

# Nacogdoches County Community Plan

2011-2012

August 2011

# Nacogdoches County Community Plan

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

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

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

Though the final draft of this plan was completed in August of 2011, this is a work in progress. New criminal justice goals are identified, the Planning Group changes as a result of individual and agency circumstances, and requirements concerning the makeup of the Plan are subject to change from year to year. Thus, Nacogdoches County is interested in keeping up with these changes, and including such in updates that will be posted from time to time.

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

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

## Areas Represented

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### Incorporated Communities:

Appleby	Cushing
Chireno	Nacogdoches

### Unincorporated Communities:

Central Heights	Garrison	Martinsville	Trawick
Douglass	Kingtown	Melrose	Woden
Etoile	Lilbert	Sacul	

### School Districts:

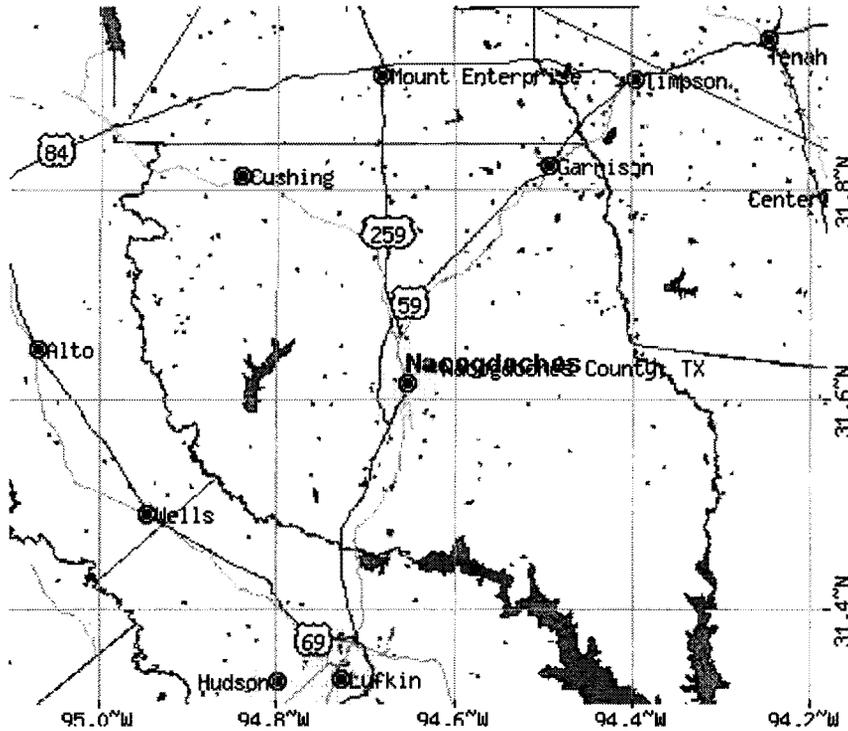
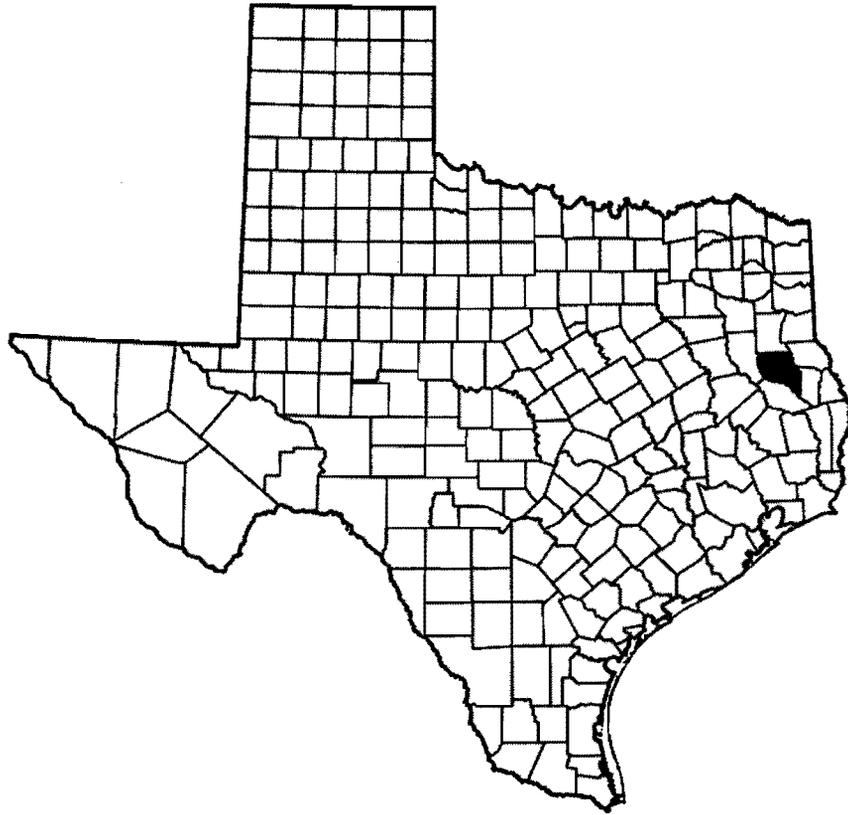
Central Heights ISD	Garrison ISD	Woden ISD
Chireno ISD	Martinsville ISD	Etoile ISD
Cushing ISD	Nacogdoches ISD	Douglass ISD

### Brief description and history of Nacogdoches County:

Nacogdoches County (pop. approx. 64,117) is located deep in Texas Forest Country. Nacogdoches (pop. approx. 31,135), the largest city in the county, is the home of Stephen F. Austin State University (Fall 2010 enrollment: 12,954).

Primary industries are education, agriculture (poultry, timber, cattle, grain and dairy products), manufacturing (feed & fertilizer, valves, business forms, transformers, motor homes, poultry processing and sealing components), oil & gas and tourism.

Nacogdoches has a rich historical background, dating back to the establishment of Spanish missions in 1721-22. Area history has been celebrated and protected throughout the years, resulting in the preservation of many precious homes and landmarks.



## **Community Planning Team**

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Community Plan Coordinator for Nacogdoches County: Jillian Garza / Deputy Sheriff (Reserve) / Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office

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

### **Juvenile Services:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Tonya Harry	Child Protective Services
Mike Claude	Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office
Greg Sowell	Nacogdoches Police Department
Michelle Miller	Family Crisis Center of East Texas
Jamie West	Family Crisis Center of East Texas

### **Victim Services:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Peni Jean Russell	Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital
Jamie Green	Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital
Michelle Miller	Family Crisis Center of East Texas
Jamie West	Family Crisis Center of East Texas
Tonya Harry	Child Protective Services
Mike Claude	Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office
Greg Sowell	Nacogdoches Police Department

## **Law Enforcement:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Mike Claude	Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office
Tara Triana	Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office
Greg Sowell	Nacogdoches Police Department
Ty McCarty	Probation
Jillian Garza	Stephen F. Austin State University

## **Mental Health:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
David Cozadd	Burke Center
Anita Farr	Ribbons in the Sky
Peni Jean Russell	Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital
Jamie Green	Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital

## **Miscellaneous/ General:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Sarah O'Brien	City of Nacogdoches
Jillian Garza	Stephen F. Austin State University
Tara Triana	County of Nacogdoches

## **Identification of Community Problems**

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### **General Public Safety Needs and Issues**

Crime is a complex and multifaceted problem, and crime control requires the constant and coordinated efforts of a wide range of public and private agencies. Countywide criminal justice planning is an essential precursor to the effective coordination of all varieties of crime amelioration activities in the county. The agencies that compose the Nacogdoches County

criminal justice system jointly strive to enforce lawful standards of conduct, protect individuals and communities, assist victims, improve institutional capabilities, and engage the community and its citizens in crime prevention while preserving individual civil liberties and protecting basic human rights.

It is necessary to strive toward these goals by helping to facilitate the collaboration of community groups, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts and correctional agencies throughout the County. A broad approach to defining the crime problem and designing methods for its control has been identified as a priority. Issues related to crime have been studied and analyzed on a continuum from the overall social environment to post-crime responses, including community structure and dynamics, crime prevention, early intervention, and various types of criminal and juvenile justice agency responses. Within these parameters, this planning process develops, implements, and refines the community criminal justice plan to help meet the emerging needs of Nacogdoches County. The goal of this planning process is to achieve a significant reduction in the frequency and severity of crime to facilitate a sense of pride, health and safety in all our communities by:

- ◆ Promoting the planning and implementation of comprehensive strategies to prevent and control crime in general and violence in particular, throughout the community;
- ◆ Identifying philosophical principles that will promote the participation of law enforcement, judiciary, prosecution, corrections, victims, treatment providers, educators, media, business and citizens throughout the community in the development of strategies to prevent, reduce and control crime and violence in the community;
- ◆ Promoting the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of all segments of the criminal and juvenile justice system.

## PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

The building of assets in youth and the community is an important component of a community plan. Therefore, it is imperative that prevention issues take precedence over those

based on incarceration and deterrence, if the long-term impact of crime control spending is to be maximized. Nonetheless, the control of known delinquents who present a clear threat to public safety must also remain an important strategy

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

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

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>Need for a specialized juvenile transport officer</p>	<p>79,187 miles were covered transporting juveniles to and from juvenile detention facilities between the dates of January 2009 through August 2011.            Cost at state mileage rate: <b>\$40,385.37</b>            (Source: Juvenile Probation Department of Nacogdoches County and Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office).</p> <p><b>PLUS</b> Nacogdoches Police Department reported the following:            2009 - 28 Trips to Longview            Cost at state mileage rate - \$2156            Officer's pay rate - \$2175 for a total of <b>\$4331</b></p> <p>2010 - 20 Trips to Longview and 1 Trip to Lufkin            Cost at state mileage rate(Longview) - \$1540            Cost at state mileage rate( Lufkin) - \$22.55            Officer's pay rate - \$1605            Total = <b>\$3167.55</b>            (Source: Nacogdoches Police Department)</p>
<p>Because there is not a juvenile detention facility in Nacogdoches County, juvenile offenders are taken to Longview (approximately 70 miles away). This requires 1-2 officers, the use of a vehicle, gasoline, etc to transport the juvenile to Longview. This creates a manpower dilemma when an officer must leave the jurisdiction to travel to Longview. Furthermore, because a juvenile must attend a legal hearing within 24 hours after their detention, Nacogdoches officers have to then drive back to Longview to pick the juvenile up, bring he/she to Nacogdoches for the hearing, and following a short hearing, drive the juvenile back to Longview. This is a financial burden, and creates challenges with manpower shortages already in place.</p>	

*Identified Problem*

*Data Collection*

Need for parenting classes – especially for parents of teenagers	Tonya Harry, Child Protective Services
Currently, there are no parenting classes that Child Protective Services can use to refer parents to for Parenting Classes.	

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

*Identified Problem*

*Data Collection*

Need to provide a SANE Nurse Program in Nacogdoches County for sexual abuse victims	Approximately 164 sexual assaults occurred in Nacogdoches County in 2009 and 2010 (Nac. Co. Sheriff’s Dept. and Nacogdoches Police Department combined) that could have benefited from the assistance of a SANE nurse program. The closest SANE Nurse Program to Nacogdoches is 25 miles in Lufkin, TX.
A SANE Nurse for Nacogdoches County would allow victims of sexual abuse to get the direct immediate care that they require. Often, victims have to travel out of town for an exam, which further traumatizes the victims by exposing them to adjust to an unfamiliar environment with unfamiliar people. Also, many families do not have the funds for travel expenses nor the means of transportation. Because there is not a SANE Program in Nacogdoches (or surrounding cities), this puts an increased strain on SANE’s in Lufkin. To see a SANE in Lufkin, the approximate wait time is eight (8) hours. Furthermore, nurses interested in acquiring this education need support from Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital regarding travel assistance, food, lodging, etc. to attend the class (which is free) but also support when a SANE is required to go to court an testify in a sexual assault trial.	

*Identified Problem*

*Data Collection*

Need for a Safe House in Nacogdoches Co.	Michelle Miller, Family Crisis Center of East Texas
Many times victims do not have the transportation or the necessary resources to travel to Lufkin, the closest location with a safe house. Because of this lack of resource many victims chose to remain in abusive situations which research shows tend to get more violent over time if interventions aren’t taken. The Safe House also provides a wide range of services to the victims which, include: parenting education, support groups, special investigator and legal support alone with batterer’s intervention programs.	

**Local Data:**

**Data Collected by the Family Crisis Center of East Texas**

- Of the 1,241 *unduplicated* clients the Family Crisis Center of East Texas saw in 2010 (including both outreach and shelter services), 35% of those clients were from Nacogdoches County.
  - Those clients included:
    - 105 Children
    - 218 Adolescents
    - 218 Adults
    - 3 Elderly
- The Family Crisis Center of East Texas provided over 8,000 services to victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Of these 8,000 services 30% of them were sexual assault services for victims in Nacogdoches County.
- Of the 151 unduplicated Sexual Assault clients the Family Crisis Center saw in 2010, 34% of those clients were from Nacogdoches County.
- In 2010, 368 Nacogdoches County clients received Safety Plans from the Family Crisis Center of East Texas.
- In 2010, the Family Crisis Center of East Texas provided 23 Nacogdoches County families with counseling services.
- In 2010, the Family Crisis Center used HHSC-EIF funds to provide \$2,300 worth of child care assistance to victims of family violence and sexual assault.
- In 2010, the Family Crisis Center of East Texas provided \$1,000 worth of rental and utility assistance to clients in Nacogdoches County.

**Data Collected by Texas Department of Public Safety (Most Recent Data is from 2009)**

- Within the 9 county area that the Family Crisis Center or East Texas serves, 2,290 cases of family violence were reported in 2009. Of those incidents reported, 660 of those Family Violence incidents occurred in Nacogdoches County

- In Nacogdoches County, 40 Rape Incidents were reported for Nacogdoches County.

*\*\* It is important to note that crimes such as Family Violence and Sexual Assault often go unreported, so these numbers might be significantly higher than what was reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety.*

Statewide Data Collected by Texas Council on Family Violence (Most recent data from 2009)

- In 2009, 3 Nacogdoches County women were killed as a result of family violence, 4 children/witnesses were affected by these fatalities.
- In 2009, there were 196,713 family violence incidents in the state of Texas.
- In 2009, 111 women in Texas were killed by their intimate partner.
- In 2009, 12,213 Texans received shelter from their abusive relationships.
- In 2009, 15,905 children in Texas received shelter.
- In 2002, The Texas Council on Family Violence conducted statewide polling on prevalence and attitudes on domestic violence those polls show:
  - 74% of all Texas have either themselves, a family member and/or friend have experienced some form of domestic violence.
    - 47% of all Texans report having personally experienced at least one form of domestic violence, either severe verbal and/or forced isolation from friends and family at some point in their lifetime.
    - 31% of all Texans report that they have been severely abused at some point in their lifetime. Women report severe abuse at a higher rate than men.
    - 73% of Texans believe that domestic violence is a serious problem in Texas.

### **Conclusion**

Data collected both locally and statewide support the existing issue of our communities' need of comprehensive family violence and sexual assault services. The Family Crisis Center of East Texas is the only agency in 6 of 9 counties that provides Family Violence/Sexual Assault services, providing a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter and support services to victims and their families. They also provide services such as case management, counseling and assistance with protective

orders that the Community Planning Committee mentioned as needs in Nacogdoches County. In order to continue providing these services to clients in Nacogdoches County, it is imperative that victim's services be seen as a high priority in the region's Community Plan.

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

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>Need for Training / Training Funds/ Lack of equipment and Technology in the areas of investigative, Patrol, tactical, communication, radios, surveillance, identification, and evidence gathering</p>	<p>As mandated by law related to officer certification (licensing), each officer must have 40 hours of training every two years.</p>
<p>In order to better protect and better ensure the safety of our community, officers must be effectively trained to counter and address the strategies and skills of the criminals that they must apprehend. Furthermore, they must have the equipment necessary for the job. DETCOG currently assists with the grants and funds that assist the county and city in providing necessary funds for training. Many of the bullet-proof vests worn by officers are expired and need to be replaced. Currently, due to lack of funding, the tactical team at Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office trains on their own personal time at no expense to the county. However, they are lacking in equipment and much of what they do have needs to be replaced. A proportionate amount of equipment and technology is needed to assist all law enforcement in the performance of their duties, e.g. MDC's, mobile videos, stationary videos, transportation, ATV's, bicycles, vehicles, surveillance cameras, evidence gathering technology, etc.</p>	

*Identified Problem*

*Data Collection*

<p>Need for additional investigators specializing in gang offenses, sexual assault/ child abuse, and an additional investigator designated to investigate misdemeanor offenses</p>	<p>Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office investigated 152 sexual assault crimes (both adult and child) during 2009 and 2010. There are more than 100 documented gang members in Nacogdoches County, and this number is steadily increasing. There have been 12 reported and confirmed gang-related offenses ranging from criminal mischief to aggravated assault. During 2009 and 2010, Nacogdoches County filed more than 4980 misdemeanor cases with the Nacogdoches County Attorney's Office.</p>
<p>Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office needs more investigators within its Criminal Investigation Division. Gang involvement is increasing within Nacogdoches County and is gang-related crimes are on the rise. Because of the State's laws regarding documenting gang members and maintaining an intelligence data base, there is a requirement to constantly review the data and update the members' last involvement with the law enforcement or purge that data entirely. Therefore, an investigator specializing in gathering gang intelligence, analyzing gang intelligence and investigating gang-related crime in necessary in order to stay on top of the problem. Secondly, an investigator specializing in sexual assault/ child abuse offenses is necessary. Finally, due to the high demand of felony offense investigation on current resources, an investigator designated to investigate strictly misdemeanor offenses is necessary.</p>	

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

<i>Identified Problem</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>
<p>Need for resources that will provide services to individuals with mental health issues: More mental health treatment resources for the mentally ill.</p> <p>Limited access to Behavioral Health Services including Substance Abuse (<i>Adults, juveniles and children</i>):</p> <p>Lack of inpatient psychiatric beds</p> <p>Lack of crisis stabilization services</p> <p>Lack of transitional housing for mentally impaired residents</p> <p>Lack of permanent housing for mentally impaired residents.</p> <p>Increased demand for mental health services including screening and assessment, mental health nursing services, treatment planning, continuity of care, substance abuse services and psychiatric services for persons on probation and in the jail.</p> <p>Lack of residential treatment center</p>	<p>David Cozadd, Burke Center</p>
<p>At the present time there are very few resources provided directly to Nacogdoches</p>	

County in relation to services for people with mental health issues. The limited resources available to Nacogdoches County, forces the county to rely on the Burke Center for the majority of its mental health services. Additionally, many of the services provided by the Burke Center are often inaccessible to those without transportation and those requiring immediate help. This lack of accessibility places a hardship on our local law enforcement officers who are often involved in the transporting of these individuals as well as family and supportive community members. The expansion of available resources would assist the local law enforcement officers, the local social service providers and the community as a whole to address the needs of our mental health population. We need more psychiatric services in the county.

*Identified Problem*

*Data Collection*

Need for more Spanish speaking counselors in Nacogdoches County	David Cozadd, Burke Center
At this time, there is only one known Spanish speaking counselor in this area. The ever-increasing Hispanic population creates a greater demand for services to be provided in Spanish. As a result, Spanish speaking clients in need of mental health services, are being underserved.	

## Resources Available

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

### Juvenile Justice:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
DETCOG STAR Program	State	Support for at-risk youth
CASA	Non-profit	Advocacy for abused/ neglected kids
Boys & Girls Club	Non-profit	Support for school-aged youth

### Law Enforcement:

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office	Government	Law Enforcement/ Awareness/ Protection
Nacogdoches Police Department	Government	Law Enforcement/ Awareness/ Protection
Nacogdoches County Constable's Office	Government	Law Enforcement/ Awareness/ Protection
Garrison ISD Police Department	Government	Law Enforcement/ Awareness/ Protection
Nacogdoches ISD Police Department	Government	Law Enforcement/ Awareness/ Protection
Cushing ISD Police Department	Government	Law Enforcement/ Awareness/ Protection

Woden ISD Police Department

Government

Law Enforcement/ Awareness/ Protection

**Victim Services:**

*Name of Agency*

*Agency Type*

*Description*

Love Inc.

Non-profit

Emergency Financial Assistance

Harold's House (Angelina Co.)

Non-profit

Children's Advocacy Center

Methodist Children's Home

Non-profit

Children's Advocacy Center

Azleway (Angelina Co.)

Non-profit

Support for troubled adolescent males

Nacogdoches Boy's Ranch

Non-profit

Support for troubled adolescent males

TJR Middle School

Local School

After-school support for kids

Solid Foundation

Non-profit

Educational support for at-risk youth

United Way

Non-profit

Finances various community resources

Child Protective Services

State

Services for abused/ neglected kids

Adult Protective Services

State

Services for abused/ neglected adults

Family Crisis Center of East Texas

Non-profit

Support for battered women & kids

**Health / Medical / Substance Abuse:**

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Burke Center	MHMR/ State	Mental Health & Wellness services
TCOOMMI	State	Mental Health & Wellness services
Nac Safe and Drug Free	Local	Support for recovering substance abusers
Samaritan Center	Local	Mental Health & Wellness Services
Stephen F. Austin State University Counseling Center	State	Mental Health & Wellness Services
Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital	Local	County Hospital
Brentwood Hospital	Local	Mental Health & Wellness services
Community Rx	Local	Prescription drugs for low-income people
Helping House	Local	Support for children with autism

**Prevention / Intervention:**

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Agency Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Early Childhood Intervention		
East Texas Autism Coalition		

## **Interagency Cooperation**

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

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

As can be seen in the previous pages, our resources literally stretch from county line to county line, from city to city. Therefore, communications between each of these resources and services is of utmost importance – not just to the Nacogdoches County Community Planning Team, but also to the citizens of our county. As gaps in services are recognized, they will be conveyed to every member of the Planning Group so referrals can be expedited to the available agencies for immediate and appropriate action.

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

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

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

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

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

## **Contact Information**

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### **Nacogdoches County Community Planning Coordinator**

Jillian Garza  
936-332-4431

### **Nacogdoches County Community Planning Liaison from Deep East Texas Council of Governments**

Danielle Sells  
409-384-5704

This Plan is available on-line at [www.co.nacogdoches.tx.us](http://www.co.nacogdoches.tx.us)

Accepted and adopted this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2011 in a regular meeting of the Nacogdoches County Commissioners Court.

  
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Joe English, County Judge