Robert Hambruch	Dallas County Juvenile Department	Susan Rogers	The Empowerment Connection
David Harmon	Youth Villages Intercept	Dr. Kevin Rosado	Youth Advocacy Program, Inc
Sheri Hemby	Camp Fire USA Lone Star Council	Jessica Speltz	Dallas County Juvenile Department
Durrand Hill	Dallas County Juvenile Department	Dolores White	Dallas Challenge Inc
Lis Holland	The Matthew Project	Lynda Williams	Dallas County Juvenile Department
Tim James	Dallas Challenge Inc	Mary Worrell	Dallas County Juvenile Department
Kirsten Brandt James	Junior Players	Emily West	New Connections Program
			UT Southwestern
Judith Jenkins	Glory of the Latter House		
Lawrence Jones	Dominion Neighborhood Services		

Special thanks to:

Children's Medical Center Dallas "Beyond ABC: Growing up in Dallas County 2009."

Katherine Cheng: The Parenting Education Provider List.

Our Editors:

Teri Gabourie	Dr. Desiree Kilcrease-Fleming	Michael Griffiths	Janet Henson
Dr. Michael Lindsey	Karen Robison	Randy Wadley	Isabel Martinez

INTRODUCTION

The Juvenile Justice System in Dallas County is charged with an enormous responsibility, the rehabilitation of youthful offenders. We have learned that to accomplish this task, it takes all stakeholders of the Juvenile Justice System working in unison toward a common goal. All of us, as we serve our three primary customers --- the client and his or her family, the victim and the community at large --- must remember that every decision we make directly correlates to the offenders' chances of success and, ultimately, to the protection of our community.

In 2008:

- 10,504 youth between the ages of 10-16 were referred to the Juvenile Justice System
- The rate of serious violent crime by Dallas County children ages 10-16 declined from 131 per 10,000 in 1998 to 83 per 10,000 in 2008.
- The reduction rate is 37% from 1998 to 2008
- Annual reduction rate is 2%
- Total referrals declined from 490 per 10,000 in 1998 to 418 per 10,000 in 2008
- The reduction rate is 15% from 1998 to 2008
- Annual reduction rate is 2%.



It is imperative that the Juvenile Justice System respond to the challenges of our community by instituting reform and embracing statewide reformative efforts. These reformative efforts include strategies that could positively impact the number of youth in detention center facilities. In addition, a statewide legislative initiative dramatically decreased the number of youth committed to the Texas Youth Commission for misdemeanor offenses in 2007. In 2010, additional legislative efforts funneled additional resources to communities that would commit to decreasing the number of youth referred to the Texas Youth Commission. These reformative efforts paved the way for the identification of innovative strategies to keep youth and families engaged in treatment and remaining in the community. To this end, specific interventions like intensive, in-home, evidenced-based therapeutic treatment programs, such as MultiSystemic Therapy, and Functional Family Therapy are blueprint models for change. (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, December 2000 & Centers for Disease Control, September 2000) Other intensive interventions include family preservation, and wrap-around services to help divert young habitual misdemeanor offenders from state incarceration.

Through this initiative, Dallas County has moved toward a Juvenile Justice System that holds young people accountable for their actions and redirects their lives. In 2009 our community is safer, our tax dollars are used more effectively, and only youth who truly need to be confined reside at the Juvenile Detention Center. (Beyond ABC: Growing up in Dallas County 2009)

PROBLEM I: FAMILY STABILITY

ISSUES

Families across America face additional struggles today and Dallas County families also experience the common stressors of economic difficulty and social pressures that come with life in the 21st Century. Whether a family is two parent, single parent, extended family, or non relative, they all face the same daily challenges of survival and have the same desires for a good life for their children. Some families face more challenges than others, and those families need the help and support that a community that cares can provide.

- Families that lack emotional, financial or social stability face challenges in raising healthy well-balanced children.
- Issues of joblessness, lack of education, linguistic differences, child development, substance abuse, mental health, and/or family violence are sometimes multi-generational, leaving parents with few resources to model successful behaviors.
- The Dallas Police report 30% of Dallas children witnessed violence in their home last year.
- Youth who grow up witnessing violence in the home are more prone to engage in violence in their personal relationships.
- Families living under extreme stress can place their children at a high risk of behaviors that lead to involvement with the Juvenile Justice System.

Children in Single-Parent Families

The percentage of Texas children living in single-parent families

2005	2006	2007
31.5%	33.0%	32.0%

Source: 2004-2008 Kids Count Data Book; Annie E. Casey Foundation; Ohio State University Human Development and Family Life Education Resource Center; U.S. Census Bureau 2004-2007 American Community Survey.

- About 1,000 divorces are filed each month in Dallas County, and about 60 percent of those involve children.
- Research suggests that approximately 90 percent of single-parent families are headed by females. Children who live in female-headed single-parent homes are more likely to live in poverty due to the somewhat limited earning potential of women, inadequate childcare assistance and lack of child-support payments. These issues result in limited access to activities that encourage positive development of children.
- Research conducted for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the American Educational Research Association shows that children in single parent families score lower on measures of health, education, and emotional and behavioral problems than children living with both parents.
- These children also are more likely to drop out of school, earn less money as adults and become single parents themselves.
- Youth in Dallas County need assistance in their transition to independent adult living. Aftercare planning, programs, transitional living facilities and support services are needed to promote the success of these soon-to-be adults. Many adolescents and young adults who do not get adequate skill training and independent living support end up being served in our adult justice systems.

The continuum of care for children with mental health needs in Texas is broken, according to “Children’s Mental Health Services in Texas: A State of the State Report” issued by the Children’s Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) in May 2006. The limited state resources and fragmented funding streams for mental health services result in a focus on crisis treatment, strained capacity and insufficient coordination of care among agencies.

Further, the statewide shortage of child psychiatrists and residential care results in lengthy waiting lists. Publicly funded mental health services in the Dallas area operate in a complex environment. The state funds mental health services through multiple programs, including NorthSTAR, the Juvenile Justice System, traditional Medicaid and Early Childhood Intervention Services. The state’s Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) also offers limited mental health and substance abuse coverage. No entity documents the total number of children receiving these publicly funded mental health services.

PROBLEM I: FAMILY STABILITY

ISSUES cont'd.

Dallas County children receiving mental health services through NorthSTAR

(Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation provided services through 1999, and NorthSTAR Medicaid Managed Care has provided services since 2000.)

Sources: Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation, 1998; NorthSTAR Data Book, 2001-2009, North Texas Behavioral Health Authority

1998	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
5,115	5,107	4,661	7,767	8,028	8,188	8,804	10,114

Youth who use violence in their relationships have often learned these behaviors from witnessing violence in their homes. Some youth are in detention or on probation as a result of retaliation against their abuser. Often, youth who were victims think the unhealthy relationship is normal leaving them without the necessary skills to engage in a healthy relationship. These behaviors contribute to feelings of self loathing, low self esteem and anger often resulting in conflicts in the community.

Domestic violence can result in consequences for the children including being displaced from their home. Sometimes the children fall victim to family violence and are hurt or even killed.

Children Displaced by Violence

The number of children served in family-abuse shelters in Dallas County.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
New Beginnings	250	233	216	254
Brighter Tomorrows	714	716	621	552
The Family Place	654	502	428	432
Genesis Women's Shelter	203	240	241	282
Total	1,821	1,691	1,506	1,520

Sources: Personal communication from each shelter.

Child Homicide

The number of Dallas County children 19 or younger who died from injuries purposely inflicted by another person.

2004	2005	2006
39	49	34

Source: Texas Department of Health, the EPIGRAM computer program for analyzing mortality and population data sets, D.A. Goldman, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, Austin

Emotional Disturbances and Addictive Disorders

The number of Dallas County children estimated to have a diagnosable emotional disturbance or addictive disorder

2005	2006	2007	2008
134,098	142,525	144,407	146,186

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Mental Health, A Report of the Surgeon General, 2001; population estimates, Texas State Demographer, 1998-2008.

PROBLEM I: FAMILY STABILITY

ISSUES cont'd.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, 20 percent of all children have a mental health or substance abuse disorder that results in at least minimal impairment. Based on these prevalence rates, it is estimated that approximately 146,186 children in Dallas County have a diagnosable mental health or addictive disorder that results in at least minimal impairment. Data from various studies indicate that greater than 70% of youth who are securely detained in a juvenile justice facility may suffer with mental health and related disorders. Among youth under community supervision (i.e. Probation) the rate of diagnosable mental health and substance abuse disorders is approximately 50%. (National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, Blueprint for Change: a Comprehensive Model for the Identification and Treatment of Youth with Mental Health Needs in Contact with the Juvenile Justice System)

Young people living in violent situations complicated by mental health and/or substance abuse issues are at risk of dropping out of school, being unemployed, abusing drugs and alcohol, being arrested and becoming violent or pregnant. In 2008, more than 30 percent of the young people committed to the Texas Youth Commission had serious mental health problems, and 36 percent were chemically dependent.

Studies indicate that the majority of children and adolescents who start receiving mental health treatment do not stay in care long enough for treatment to be effective. Young people with mental health issues may go without treatment for several reasons according to Mental Health America of Greater Dallas:

- Parents may be embarrassed or feel the stigma that is often associated with mental illness,
- Symptoms are sometimes misidentified
- Language or cultural barriers make accessing treatment more difficult.
- More than 30 percent of Dallas County children have no healthcare coverage.
- Families may be unaware of publicly funded options and unable to pay for services and medications out of pocket.
- Among insurance carriers there is a lack of parity between physical and mental health.
- Services vary widely from county to county, therefore, families who frequently move may encounter disruptions in care.

According to the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, children with a severe emotional disturbance need a broad array of services, ranging from early intervention to hospitalization.

Ideally, services should be:

- family driven and youth guided.
- delivered through community-based, culturally and linguistically competent, easily accessible systems
- provide a continuum of care in order to prevent the development of more serious disorders and the need for more expensive treatment.

The State does not adequately fund mental health services. In 2008, Texas served only 18 percent of children who needed mental health services and were eligible to receive them.

- Texas ranks 47th in the nation in per-capita spending for public mental health services.
- Less than one-third of U.S. children and adolescents with mental health disorders receive appropriate treatment, according to the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN DALLAS COUNTY

- The number of Dallas County children receiving publicly funded mental health services doubled from 2000 to 2008 through the **NorthSTAR program**. NorthSTAR, the North Texas public behavioral healthcare treatment initiative, serves low-income children and adults who have severe emotional disturbance or substance abuse issues.
- Services are available to families with an income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (\$44,100 for a family of four in 2009).
- Texas House Bill 121 created guidelines for school districts to address teen dating violence in the high school populations. Requirements include education for youth, administrators and teachers; alternatives to protective orders for perpetrators and safety for the victims.
- In-community services exist for males who have been involved in or charged with family or dating violence.
- In-community counseling services are available for adolescents who have been sexually abused.
- Grass roots and faith-based programs across Dallas are focusing on prevention efforts to engage youth before they get involved in the Juvenile Justice System.
- Several community-based programs exist that provide preventative programs to keep youth from getting involved in delinquent behavior, stay in school, and to assist youth living with family violence at home.
- Parenting education is offered as part of diversion program services.

PROBLEM I: FAMILY STABILITY

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Support programs that provide young people with the opportunities to learn new skills and engage in character building activities, to develop meaningful relationships with adult role models and peers, and incentives they need to stay in school and become successful citizens.
- Provide the earliest possible intervention for youth who have mental health and/or substance abuse issues.
- Provide peer support for families facing the challenge of raising a child with mental health and/or substance abuse issues.
- Invest in comprehensive child development programs, and out of school programs that have appropriate structure, help children develop supportive relationships; give youth an opportunity to belong; promote positive social norms; value children's input and empower children and youth; promote giving back to the community; and promote partnerships between the family, school, and community.
- Support programs to reduce the disproportionate minority contact with the Juvenile Justice System.
- Offer in-community, culturally and linguistically competent parenting education and parenting preparation programs that provide positive supports and empower parents to assure a safe and nurturing environment for their children.
- Increase probation services to include parenting education and support programs for teen parents.
- Support programs that have been proven to reduce anti-social attitudes and rebellious behavior, increase anti-drug-use attitudes and intentions, and reduce early substance use and experimentation.
- Provide free, structured, non-school-hours learning and developmental experiences for children.
- Provide transitional/independent living programs for youth leaving residential treatment.
- Increase community education about youth victimization.
- Increase Counseling and support groups for victims and perpetrators of dating violence, incest, sexual assault
- Provide services specific for girls who have been victimized.
- Ensure that access to behavioral health services is optimized through national healthcare reform.
- Strengthen school resources to adequately address children's mental health issues through appropriate assessment and referrals.
- Actively support family voice and choice through the involvement of families and youth on community advisory boards and planning committees.

PROBLEM II: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

ISSUES

Alcohol is the most heavily abused substance by America’s young people, according to the 2007 “National Survey on Drug Use and Health.” The U.S. Surgeon General estimates there are 11 million current underage drinkers, including 7.2 million binge drinkers (those who drink more than five drinks on a single occasion). More than 2 million youth are classified as heavy drinkers. Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are five times as likely to have alcohol related problems later in life. (*Beyond ABC: Growing up in Dallas County 2009*)

Alcohol-Related Deaths

The number of teen deaths related to alcohol use in Dallas County.

2004	2005	2006
31	23	18

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Research and Statistics, *Texas Substance-Related Deaths: 1998-2006, Dallas County.*

The percentage of Dallas Independent School District students in grades 9 through 12 who said they had used alcohol, marijuana or tobacco within the past month or had ever used inhalants

	2003	2005	2007
Alcohol	42.4%	44.3%	39.9%
Tobacco	18.1%	17.5%	15.0%
Marijuana	22.4%	21.6%	21.2%
Inhalants	8.7%	10.1%	12.0%

Source: DISD Youth Risk Behavior Survey, spring 1995-2007. 1997-2001 data revised from grades 7-12 to grades 9-12

The 2008 Texas School Survey of Substance Use conducted by the Texas Department of State Health Services surveyed 98,898 students in grades 7 to 12 from 62 school districts on their self-reported use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

- Thirty percent of Texas students in grades 7 through 12 reported having used alcohol within the past 30 days.
- 13 percent reported using tobacco within the past 30 days
- 10 percent reported using marijuana during the past 30 days.
- 2 percent reported having used some form of cocaine in the past 30 days.
- According to the National Center for Tobacco-Free Kids, almost 90 percent of smokers started smoking before they were 18.
- Young smokers are more likely to abuse alcohol and drugs and do poorly in school.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- 5 million of today’s children in the United States are expected to eventually die prematurely of a smoking-related disease.
- Texas increased cigarette taxes from \$0.41 to \$1.41 per pack in 2007, almost tripling tobacco tax revenue, which reached nearly \$1.5 billion in 2008.
- The CDC recommends that Texas spend \$266.3 million a year on tobacco-use prevention.
- Texas actually spends only 0.6 percent of the estimated \$2.6 billion it collects each year from settlement payments and tobacco taxes on tobacco-prevention programs.
- Marijuana has become the drug of choice for many Dallas teenagers.
- Marijuana can dramatically affect a student’s ability to concentrate or stay on task. Use of this illegal substance often is associated with risky behaviors such as delinquency, multiple sex partners and experimentation with other drugs.
- Inhalant use is most prevalent among seventh- and eighth-graders, with age 12 as the average age of first use in Texas.
- This is the youngest average age of first use of any substance. Inhalant use is extremely dangerous and can cause death or irrevocable health problems.
- Five percent of Dallas Independent School District students in grades 9 through 12 reported having tried heroin at least once.
- 6.2 percent reported using some form of cocaine in the past 30 days during a spring 2007 survey.

PROBLEM II: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

ISSUES

Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Substances on School Grounds

The number of students in Dallas County public schools who received disciplinary actions due to possession of alcohol, tobacco or controlled substances on school grounds.

Source: Texas Education Agency, District Disciplinary Data.

2005	2006	2007	2008
2,929	3,060	3,575	3,979

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN DALLAS COUNTY NOW

- Dallas County established a drug court that defers adjudication for youth and allows them to receive in community services for substance abuse along with their families. This program has a family support component to support families in their efforts to keep their youth stay clean and sober.
- A substance abuse day treatment program and several residential drug treatment programs along with after care exist to serve youth who need residential services for drug rehab.
- The Dallas Area Drug Prevention Partnership was formed to look into the issues around Cheese Heroin and other drugs of choice.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Support programs that provide young people with the opportunities to learn new skills and engage in character building activities, to develop meaningful relationships with adult role models and peers, and incentives they need to stay in school and become successful citizens.
- Increase intensive in home programs that support the youth and family through outpatient substance abuse treatment.
- Support Mentors/Sponsors who can begin to work with the youth while they are in rehab and continue with them after they discharge from formal services and court supervision.
- Increase funding and training for bilingual substance abuse intervention services.
- Develop a case-management system to provide the families of young people entering the substance abuse treatment system with access to community resources and a continuum of care.

PROBLEM III: EDUCATION

ISSUES

Students leaving Residential programs need to have a coordinated transition process for returning to their home school. Often, barriers exist causing delays in the student's enrollment, resulting in an extended time when the youth does not receive educational services. Students need an Educational Surrogate or Advocate who can insure all school records and pertinent information is gathered and shared both at intake and at discharge from juvenile services. A lack of coordination of information can cause delays in the transition of services.

Some students involved with the Juvenile Justice System are parents of young children. These young parents often lack basic knowledge of child development and child rearing techniques. Furthermore, these young people often feel disconnected from other students in their high school and lack motivation to continue with their education.

Programs that occur during out of school time can both supplement the school day by offering much-needed activities like college and career counseling and character education, and also provide activities that are decreasingly available in schools, such as art, physical education, music, parenting preparation, and civics. They also offer a unique opportunity to provide less traditional learning experiences such as hands-on learning, group projects, and service-learning.

Students Passing All TAKS Tests

The percentage of children passing the TAKS tests in all subjects and in all grades in all Dallas County public school districts.

2005	2006	2007
63.0%	66.0%	68.0%
TAKS	TAKS	TAKS

Sources: Snapshot 1998-2002 Texas Education Agency; Texas Education Agency; Academic Excellence Indicator System, District Performance, 2003-2008. (The 2004-2008 figures reflect more-rigorous testing criteria as a result of a TAKS Met Standard Panel recommendation.)

In 2008, 68 percent of students in all Dallas County public schools passed all TAKS tests, slightly below the Texas rate of 70 percent. TAKS is the statewide testing program that measures academic learning and higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills. Test content reflects material that should have been mastered in the previous grade, covering basic areas such as mathematics, and reading and writing. Beginning in 2003, the more rigorous TAKS test replaced TAAS. TAKS contains elements from the Texas statewide curriculum, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and more accurately measures good instructional practice and student learning. The Texas Student Success Initiative has specific requirements for students to be promoted from one grade to the next based on TAKS scores.

Every third-grader must pass the TAKS reading test to be promoted to the fourth grade. Every fifth-grader must pass both reading and mathematics tests to be promoted to the sixth grade. To graduate from a Texas public high school, 11thgraders must pass all parts of the TAKS exit-level tests.

Percentage of Students passing all TAAS/TAKS Tests

PERCENTAGE PASSING ALL TAAS/TAKS TESTS				
District	2005	2006	2007	2008
Carrollton-Farmers Branch	70	74	74	77
Cedar Hill	50	56	58	66
Coppell	87	92	92	94
Dallas	49	54	54	60
DeSoto	46	53	49	54
Duncanville	58	63	63	67
Garland	65	69	69	76
Grand Prairie	56	59	58	65
Highland Park	95	97	96	98
Irving	54	58	59	65
Lancaster	34	39	39	47
Mesquite	62	65	66	70
Richardson	74	78	79	84
Sunnyvale	86	90	91	93
Wilmer Hutchins	21	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dallas County	56%	58%	63%	63%

PROBLEM III: EDUCATION

ISSUES cont'd.

High School Attrition

The holding power or ability of schools to keep students enrolled and learning from the ninth grade until graduation.

2005	2006	2007	2008
23.0%	23.0%	24.0%	25.0%
95,416	98,302	102,442	106,979

Source: IDRA Attrition Study from the International Development Research Association, 1998-2008.

The percentage and number of students enrolled in all Dallas County public schools who have limited English proficiency

2005	2006	2007	2008
42.0%	41.0%	39.0%	38.0%

Sources: Snapshot 1994-2002, Texas Education Agency; Academic Excellence Indicator System, District Performance, Texas Education Agency, 2003-2008.

In 2008, 25 percent of students in Dallas County public school districts received bilingual or English-as-a-second-language instruction. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) provides supplemental funding for public school districts to offer bilingual education to their students if more than 20 students with limited English proficiency (LEP) are enrolled in any grade level in the district. If bilingual education is not offered in the district, ESL classes must be offered as an alternative. Students enrolled in bilingual education programs receive part of their instruction in English and part in their native language. A large portion of the school day is devoted to ESL instruction, which involves intensive instruction in English. According to TEA, approximately 17 percent of all students enrolled in Texas public schools had limited English proficiency in 2008.

ELL students are required to follow the same curriculum as English speaking students while at the same time learning a new language. They often struggle with acculturation issues, which include the loss of friends and culture, the development of new identities, the inability to express themselves in English, and family expectations for academic and occupational success. In addition, schools face greater difficulties in working effectively with Non-English speaking parents.

Truancy

The number of Field Interrogation Reports for truancy handled by the Dallas Police Department (2005-2002), and the number of truancy filings in the Justice of the Peace and specialty courts for all Dallas County school districts (2005-2008)

2005	2006	2007	2008
37,175	28,520	27,877	40,442

Sources: Dallas Police Department annual reports, 1998-2002; Dallas County Commissioner Mike Cantrell, JP Courts and Specialized Courts data, 2004-2008.

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN DALLAS COUNTY NOW

- Beginning with the 2011 academic year, students who complete their GED will not be counted as drop outs.
- Several after school programs target youth who struggle in school and help to provide the stable and enriching atmosphere that is needed for the child to develop and grow to their potential.
- Dallas County Juvenile Justice has a Charter School program for the students served in Detention, Letot, and the residential treatment centers.
- The Dallas County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program provides educational services for youth who have been expelled from their home schools, mandated by the 74th Legislature.
- Several community providers have formed a collaboration to provide Mentors and Tutors to serve youth in Dallas County.
- In Community truancy programs exist to help young people return to school, stay in school, and complete their education.

PROBLEM III: EDUCATION

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- A coordinated system that provides educational advocates to assist youth returning to their home school from Residential care with a successful education plan.
- Support quality GED programs, linkages to vocation and trade programs, apprenticeship programs and positive role models to give youth hope and help them break the cycle of failure.
- Support mentoring programs that introduce youth to positive role models who will commit to a long term relationship with them thereby influencing high school completion and career/vocational choices.
- Expand programs that bring community efforts into schools in all school districts in Dallas County.
- Support Drop Out prevention programs that involve community partners that will focus on high school completion, remediation, and/or GED with career assessment and linkage to alternative education programs and vocational schools.
- Support School Resource Officers for schools around Dallas County.
- Support for parent mentors to assist parents of youth who are at high-risk for involvement with the Juvenile Justice System. These parent mentors will serve as a role model and sponsor for parents to assist parents in identifying strategies for appropriate supervision.
- Support educational programs that provided child development and parenting preparation courses for teen parents.
- Provide technology in the classroom that gives students information in a method that appeals to them, and can work with each student at his or her current level of understanding.
- Support teacher enrichment to help teachers develop skills and expertise to work with students who learn at a different pace.
- Support teacher and educational staff training/certification in English as a Second Language.
- Provide literacy programs for parents.

PROBLEM IV: DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT WITH JUVENILE JUSTICE

ISSUES

Under the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (JJDP) Act of 2002, Congress requires the States to “address juvenile delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce the disproportionate number of juvenile members of minority groups, who come into contact with the Juvenile Justice System” (see Section 223(a) (22)).

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) is defined as data which shows that more members of ethnic minority groups are involved with the Juvenile Justice System than is reflected in the general population of a community. For example attached data shows that in Dallas County, for Calendar Year 2008, 23.4% of the juvenile age population is African American. However, during that same year 43.3% of the “substantive referrals” to juvenile courts were for African American youth. Thus the 43.3% statistic is disproportionate to their 23.4% in the juvenile general population.

By contrast, in 2008 Hispanic youth were 45.2% of the juvenile age population in Dallas County, and 41.4% of the substantive referrals to juvenile court. Although this number does not reflect the classic definition of disproportional, it is a high enough statistic to monitor, and serve as a source of concern for future trend analysis.

Calendar Year 2008 Differences in Proportionality By Race/Ethnicity

	TOTAL	Anglo/ White	African American	Hispanic American	"Other"
Dallas County	253,852	67,669	59,300	114,704	12,179
Juvenile Age Population	100%	26.7%	23.4%	45.2%	4.8%
Substantive Referrals to	7,838	1,070	3,396	3,247	125
DCJD/District Courts	100%	13.7%	43.3%	41.4%	1.6%
Adjudicated	3,171	427	1,466	1,246	32
Dispositions	100%	13.5%	46.2%	39.3%	1.0%
Probation	1,418	188	645	567	18
	100.0%	13.3%	45.5%	40.0%	1.3%
Probation/ISP	623	95	295	228	5
	100%	15.2%	47.4%	36.6%	0.8%
Residential Placement	895	113	428	347	7
	100%	12.6%	47.8%	38.8%	0.8%
TYC Indeterminate	179	23	69	86	1
	100%	12.8%	38.5%	48.0%	0.6%
TYC Determinate	32	5	18	9	0
	100%	15.6%	56.3%	28.1%	0.0%
Adult Certification	24	3	11	9	1
	100%	12.5%	45.8%	37.5%	4.2%

Source: Dallas County Juvenile Department, Juvenile Delinquency in Dallas County, 2009

It has proved difficult to isolate the initial cause of DMC. The issue effects many systems, agencies, and institutions – beginning with possible family and community impacts. Formally, we look at DMC within the Juvenile Justice System. Thus, much data analysis has focused on contact with law enforcement, detention, case court disposition, probation, and after-care. Increasingly, with zero tolerance laws, and police in schools – school referrals have also been analyzed for their impact on DMC.

PROBLEM IV: DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT WITH JUVENILE JUSTICE

ISSUES cont'd.

Traditionally, analysts will consider the number of ethnic minority youth referred at each *key decision point*. These would therefore include school referrals; arrests; secure detention; adjudication of delinquency, re-entry and after-care. However, the recently enacted HB171 seeks to modify the past reliance on zero tolerance. Specifically, consideration has to be given to factors prior to a decision being made on expulsion. These factors are: a.) self-defense; b.) intent or lack of intent, c.) disciplinary history and d.) a student's disability that substantially impacts the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the conduct. Several variables often highlight common denominators in disproportionate minority contact: low socio-economic class, race, and discretion. Thus, poor African American and Hispanic youth are formally processed in the Juvenile Justice System because when decisions about them are made, more often than not the decision which is made leads to a harsher Juvenile Justice System outcome, which also results in further penetration into the system.

Collaboration and resources are essential to meet this wide array of requirements to successfully address DMC.

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN DALLAS COUNTY NOW

Dallas County has been involved in assessing and planning for ways to address DMC for many years. Since being identified as an Annie E. Casey Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) site in 2006, we have begun collaborative strategies to reduce the number of ethnic minority youth in our Juvenile Justice System, as well as working to reduce the number of such referrals from the Dallas Independent School District (DISD)

Strategies that have proved successful in working with ethnic minority youth to reduce disproportional are: small, culturally competent, community-based service providers; case management services that work with the identified youth and the family (especially the parenting figures); academic support services; and awareness training of the DMC problem with police, attorneys, judges, court personnel, educators, youth service providers, and youth themselves.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Provide police, attorneys, judges, court personnel, educators, youth service providers, and children themselves with education on the relationship between race and juvenile justice.
- Involve the community through grass roots organizations, churches, and concerned citizens in awareness programs.
- Increase education for the community on issues of race and culture.
- Support out of school programs that are culturally and linguistically competent.
- Support mentoring programs that provide children with positive role models from their community who will make a long term commitment to encourage and empower them.
- Promote executive decision makers focus on Disproportionate Minority Contact with Juvenile Justice.
- Promote active participation of minority families and youth in planning and decision making for Juvenile Services.
- Support programs that have been proven to reduce anti-social attitudes and rebellious behaviors.
- Provider services to families through small, culturally competent, community-based services providers.



PROBLEM V: GANGS

ISSUES

Numerous studies have been conducted and theories discussed regarding the concept of gangs in our society. Questions have been raised regarding what constitutes a gang, what is the historical origin and the impact gangs have on our society. Psychologists, sociologists, educators and scholars have often disagreed about circumstances and environmental factors that cause o strongly identify with one another for a common belief or purpose. A broad definition of gangs can range from a group dedicated to civic work to those actively engaged in criminal activity. The legal definition of a criminal street gang is three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol, or identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

Youth gangs in our community are not as prevalent as they were in the late 80's and early 90's. During that period youth gangs struggled to gain control of the drug trafficking trade in the inner city. Youth are currently used as "crash dummies" to complete criminal tasks for the older, organized gangs. Youth are recruited into gangs as they are easily influenced, promised money and are told they would suffer less severe consequences by joining the gang. Gang influenced activities prompted a spike in the number of crimes against persons and property offenses. Law enforcement officials and juvenile systems were charged with the responsibility of community safety and the rehabilitation of the young offenders.

Gang Members

The number of young people in Dallas County who are known to be in gangs, according to the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas County Juvenile Department.

2005	2006	2007	2008
572	604	629	602

Sources: Dallas Police Department Gang Unit, 1998- 2000; Dallas County Juvenile Department Annual Report, 2002-2008.

It is hard to determine the exact number of monthly referrals that are gang related. Organized crime referrals and/or violent crimes may not be initially identified as gang related, however, over the past three years, violent crimes and felony offenses have steadily declined, partly due to gang intervention programs that have been implemented.

The provision of gang intervention services is important for the current functioning of our community. The current legislation has not had a dramatic impact on the service delivery to youth, as gang intervention services are generally provided at a level that exceeds legislative mandate. The provision of these intensive services allows for community involvement of youth as opposed to out of home residential placements. Continued education of law enforcement and the community at large regarding the "gang culture" and strategies to address the issue are necessary for sustained success.

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN DALLAS COUNTY NOW

The Dallas County Juvenile Department conducted various assessments on the youth and their families caught in the "gang culture". As with most youth that come to our system, presenting issues included academic problems (school behavior), family economic issues, and strong negative peer involvement. These factors were primarily addressed with several strategies: 1.) Probation Officers partnered with School Resource Officers and school administrators to create a more supportive environment that promoted a sense of well-being and learning. 2.) "wraparound" and in home services were implemented to strengthen and empower the entire family. 3.) Mentors and positive role models were introduced to the youth to impact the negative peer associations. These strategies were met with varying degrees of success. The Courts are balancing the protection of the community and the protection of the young offenders from negative influences. The current "gang culture" as previously noted is not as prevalent in our community or not as conspicuous in their activities. Those that still do exist choose to blend more into appears to be better for business as they continue to engage in the drug trade and other illegal behaviors. Furthermore, they continue to be under the influence of older gang members, attempting to increase their numbers.

PROBLEM V: GANGS

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Support intensive in-home interventions and services.
- Support quality mentoring programs that include volunteers from the business community and other community members as positive role models who make long term commitments to the youth.
- Support efforts to break the generational cycle of incarceration through mentoring programs for youth with a parent who is incarcerated, on parole, or on probation.
- Support community programs for youth that promote a sense of belonging, help develop meaningful relationships, and provide long term supportive relationships with adult role models.
- Support education for law enforcement and the community at large regarding “gang culture” and strategies to address the issue.
- Insure access/collaboration and information sharing and gathering with the FBI Violent Gang Task Force in Dallas County.
- Support programs that engage youth in activities they enjoy and have been proven to reduce anti-social attitudes and rebellious behaviors.
- Promote participation of families and youth in the planning of mentoring and after school programs.



PROBLEM VI: JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM VULNERABILITIES

ISSUES

Young people who experience difficulties on the road to adulthood need guidance and skill building that extends beyond the limited time the Juvenile Justice Systems has to influence them. Once youth return to the community and are no longer under supervision, the relationship and resulting services provided through the Juvenile Justice System ends. The continuum of care concept calls for the community to invest in these young people and help them gain the skills, and encouragement they need to take a productive adult role in their community. This relationship between youth and their community should ideally begin prior to youth involvement with the Juvenile Justice System. This is a call to action whereby our community is asked to nurture our youth without relying on the Juvenile Justice System to be the cradle of consciousness for our community. Barring the active engagement our community taking ownership for our youth, the Juvenile Justice System will continue to serve as the central system for our community. This necessitates youth engaging in delinquent behaviors to get much needed intensive services. This reactive stance (i.e. the requirement of our youth engaging in negative behavior) which may significantly mar their career potential and have long-term negative ramifications attests to the vulnerability of our community, whereas the goal is for the community to be proactive while offering tertiary prevention and intervention services.

Youth returning to the community need a plan of action that is carefully constructed and filled with support. The assessment process is critical to successful planning for reentry programs. Once independent living is an appropriate goal for the youth, it is imperative that a thorough assessment process be implemented to help youth access identified services. Youth would benefit by assessment throughout their tenure with the courts that results in a transition plan. Assessments developed during active involvement with the Juvenile Justice System would allow for identification of the youth's competency in several areas identified as necessary for success as an adult. These areas might include but not be limited to:

- **Independent Living Skills:** the child's understanding of regular tasks expected of an adult
- **Educational Preparedness:** the child's progress toward a degree or its equivalent and their plan to complete such
- **Housing and Basic Needs:** the child's access to appropriate and safe housing and other basic needs (food, water, healthcare, transportation)
- **Vocational Preparedness:** the child's preparedness for the various aspects of the workforce (application, interviewing, employment expectations)
- **Financial Preparedness:** the child's plan to access needed monies to live.
- **Community Support Linkages:** the child's access to mentors, age appropriate peers, and other positive individuals or groups that will aid the youth
- **Sexual Education:** the child's understanding of safe and responsible sexual practices
- **Parenting Education/Preparedness:** the child understanding of basic parenting practices and awareness of county resources.
- **Emergency Planning:** the child's plan for accessing help in the event of an emergency (illness, job loss, natural disaster, etc)

Psychological Evaluations of Juvenile Offenders

The number of psychological, psychiatric and family evaluations, screenings and diagnostic interviews performed by the Dallas County Juvenile Department's Psychological Division.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
	5,075	5,400	4,949	4,154

Source: Dallas County Juvenile Probation, Psychological Division, 1994-2008.

Children Referred to the Juvenile Department

The referral rate per 10,000 juveniles and the number of referrals by law enforcement officers to intake units for assessment and determination of the need for detention or juvenile court intervention in Dallas County.

	2006	2007	2008
Rate	418	432	417
Referrals	10,803	10,996	10,504

Source: Dallas County Juvenile Department, Juvenile Delinquency in Dallas County, 2009

Runaway Reports

The number of runaway reports received by the Dallas County Juvenile Department.

	2006	2007	2008
	1,053	1,289	1,196

Source: Dallas County Juvenile Probation Department, Juvenile Delinquency in Dallas County, 2008.

PROBLEM VI: JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM VULNERABILITIES

ISSUES cont'd.

Studies show that youth may be referred to court for behaviors related to their disabilities that have not been appropriately addressed in school or at home. Many children with certain kinds of disabilities may not understand the charges against them or may be unable to participate in their own defense. Other children who qualify for special education and related services under IDEA are entitled to those services in correctional settings, if they have been previously overlooked, the Juvenile Justice System has the challenge of properly assessing and identifying the disability and working with the identified systems to develop and implement an appropriate treatment plan.

Commitments to the Texas Youth Commission

The number of Dallas County adjudicated youth who were judicially ruled to be delinquent for violation of a penal law punishable by imprisonment or confinement in jail and who were subsequently committed to the Texas Youth Commission.

2006	2007	2008
320	289	190

Sources: Texas Youth Commission, SAS Program output from agency database, 1998-2005; Texas Youth Commission Commitment Profile, 2007-2008.

Between 1998 and 2008, the overall referral rate to the Juvenile Department decreased 15 percent, and the referral rate for felony offenses decreased 37 percent. The Dallas County Juvenile Department has instituted significant reforms with outstanding results. Outcomes include reduced incidents of juvenile crime, reduced confinement of young people in the detention center, reduced commitments to the Texas Youth Commission and reduced out-of-home placement of young adults in residential treatment programs.

The Dallas County Juvenile Department has partnered with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative in support of its vision that all youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System have opportunities to develop into healthy, productive adults. Key reform strategies include the implementation of intensive, in-home, therapeutic treatment programs that include multi-systemic therapy, functional family therapy, family preservation, and wrap-around services and strategies to help divert young, habitual misdemeanor offenders from state incarceration.

The Juvenile Justice System is designed to focus on the rehabilitation of youth by providing educational assistance, family intervention, substance abuse treatment, mental health services and after-school programs.

Intervention often begins before adjudication and continues regardless of case disposition.

Felonies made up 20 percent of all juvenile offenses in 2008, including weapon offenses, assault, theft and drug offenses. More than 60 percent of the offenses were misdemeanors, and 18 percent were offenses such as truancy, runaway, liquor law violations and disorderly conduct.

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN DALLAS COUNTY NOW

- The Annie E. Casey philosophy Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative has alleviated some of the concerns regarding processing of juvenile cases.
- Assessments including the newly implemented Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) used by Intake Probation Officers allows for a plan of service to be developed at the earliest point.
- The youth are then released into the community to await further court action. There are more youth under community supervision with services because the courts are now viewing residential placements as the last resort for services.
- Structured home-based services, home detention, electronic monitoring have also been valuable tools, to decrease detention population and allow youth to stay in their homes when appropriate.

PROBLEM VI: JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM VULNERABILITIES

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Support best-practice, early-intervention, and diversion programs in order to reduce incidents of juvenile crime and the confinement of juvenile offenders.
- Support mentoring programs that introduce youth to positive role models who will affirm a long term commitment to the youth and influence high school completion and career/vocational choices.
- Support programs in the community that are strength-based and will help youth prepare for adulthood.
- Support community-based parenting education and parenting preparation programs for teen parents.
- Increase cross-agency and community collaboration to provide youth reentering the community a caring adult to influence positive outcomes.
- Identify underserved service areas in Dallas County.
- Increase access to community programs through updated and accessible resource guides.
- Increase support to community based intensive services to cover all zip codes in Dallas County.
- Provide appropriate assessments for all youth entering the Juvenile Justice System.
- Provide training to the community at large on Juvenile Justice issues and needs of youth.
- Increase grass roots and faith-based community involvement in the lives of children and youth.
- Increase family voice and choice through inclusion of families and youth in decision making bodies throughout the county.

RECENT STUDIES REGARDING CHILDREN'S ISSUES

A New Goal for America's High Schools: College Preparation for All, The Future of Children, Princeton University Brookings Institute, spring 2009. www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/spring_high_schools_haskins.aspx

America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2009; Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. www.childstats.gov

Child Food Insecurity in the United States: 2005–2007, Feeding America, 2009. <http://feedingamerica.org/our-network/the-studies/child-food-insecurity.aspx>

Children in Texas, November 2008, Children's Defense Fund. www.childrensdefense.org

Children's Mental Health in Texas: A State of the State Report; Children's Hospital Association of Texas, 2006. www.childhealthtx.org

Code Red: The Critical Condition of Health in Texas; Task Force on Access to Healthcare in Texas, April 2008. www.coderedtexas.org

Community Needs Assessment 2008, Dallas County; United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Inc., 2008. www.unitedwaydallas.org/2.2/CommunityNeedsAssessment.html

Dallas Achieves: Transforming Public Education in Dallas, December 2007. www.dallasisd.org/about/dallasachieves/docs/20071218KeyConnectA.pdf

Dallas County Community Health Checkup; Parkland Health & Hospital System and Baylor Healthcare System under the auspices of the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council. www.dfwhc.org/documents/DallasCountyCheckup2008_000.pdf

Effects of Recession on Communities of Color, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, July 2009. www.kff.org/minorityhealth/upload/7953.pdf

Evidence for Innovation: Transforming Children's Health Through the Physical Environment, July 2008, National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions. www.childrenshospitals.net/source/Orders/index

F as in Fat: How Obesity Policies Are Failing America, Trust for America's Health, 2009. www.healthamericans.org

Feeding Our Future: Growing Up Healthy with WIC, Children's HealthWatch 2009, The Annie E. Casey Foundation. www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/Publications

Healthy People 2010; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2000. www.healthypeople.gov/

Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being; The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2008. www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/databook.jsp

Kids with Health Insurance Get Needed Care, While Uninsured

Kids Go Without, Cover The Uninsured, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2008. www.covertheuninsured.org/content/response

RECENT STUDIES REGARDING CHILDREN ISSUES

Low-Income Children in the United States, National and State Trend Data, 1997-2007, National Center for Children in Poverty, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, November 2008. www.nccp.org/publications/pub_851.html

Out of Reach Report; National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2009. www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2009/

Permanent Supportive Housing, A Briefing to the Quality of Life Committee, September 2008, City of Dallas Environmental & Health Services/Housing Department. www.mdhadallas.org/downloads/PSHPlan_090808.pdf

Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Obesity in Texas: 2005-2010; Texas Department of State Health Services, 2006. www.eatsmartbeactivetx.org/files/strategic_plan.pdf

Texas HIV/STD Surveillance Report; Texas Department of State Health Services, 2008. www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivstd/stats/pdf/surv_2008.pdf

The DAWN Report: Disposition of Emergency Department Visits for Drug-Related Suicide Attempts by Adolescents; Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2006. <https://dawninfo.samhsa.gov/files/TNDR/2006-03R/TNDR03AdolescentSuicide.htm>

The State of the Nation's Housing; Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University, 2008. www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/markets/son2006/index.htm

The State of Texas Children: Texas Kids Count Annual Data Book 2008-09, December 2008, Center for Public Policy Priorities. www.cppp.org/factbook08

The United States Conference of Mayors 2008 Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness, December 2008. <http://usmayors.org/pressreleases/documents/hungerhomelessnessreport121208.pdf>

We Can Do Better: 2009 Update, National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, 2009. <http://issuu.com/naccrra/docs/we-can-do-better-2009-update?mode=embed&layout=white>

What Research Tells Us About Hispanic Parenting Practices and Their Relationship to Youth Sexual Behavior, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, February 2008.

What Works 2009, Curriculum Based Programs, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/pdf/pubs/whatworks09.pdf

What Works for Preventing and Stopping Substance Use in Adolescents: Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Programs and Interventions, Child Trends, May 2008. www.childtrends.org/.../Child_Trends-2008_05_20_FS_WhatWorksSub.pdf

Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance Report; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 2008. www.cdc.gov/yrbs

Youth Violence National and State Statistics at a Glance, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009. www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/youthviolence/statsataglance/index.html



KEY WEB SITES ON CHILDREN’S ISSUES AND SERVICES

A

Local

2-1-1 Texas InfoLine Database
www.ccgd.org/2-1-1/directories.html
 Big Brothers Big Sisters www.bbbs.org, locally www.bbbs.tx.org
 ChildCareGroup www.childcaregroup.org
 Children’s Medical Center www.childrens.com
 ChildStats.gov www.childstats.gov
 Community Council of Greater Dallas
www.ccgd.org
 Dallas Achieves www.Dallasachieves.org
 Dallas After-School Network www.dasn.org
 Dallas Area Breastfeeding Alliance www.dallasbreastfeeding.org
 Dallas Area Coalition to Prevent Childhood Obesity
www.ccgd.org/youth_health/prevent_child_obesity.html
 Dallas Area Head Start www.dsh.org
 Dallas Asthma Consortium www.dallasasthma.org
 Dallas Challenge, Inc. www.dallaschallenge.org
 Essilor Foundation www.Essilor.org
 Immunize Kids! Dallas Area Partnership
www.ccgd.org/youth_health/infant_immunization.html
 Injury Prevention Center of Greater Dallas
www.injurypreventioncenter.org
 Low Birth Weight Development Center
www.lowbirthweight.org
 United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
www.unitedwaydallas.org
 Texas Center for Public Policy Priorities
www.cppp.org
 Intercultural Development Research Association
www.idra.org
 Texans Care for Children www.texanscareforchildren.org
 Texas CHIP Coalition www.texaschip.org
 Texas CHIP/Children’s Medicaid Application and Information
www.chipmedicaid.org
 Texas Council on Family Violence www.tcfv.org
 Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
www.dfps.state.tx.us
 Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition
www.tecec.org
 Texas Education Agency www.tea.state.tx.us
 Texas Health Steps www.dshs.state.tx.us/thsteps/default.shtm
 Texas Kids Count www.cppp.org/kidscount
 TexProtects: Texas Association for the Protection of Children
www.texprotects.org
 National American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
www.aacap.org

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry www.aapd.org
 American Academy of Pediatrics www.aap.org
 American Youth Policy Forum www.aypf.org
 Brazelton Institute www.childrenshospital.org/brazelton
 Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids www.tobaccofreekids.org
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov
 Child Statistics from the U.S. Government
www.childstats.gov
 Child Trauma Academy www.childtrauma.org
 Child Trends www.childtrends.org
 Child Welfare League of America www.cwla.org
 Children Now www.childrennow.org
 Children’s Defense Fund www.childrensdefense.org
 Connect for Kids www.connectforkids.org
 Cover the Uninsured www.covertheuninsured.org
 Families USA www.familiesusa.org
 Future of Children www.futureofchildren.org
 Institute for Children and Poverty www.icpny.org
 Kaiser Family Foundation www.kff.org
 Kids Count www.aecf.org/kidscount/index.htm
 March of Dimes www.marchofdimes.com
 National Association for the Education of Young Children
www.naeyc.org
 National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
www.teenpregnancy.org
 National Center for Children in Poverty
www.nccp.org
 National Center for Educational Development
www.just4kids.org/en
 National Youth Development Information Center
www.nydic.org
 National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center
www.safeyouth.org
 Prevent Child Abuse America
www.preventchildabuse.org
 Safe Kids USA www.usa.safekids.org
 The Family Place www.familyplace.org
 Girls Living Life On Purpose www.gllpinc.org
 Voices for America’s Children
www.childadvocacy.org
 Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)
www.fns.usda.gov/wic/

Juvenile Justice- Parent Education & Parent Preparation Programs		
CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDERS		
Agencies	Services Provided	Target Areas
GENERAL PARENTING PROGRAMS:		
Avance (Hispanic and Low Income)	Partnership w/DISD- parenting classes for moms of children (0-3 years of age) in schools; social services (HOPE) for moms, connecting them w/resources; will serve teens if referred by CPS	Vickery Meadow, East Dallas, Oak Cliff, Bachman Lake/N. Dallas, and Pleasant Grove
Brighter Tomorrows, Women's Resource Center	Six-week parenting course (English & Spanish) on Tuesdays (5-6:30 pm); most are court and CPS referred but open to anyone; Free unless court ordered (app. \$100)	No restrictions, but mostly from Grand Prairie & Southwest areas
Dallas Association for Parenting Education (DAPE)	6-week parenting class; Teach CPR & First Aid; Childbirth and newborn baby care; Post-partum depression support group; Warm line to help with kids in situations like tantrums, not eating, etc. (not medical); Go into women's shelters and high schools to teach parenting classes; Parents with children ages 0-12	No restrictions
Dallas Challenge	Currently have 3 Family Education groups in Garland, N. Oak Cliff and a Dallas County Residential center. The Family Education group located in Garland has participants that have been referred from the municipal courts. The Family Education group in N. Oak Cliff has participants that have been referred from truancy courts. The third Family Education group is located at a residential facility and the class is exclusively for that center. The other two programs will accept participants from other agencies or volunteers based on the size of the group at the time they call in.	Garland, North Oak Cliff and Dallas County
Family Outreach of Dallas	5-week parenting course, one for infant-K and another for K-6th grade, held at Lake Highlands Presbyterian Church, each course comes with a workbook and timer (using timeout as a disciplinary measure); \$25/course, referrals from CPS, probation officers and other agencies	Dallas, but no restrictions
Family Outreach of Garland	Provides mentoring and classes for parents on child development and positive discipline techniques. They also provide emotional support to help parents cope with family relationships and the difficult job of parenting. Offer in-home services. No fees.	Garland
Head Start of Greater Dallas	Parenting classes are offered to Head Start parents in our 38 Dallas County centers. Members of the community are welcome to join at no cost. Sessions will be presented in both English and Spanish using the "Survival Skills for Healthy Families" curriculum.	Dallas County
Salesmanship Club	Outpatient family therapy and parenting classes: Parents Empowering Preschoolers (PEP); Teen & Young Adult Parenting class (10-weeks); Early Childhood Parenting Series (10-weeks); Parenting Children with ADHD (6-weeks); Love & Logic class offered every 2nd Saturday of the month, \$30/class; Classes offered in English & Spanish	Oak Cliff & Harry Hines office
The Family Place	Parenting education and preparation education for clients of The Family Place. Parenting classes and one-on-one parenting education are offered for victims of family violence. Parenting education and preparation topics are included in programs for adolescents in juvenile department, youth in school-based services, and court-ordered offenders of family violence in Battering Intervention and Prevention services. Services provided in English and Spanish.	Areas: Confidential locations in Dallas County.

PREGNANCY PROGRAMS:		
Dallas Pregnancy Resource Center	Parenting program- work w/advocate on weekly basis, related to pregnancy and parenting, free services; Offices in NE Dallas (Garland/Mesquite), W. Dallas, & Greenville	No restrictions
Downtown Pregnancy Center	Provide for pregnant women and continue services afterward; Families program- prenatal classes, discipline, relationships, educational videos on prenatal & infant care, parenting, and abstinence; all services are free	No restrictions
The Heidi Group	New Beginnings Classes offer bilingual classes on nutrition, labor/delivery, newborn care, parenting, financial responsibility, and hope renewal for moms-to-be for 10 weeks, minimum of 2 hours/weekly; at graduation, participants presented with crib & mattress. All services are free of charge and are not based on income.	
Living Choice Crisis (Sound Options) Pregnancy Center	Two evening parenting classes a week (Tues. & Thurs.) where parents can attend and earn coupons to redeem at their boutique for gently used and new baby items	Duncanville and SW Dallas, but no restrictions
Low Birth Weight Development Center	Help reduce the incidence of future low birth weight deliveries by working with pregnant, at-risk women to improve their health, diet and exercise and also educate at-risk youth about the complications of adolescent pregnancy; Cover ESL, pre-GED & GED classes, personal finance. Services are free if parent qualifies for program (have a child born under 5 pounds); Most referrals from Parkland.	No restrictions; located in West Oak Cliff
YWCA	Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) for 1st time moms (less than 28 weeks pregnant), who are paired with a nurse for parent education and in-home visitation through pregnancy and until child is two years old	Nurse Family Partnership- Dallas County
DISD Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program (PEP)	Parenting classes during school hours for pregnant and parenting middle and high school girls while they are continuing their education; also provides childcare & transportation; PEP facilitator/counselor available	DISD middle & high schools
Promise House	Teen (Tuesdays, 12 courses) and adult (Thursdays, app. 7 courses) parenting classes held weekly, some are court ordered and others optional; all classes are free	Dallas County
YWCA	Young Parenting Program (YPP) (ages 12-24) for men & women who are pregnant and parenting, provides one-on-one case management and parent education, work with parents and their families in their own home	Young Parenting Program- Oak Cliff, Garland and Irving

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAMS:		
Baylor's Our Children's House at Irving	Workshop every month relating to kids with special needs (development, behavior, schools, financial planning, etc.); Parent support group every month; open to public; provides childcare and light dinner	DFW area, mostly Dallas County
Child and Family Guidance Centers	Parenting classes for families affected by abuse, divorce, dysfunction, mental health, slower learners (provide interpreters, facilitators); cover stress management, communication skills, disciplining, drug/alcohol abuse, child and sexual abuse, healthy transitions (divorce & child custody cases); 12- hour class, \$160 p.p., sliding scale & scholarships are available; Parenting program serves 19 counties	Offices in Dallas, Mesquite/NE Dallas, South Dallas, no restrictions

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH DISCUSSED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN		
Programs and contact information	Services Provided	Target Areas
<p>ADVANCE - Dallas County www.advance-dallas.org</p>	<p>AVANCE-Dallas provides educational services to parents and children during the foundational development stage from birth to age 3. Avance comes from the Spanish verb meaning “to progress” or “to advance.” Through the program, parents learn to effectively engage in their children’s learning and to read with their children daily. Children are prepared to start school on target for achievement. Longitudinal tracking shows that AVANCE-Dallas graduates significantly outperformed their DISD peers on 2008 TAKS tests in both math and reading. During the 2008-2009 program year, AVANCE-Dallas served 1,005 parents and 806 children at 30 sites. In the 2009-2010 year, the program will expand to 25 sites for the intensive Parent-Child Education Program and will have 15 Book Club sites</p>	<p>30 sites in Dallas 15 book club sites</p>
<p>Big Brothers Big Sisters www.bbbs.org locally www.bbbstx.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring Programs • Amachi Texas • STEPS 	<p>Big Brothers Big Sisters creates professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships between at risk children with trained Big Brothers or Big Sisters. Mentors provide individual attention and role modeling to the child and support for the parent and family. Meeting 2-4 times a month, the mentors (“Bigs”) and mentees (“Littles”) spend time together in the community or at the child’s school, experiencing a wide range of activities and events, from social and relationship building to educational and cultural. Youth entering the program are typically 7 to 14 years old, but some specific programming targets special populations. For example, much of the Dallas ISD mentoring services target 9th-10th grade students. Contracts with the Dallas Juvenile Department and the Texas Youth Commission seek to match youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system with a mentor, perhaps helping with reentry and to resist recidivism.</p> <p>Amachi Texas is a Big Brothers Big Sisters initiative that seeks to match children who have a parent (or other close family member) who is incarcerated, on parole or on probation with a Big Brother /Big Sister. Statistics predict that 70% of children who have a parent in prison will end up in prison themselves. Amachi Texas seeks to break the inter-generational cycle of incarceration by providing additional training, match support and activities for these matches, as well as for the children’s families.</p> <p>Big Brothers Big Sisters also offers a college preparation/ career readiness program called STEPS. The program provides specially designed tools to equip the mentors to help the 7th-12th grade youth for academic and future career success. It also provides special educational/ career readiness activities, field trips, and classes. Additionally STEPS seeks to connect the Big Brothers Big Sisters matches to the resources that are offered throughout the community and by other providers (colleges, libraries, other non-profits, etc.).</p>	<p>North Texas Headquarters in Irving. Regional offices in Dallas, Arlington, Fort Worth, Frisco, Denton, Sherman, Paris, Waco, Wichita Falls, Abilene, Brownwood and San Angelo.</p>
<p>Camp Fire USA Lone Star Council www.campfireusadallas.org</p>	<p>Kids Clubs - Kids Clubs provide safe, supportive after-school care for at-risk children ages 5-12 in low-income apartment communities. Activities occur in a safe, structured environment where children develop friendships, personal resilience, self-respect, intellectual curiosity, conflict resolution skills, healthy eating habits, reading and math skills and a life-long love of learning. Participants also develop the skills needed to remain drug-free and gang-free.</p> <p>Teens in Action - This after-school program provides youth ages 12-18, living in low-income neighborhoods, opportunities to improve the communities in which they live. Service projects challenge youth to learn new skills and provide leadership in ways they never thought possible. The dominant goal of this program is to provide alternatives to violence, gangs and drugs that are so prevalent in these neighborhoods.</p> <p>Camping - The Camping program provides low-income youth living in high-risk environments a rare camping experience. Camp Ellowi, in the Cedar Hill area of Dallas County, is an outdoor classroom where youth develop leadership skills, learn to work with others, develop an appreciation of nature, set goals and solve problems.</p> <p>Employment - This program helps high-risk young adults, ages 18-21, overcome multiple barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment. Each client is assisted in identifying career goals and possible barriers and then provided the tools to overcome those barriers. Childcare is available to teen parents on a limited basis.</p>	<p>All of Dallas county South Denton County, Frisco</p>

**PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH DISCUSSED
IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN**

Programs and contact information	Services Provided	Target Areas
<p>Communities In Schools Dallas Region, Inc. www.cisdallas.org</p>	<p>Communities In Schools Dallas Region, Inc. (CISDR) provides year-round, on-campus academic and social support services to capable, but underachieving schoolchildren in grades pre-K through 12 in four Dallas County school districts (Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Irving, Dallas and Richardson.) Our staffs of dedicated professionals are experts in providing comprehensive case managed services and bringing community resources into schools to help at-risk students in a cost-effective way. CISDR impacts the lives of children, youth, and their families through implementation of the "CIS model"--an individualized case management prevention and early intervention approach that supports struggling schoolchildren through five basic principles. CISDR believes that every child needs and deserves: a personal, one-on-one relationship with a caring adult; a safe place to learn and grow; a healthy start in life; a marketable skill to use upon graduation; and a chance to give back to peers and community. CISDR incorporates the CIS six components of service delivery to include: academic support, supportive guidance, health & human services, career & college readiness, parental and family support, and cultural enrichment.</p>	<p>Four Dallas Counties School Districts Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Irving, Dallas, Richardson</p>
<p>Council of Families For Children www.isgu.com</p>	<p>Three programs – one for teenagers that have been diagnosed with a mental illness and the second is for families and caregivers who have children with a mental illness. The third is a communication program designed to help parents communicate with their teenagers diagnosed with a mental illness. All programs focus on accountability, empathy building and resiliency.</p>	<p>North Texas</p>
<p>Dallas Challenge, Inc. www.dallaschallenge.org</p>	<p>Since 1984, Dallas Challenge has been a leading provider of prevention, education, intervention and outpatient treatment services to more than 128,000 youth and their families. Dallas Challenge is dedicated to providing programs and services that steer young people away from destructive behaviors. Youth participants are generally 7 – 23 years of age with a history or high risk of substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, truancy, school failure and other unacceptable behavior patterns. Dallas Challenge serves youth and their families from primarily low socioeconomic areas of Dallas and surrounding communities.</p>	<p>All of Dallas County</p>
<p>Dallas After School Network www.dasn.org</p>	<p>The Dallas After-School Network (DASN) advances the quality and availability of afterschool programs in our community. DASN serves as a professional resource and community advocate for afterschool providers. They collaborate with individuals, corporations, other non-profits, funders, and government leaders to bring resources to our member organizations in order to improve the quality of their afterschool programming. They provide professional training, best practices and standards, networking opportunities, advocacy support, resources (volunteers, supplies, books, food, etc.) to afterschool providers. In addition, DASN's Program Locator tool helps parents locate afterschool programs that meet their criteria.</p>	<p>All of Dallas County</p>

**PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH DISCUSSED
IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN (CONT'D)**

Programs and contact information	Services Provided	Target Areas
<p>Head Start of Greater Dallas</p> <p>www.hsgd.org</p> <p>972-283-6400</p>	<p>Head Start of Greater Dallas is funded by the federal government and in part by local community support. To enroll a child, the family's income must be within federal poverty guidelines.</p> <p>HSGD offers free, high-quality child development services to income-eligible families with children ages 0 to 5. The 38 centers are open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Head Start accepts children with disabilities and guides parents in working with their preschoolers who have special needs. In addition to providing children with the fundamental skills they need to succeed in school, Head Start offers comprehensive services to the children's families. These include medical, nutritional, mental health, substance abuse prevention, and social service needs as well as assistance in attaining a GED, ESL classes, parenting classes, options for obtaining a college degree, computer literacy training and a variety of employment options.</p>	<p>38 sites in Dallas Co.</p> <p>Includes cities of Dallas, Cockrell Hill, Irving, Grand Prairie, Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Mesquite, Garland, Lancaster</p>
<p>The Family Place</p> <p>www.familyplace.org</p> <p>24 hour hotline 214-941-1991</p> <p>Victim services are free.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.O.O.L. Program • New connections • Project Matthew • Visions for Tomorrow 	<p>The C.O.O.L. Program (Creating Outstanding Opportunities for Leadership): Education course for teens with mental illness. Designed to provide youth with the skills necessary to take a leadership role in their own recovery and to aid others who suffer from symptoms of mental illness. C.O.O.L helps youth learn to cope with their diagnosis and find success in their daily lives.</p> <p>The New Connections Programs Recovery-sensitive parenting classes for drug-involved families taught by a dually credentialed Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor and Certified Parenting Instructor. In addition to parent education, enrolled participants receive Health Education and Child Development classes and child care for children 0-5 years of age. Home-based parent education is offered through the Staying Connected and Youth Connection projects for families referred by Child Protective Services (CPS).</p> <p>A vision for Tomorrow (VFT) program within the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) VFT is an educational course that consists of a series of workshops for direct primary caregivers of children with brain disorders. It is a family member-to-family member course. The course offers caregivers an opportunity to share mutual experiences and learn valuable lessons from one another. It covers educational material and provides the basics for day-to-day caregiving skills. VFT is provided free of charge.</p> <p>The Family Place hotline offers 24-hour crisis counseling, information and referral to youth and their families suffering from family violence. Our Safe Campus provides emergency shelter, transitional housing and emergency relief as well as intensive counseling, on-site medical care, day care and after-school programs for youth, as well as job, technical and life skills training for adults. Youth up to age 18 must be accompanied by parent unless it is a parenting teen.</p> <p>Services for children include play therapy, group and individualized counseling to help children learn to feel safe, stay safe, and, most importantly, stop hurting.</p> <p>Adult and youth clients who need services without shelter receive community-based group counseling and support services at our locations in central Dallas, Farmers Branch, and in two offices in the Southern Sector. Our Latina Program addresses the specific needs of Spanish-speaking clients and serves adults and youth.</p> <p>The Family Place provides free counseling for adult and adolescent survivors of incest and childhood sexual abuse. These services can be accessed by calling 214-559-2170.</p> <p>Adolescents involved in the juvenile justice system that are at risk for dating violence or family violence can be referred by their juvenile probation officer to Batterer Intervention groups at TYC or Letot by calling 214-692-8295.</p> <p>Rental assistance is available for families suffering from abuse and who qualify as low-income. Call 214-559-2170 for more information.</p>	<p>Areas: Mostly Dallas County, participants from outlying counties may attend group classes.</p>

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH DISCUSSED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN (CONT'D)		
Programs and contact information	Services Provided	Target Areas
<p>Project Matthew PO Box 110675, Carrollton, Texas 75011 ph 972.740.1688 fx469.546.3634 info@projectmatthew.org www.projectmatthew.org</p>	<p>Project Matthew's purpose is to respond to the needs of mothers while incarcerated including, pregnant inmates. It is intended to achieve positive impacts in the lives of high-risk mothers and their children by providing parenting/childbirth, lifeskills and health education, advocacy and support. Individual case management is provided to assist them to better understand their role as a parent/ to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect/ promote bonding and attachment and help preserve and strengthen family ties and impact and reduce domestic and family violence in these families, reducing recidivism and promoting successful reentry back into community. Referrals to appropriate community agencies.</p>	<p>Dallas County</p>
<p>Girls Living Life on Purpose www.gllopinc.org</p>	<p>Girls Living Life On Purpose, Inc (GLLOP) the premier faith based all girl organization serves as a navigational tool to guide girls along their pathway to purpose. We offer two unique programs: The Purpose Girls Academy (PGA) where we partner with girls ages 12 to 17 within the community to empower them life coaching, character development and abstinence education. Through an innovative partnership with the DCJD, GLLOP has the opportunity to reach out and mentor girls ages 12 to 17 of Dallas County who are being adjudicated through the DCJD. These girls have many challenges, but mostly they just need someone positive in their life.</p>	<p>All of Dallas County</p>
<p>Youth Villages, Inc: Dallas Intercept lee.rone@youthvillages.org</p>	<p>Family counselors provide intensive treatment to troubled children and families where most behavioral problems emerge - in the home. The program produces high success rates and is cost effective. The average cost of treatment for the program is less than one-fourth the cost of an eight-month stay in a facility, and is 70 percent better than out-of-home treatment alone in cutting the chance of repeated problems.</p> <p>Counselors have small caseloads, allowing them to provide intensive help to the families they serve. Counselors meet with the family in the home at least three times a week during the three to five month treatment period, and are on-call 24-hours a day to intervene in an emergency.</p> <p>The program, launched in 1994, utilizes the nationally recognized Multisystemic Therapy (MST) model, which is based on more than 20 years of successful clinical trials with seriously troubled children and youth.</p> <p>In Multisystemic Therapy, counselors address all areas (or systems) that may affect or enable a child's behavior - family, school, peers, individual needs and community environment.</p> <p>MST has been proven effective in helping young people who might otherwise be placed in residential treatment, detention centers, psychiatric hospitals or other residential juvenile facilities. Youth who are returning to their families from out-of-home placements can also benefit from services.</p>	<p>All of Dallas County</p>
<p>Junior Players www.juniorplayers.org</p>	<p>Junior Players provides free after-school and summer arts education programs in local recreation and cultural centers, schools, and social service agencies, providing on-going participatory experiences in the arts. Through its unique programs, Junior Players utilizes the arts to provide positive role models, increase self-esteem, literacy and communication skills for Dallas-area children, particularly those whose financial backgrounds might impede their access to the arts. Junior Players Visions of Community programs work with high-risk teens that are challenged to write about their life experiences, create and perform their own productions, and resolve their conflicts through communication in a non-violent manner.</p>	<p>Dallas County And North Texas</p>

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH DISCUSSED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN (CONT'D)		
Programs and contact information	Services Provided	Target Areas
<p>DESTINATION GRADUATION BORN LEARNING United Way of Metropolitan Dallas County www.unitedwaydallas.org</p>	<p>DESTINATION: GRADUATION Launched in 2005 by United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Destination: Graduation is an educational initiative designed to improve high school graduation rates and the pursuit of advanced education. This United Way initiative brings together several community organizations to provide the services in the schools. These include Big Brothers Big Sisters (providing mentoring, college preparation and career readiness), Princeton Review (providing test preparation), Dallas Concilio (providing parental involvement/education initiatives, primarily for Spanish speaking families) and Urban League (also providing parental involvement/education initiatives).</p> <p>Destination: Graduation employs a customized-by-school strategy to achieve program goals focusing on college preparation and SAT training, parental involvement, and mentoring and counseling. Outcome data show strong results. In four Dallas and Plano high schools, Destination: Graduation students were promoted at a higher rate than their peers not in the program.</p> <p>BORN LEARNING Launched in 2007 by United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Born Learning promotes school readiness by helping parents provide quality early learning experiences for children up to age 4. The pilot program in includes partner agencies that ensure people receive social, emotional and economic support to Pleasant Grove targets both stay-at-home and working parents in classroom and home environments. Born Learning works with United Way to help parents make it on their own and support the building blocks of a good life: education, income and health.</p>	<p>Dallas and Plano High schools (Dallas and Collin counties)</p> <p>Pleasant Grove Area</p>
<p>Transitional Resources Action Center www.traconline.org</p>	<p>TRAC is a one-stop center that offers access to affordable housing, livable-wage jobs and a safety net for young adults transitioning out of substitute care. TRAC was planned with the input of young people and with their needs in mind. TRAC offers a safety net. It is a place where young adults can find help to get a job, enroll in college, establish a home, access health care, manage a budget, connect to a caring community of adults and peers, and plan for their future. TRAC staff can help young adults make informed choices about what services they need. At TRAC, young people have opportunities to become independent, contributing citizens by realizing their full potential as they transition toward young adulthood.</p> <p>Services are based on the Casey Family Programs transitions framework, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Identity formation o Community connections o Physical and mental health o Life Skills o Education o Employment o Housing <p>The initial planning for TRAC named the target population as youth coming out of substitute care- broadly defined as any out of home placement and intended to serve juvenile youth. Due to limitations of funding sources, TRAC has offered only a few transition services to other than CPS youth.</p>	<p>All of Dallas County</p>

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH DISCUSSED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN (CONT'D)		
Programs and contact information	Services Provided	Target Areas
Project United Community Development Corporation www.projectunited.org	These Community Centers are safe havens of community services and support programs. Youth have various programs such as out of school, comprehensive youth development, youth mentor, parenting leadership and recreational games. The Community Action Group has found that most teens become problem teens because they do not have anything else to do. The community services and support programs causes teens to have positive attitudes that keep them from becoming troubled teens.	North Texas
Youth Advocate Programs 4225 Office Parkway, Dallas, TX 75201 (214)821-6505 www.yapinc.org	Youth Advocacy staffs are qualified mental health professionals (QMHPs); board certified psychiatrists, licensed professional counselors and licensed clinical social workers. Services are designed to offer youth and their families life skills and training in a positive, supportive environment. Parents and youth are taught principals of behavior management, discipline strategies, problem solving skills, communication methods, how to develop positive attention and how to establish reasonable beliefs and expectations. Youth Advocacy, Inc. provides services for children and adolescents ages four to seventeen years old. Services are free for those who qualify for NorthSTAR, CHIPS or Medicaid. We are community based, meaning we work in the homes and schools where our services are needed.	All of Dallas County
Youth Village Foundation www.youthvillagefoundation.org	The Youth Village Foundation is dedicated to helping juvenile offenders, ages 10 to 17 years old, reach their law abiding potential and to diverting them from further involvement with the juvenile justice system or progression to greater offenses. We are committed to putting positive outcomes within their reach and bolstering the success of the work done by the Dallas County Youth Village and Medlock programs. Our programs include: A speaker program that schedules motivational speakers at both the Youth Village and Medlock. Educational and Vocational scholarships. Financial Literacy program. A dog training program that gives the young men the opportunity to experience the responsibility of teaching and leadership. Career Management, Development and Transition Program that includes a career assessment. Computer program. Nutrition and Culinary Arts Program. A food management license program. A Horticulture program	All of Dallas county
Victim Intervention Program/Rape Crisis Parkland Hospital www.parklandhospital.com	The Victim Intervention Program (VIP)/Rape Crisis at Parkland Hospital provides individual counseling to children, teens and adults (ages 4 & up) who have experienced child abuse, family violence, sexual assault or other types of trauma. Services are free to Dallas County residents. Evening and weekend appointments are available.	All of Dallas County

