



### 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 \*

Coosa

#### Honorable Judge \*

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

CARLTON L TEEL

#### Name of CPC Coordinator \*

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

MARTY RITTMANN

#### CPC Coordinator Email \*

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

martyrittmann@gmail.com

#### Address \*

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

##### Street Address

PO BOX 115

##### Address Line 2

9709 US HWY 231

##### City

ROCKFORD

##### State / Province / Region

AL

##### Postal / Zip Code

35136

##### Country

UNITED STATES

#### 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.

2

**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
Judge Carlton Teel	Marty Rittmann	Sharon Haynes
Huanne Wright	Autumn White	David Stover
Micheal Howell	Brandi Lee	Debra Ward
Jaylan Thomas	Brianna Black	Gianna Edwards
Cathy Nichols	Nichole McCants	Kacy Harmon
Patricia Self	Lynn Anne Castleberry	Nancy Meadows
Maressa Ware	Tanchaka Weatherly	Rena Calloway
Annette Long	Misty Wade	Spencer Hardy
Christa Jennings	Allie Merritt	Brittany Hogan
Suzanne Scott	Mallory Whitley	Carol Sprayberry
Angelica Windham	Paige Adams	Carol Penton
Lisa Moncrief	Patsy Jones	Pete Storey
Margaret Morton	JoAnn Shealey	Kennady Martin
Sarah Roberts	LeAnne Knight	Jennifer Tindell
Courtney Layfield		

**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

### 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.

Financial

Lack of ways to get assistance.

Limited Resources

Isolation

### Number of Children in Foster Care \*

25

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

### School Success

School Success takes many forms. It begins in the early years as often measured through subject proficiencies, and in later years can be measured by graduation rates. The questions in this section are to help drill down into the root causes and specific factors contributing to the needs surrounding school success.

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### School Success 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

### Graduation Rate \*

Enter the estimated percentage of students who successfully graduate from high school in your county.

98%

### Credit Recovery and Graduation Assistance \*

Describe programs in your county designed specifically to prevent dropping out of high school or to encourage reenrollment.

Credit Recovery Program, Graduation Assistance Program, Summer School, Virtual School, SAFE/MAPS/ACE Programs.

### Truancy Cases \*

Enter the number of truancy cases referred to early warning court.

18

### Discipline problems in schools \*

Describe the types of discipline issues in schools which disrupt or interfere with student performance, including suspensions and expulsions.

Vaping, Fighting

### School Success Factors \*

Mark the items that apply to your county's needs related to school success.

- Graduation rates
- Child literacy rates
- Unsafe school culture
- Truancy and absenteeism
- Need for alternative school placements
- Services for children with special needs
- Lack of tutoring and specialized teachers outside school hours
- Discipline issues
- Suspensions and Expulsions

### Chronic Absenteeism \*

Enter the percentage of students who are chronically absent, defined as missing 10-17 days of school, in your county.

43%

### Reading Proficiency in 4th Grade \*

Enter the percentage of children who meet or exceed benchmarks for reading in 4th grade.

40.5%

### Math proficiency in 4th grade \*

Enter the percentage of children who meet or exceed benchmarks in math in the 4th grade.

30%

### 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.

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### 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.

AltaPointe provides services in Coosa County (School based therapy, Care Coordination) and residents in Coosa County can go to Sylacauga Outpatient to receive outpatient mental health services. Care Coordinators can assist children/adolescents and families and link them to additional resources that are available in their county and neighboring counties. Care coordinators can provide limited transportation to assist children/adolescents/ adults in getting access to resources such as outpatient therapy, medication management and assessment by the CRNP. When school is in session, children/adolescents have access to a school-based therapy for Individual, Family Therapy and Crisis intervention. School based therapists work with the schools to identify child/adolescents and coordinate care for those that may need services. AltaPointe is available to set up for community events and provide professional development for teachers/staff at the school system and other community agencies. During community events, AltaPointe provides information to the community about the services that are available to them and how to access those services.

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

Coosa county continues to experience issues with transportation, lack of financial resources, lack of education regarding what resources are available to residents regarding accessing mental health care. A huge issue is the lack of parental involvement in accessing and utilizing resources for children/adolescents, this could be due to stigma, lack of information, lack of transportation, lack of financial resources. Coosa county could benefit from a community resource center to assist children, adolescents and families, adults, and the elderly population to have the ease of access to information. The community resource center could assist with parental workshops and incentives to assist parents to utilize resources that are available to them in the community.

**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 Mental Health  
Department of Human Resources

**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.

Coosa County CPC had a big involvement in the Halloween activities in the surrounding areas. The CPC was present at the Rockford Trunk or Treat, Goodwater Octoberfest and had a table and volunteers who gave out books per child to promote literacy. The CPC members donated candy and we put together goodie bags for the kids with the donations.

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

All Coosa County residents who attended.

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

\$0

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

Donations

**Accomplishment 2 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Career Fair - CPC partnered with the school to help with the Career Fair at Coosa Central High School. CPC members volunteered and set up tables with information about community services.

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

Students from Coosa Central High School.

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

\$0

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

Donations and the school handled all the food expenses.

**Accomplishment 3 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Coosa CPC Recognition of Coosa County Law Enforcement and DHR.

CPC gathered donations from the members and we put together goodie bags for all Law Enforcement and DHR employees.

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

Law Enforcement and DHR in Coosa Cty.

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

\$0

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

Donations.

**Accomplishment 4**

Describe this accomplishment.

Parents as teachers with the SAFE program offers professionally trained and skilled persons/workers/teachers to closely work with Coosa County families and their children. Coosa county parents as teachers become family to their students they assist and provide families with a proper nutrition, life/job/educational skill and parenting skills. Concerns identified/potential delays such as child Development, social emotional, hearing, vision, and physical health or assist and provided screenings and resources connections. Parents as teachers provide their clients any services available that are lacking or unfamiliar to the parents and or children to enrich their lives in every way.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?**

Coosa County parents and children.

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4**

\$0

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

Grants

**Accomplishment 5**

Describe this accomplishment.

Be You For You.

The Be You For You program provided at Coosa Central school promotes positive self image, increased awareness and emotional well-being. Topics also included social and general media etiquette/decision-making skills, relationship skills/character building and health and wellness/appropriate dress attire. Each student is given a voucher to purchase an outfit. Then students participate in a reveal day and they receive a full makeover including hair and make up. Snacks and refreshments were provided for the students and parents.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?**

5-10 Coosa County High School students.

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5**

\$0

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

Donations from the school and community.

## **Accomplishment 6**

### **Describe this accomplishment.**

Collaborative summer program.

This project is an excellent example of how our county put works together. The school offered summer school Monday through Thursday mornings. After lunch they transported the students to the 4-H summer camp for outdoor experiences on Fridays.

### **Who benefitted from Accomplishment 6?**

Coosa County students.

### **Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 6**

\$0

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

Donations

## **Accomplishment 7**

### **Describe this accomplishment.**

Altapointe Health (JCL) Juvenile Court Liasion

Coosa county's juvenile court liaison evaluate/assesses and provides therapy for the mental and emotional needs of children/adolescence referred by the juvenile court and referrals are also made for children outside of the juvenile court. The JCL makes clinical recommendations to the courts and collaborates with referral sources such as the school system, DHR and the Right Step Program with Chloe Butler. Miss Butler provides children referred to her by the court or the school, assistance, counseling with issues that are identified as struggles such as drug, alcohol, bullying, peer pressure and parent child conflict she can also make referrals for residential placement for adolescents who need inpatient residential treatment referred from the school or parents or the juvenile probation officer in lieu of being committed to the Department of Youth Services by juvenile court for alcohol and or drug related issues.

### **Who benefitted from Accomplishment 7?**

Coosa County children involved in the Juvenile Court system and their families.

### **Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 7**

\$0

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

Federal and State grants.

## **Accomplishment 8**

### **Describe this accomplishment.**

Stepping up for Mental Health

This event was held at blue Bell Park in Sylacauga. This is a resource fair to learn more about Mental Health services available in the community and Alta pointe health programs. The Coosa County Extension Agency and HeadStart participate along with Alta pointe Mental Health.

### **Who benefitted from Accomplishment 8?**

Coosa and the surrounding catchment area served by AltaPointe Mental Health.

### **Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 8**

\$0

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

Donations

## **Accomplishment 9**

### **Describe this accomplishment.**

School based Mental Health Worker.

Coosa County schools has a mental health coordinator who meets with students and covers three aspects/needs mental health, school success and early care and education. Altapointe also has an co school based therapist for all Coosa County students which will cover the three aspect/needs as well.



### Who benefitted from Accomplishment 9?

Coosa County school students

### Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 9

\$20,000

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

Federal Funding

### Accomplishment 10

Describe this accomplishment.

Color Me Healthy Family Festival

Coosa County festival that also included a Color Run and Art Contest. Over 25 different agencies participated in this event to promote Healthy Lifestyles. The Coosa County Chamber of Commerce and Accordia Health donated \$400 toward the project. Agencies involved were Bridgeways, Accordia Health, Coosa County EFNEP program, Aleathia House, ADPH Immunization Program, MANNA Ministries, Laurel Oaks Behavioral Health, ALLKids, AL DCNR, AltaPointe Health, Empower to Conquer, Coosa Cty ADPH, SAFE, Coosa DHR, Headstart, Home Depot, Coosa Chamber of Commerce, ACES-4H.

### Who benefitted from Accomplishment 10?

Coosa county families.

### Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 10

\$350

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

Donations from Chamber of Commerce, Accordia Health

### 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 MEMBER LIST.docx 57.18KB

### 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.

CPCminutes22-23.pdf 356.23KB

### 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 SIGNIN SHEETS 21-22.pdf 451.37KB

### Conclusion \*

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

Addressing the overwhelming issue of children's health in relation to Vaping.