WHO WE ARE
This strategic planning grant awarded to the Texas A&M University College of Nursing by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a part of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is intended to be used to create the basis of a multidisciplinary approach to tackling the issue of opioid use disorder and its impact on children in the Gulf Bend Region of Texas.

Children who are dependent on persons with opioid use disorder (OUD) are at risk for neonatal abstinence syndrome, neglect and/or abuse. The importance of and level of preparedness to address OUD in this region is needed as part of the development of a comprehensive plan to address this difficult problem.

Through this planning grant, we are able to work with our consortium partners and stakeholders group to identify gaps in providing care to those with opioid use disorder and their children. We will use this information to create a plan to combat the issue.

HAPPENINGS
Our team has distributed a survey to stakeholders in the region and garnered 87 responses that helped identify gaps in education, training and awareness. In addition, we have completed 15 focus groups with over 100 individuals across the region who have given us greater insight into the scope of the problem.

[OUD] … “tears at the fabric of the family unit.” (Focus Group Participant)

TIMELINE
December 2019: Submit Gap Analysis to HRSA
January 2020: Complete Strategic Plan
Spring 2020: Workforce Plan and Sustainability Plan Due

DISSEMINATION
Our abstract “An Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Response to the Opioid Crisis in Rural Texas Communities” was accepted for presentation at the Interprofessional Education and Research Symposium on October 23, 2019, at Texas A&M University. The project team was recently interviewed by a reporter from the Victoria Advocate for an upcoming piece. Finally, we will be hosting a town hall in the spring to answer questions with an announcement sharing the location, date and time forthcoming.