



### Introduction

The Children's Policy Council Needs Assessment is an opportunity for local communities to inform state policy-makers of the unmet needs of children throughout the state. The growing demand for evidence-based practice requires using metrics. As policy-makers rely more and more on data to drive decisions, we ask CPCs to provide objective data to support their identified needs.

We appreciate your willingness to dig deeply into what is happening at the local level to inform state leaders and ultimately guide policy and funding decisions.

### About Your CPC

Please provide the requested information regarding your County's Children's Policy Council.

#### County \*

Baldwin

#### Honorable Judge \*

Please provide the name of the Judge who leads the county's Children's Policy Council.

Circuit Court Judge, Carmen E Bosch

#### Name of CPC Coordinator \*

Please provide the name of the contact person who coordinates the CPC activities.

Melanie Guy

#### CPC Coordinator Email \*

Enter the email of the contact person who coordinates the CPC activities.

melanie.guy@alacourt.gov

#### Address \*

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

##### Street Address

312 Courthouse Square, Suite 23

##### Address Line 2

##### City

Bay Minette

##### State / Province / Region

AL

##### Postal / Zip Code

36507

##### Country

Baldwin

#### School System/LEA Representation \*

Are the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) all represented on the CPC?

- Yes, all are represented and active
- Yes, all are represented but not all are active
- Some are represented, but not all
- Only 1 school system is represented

#### Number of School Systems \*

Indicate the number of school systems or Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in your county.

3

**Does your county currently conduct a youth survey? \***

- Yes  
 No

## CPC Members

Use the fields below to list the names of all CPC Members, with each name in a separate field. Use the "Add" link to create more fields as needed.

**CPC Member**

Circuit Judge, Carmen E Bosch

Sheriff H Mack

Mike Cook Drug Education

Anne Chipman

Allison Moore

Jennifer Fidler

Bille Jo Underwood

Buffy Marston

Vivian Havel

Tedd Stone

Edward Delmore

Stephanie Hollinghead

Clifton Roberts

Louise Mason

Ben Barrett

Leslie Welch

**CPC Member**

Melanie Guy

Michael Dees Chief JPO

Tasha Harrison-Betts

Jennifer Bedgood

Matt Simpson

Chris Elliott

Matthew McKenzie

Amy Boylan

Jamie Maloy

Al Tolbert

Eric Smith

Brian Gulsby

John Barber

Nikki Whitaker

`Patesa Bennett

**CPC Member**

DA Robert Wilters

Latorie Horn DHR Director

Sonya Broadus

Aimee Risser

Greg Albritton

Charles Gruber

Jonathan Armstrong

Vanessa Moore

Brad Kendrick

Jimmy Davis

Steve Brown

Chip Cason

Thurston Bullock

Peggy Lassitter

Ashley Haeusler

**Does your CPC currently have 501(c)3 status? \***

- Yes  
 No

### Needs Identification

The questions below relate to the needs of children ages birth to 19 and their families in your county. The sections represent umbrella categories of needs which have been identified over the past several years through local CPC Needs Assessments. The data requested in each section aims to help identify root causes, risk factors and/or specifics within each category.

Please rank your county's top three needs and provide the requested data regarding those needs.

Links to several data sources and local organizations are listed below as a resource to assist CPCs in completing the needs assessment and locating the requested information.

Kids Count Data:

<https://alavoices.org/2021-alabama-kids-count/>

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#AL/2/0/char/0>

CPC Website for AOC County Data: [www.alcpc.org](http://www.alcpc.org)

Local Mental Health Center that serves county

Local County Department of Human Resources (DHR)

### Three Most Urgent Needs \*

Select the three needs below that are the most urgent. These are the ones you will provide more information about.

- Substance Abuse
- Parental Involvement and Family Engagement
- School Success
- Early Care and Education
- Mental Health
- Juvenile Crime and Safety
- Poverty
- Health and Well Being
- Neighborhoods and Housing
- Transportation

### Substance Abuse

Substance abuse affects youth, families and all parts of society and is manifested through underage drinking, prescription drug abuse, as well as illegal substance manufacturing, access, and use.

### Substance Abuse Rank \*

Rank this need in order of its importance with 1 being the most important, 2 as second most important, and 3 as the least important of your top three urgent needs.

- 1
- 2
- 3

### Number of juvenile delinquency cases filed for drug and substance violations. \*

279

### Have substance abuse violations and delinquency cases increased or decreased over the past year? \*

- Increased significantly
- Increased somewhat
- About the same
- Decreased slightly
- Decreased significantly

### How many children have been removed from their home due to parent drug use in your county? \*

96

### Characterize the trend of children removed from homes due to parent drug use year over year. \*

- Each year, significantly more children are being removed from their homes due to parent drug use.
- We are seeing a leveling off of this trend.
- We have seen a significant decline in children being removed from their homes due to parent drug use.

### Is there a Juvenile Drug Court in your county? \*

- Yes
- No

### Substance Abuse Characteristics

Please select all that describe characteristics of substance abuse in your county.

- Youth Substance Abuse
- Underage Alcohol Sales
- Family Prescription Abuse
- Family Illegal Substance Abuse
- Drugs in Schools
- Lack of space to refer individuals with addiction issues

### Recidivism Rate \*

Provide the recidivism rate and any additional relevant information such as length of time drug court has been in existence and contributing factors to recidivism.

recidivism runs fairly high regarding substance abuse related cases but is not always limited to substance abuse labeled crimes. many times the charge is a burglary or breaking and entering motor vehicle etc while under the influence of a substance. JPO estimates this is a factor in approximately 80 percent of their filings.

### Additional information About Substance Abuse \*

Provide additional information and data regarding why you believe substance abuse is a significant problem in your county. The problem isn't limited to juvenile use of substances. it is also magnified by parental or guardian use. this creates problems in having appropriate parental supervision of at risk children.

### Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

Family risk and protective factors impact the involvement, or lack thereof, of parents in their children's social-emotional development and their academic education.

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### Parental Involvement Rank \*

Rank this need in order of its importance with 1 being the most important, 2 as second most important, and 3 as the least important of your top three urgent needs.

- 1
- 2
- 3

### Trends of Child Abuse \*

Mark the answer that best characterizes reports of child abuse in your county.

- Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in the number of reports of child abuse.
- We are seeing a leveling off of child abuse reports.
- Our county has seen a decline in the reports of child abuse.

### Domestic Violence \*

Select the item that best characterizes the domestic violence trends in your county.

- Increasing
- Remaining about the same
- Declining

### Community Factors Impacting Trends \*

Describe community factors which may impact the trends in domestic violence and child abuse, including but not limited to, access to family counseling and mental health support.

families are not availing themselves of available treatment options much of the time. There are numerous options available in our county that i feel are somewhat underused.

### Number of Children in Foster Care \*

196

### Are there enough available placements for foster children in your county? \*

- Yes
- No

### Which components of parental involvement and family engagement apply to your county? \*

- Single parent families
- Support for teaching children at home
- Increased foster care placements
- Increased child abuse and domestic violence rates
- Increased adoption needs

### Mental Health

Mental Health is important at every stage of life from childhood, through adolescence, to adulthood. Mental Health is an essential component of overall health and well-being for children and their families. Children need to have any mental health conditions identified early so they can receive proper treatment through outpatient or inpatient services that meet their needs.

### Mental Health Rank \*

Rank this need in order of its importance with 1 being the most important, 2 as second most important, and 3 as the least important of your top three urgent needs.

- 1  
 2  
 3

### Needs Related to Mental Health \*

Select all statements that apply to your county.

- We have a dire need for inpatient mental health facilities.  
 We have a dire need for outpatient mental health facilities and care.  
 Our need and the demand for mental health services match pretty well.  
 We do not have enough counselors to fill the needs in our county.  
 Children with mental health issues is a growing problem in our county.  
 We do not have a need for mental health services and care in our county.  
 Services are only available for those with ability to pay.

### How many facilities in your community maintain inpatient beds for mental health issues? \*

1

### How many inpatient beds are available in your county for children? \*

0

### Does this number meet the demand? \*

- Yes, demand is almost always met.  
 Demand is mostly met. Occasionally, there are not enough beds.  
 Demand almost always exceeds the supply of available beds.

### How many inpatient beds are available in your county for adults? \*

22

### Does this number meet the demand? \*

- Yes, demand is almost always met.  
 Demand is mostly met. Occasionally, there are not enough beds.  
 Demand almost always exceeds the supply of available beds.

### If the demand for services is unmet, what are some actions taken? \*

Describe how the unmet needs are currently addressed.

there are in home teams via altapointe for assistance with families having issues with mental health treatment. we could use more teams, however.

### Describe the greatest mental health needs in your county. \*

no inpatient beds for juveniles, and not enough for adults. Also, making counseling more accessible to those who lack financial means, as school programs are sometimes the only resource available to these families.

### Which population has the greatest mental health need in your county? \*

9 to 17 years old

### **Top 3 Mental Health Resources \***

List the top 3 mental health resources in your county.

altapointe

bridge, inc if related to substance abuse issues

local emergency rooms for immediate respite although very short term

### **Accomplishments**

With regard to your programs in existence from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, consider accomplishments in those areas. Provide information about who benefited from the accomplishment and the source and amount of funds used for the accomplishment. Describe at least three of your county CPC's accomplishments for the past year. You may include up to 10.

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#### **Accomplishment 1 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Baldwin County Board of Education has received four additional First Class Pre-K grants this year to serve a total of 39 sites.

#### **Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? \***

young families whose children lack basic school preparation skills

#### **Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1 \***

2,476,100

#### **Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1 \***

first class preK grants

#### **Accomplishment 2 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Altapointe has increased the number of school based therapists for MH needs in all 3 school systems.

#### **Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? \***

children and families on Medicaid AllKids, Peehip or Seehip insurance

#### **Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2 \***

unk

#### **Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 \***

grant and limited user fees

#### **Accomplishment 3 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Baldwin Youth Services has employed an in home component to their court order program which uses a social worker to assist in implementing skills in the families' homes.

#### **Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? \***

at risk youth who have been to court and their families

#### **Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 \***

unk

#### **Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 \***

donation and grants

#### **Accomplishment 4**

Describe this accomplishment.

the Dept of Human Resources has begun providing TIPS training for potential foster homes at least four times each year.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?**

families involved in DHR activities, primarily those who have suffered child removal by the state.

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4**

unk

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4**

State of Alabama

**Accomplishment 5**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?**

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5**

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 5**

**Accomplishment 6**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 6?**

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 6**

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 6**

**Accomplishment 7**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 7?**

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 7**

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 7**

**Accomplishment 8**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 8?**

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 8**

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 8**

**Accomplishment 9**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 9?**

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 9**

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 9**

**Accomplishment 10**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 10?**

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 10**

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 10**

### **CPC Self-Assessment**

Self-assessment is an integral part of the County CPC development. Please provide the information below and indicate your CPC's level of development.

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#### **Level I CPC**

Select all that apply.

- Mandated Members (at least 8 of 15) attended at least two meetings last year
- At Large Members (at least 5 of 7) attended at least two meetings last year
- Minutes and sign in sheets were kept for all meetings
- CPC met at least quarterly
- Membership list was kept current
- Needs assessment was turned in on time and in correct format
- Annual Report submitted with needs assessment

#### **Level II CPC**

Select all that apply.

- At least 10 of the 15 mandated members attended 2 or more meetings last year
- At least 6 of the 7 At Large members attended 2 or more meetings last year
- At least 3 members attended the CPC conference last year
- New Member Orientation Manual was developed
- Committees met at least quarterly in addition to regularly scheduled CPC meetings
- Committees presented reports at CPC meetings
- Committees took action toward identified issues
- CPC has a mission statement
- CPC has an elected Vice-Chair
- CPC has an elected Secretary

#### **Level II - Committees**

Select all committees which have been established.

- Early Care and Education
- Economic Security
- Education
- Health
- Parent Involvement and Skills
- Safety



### Level III CPC

Select all that apply.

- Council has developed strong leadership
- Fiscal agent has been identified or a 501(c)3 has been established
- Bylaws have been written and approved
- Members have attended CPC Leadership Training
- Council is active in child advocacy efforts
- Council sponsors community efforts for children's issues
- Committees are active and performing specific actions
- 5 or more members attended the CPC Conference last year
- Communication line has been developed with legislators
- Communication with the media occurs
- CPC has a strategic plan in place

### Self-Rating \*

Based on the answers above, how would you characterize your current level?

- Striving for Level I
- Level I moving toward Level II
- Level II moving toward Level III
- Level III

### Annual Report Documentation

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#### CPC Members List

Use the upload button below to provide a CPC membership list with contact information.

2023 cpc contact list.pdf 244.23KB

#### CPC Meeting Minutes \*

Upload minutes from CPC meetings from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Please ensure all minutes are scanned together as one document.

cpc 2023 minutes.pdf 331.16KB

#### CPC Sign-In Sheets \*

Upload all CPC Meeting sign-in sheets from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Please ensure all sign-in sheets are scanned together as one document.

cpc 2023 minutes.pdf 331.16KB

#### Conclusion \*

What have we not asked you about that you feel is important?

children remain underserved in our county