

Appendix C
Phase Two
Raw Data
Key Informant Focus Groups

Aransas County
Jan 14, 2004

<p>Family Issues / Children and Youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree. My experience is with Good Samaritan. If there is help, most of the people who really need it won't go for it. The problem is similar to what happens with folks who drink...if folks don't admit that they need help in raising their kids, they won't seek help. • Transportation is a problem in this area, not just for family needs, but for all. We do have transportation, primarily through the Council on Aging, but if you don't have transportation, you're stuck. • At Good Samaritan, you have to book it a day ahead.
<p>Self-Sufficiency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seems to be more available housing in Aransas Pass. • (Chart) Because social service agencies are not available, I'm not surprised that people would say they go to family first. • Temporary shelter situation may be worse than reported here. We don't really have such a facility here. If we want to try to send them to CC, they won't go. No shelter of any kind here or in Aransas Pass. • If someone gets burned out with a fire, there is nowhere to go. • In the 12 years I've been working in this stuff here, I've never seen Red Cross put someone up here – may have missed it, but I don't think so. • There is no housing for poor people in this community. It's a major problem. The amount of Section 8 housing is very small. Even the uninhabitable stuff is rented for \$400 a month.
<p>Ed / Job</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would agree with what's here. It's very interesting ... we've been talking to the school system about reinvigorating the school system with vocational courses. Aside from menial minimum wage jobs, not much there. Skills programs aren't available. • The number of adequate jobs to support a family are hard to come by.
<p>Neighborhood / Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't think that the nutrition programs that come from the Feds are being administered correctly. I don't think it's about people not accessing the services; it's because they aren't doing it right. I'm from Aransas Pass. • Not the case in Aransas County. Our Council on Aging is doing an excellent job of serving meals there and also for carry out. • I would say that, in our community, neighborhood associations' effectiveness would be much higher. That figure would be very low for our community. • In this people, the number of people who feel like they can make a difference would be the highest in the nation. We run 60-80 volunteers at Good Samaritan alone.
<p>Health / Well Being / Disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aransas County, that 10-25% is probably right on, because of the number living at the poverty level. • Not having a clinic <i>is</i> a problem, but hopefully only temporary, with

	<p>Spohn planning a clinic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health services are poorly done and not available here. • MHMR situation is not helping people with serious conditions. One person who is definitely bipolar has to go to Sinton. No continuing care locally. • I don't believe that people, in this community, that people need as much help in getting good health care. We have an EMS system that is the finest in the state that Houston and Dallas cannot afford. It's a nonprofit organization that does it.
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There're always the issues like child care, but elder care is needed as well • Council on Aging provides van for senior citizens, but it's booked up. It's inadequate • In Aransas Pass it's not a problem (housing) because there's available.

Additional Comments:

- United Way is funding service agencies and I think you should see if you are getting your money's worth in some cases. Some get the money year after year and the world is changing. I see people who need help.
- The survey has hit upon key things in this community: affordable housing, public transportation, medical assistance for low income people are big issues in this community. Cost for helping people with prescriptions is a big issue.
- Good Samaritan is the "collaborating" agency...pulling people together. We are trying to get a clinic here, and the biggest hurdle is getting a place.

**Brooks County
Jan 29, 2004**

Family Issues / Children and Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families needing more help, that's accurate. Transportation and cost, not consistent here. It's more an issue of availability. • Availability of childcare—absolutely. • There're plenty of after school activities. • Well, I think transportation is an issue...there is no transportation • The people who live in Mexicito, La Colonia...Real Transportation is available, but that's not for everyone • What the reverend said is correct—we don't have the seminars locally, they are elsewhere, but we cannot get to them. • One of the issues about Spohn is that we can't get the training • I think the biggest problem we have is a lack of leadership...when you have a depressed economy, people leave the area to find jobs... • On our school board, we only have two degreed people, only one businessman • Spaceport would have been awesome here. People who have scientific minds, etc. They would have brought experience, work ethic, to everything they touched. That understanding comes with
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	<p>success and if your people are not successful...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think we have lots of available programs through Federal programs where mothers can leave their children...those programs are very active • Waiting list...for middle class, not available...but indigent have access to programs • No supervised after school activities...latchkey and Boys and Girls Club
Self-Sufficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the information on assistance for food or housing, people are well aware that there are commodities available. • Housing...20 years ago, we had a 1.5 year waiting list. We actually have vacancies now. • Folks just don't want to live in Falfurrias. We have nice apartments with security, etc. • Once you hit rock bottom, people don't want to live here. • Yet with the outreach I do, you have two or three people living in one household because they cannot afford • Lots of vacant homes • One house built a year—maybe • Border Patrol doesn't want to live here • You cannot legislate success. You have to do something about Falfurrias to make them want to stay here. • Transportation is a problem on all of the above. No taxi, no bus
Ed / Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of available jobs would be #1 here • Lack of working skills and work ethic • You have to break the cycle through education. Your educators need to be able to take on more about their home life. There is no work ethic in their families. In one special education class, the kids made and sold their good. Ran a little store. Out of that class, most of those kids are working now. The teacher was able to teach them the basic work ethic. • It's the third generation of welfare here. The parents just sit here and wait for the check. • Educators say, "It's a home problem, not our problem." • In a city, there are more resources. You have second and third generation kids in housing projects. • The schools have to do it, because the parents won't. • But if they get out, there's no place for them to work... • I believe if you want to work, you can find a job. • The kids will tell you, the parents say, "Why work? You are gonna get a check." • How are you going to break the cycle? Go straight to the children and bypass the parents. • We cannot just educate the kids. We would take a kid, put him in TYC. He'd do fantastic in the facility. The parents have no concept. • The Texas Workforce folks just come here, sit in an office, don't go out into the community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately, the lack of parenting is an excuse to do nothing. • We tried CIS and the school district said it was too much money. • The school district has to work with the adults, mandate through legislation...if you don't attend classes, you are disqualified from services... • Bottom line is that you have to mandate it. • Indifference, apathy
Neighborhood / Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of our major complaints with people who own property is that things are trashy because of abandoned buildings, people dumping trash • I think some things are being addressed. Trash in lots...we are partially responsible for that because we don't organize the trash collection. Old furniture may be piled up for two months. We need to address that, bud we haven't. • We're not different from anyone else on crime here in Falfurrias. • On streets, we're not too different from anyone else here. You should see the traffic driving here full blast. Now as it is all torn up, they are driving 50 miles and hour...they will drive 100 if you fix it! • Our streets are a lot better than other places. • Crime is actually on the decrease. • One of the problems with crime is that the habitual criminals are put back on the street. That's because the stated philosophy of the ex-judge was to rehabilitate, not incarcerate. • We need agencies that rehabilitate • You need to hold people accountable ...probation is not accountability • I think we've done a good job with juveniles...we used to have a terrible problem with juveniles • All these motions to revoke probation don't tell me that the probation officers are doing their job... • I can give you a list of people who have stolen lots of lawnmowers...they get bonded out
Health / Well Being / Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The large medical providers who use our statistics to get funding are not helping us. They use our numbers and then give us a one-day practitioner. • I don't think lack of insurance is a problem because you can go without insurance and walk into the clinic and get service. • I don't agree with you. People who are making \$7 or \$8 an hour don't qualify • I also understand that if you have a bill and your name is in the system, they want the money up front or they won't help you. • We pay \$600-800 per month on insurance • Availability is indeed a great problem. We have the clinic, but not a doctor or the equipment. • If you get sick in the middle of the night, you're up the creek. • A large number of people are on dialysis and have to go to Kingsville at 5 a.m. They have to go all the way up there. • There is no information coming back from the providers to tell you

	<p>what the level of need or service really is here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physicians who work here are not a part of the community in any way. They don't even have any input into our clinic. • Those agencies want us to sign off on their numbers but they don't help us. They use us. • I have high blood pressure...there is nothing here to help me. I have to call the ambulance to take me to Alice. • Two of the largest providers of health care actually started here...Halo Flight and the largest contributions to Driscoll come from here. • Whatever happened to the statistics we gathered for the Children's Health Institute? They used them for their purposes over in Corpus Christi! • We had a meeting of medical folks...three people came. Part of our problem is that, without an economic base, you cannot address the problems.
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same issues in Brooks County, but we probably do a better job of taking care of our seniors here. • Within the next 5-10 years, we will have a problem with seniors because they are part of a class that will not qualify..."retired poor" • We do have home health care • Yesterday, I had 31 people applying for medications

Jim Wells County / Duval County
Jan 29, 2004

Family Issues / Children and Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretty consistent with the Alice story. Cost of childcare jumps out immediately to me. • It's alarming to me that so many folks think parents need training in parenting. • We have lots of young single parents...we employ lots of them...who call in for not coming to work because of childcare issues • I think a problem here is that there is not a lot of transportation here, no buses, no taxi • There're a lot of families that are isolated and they don't get that information. We do lots of investigations on families that just don't know what's available. People don't want to disclose that they are abusing.
Self-Sufficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I strongly agree with the renting and leasing part. We have no apartments for the middle class. We have subsidized housing, but nothing for the middle class. I had to go to Calallen to find appropriate housing. • In my town, it's small but we need those things too. • Our nearest resource for domestic abuse is the Women's Shelter in

	<p>Corpus Christi...transporting them there is a problem. Sheriff and police departments cannot transport them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you mention housing, kids who are placed in foster care have to be placed out of the county • On family crisis, it seems you'd go to a family before friend • On eldercare, it seems you'd go to family first
Ed / Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the city of Alice, unemployment is not a problem...people are working here. • We provide training for anyone who wants it for CAN and we train and certify them • Local college provides training as well • You don't know who's out there who is illiterate. We help people with Caller-Time appeal...gave woman \$40 per child to shop. She came back later that morning with only \$50 worth of merchandise...she didn't know how to add...She dropped out at 15. • One of the skills they teach with Junior Achievement is how to deal with money • We don't have anyone here with the ISD • Language is somewhat of a problem. We have many people who come in who cannot speak English well enough • Everything we do in this company is in Spanish and English
Neighborhood / Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Freer, lack of available housing and the streets...same issues...not enough income or resources to sustain the city. • Another thing—these single mothers apply in the county...and they send them to Freer • I think some of the streets in Alice are awful. And there are quite a few abandoned streets here. The downtown area has lots of abandoned buildings. • I think that one of the things is that they need to enforce people cutting their grass, not use the yards like a junkyard—doesn't do anything for the neighborhood. I don't see why the City doesn't do anything. • It's an issue of personal responsibility. • San Diego has lots of abandoned buildings, too. • Gang situation here and there in Alice.
Health / Well Being / Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I work with the State and it's a problem all over the state and nation...it's a big problem and we work on those issues for seniors...Medicare / Medicaid, Social Security • Seniors are on a fixed income and they take four to six medicines... • There are programs out there...pharmaceutical companies have programs • We give people resources but people do not follow up. We have women who come in for assistance but they don't go get the help...sleep through appointments. If someone were going to give me free insurance, I'd be there. Resources are available, but people don't use them.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My experience is that we remove kids and they get great care. People who are poor just don't get the care they need. • Medicaid only pays for three medications. This is a huge problem. • One of the things we can do in the hospital is give that information to a responsible family member to help them out. • Community-based assistance—long waiting list. • That's why we have been working on this for some time at the state level. • In a nursing home, we get a per diem rate...a certain amount per day. That includes all medicines, food, place to stay. • We need to get insurance for everyone. • I think getting more specialized doctors here is important. I needed to see a rheumatologist and had to wait for a month before getting one at Spohn. • Lawsuits are a disincentive for doctors who don't want to face those high liabilities. Families are sometimes naïve in recognizing. • We always hear about family members who want rehab...but under Medicaid we are only allowed \$15 a day to rehab an old person. • One positive thing we've had is good contacts with MHMR...they help with depression, mental illness...have been supportive
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in our business we deal with geriatric patients on the whole. We try to work with social workers...whenever we receive a case we try to pass information onto the families. We are basically experts now. We have at least one person in each building who is an expert in those areas. Lots of time involved. • Consistent • In my area it seems like some people ... we are so youth-focused, we forget and don't appreciate where we came from. • Elderly are on a fixed income. That's a problem...people with no electricity, phone, gas...I don't know what the solution is. • My pet peeve is who applies for food stamps and they get \$10.

Kleberg County / Kenedy County
Jan 20, 2004

Family Issues / Children and Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe the disintegration of the family is just as prevalent here as in the big cities. Consistent. Two parents having to work • I'm surprised that family literacy is not there. I don't think we give to our families what they need in the district. We don't really get what we need with parent involvement. Parents don't have the skills • One of the big problems I see in our society is the drug problem; that plays into the family setting. That has an effect on the family in a lot of settings, all areas of family life. • When we said that families are needing help, we are saying we have a drug problem and we need help. People want to sweep it under the rug. It's over there somewhere.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In looking at family issues, substance abuse contributes to family violence. It's not just drugs, it's alcohol...you have situations where grandparents end up raising children because parents are out of control, in prison. • In analyzing these, I see them as symptoms that have drinking and alcohol at their root causes • Lots of people that go to parents day on these football games. I would take a count of how many football parents were being represented by sister, grandparent, etc...almost 30% • You also have the situation of lots of single heads of household and children having children • Children of people with drug problems are also having children...learning disabilities, etc. • I used to be a juvenile probation officer before working for Red Cross. Lots of kids are becoming drug addicted at an early age. We don't have a system to treat children. Then, once you treat the child there is nothing to help the entire family. It just escalates. • Lots of it all go back to literacy...90% of inmates
Self-Sufficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the first one for more information, there are limited resources and assistance available. There are lots of eligibility problems. You lose your jobs and then don't qualify. All the recent cuts impact families with children who fall between the cracks • My experience with Red Cross, we sometimes have a challenge finding housing for them. • Food—lots of resources here for that • I have a lot of people call me saying they need rent or assistance with issues like that. Since we are not that kind of agency. • Need to reassess program requirements. They have funding, but the funding runs out and the requirements keep people from qualifying • Mostly find out things by word of mouth. People talk, tell you to go to certain church, etc. the only written source is the resource book that's put out by COG and CB and Info-Line • Another reason it's hard to get help is people who ride the system. Those sources get to be very critical before they run out. People get smart about the system. • First 1-3 is accurate on the chart
Ed / Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of available jobs is a bigger barrier here. • Jobs that are available here are low-wage jobs. The only jobs are minimum wage fast food or convenience stores • These companies hire part-time people so they don't have to pay for benefits. If one person in a family looks for a job, students take them because of low wages. • Other side is that students want to work, but if you don't give that opportunity to students, where are they going to get it? • Then we have adults who can't even work at McDonalds. • It all boils down to education; if the public is educated, it will attract industry.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local people leave because there's not industry • If you don't value education as a family, you don't raise your children to value an education. I was a teacher and my kids wanted to get pregnant and watch soap operas. • If you can cure the education piece, you can keep them in schools... • Average mean income is \$28,000 • We have just started working with WorkForce 1 here...getting community to understand that literacy is a problem. They are there to put people to work, but can't even get people to work in McDonald's • These parents come because they are Title I parents who get transportation and child care • I think what the thing is here is that there are people who went through the educational system but left as functionally illiterate...can't do an application • School system is failing to identify those kids, or they go through special education classes and never learned his vowels...probably because of behavior • I have run across Hispanics ... the kid has the mind, wants to go to college, the parents say no. Wasted a mind. Family values are the biggest issue.
Neighborhood / Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently we have been addressing the housing situation with new projects, but those are only for higher income...doesn't address lower income, doesn't improve old neighborhoods. • Not adequate affordable rental properties • There have been a few new apartment complexes here in this community, public private ventures with the Navy. Those are the only things that are new. I don't think any of them are big ones • Because wages are low, people pay what they can afford...landowners aren't gonna put more into the properties • In some of the old neighborhoods...vacant place where tenants are no longer here
Health / Well Being / Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We're fortunate to have a hospital for the size of community we have and the doctors we have...and that they have remained here • I still think with an aging population, including myself, that we're gonna be in a situation where we cannot handle it. • I think we're doing pretty well with the hospital here, and they help the indigents, too • Transportation-wise, I see lots of transportation for senior citizens, etc. • Lots of people go to CC, too for doctors and facilities...and the county provides the vans • Is there a program for indigent people?
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the biggest forms of abuse is for seniors whose families are the payees for their SS. Mama gets \$450 a month, son uses \$200 of the check for car payment. No one goes out to see if the payee is abiding by the rules and regulations • That's a value system again.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On this area of finding transportation, etc. for elderly folks...people cannot participate in process because they do not know • When it comes to seniors, receptionists are not trained to deal with seniors with dignity • We see lots of elderly living in substandard housing...they don't want to go into a home or whatever. We also see lots of family members who want to get paid to help their mother, father, etc. • Among Hispanic culture, you didn't see my grandmother, great grandmother, etc., in nursing homes...they took care of them • People weren't working back then like they are now
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**Nueces County
Jan 19, 2004**

<p>Family Issues / Children and Youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent. For one thing, I'm very involved with Community Action, and I think lots of parents, especially two working parents, are so far removed from working with their kids. Don't know where to go for help • Consistent with dropout forum. We're dropping the ball • I wrote down, because I'm in law enforcement, I wonder, "help with what?" How do they get that information? • Lots of times, people get references from friends, people who have been through similar problems. United Way has done a lot to help get the word out. • Domestic abuse is not mentioned here. • Domestic violence was also on my list. • I can understand that some people cannot find after school care available...but it's available. • I think we have a lot of resources available, but people aren't accessing the services. There is a lack of openness to hearing that they aren't doing it the right way. There is a lack of motivation to find out how. • Teen pregnancy is not here. That is surprising to me. • That teen pregnancy issue has been here a long time. These are families that have evolved out of that cycle. • We've heard the phrase "babies having babies". • Kenedy Foundation study shows pregnancy rates going down. What are we doing right? • Prevention is the mode at the Y. We still have a small amount of youth counseling. • I'm wondering about the ISD TAMS program • Needing more information—the CB system that we have in place will help—new information referral system
<p>Self-Sufficiency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would think that it would be worse outside the county. • Transportation for senior citizens, primarily in Robstown and Corpus Christi, we're getting them there.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of the officers who are first responders to fires, etc., don't have the information to tell families. • But Red Cross is here in the city... • Shelter for homeless and families is much larger than people will admit to • I keep seeing "need more information"...do we need to move in the direction of having ONE NUMBER? 311??? • Two things that are consistent that people like us don't understand. I have one person per car in the household. Most of them don't get information like we do. • General public like I work with would not pick up a phone to get information • Wondering that the religious community didn't respond a lot...did that impact people's responses?
Ed / Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From my perspective, there are many more jobs than they can fill. They have to interview 10 people to find one that can pass the drug test • We just tested 60 people for our jail. 70% flunked the psych or drug screening • One of the biggest things we lack is vocational training in our education system • I echo what Skip and the sheriff alluded to. When we interviewed, we had to go up north. We are so removed from vocational training • I was wondering if functional literacy. • Also, the quality of schools---I've heard it's an issue
Neighborhood / Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My base is Oveal Williams center. I spoke with those people there, the senior citizens who come there. When I ask what they need the most, they mention housing. Different groups talk about rats, etc. • If you go to Robstown, no running water, no electricity, outhouses • That all boils down to affordable housing from the state • This is an area where it's difficult to dispute the people's Perspectives • We have lots of good information, the quality of the units...there's a wealth of data on that • If I believe everything I hear in the media, this one would be more inclined toward the rural areas. In Robstown, one of our major concerns was housing, but at least we've had 75 units built in the past two years. • From my perspective, Neighbors on Watch has taken great strides...direct supervision, direct control. They just have to deal with it on their own. We have a meeting to talk about neighborhood issues.
Health / Well Being / Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with cost and lack of insurance • Real shame with cutbacks in CHIPS program • I guess that I didn't see here were those factors that lead to long term health issues (diabetes, fitness, and drug abuse). • Alcohol and drug abuse is a big issue that plays into jobs, domestic violence • I agree that diabetes, obesity, and lifestyle issues should be mentioned

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half of ER is for non-emergency care...people wait • Concerned with mental health system here...lack of coordination...MHMR is not connected with hospitals • Sate cuts impacted that. More future closings expected. • I think it's worse in the counties • Dumping of those in state hospitals • De-institutionalization...unfortunate notion that has produced these homeless people • I think there is more data out of the survey that addresses the specifics of those issues • Dr. Furman series is focusing on diabetes, etc. • Service provider restrictions—every time we think we will get a directory, they are concerned that it won't be accurate
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think it's fairly consistent ... Kingsville and Rivera area...getting a caregiver in those areas are very difficult...needs for medication, that's a large, large figure • People are afraid to go out at night • Concur with cost of medications. 90% of the people we see are SS only or Medicare only. • One of other community comments – short-term medicines

Refugio County
Jan 14, 2004

Family Issues / Children and Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of affordable child care...we are fortunate to have Boys and Girls Club • Transportation barrier • No information on how to raise children • Have tried to do parenting classes, but response
Self-Sufficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-sufficiency is consistent with county • People do no know where or how to get help • Service providers don't even know how to get help or how to tell people to get help • I would have expected to see "Independent Professional" more often at the top of the list
Ed / Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed and Job Prep very consistent with our county...mother with two children makes more money staying home than going to get work • There are no jobs here...unless you work for the county of hospital or schools, you aren't going to find a job
Neighborhood / Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing...there is no rental property, unless you are low income and qualify that way. • Older folks cannot move into apartments...there is nothing to rent • Lots of abandoned buildings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street repair is a biggie • Our crime rate is relatively low. We live in a low crime area. I feel safe here
Health / Well Being / Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and wellbeing...consistent with society, period.
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would think the rates would be higher here in Refugio on no help with bills, managing money....unless they had family

**San Patricio County
Jan 19, 2004**

Family Issues / Children and Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent. I think it's nationwide. The situation obviously exacerbated by the socio-economic climate here. The better the demographics the problems are still there. • One of the problems is the dropout rate. People say that's the parents' fault. But this points to the need that parents need help. • So many of our parents are much younger today. • These reflect what's going on in our area and nationwide. Families need more information. • Our office tries to keep in childcare centers. They have decreased each year because they are not financially viable. Kids end up with grandparents, aunts and uncles. • Cost of keeping those open is due to liability issues. • Transportation—centers don't take kids out anymore, and they can't afford to. • Transportation issue is exacerbated by the fact that there is none—no buses, can't get there if they don't get picked up by someone. • How do parents give information back to the system? Is there anyone channeling that information back? Or is there just apathy? • I experience with families that kids don't want help—if they are on drugs. Not willing to get kids the help they need, or don't know what to do. Parents are lost on what to do. • I just read in the paper a kid writing in that she overheard that her parent didn't want her. I'm afraid that some of the parents don't want those kids. Head Start—we pick them up, we feed them, we take them home...and we can't get the mother to wake up, bathe the child, put him on the bus.
Self-Sufficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the outlying areas, if you don't have a mentor, you're out of luck. • If you don't have a family member who can take you in when your house burns down, you're in your car. San Patricio puts you in a motel. • I would agree that the Independent professional is not the first person you go to. • I think first time occurrences might be consistent with this chart, but after many times, they don't turn to the family. They will then turn to

	<p>a service of last resort. Some of those families are in a chronic down-on-your-luck situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who cares about the information? We just need more assistance. To be able to get directly out there, through network of churches or agencies. • People find out from people they know...not from newspapers...word of mouth, referrals from other agencies • Chart: I think people here would go to the social service agency first
Ed / Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy. People cannot fill out a job application, have no interview skills, can't read the personnel manual, and can't understand their insurance benefits. • For many companies in this county, the HR department is functioning as a social service agency. • Being in business and in the HR department, people don't need more information, they need more <i>accurate</i> information. They don't know what's required for the workplace...mathematics, more reading, etc. Lots of companies are trying to share that, but not being heard in the community or in the schools. • There's no such thing as a job placement center at the high school level.... • Transportation and childcare...reliable. The battery or alternator goes out and they suddenly become an unreliable employee. • When I was a kid, the plant had a bus that picked up the employees at a parking lot and took them to work...some sort of bus to pick these people up and take them to work. • RTA is picking up people in Taft to take them to Port A to work in the hotels. • I'm conducting a political campaign...door-to-door...parent needed my help for her daughter who had a kid into Del Mar. It's taking us far too long to get kids through their education. Often they are the first in the family, so they do not know they shouldn't sign up for the hard courses their first semester. Do more job fair at HS • Lack of transportation. One of the major problems is that people have to travel over 30 miles to get to their jobs • On education and job preparation, since San Patricio is rural, people don't think they need much of an education to work in the fields. I work across from the Literacy Office. • Our illiteracy rate is 35% for the county. • I think the mentoring opportunities need to be made available. Pooling that through the school system at a very early age is important. At that level, that child begins to believe what he hears • Learn the skills to get the backup thing in place.
Neighborhood / Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordability and unavailability is absolutely true. We can grants for housing, but not for what we need, but what the government says we need. There's lots of money available for weatherization, but that's not needed here. Trying to make it fit our part of the world doesn't work. Government grant programs don't make sense • More than "decent" and "affordable" housing, there <i>is</i> no housing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look how much public housing was built at a particular time. How much now? • How much Section 8 has been added in the past 5 years? • “Affordable” and “Desirable” are not the same thing
Health / Well Being / Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower middle class “fall through the cracks” to not be able to access health services • So many services are available to people in the criminal service system. The best way to get help for someone is to charge them with a crime. • It’s a barrier to get services if you are not charged with a crime. • Some people would prefer that system. • San Patricio is conservatively 30% uninsured, compared to 15% nationally. • Some of this is cultural. Some people are not going to live healthy lifestyles. Some people are not going to the doctor unless they are doubled over in pain...don’t believe in some of the preventive screening. From experience, we put a Medicare / Medicaid clinic in Gregory, a rural health clinic. No one came.
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent. One of the things that seniors hate to do is give up their independence. As long as they are living in their little house, they are not moving to a senior center. Even if one bill pays for everything. • But you have to look at the cost of those facilities. • It’s true across all demographics. Old woman bathing outside because she had no water inside...walking with a walker to the outhouse. • The medication thing is huge, huge, huge. Cuts to Medicare are killing these people...panic time.

Additional Comments

- Trend we need to let people know about in Austin....in 1991, all the money for people who needed mental health services was moved into the criminal justice system.