

Community Action Network 2001	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY, CRIME PREVENTION, AND VICTIMIZATION</b> URGENT ISSUES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	DEVELOPED AT THE JULY 2000 PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING RETREAT
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**Urgent Issue:** The importance of emphasizing effective public safety strategies is not fully understood by policymakers and community members.  
**Data:** Austin & Travis County expect to spend about 49% of their combined budgets (\$315 million) on justice and public safety this year. In contrast, less than 12% of their combined budgets is expected to be spent on health and social services.  
**Desired Result:** Increased awareness of effective public safety strategies, so that the community and policymakers are open to implementing them.

SOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	HUMAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	EXAMPLES OF ONGOING EFFORTS
Develop a marketing plan by which to inform the public about 1) the benefits of balancing funding for incarceration and prevention/intervention, 2) the need to improve the delivery of prevention services, 3) the need to improve the service delivery system for victims of crime, and 4) the need to better prepare offenders for life in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify marketing professionals to volunteer efforts to develop a marketing plan. <i>(completed)</i></li> <li>Develop a marketing plan concept. <i>(completed)</i></li> <li>Collect information and incorporate into marketing plan. <i>(ongoing)</i></li> <li>Implement marketing plan.</li> </ul>	Provide billboard space  Provide advertisement space  Fund print costs	Volunteer to lead letter-writing campaign  Volunteer to provide marketing expertise	C-Cubed (Creating Conscious Communities) Institute - lead  Professional volunteer from Peace Foundation to assist with the development of a marketing plan  Post-Retreat Action Committee - assisting with collection of information.

Further engage neighborhoods through "road shows."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an initial presentation for road shows. <i>(completed)</i></li> <li>• Present to interested neighborhoods. <i>(ongoing)</i></li> <li>• If invited to return to a neighborhood, present on topics of interest to them. <i>(ongoing)</i></li> </ul>	None	Volunteer to facilitate presentations	Community Justice 2000 Work Group volunteers and staff
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**Urgent Issue: Resources for youth and families, victims, and offenders are fragmented and difficult to access.**

**Data:** 1) The relatively small, juvenile crime-prone population (ages 10-16) is expected to grow by 19% in the next five years.  
 2) Of the seven highest child populated areas in the state, Travis County has the highest rate of confirmed victims of child abuse/neglect per 1,000 children.  
 3) Currently, parole officers are overworked and social service agencies are under-funded, leaving a lack of comprehensive services to assist in integrating releasees into the community.

**Desired Result: Enhanced social service delivery system for youth and their families, victims, and offenders.**

SOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	HUMAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	EXAMPLES OF ONGOING EFFORTS
Provide improved access to and coordination of prevention/ early intervention programs through a Youth & Family Assessment Center process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint an Advisory Committee and Workgroup. <i>(completed)</i></li> <li>• Develop an Implementation Plan for the Youth and Family Assessment Center concept. <i>(completed)</i></li> <li>• Develop Operational Plan. <i>(April 2001)</i></li> <li>• Begin implementation. <i>(May 2001)</i></li> </ul>	Fund additional services  Provide funding to staff process  Provide technology to connect providers	Provide technology expertise	Community Justice Council's Advisory Committee & Workgroup  Travis County Health & Human Services staff  Some financial support from City, County, and service providers
Provide positive activities for youth during after-school hours, when most juvenile crime occurs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a work group that is countywide, includes parents, youth, resources, providers, etc. <i>(completed)</i></li> <li>• Develop &amp; establish standards for quality programs.</li> <li>• Ensure there is adequate transportation for all children who participate in after-school programs.</li> <li>• Develop an ongoing inventory of existing programs and needs. <i>(all ongoing)</i></li> </ul>	Fund services	Not yet identified	Travis County Afterschool Network (TCAN) established

<p>Improve services for victims of child abuse/neglect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve services for primary prevention of child abuse and neglect.</li> <li>• Provide parenting education for all high school students, and expand parenting education classes &amp; support services to first-time parents.</li> <li>• Improve services for all children (including displaced children) and families who are investigated for child abuse and neglect.</li> <li>• Develop family outreach programs for families investigated for child abuse and neglect.</li> <li>• Develop a tracking and support system for displaced children.</li> <li>• Develop specific strategies to maintain and enhance the child-parent bond during incarceration.</li> </ul>	<p>Fund services</p>	<p>Not yet identified</p>	
<p>Develop seamless delivery of services for all victims of crime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop collective of all task forces/groups to focus on goals.</li> <li>• Create dialogue for continuous services between criminal justice system and nonprofit service providers.</li> <li>• Provide ongoing training/cross training for existing service delivery providers and on victim related issues.</li> <li>• Improve coordination/cooperation between victim service providers.</li> <li>• Identify/utilize existing models in community – best practices. <i>(All ongoing)</i></li> </ul>	<p>Fund services</p>	<p>Not yet identified</p>	<p>Community Action Network (CAN)/ Community Justice Council (CJC) Action Committee</p> <p>Victim Services Task Force</p>
<p>Better prepare adult offenders for life in the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance offender education: life skills, literacy, vocation, proper assessments, comprehensively, holistically.</li> <li>• Develop a continuum of care with proper follow-up in line with the Day Resource Center concept.</li> </ul>	<p>Fund services</p>	<p>Participate as a stakeholder</p> <p>Volunteer as a mentor</p> <p>Volunteer at the Day Resource Center</p>	<p>CAN/CJC Action Committee</p> <p>Community Partnership Council (CPC)</p>

**Urgent Issue: The community does not have the data necessary to make informed public safety planning decisions.**

**Data:** While the quantity and quality of data in this area has improved greatly over the last several years, information for informed planning is still lacking, especially around victims and their needs.

**Desired Result: Improved access to and quality of data relating to public safety.**

SOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	HUMAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	EXAMPLES OF ONGOING EFFORTS
Improve primary prevention services for child abuse and neglect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire, access, or develop more comprehensive data (especially on offender) to discover better predictors of child abuse and neglect.</li> </ul>	Not yet identified	Not yet identified	
Develop unified and coordinated victim oriented information management system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with First Call for Help to develop specialized victim services database.</li> <li>Update service providers on status of integrated tracking system.</li> <li>Ongoing training and commitment of resources to providers.</li> <li>Develop resources, point for all victim services resources in county.</li> </ul>	Not yet identified	Not yet identified	
Expand data on victims and expand the focus in the CAN assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate to CAN the desire for expanded focus.</li> <li>Survey providers to find out what they collect, how, and what they believe is important for the community to know.</li> <li>Determine whether we can periodically administer NIJ's national victim survey.</li> </ul>	Not yet identified	Conduct assessment or survey	
Coordinate baseline data from common sources (e.g., new census data).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a workgroup for analysis and use of new census data (Spring 2001) – include all local entities' (MSA) statistics folks. <i>(awaiting release of Census data)</i></li> <li>Have workgroup produce a report for use by all.</li> </ul>	Not yet identified	Not yet identified	Census data
Tie more agencies into the Integrated Justice System (IJS) and clean up design bugs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate viability of adding agencies, involve all stakeholders (incentives/roadblocks).</li> <li>Identify design changes needed; then seek resources to implement.</li> <li>Proactive information to potential collaborators.</li> </ul>	Not yet identified	Not yet identified	

***Urgent Issue: Funding for prevention and intervention is inadequate to meet the needs of the community and prevent crime.***

***Data:*** Resources for prevention and intervention have not kept pace with the rapid population growth in Travis County.

***Desired Result:*** Increased resources that create and maintain effective programs.

SOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	HUMAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	EXAMPLES OF ONGOING EFFORTS
Increase resources and funding to create and maintain effective prevention programs.	Establish funds for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs to educate first time parents</li> <li>• Rural programs</li> <li>• Programs for divorcing parents</li> <li>• Violence prevention programs</li> <li>• Child abuse programs</li> </ul>	Fund services	Not yet identified	None
Increase substance abuse treatment resources for parents and children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approach the Substance Abuse Planning Partnership (SAPP) to identify current resources and develop a plan to ensure access to substance abuse treatment for parents and children.</li> </ul>	Fund services	Not yet identified	None