

ETOWAH COUNTY CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2017

ABOUT THE CPC

CPC Members

Ashley, Dianne
Blackwell, Kevin
Bowman,
Superintendent David
Butler, Rep. Mack
Clay, Honorable Will
Coker, Suzanne
Cole, Agnes
Collins, David
Cook, Dena
Corbett, Najsha
Cosby,
Superintendent Alan
Duke, Owen
Duncan, Jamie

Ellis, Becky
Entreken, Sheriff
Todd
Falcon, LeRoy
Falcon, Patricia
Ford, Rep. Craig
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Guinn, Holly
Guyton, Debra
Guyton, Tabitha
Hall, Francesca
Hamrick, Eve
Hazlewood, Emma
Herford, Emma Atkins
Johnson, Marie
King, Willie
Kirkland, Cindy
Ledbetter, Misty
Lotfi, Rachel

Lowe, Keana
MacKroy, Sumika
McMurtrey, Deanna
Miller, Dr. Ed
Moffatt, Ruth
Murray, Regina
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Joe
Nordgren, Rep. Becky
Owens, Kari
Pannell, Dana
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Patterson, Summer
Payne, Commissioner
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Powell, Mike
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Reed, John
Roberts, Barbara

Roberts, Haley
Sauls, Teresa
Sims, Emily
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CPC Contacts

Honorable Joe
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School Systems in County	Number: 3
Are school systems in the county active on the CPC?	Yes, all are represented and active
Does your county currently conduct a youth survey? If yes, please describe	No

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 the rank of your **top 3 needs** and the information about those 3 needs.

Substance Abuse	Rank: 1
Number of Juvenile arrests for drug and substance violations:	70
Have above types of arrests and court cases increased or decreased over the past year?	Increased significantly
How many children have been removed from homes due to parent drug use?	123
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
Is there a Juvenile Drug Court in your county? If yes, how many juveniles went through the court last year?	No.
Please provide recidivism rate and accompanying information.	
Additional Information	Adolescence is a time period of high vulnerability to drug abuse and other risk taking behaviors. Teens are under tremendous stress during the growing years, i.e. : school, family situations, dealing with peers and accessibility to drugs. Also, mental health issues go hand in hand with drug use. It's a combination of genetic, environmental and developmental factors that contribute to drug use.
Characteristics that describe 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

Early Care and Education	Rank: 2
How many licensed childcare centers are located in your county?	22
How many license-exempt childcare centers are located in your county?	17
What is the percentage of families with all parents/ caregivers in the workforce full-time?	60
Please provide information about access and affordability of childcare for working families in your county.	Access--There are 5, 877 children aged birth to 5 in Etowah County. Out of those 5, 877 children only 282 receive subsidized daycare, only 252 can attend a 1st Class Pre-K, and only 200 can attend the local Headstart Program. There are a total of 44 Child care facility's in Etowah County but that is still not enough to accommodate the need. We also have 1,931 children(birth to 5) living in poverty. In Alabama, the average cost of childcare is \$5000 per year so many can't afford child care.
If there is not sufficient access and affordability of childcare, how does this impact your workforce? Where do children go for childcare?	Most parents must have a job to afford childcare because of limited spots available for free programs. Families in poverty would spend 1/4 of their annual income on child care so many use the help of relatives for child care.
Is the local CPC an active advisory council for First Class Pre-K in your county?	Yes
Please describe your CPC's involvement with local First Class Pre-K providers.	We support this effort by writing support letters to any child care facility or school wanting to add these to our community. We also implement the Scrubby Bear program in many of these 4K classrooms.
Describe those populations which are under-represented in early care and education. **	In our county, rural communities are under represented. In many of these areas, there are no child care facilities or limited spots available and families would have to travel for their children to participate. Because of the poverty level in these areas, many families simply can not afford the extra gas it may take for their child to attend. There are also many parents that do not know the importance of early childhood education.
Please describe both opportunities and barriers to collaboration and coordination within the early care and learning community. **	The Children's Policy collaborates with Success By 6 to conduct health screenings at their Kinder Camp program. This program specifically targets rural communities on Kindergarten Readiness. The CPC also offers Scrubby Bear (hygiene program) to all 4K's. The barriers are that not all children in these communities can participate because of limited spots available. This causes children to be unprepared for school and to fall behind.
Please provide an estimate of the percentage of children who have access to high quality early learning opportunities for birth to age 5. **	22

Early Care and Education (continued)	Rank: 2
<p>Does your county have access to home visiting programs such as HIPPY, PAT, Nurse Family Partnership, or other home visiting programs? If yes, please identify those which are available.</p>	<p>Yes. Parents as Teachers (PAT) Early Head Start</p>
<p>Are children in your county ready for school success upon kindergarten entry?</p>	<p>There are many factors that determine if children are ready to start school such as following multi step directions, knowing their full name, recognizing shapes and letters, etc. In Etowah County, around 30% of children are not ready to start school.</p>
<p>Please select all which apply to your county if Early Care and Education is one of your top needs.</p>	<p>Access Affordability Quality School Readiness</p>

*** Required as part of State Advisory Council needs assessment per 2007 Head Start Reauthorization Act.*

Health and Well-Being	Rank: 3
What is the leading cause of death in your county?	Heart disease
Please identify the three items that most impact your county.	Access to healthy food Obesity Prevalence of sedentary lifestyle
Please describe the data you used to determine that health and well-being is a top issue in your county.	The Department of Public Health was used to determine these answers.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Accomplishment	It Starts With Me project
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Middle schools in Gadsden City- Emma Sansom, Litchfield, and Gadsden Middle & the Choice Bus participants
How many people benefited?	1462
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$490.00 CPC Fundraiser
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	Bullying/ School Success
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	After the program this year, one student reached out to the speaker stating she felt like the speaker's son who had committed suicide. The speaker was able to call the school and the counselors were able to intervene. We deem this successful because that could have been a tragic suicide.

Accomplishment	The Choice Bus
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Gaston Middle School and Hokes Bluff Middle School
How many people benefited?	407
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$450.00 CPC Fundraiser
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	Bullying/ School Success
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	The purpose of this program is encourage smart decisions to decrease children dropping out of school. The graduation rate in Etowah County is 0.9%. Although the percent of dropouts is low, we strive to have a no dropouts in our county and feel this program can encourage children to stay in school.

Accomplishment	Spring Fling for Special Needs
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Special Needs Families in Etowah County
How many people benefited?	50
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$520.00 CPC Fundraiser
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	School Success/Bullying
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	This event has grown in this year. We have a need for activities for special needs individuals in our county. We believe by offering events for special needs children only we can help them feel special, more confident, and meet new friends. These things will help build self esteem thus helping them succeed in life and school.

Accomplishment	GRAD (Graduates Resisting Alcohol and Drugs) Program
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Graduating high school seniors at Gadsden City, Hokes Bluff, Etowah High and Southside High Schools
How many people benefited?	857
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$750.00 CPC Fundraiser
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	Substance Abuse
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	There is an increase in juvenile drug offenses from 2015-2016 (28 violations) to 2016-2017(70 violations). In one year the number of violations doubled and almost tripled the year before. Due to the increase, there is a definite need for prevention warnings in our county. This year the focus was driving distractions-Texting and drinking alcohol.

Accomplishment	A Night for Our Stars- A special needs prom
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Special needs young adults
How many people benefited?	204
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$1,000.00 CPC Fundraiser/ Raised \$3500 from 12 sponsors
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	Parental Involvement/Health & Well Being
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	This project increased from 80 participants to 204 participants in one year. There were also over 400 people in attendance. This project was a special night for children and families to have the prom experience. This was a free event that brought the whole community together.

Accomplishment	KIDS (Kids In Dangerous Situations) Workshop
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Agency workers, counselors, community members
How many people benefited?	100
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$1,200.00 CPC Fundraiser
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	School Success/Substance Abuse/ Health & Well being
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	This was our 2nd Annual KIDS workshop. We were at maximum attendance for this free workshop that also offered free CEU's. There is a need in our community to offer free workshops and trainings to better inform the community of needs and issues that are affecting children and families.

Accomplishment	Health Screenings
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Summer program- Striplin/Attalla and Kinder Camp participants at West End, Ivalee and Duck Springs Elementary.
How many people benefited?	223
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$150.00 CPC Fundraiser
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	School Success/ Health & Well Being
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	140 referrals were given to 261 children concerning BMI, Vision, Blood Pressure, and Hearing. Individual agencies follow up when there are needs found.

Accomplishment	Children's Policy Council Fundraiser
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	The CPC and the community
How many people benefited?	5100
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$0.00 This is our yearly fundraiser
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	All needs
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	This is our yearly fundraiser that supports all of our program for a whole year. Last year we raised \$9,000. We are currently in the process of this year's fundraiser.

Accomplishment	Sensory Friendly Movie
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Any child/family in Etowah County that has a special need or development delay
How many people benefited?	600
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$0.00
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	This is a collaboration with the Premiere Cinemas in the Gadsden Mall. Each month, they offer a sensory friendly movie to anyone that would like to attend. The Children's Policy Council helps promote this by creating the flyer & posting to social media. These showings contain anywhere from 20-100 people each month.

Accomplishment	Children's Policy Council Coloring Books
Who benefited from this accomplishment?	Children in the community
How many people benefited?	1000
Amount and source of funds dedicated to this accomplishment	\$650.00 The CPC Fundraiser
Which community need did (or does) this accomplishment address?	Community Awareness
Please list the indicators/ data that show this program is working to address the identified need.	The coloring and activity book is given to children who attend health screenings or community events. It explains what we do as a council and highlights agencies that are in the Early Care, Health and Education Group. We have given out 1000 in one year.