



### 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 \*

Cherokee

#### Honorable Judge \*

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

Judge Wes Mobley

#### Name of CPC Coordinator \*

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

Cynthia Green

#### CPC Coordinator Email \*

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

cgreen@cherokeek12.org

#### Address \*

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

512 Mary Street

Address Line 2

City

Centre

Postal / Zip Code

35960

State / Province / Region

AL

Country

USA

#### 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.

8

**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	CPC Member	CPC Member
Wes Mobley (Juvenile Judge)	Lou Honaker (JPO)	Sumer Summerford (District Attorney)
Michelle Fulmer (DHR Director)	Laure Clemons (EFK Director)	Mike Welsh (Superintendent)
Scott Hays (Bus Supervisor)	Stephen Ingram (Secondary Curriculum)	Jennifer Mackey (Elementary Curriculum)
Tara Blanchard (SPE Coordinator)	Cassandra Lindsey (Technology Coordinator)	Wes Neyman (School Administrator)
Bobby Tittle (School Administrator)	Casey Young (School Administrator)	Ben East (School Administrator)
Torie McDaniel (School Administrator)	Brett Keasler (School Administrator)	Terry Gilbreath (School Administrator)
Brian Clowdis (School Administrator)	Jessica Walker (School Counselor)	Anna Smith (School Counselor)
Jenna King (School Counselor)	Jan Aloï (School Counselor)	Priscilla Bartlett (School Counselor)
Chelsea Thompson (School Counselor)	Tiffany Rieger (School Counselor)	Johnna Betterton (School Counselor)
Allison Kirby (School Counselor)	Tracy Middlebrooks (McKinney Vento)	Sarah Richardson (Federal Programs)
Randy Smith (Federal Programs)	Christina Lee (School Head CNP)	Dewayne Amos (Circuit Clerk)
Tim Burgess (Probate Judge)	Jeff Shaver (Sheriff)	Will Bailey (Sheriff Department)
Jordan Kelley (Head SRO)	Terry Dean (Media)	Jerry Baker (Media)
Laure Clemons (EFK)	Michelle Fulmer (DHR Director)	Kimberly Reese (CRN)
Charlotte Sparks (CRN)	Mary Davis (CRN)	Lori Harris (CAC)
Lakeeshia Sandlin (TCR Childcare)	Larinda Garrett (Family Guidance Center)	Cindy McGinnis (Family Care Center)
Laura Browder (Cherokee County Mental Health)	Ginny Shaver (State Representative)	Cynthia Green (STAR Administrator)
Jane Ann Curry (STAR Teacher)	Sylvia New (STAR Counselor)	Andrew Jones (State Senator)
Ahley Langley (CED Mental Health)		

**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. \*

13

### 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? \*

19

**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.

We do not have a drug court.

**Additional information About Substance Abuse\***

Provide additional information and data regarding why you believe substance abuse is a significant problem in your county.

Drugs are relatively easy for our juveniles to obtain. We have excellent cooperation with our law enforcement in helping control the youth drug problems. We have the use of a drug dog that can come to any school when needed. DHR stated that they are seeing more fentanyl in our county than before.

**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.

**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.

Broken homes. Most kids live with single parent or grandparent.

Nothing for young kids to do to stay out of trouble (need basketball and volleyball courts).

We have no facilities to house children with mental health.

Churches and schools need to be more involved.

### Number of Children in Foster Care \*

23

### 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? \*

0

### 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? \***

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.

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

Describe how the unmet needs are currently addressed.

There are not enough resources for mental health especially for those that have no income or insurance.  
There are no inpatient beds for children or adults.

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

There are no inpatient mental health beds for children or adults in Cherokee County. For children, we refer out to Mountainview and White Parker for adults. There are 10 beds at White Parker. These beds are for persons that have been committed to the state for inpatient treatment.

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

18 to 54 years old

**Top 3 Mental Health Resources \***

List the top 3 mental health resources in your county.

CED Mental Health Department  
Laura Browder, Mental Health Services Coordinator for Cherokee County Schools  
Weiss Lake Psychological

**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.

**Accomplishment 1 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Family Resource Festival- provided information on programs and services offered by organizations to promote the health, wellness, safety education, and stability of individuals and families in Cherokee County. Free food, door prizes, live performers, inflatables, and games were provided for those in attendance.

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

All families in Cherokee County

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

\$700 monetary but other donations provided

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

CPC and There's Hope gave monetary donations. Other donations were provided by Cherokee County Schools, GSCC, Sherry's Bakery, Fuel City, Grid Iron, The Works, Serenity Salon, Arctic snow, Cherokee Herald, and WEIS Radio.

**Accomplishment 2 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Expansion of SRO with an SRO in each Cherokee County School which means there are 8 SRO in the county.

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

All children in Cherokee County Schools.

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

\$290,000 provided by the Cherokee County Board of Education

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

Cherokee County Board of Education and Cherokee County Sheriff's Department

**Accomplishment 3 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Nettie King Brown Clearinghouse, Inc.

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

Children (ages birth to12) in Cherokee County at Christmas

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

\$8,000

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

Private donations and community support

**Accomplishment 4**

Describe this accomplishment.

The Cherokee County STAR Program

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?**

Teens ages 12-17 that are in trouble with the court system

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4**

\$208,000

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

Grant from Alabama Department of Youth Services

**Accomplishment 5**

Describe this accomplishment.

Growth of extended family for kids & extended leadership academy in Cherokee County

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?**

Extended family but more importantly the kids. Their lives are being changed. The fruition of which is seen immediately but will pay huge dividends down the road.

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5**

Extended family's complete budget is dedicated to this accomplishment

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

Grants, private donors, God's angel

**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.

### **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.

June 30, 2022 - CPC Executive Meeting.jpg	172.89KB
September 19 2022 CPC Needs Assessment Meeting Agenda.jpg	107.05KB
December 12 2022 CPC Needs Assessment Meeting Agenda.jpg	127.55KB
April 17 2023 CPC Needs Assessment Meeting Agenda.jpg	121.37KB
April 17 2023 CPC Needs Assessment Meeting Handout 1.jpg	330.62KB
April 17 2023 CPC Needs Assessment Meeting Handout 2.jpg	131.77KB

### **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.

September 19 2022 CPC Needs Assessment Meeting Sign In.jpg	254.33KB
September 19 2022 CPC Needs Assessment Meeting.jpg	304.71KB
December 12 2022 CPC Needs Assessment Meeting Signature Sheet.jpg	312.17KB
December 12 2022 CPC Needs Assessment Meeting.jpg	331.79KB
April 17 2023 CPC Needs Assessment Meeting Signatures.jpg	256.02KB
April 17 2023 CPC Needs Assessment Meeting.jpg	314.33KB
June 30, 2022 - CPC Executive Meeting.jpg	172.89KB

### **Conclusion\***

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

Child Abuse Training-- Our staff attended the child abuse training in July of 2022.