

DEKALB COUNTY CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2021

ABOUT THE CPC

CPC MEMBERS

Jimmy Wilbanks (Chief JPO)
Shannon Rice (JPO)
Dana Ryan (JPO)
Denise Rains (DHR)
Dawn Osborne (DeKalb BOE)
Chris Hairston (DeKalb BOE)
Otis Washington (DeKalb BOE SW)
Lorann Crow (Asst. Superintendent, Fort Payne City Schools)
Kayla Magby (FPCS SW)
Monica Rowland (DeKalb County Health Dept.)
Danielle White (Therapist, CED Mental Health)

CPC CONTACTS

Steven L. Whitmire (District Judge)
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501(c)3 Status	Dekalb County
Is this CPC a 501(c)3?	Yes

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The sections below relate to the needs of children ages birth to 19 in your community as well as the families of those children. Please find below your identified top needs for your 2021 assessment and the information about those needs.

Ranking of Needs and Corresponding Data for 2021	
Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Rank: 1	
Number of children in foster care?	481
Are there enough available placements for foster children in your county?	No
Mental Health Rank: 2	
How many inpatient beds are available in your county for children?	0
How many inpatient beds are available in your county for adults?	18
Which population has the greatest mental health need in your county?	18 to 54 years old
Substance Abuse Rank: 3	
Number of juvenile delinquency cases filed for drug and substance violations.	38
How many children have been removed from their home due to parent drug use in your county?	48

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Below, is a list of your CPC's top accomplishments.

<p>Accomplishment 1</p>	<p>The Bridge, Inc began adolescent substance abuse services in County in September 2019. The service is ongoing and has made significant in roads treatment options for substance abuse cases. This included initial assessments, out-patient therapy and referral to in-patient services. This has made a significant impact on the intervention aspect with adolescents. This was done in partnership with the DeKalb County Juvenile Court and the DeKalb Youth Service Center. The services are based from the DeKalb Youth Service Center with referrals accepted from local agencies, schools and parental/ guardian. The service has aided significantly in early intervention on substance abuse cases. Services have been provided in person and virtually to meet COVID protocol and safety guidelines. The number of Juvenile Charges involving substance abuse dropped during the reporting period from 75 to 38. This is due in part to the intervention services provided through The Bridge, Inc. This is evidenced through the Juvenile Court and school systems having treatment options outside the legal avenue. An example would be a case being managed through out-patient treatment or even voluntary in-patient treatment vs. Court intervention such as adjudication and Court ordered treatment. The services have allowed for much quicker intervention through assessment and treatment options on site vs. placement on a waiting list for an assessment.</p>
<p>Who benefited from this accomplishment?</p>	<p>Adolescents with SA issues, County agencies and school systems.</p>
<p>Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Source of funds for this accomplishment?</p>	<p>AL Medicaid, State funds</p>

<p>Accomplishment 2</p>	<p>The DeKalb County Board of Education established Off Campus Intervention in January, 2018. The program is ongoing and serves DeKalb County students grades 5th through 12th requiring short term consequences for intermediate disciplinary infractions. The program is for 3- 30 school day placement and requires a due process hearing by the School Board Hearing Officer. This program has made a significant impact in the schools' interventions and in not "over charging" juvenile cases. The program has consequently had an impact on the number of official juvenile cases referred to Juvenile Court. The program allows for therapy services if needed and substance abuse assessment and related services based on need. The student remains on roll at their referring school and does their regular work through virtual learning. COVID 19 protocols have been and remain in place to protect students and staff. The program is operated by and located at the DeKalb Youth Service Center. The program has served 350 youth since the program's inception. The program has a certified teacher who coordinates with the student's regular school. The program has allowed for a significant consequence for Schedule II offenses without requiring Juvenile charges. As stated, above the program has prevented "over charging" or "widening the net" in Juvenile Court. The program attempts to provide wrap around services to the extent possible and meet any unmet needs that the student and family system may have. Chromebooks were purchased in the initial phase of the program by the DeKalb County Board of Education and are maintained through the Board's Technology Department.</p>
<p>Who benefited from this accomplishment?</p>	<p>DeKalb County schools' students, families, staff, and administration</p>
<p>Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?</p>	<p>\$56,100.00</p>
<p>Source of funds for this accomplishment?</p>	<p>DeKalb County Board of Education</p>

<p>Accomplishment 3</p>	<p>CED Mental Health Has established three key positions which directly impact the level of intervention for children, adolescents and families in DeKalb County. CED began In Home service teams which are comprised of a Master's level therapist and case managers. The team members work with target cases by providing in home therapeutic services to children and adolescents. The services also provide in home therapy services to parents/ guardians in the form of parenting techniques and instruction. CED also began Juvenile Court Lesion services which involves a designated therapist to work with cases involving Juvenile Court intervention. This service is provided on site at the DeKalb Youth Service Center or at the respective school when the youth completes the Youth Service Center. Lastly, CED Mental Health established a Mental Health School Based Therapist position. The therapist works with school aged children and adolescents that are actively engaged with mental health services or that are in need of mental health services. The therapist goes to the respective school and provides individual therapy services and collaborates with educators, counselors and administrators to provide for the respective student's needs. The services are expansion of existing services provided by CED and are provided for children and adolescents in the DeKalb County and Fort Payne City systems. The therapist also coordinates with the respective Special Education Department in order to meet the respective students IEP needs. These services represent significant gains in services to children, adolescents and family systems in the area of mental health treatment in DeKalb County. The services are provided under Alabama Medicaid and the Alabama Department of Mental Health at no cost to the Children's Policy Council or the related systems.</p>
<p>Who benefited from this accomplishment?</p>	<p>Children, adolescents, and family systems as well as school systems and agencies serving children and youth.</p>
<p>Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Source of funds for this accomplishment?</p>	<p>Alabama Medicaid, AL Dept. of Mental Health</p>

<p>Accomplishment 4</p>	<p>The DeKalb County Board of Education established a Parenting Specialist position which is a 12 month coordinator position for the County school system. This position works with individual schools and the system as a whole to coordinate parental engagement opportunities in each community. The focus is on enhancing parents and guardians' involvement in their child's educational experience. The focus is also on assisting the parents and community in supporting the respective school and vice versa. The DeKalb County Board of Education also created a Mental Health Coordinator position which is a 10-month position. This position is an expansion of the School Social Worker role and involves coordinating the overall mental health</p> <p>The DeKalb County Board of Education established a Parenting Specialist position which is a 12 month coordinator position for the County school system. This position works with individual schools and the system as a whole to coordinate parental engagement opportunities in each community. The focus is on enhancing parents and guardians' involvement in their child's educational experience. The focus is also on assisting the parents and community in supporting the respective school and vice versa. The DeKalb County Board of Education also created a Mental Health Coordinator position which is a 10-month position. This position is an expansion of the School Social Worker role and involves coordinating the overall mental health</p>
<p>Who benefited from this accomplishment?</p>	<p>Families and students of the DeKalb County Schools, local agencies and providers.</p>
<p>Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Source of funds for this accomplishment?</p>	<p>DeKalb County Board of Education, AL Dept. of Education</p>

Accomplishment 5	The DeKalb Youth Service Center completed 12 years of service to the DeKalb County Juvenile Court, the DeKalb County Board of Education and the Fort Payne City School system. The Youth Service Center has been licensed since its inception by the Alabama Department of Youth Services as a comprehensive youth service center. The program is licensed for 15 Juvenile Court involved youth and provides for the educational, therapeutic and emotional needs of the assigned youth. The program serves as a community-based alternative to more costly out of home interventions. The program provides services on a need based and risk-based basis with the focus on meeting the youth's and family's needs in order to maintain the youth in the home if possible. The program seeks to partner with local and state level agencies to ensure that youths needs are met during placement and after program completion.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	youth, their parents/ guardians, Juvenile Court, and the related school systems
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	\$158,000.00
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	DeKalb County Board of Education. Fort Payne City Schools

Accomplishment 6	DeKalb Youth Initiative has completed 11 years of service to the DeKalb County Juvenile Court. The program is funded by The Alabama Department of Youth Services through their competitive grant funding process. The program has served 200 youth since the inception. The purpose of the program is to prevent more costly commitments to the Department of Youth Services. The program is need and risk based with public safety considered as priority. The program works with youth and their families with wrap around services, including supervision by Juvenile Probation and therapy services for the youth and family.
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Youth with Juvenile Court Involvement, School systems and County agencies
Amount of funds dedicated to this accomplishment?	\$75,525.00
Source of funds for this accomplishment?	Alabama Department of Youth Services