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Domestic Violence Training Institute for Rural Texas Kicks Off at the Conference on Crimes Against Women

Institute for Coordinated Community Response assists rural counties in improving systemic response

DALLAS (April 8, 2019) – The first training cohort of the new [Institute for Coordinated Community Response](#) (ICCR) will begin at the 14th annual [Conference on Crimes Against Women](#) (CCAW). ICCR, a program of CCAW funded by the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation and the Moody Foundation, provides a full year of free training, technical assistance, and networking opportunities to rural, under-resourced Texas counties who are motivated to improve their community's Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to domestic violence.

Domestic violence takes a staggering toll on Texas residents; according to a [2011 study](#) by the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, more than one in three Texas women will experience abuse from an intimate partner in her lifetime. And, although CCRs have been recognized as a best practice in reducing domestic violence since the Violence Against Women Act was enacted over 20 years ago, many communities struggle to implement and sustain this approach. Rural communities in particular experience unique barriers when addressing domestic violence, including, according to the [Texas Council on Family Violence](#): geographic isolation, a widespread belief in traditional gender roles, a lack of available and affordable training for practitioners, and difficulty maintaining confidentiality in communities with virtually no anonymity.

In 2018, ICCR received funding from the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation and the Moody Foundation to address this urgent need. Over the next three years, ICCR will train and support 18 rural, under-resourced Texas counties as they create their own unique CCR to respond to the epidemic of domestic violence. Each year beginning at CCAW, a training cohort of six county-based teams, consisting of a law enforcement officer, prosecutor, and advocate, will receive a year of in-person and online training to build interagency leadership skills, learn more about the nuances of domestic violence, and determine where the gaps and strengths in their communities lie so they can increase accountability for offenders and provide justice for victims.

The 2019 ICCR training cohort is made up of the following six county-based teams, consisting of a law enforcement officer, prosecutor, and advocate.

- Burleson County: Christine Labertew, Investigator, Burleson County Sheriff's Office; Susan Deski, County Attorney, Burleson County Attorney's Office; and Stephanie See, Civil Clerk & Victim Assistance Coordinator, Burleson County Attorney's Office
- Grimes County: Annie Chumley, Deputy, Grimes County Sheriff's Office; Courtney Cain, Asst. District Attorney, Grimes County District Attorney's Office; and Brenda Williams, Crime Victims Coordinator, Grimes County District Attorney's Office
- Henderson County: Jessica Abbe, Investigator, Henderson County District Attorney's Office; Joshua Shoemake, Deputy Sheriff, Henderson County Sheriff's Office; Elizabeth Miles, Asst. District Attorney, Henderson County District Attorney's Office; and Della Cooper, Director of Research, East Texas Crisis Center
- Hill County: Scott Robinson, Operations Captain, Hill County Sheriff's Office; Michaela Alvarado, Asst. County Attorney, Hill County Attorney's Office; and Katie Cole, Hill County Crime Victim Coordinator, Hill County Attorney's Office
- Leon County: Kristin Shaw, Deputy, Leon County Sheriff's Office; Hope Knight, District Attorney, Leon County District Attorney's Office; and Dana Pachuca, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Leon County District Attorney's Office
- Limestone County: Candy Moreno, Deputy, Limestone County Sheriff's Office; Tara Gough, Asst. County Attorney, Limestone County Attorney's Office; and Renee Thompson, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Limestone County District Attorney's Office

Rural Texas counties are encouraged to apply for the 2020 training cohort, beginning in May 2020 at the 15th Annual Conference on Crimes Against Women. The application can be found at www.ConferenceCAW.org/ICCR-application.

About the Conference on Crimes Against Women,

The goal of the Conference on Crimes Against Women is absolutely to create an overall reduction in the rate of crimes against women, and ultimately, eliminate violence against women. It is also, however, a primary part of our mission to improve the way crimes against women are investigated and prosecuted, as well as to improve the way victims are treated throughout the criminal justice system. The problem of domestic violence is so pervasive and at such epidemic proportions, that tangible decreases in the rate of violence against women will not be seen until all women are safe in their homes. Conferences like CCAW

create the momentum and the network to allow for the culture shifts necessary to end the epidemic of violence against women. For additional information about the Conference, please visit www.conferencecaw.org.

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