

December 18, 2015

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
ROSA LAVENDER  
KERR COUNTY VICTIM'S  
RIGHTS COORDINATOR  
700 MAIN ST.  
KERRVILLE, TX 78028

## County Eye Newsletter

For more than a decade each county in the 13 county region served by the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), which includes Kerr County, was required to submit a Community Plan identifying priority needs in the areas of law enforcement, juvenile services and victim services.

Those identified priorities then became the core of scoring grant requests in those areas submitted to the Office of the Governor for federal grant funds allotted to the state. Grant applications are screened by AACOG staff and then ranked by the agency's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee after a brief presentation before the committee by each potential grantee.

Identification of both available resources and needs in a community were the primary goals of the old community plan system.

The new process this year will involve a comprehensive survey that has been developed by AACOG and will include input from a variety of resources community wide, not just the stakeholders who are involved in the grant process. AACOG staff will then compile all the survey results into a single Regional Strategic Plan to address issues in the entire 13 county region. The plan will then be submitted to the Governor's Office.

Agencies and individuals in our county who provide services related to the areas of law enforcement, juvenile services and victims services plus, this year, mental health/substance abuse services have been added to the survey and will receive the survey information.

No criminal justice funds are currently allotted to mental health/substance abuse services but the limited or lack of those services is a major issue in many area communities.

Fortunately Kerr County is blessed with an existing network of services for the mentally ill or developmentally disabled and those with substance abuse issues but has limited help for those involved in the criminal justice system.

An email address list of agencies and individuals has been provided to AACOG. Any agency who currently or previously has received CJAC funds will receive a survey. The survey information should be emailed sometime late this month or early January.

Recipients will be directed to log onto SurveyMonkey, a website used to collect information for many types of groups, and is available to anyone with Internet service. If you receive an email from AACOG inviting you to participate in the survey, please take a few minutes to provide your input on the important topics.

Priority topics identified in law enforcement survey questions include equipment and technology, personnel and specialized programs, and training.

Juvenile Justice topics included are youth-based services and programs, substance abuse prevention, intervention and transition services and safety/school resource officer programs.

Direct Victim Services issues in the survey include comprehensive support services, community and victim outreach, victim transitional services and legal advocacy collaboration.

**Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment survey questions will target the need for a Continuum of Care for mental health and disability issues, including services and programs that will provide accessible and affordable mental health services, substance abuse treatment, drug court, and residential facilities.**

**Again, if you receive an email from AACOG asking you to fill out the survey, please do so. If you would like to be added to the email list please email me ([rlavender@co.kerr.tx.us](mailto:rlavender@co.kerr.tx.us)) and I will forward your email address to AACOG.**

**The courthouse and other county offices will be closed on December 24 and 25. Most offices in the courthouse will be open New Year's Eve and closed New Year's Day.**

**We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.**