

## 1.2 Mental Health

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Assessment Process	
<b>A.</b>	The assessment of needs, wants, and resources is achieved by surveys, town meetings, brainstorming, focus group studies, and advisory committees through Barton County Achieving Wellness and Security (BCAWS).
<b>B.</b>	See section C below on specific assessments.

Program Standards	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Organization:</b> Barton County Achieving Wellness and Security (BCAWS) was formed in 1998, initially as a Missouri Department of Health CHART initiative. A component of this organization is devoted to mental health. The organization provides for the networking and collaboration of several public and private providers engaged in mental health services.
<b>B.</b>	<b>Mission Statement:</b> The purpose of BCAWS and its Mental Health Program is to be an organization of people concerned with the security and wellness of the individuals and families of Barton County. As a group, BCAWS will be more effective in assisting in the development of a community in which all citizens are inspired to achieve and maintain a high level of security and wellness.
<b>C.</b>	<b>Needs/Resource Assessment:</b> BCAWS has carried out two county-wide surveys (1998 and 2001) to assess services offered, public perception/awareness of these services and additional services needed. All available resources have been inventoried and cataloged in the <i>Community Health Resource Guide</i> . This publication is readily-accessible to the public through several agencies.
<b>D.</b>	<b>State Services:</b> Contact for specific services from the Missouri Department of Mental Health has been made. In the current environment, very little funding is available from the state even for drug and alcohol counseling. Local mental health providers have noted that services for children are covered through Medicaid and through MC+.

### Program Goals and Planning

Goal #1	Empower youth to make healthy, responsible decisions; reduce teen pregnancy
<b>Strategy</b>	Assist local youth in developing skills necessary to avoid at-risk behaviors and become socially competent members of the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research will be gathered and analyzed regularly</li> <li>• Teen involvement is utilized to gain input on needs of the target population</li> <li>• Community awareness engages the public on issues of concern related to local youth</li> <li>• Special events and seminars are designed to address specific aspects of the local teen pregnancy issue</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	Joint efforts of BCAWS, BARCEDA Families, and Ambassador Community Outreach
<b>Timeline</b>	Ongoing

Program Evaluation	
The success of Mental Health endeavors for Lamar are addressed through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Needs assessments conducted through BCAWS will provide a baseline for comparison</li> <li>• KIDSCOUNT data on at-risk behaviors among area youth</li> <li>• Benchmarks and best practices scenarios established through public and private mental health organizations statewide</li> </ul>	